

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Strafford Rockingham Regional Council

1 Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire

Phone: (603) 778-0885

TOWN: Kingston COUNTY: Rockingham

SURVEY NUMBER: 41*

COMMON NAME: Nichols Memorial Library

HISTORIC NAME: Nichols Memorial Library

LOCATION: E. Side of Main St. @ N. inter. Main & Depot

OWNER: Town of Kingston

ADDRESS: 169 Main Street, Kingston, NH

MAP & PARCEL #: U10 31

DATE: C. 1897

SOURCE: New Hampshire Architecture

STYLE: Shingle Style/Richardsonian Romanesque

UTM: Z19 /E 332450 /N 4755625

USGS QUAD: Kingston Quad 7.5' series

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Library

PRESENT USE: Library

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Dwight & Chandler, Boston, M
Ralph Giddings, contractor

CONDITION: Exc. X Good Fair Poor Ruins

INTEGRITY: Original Site X Moved (When:)

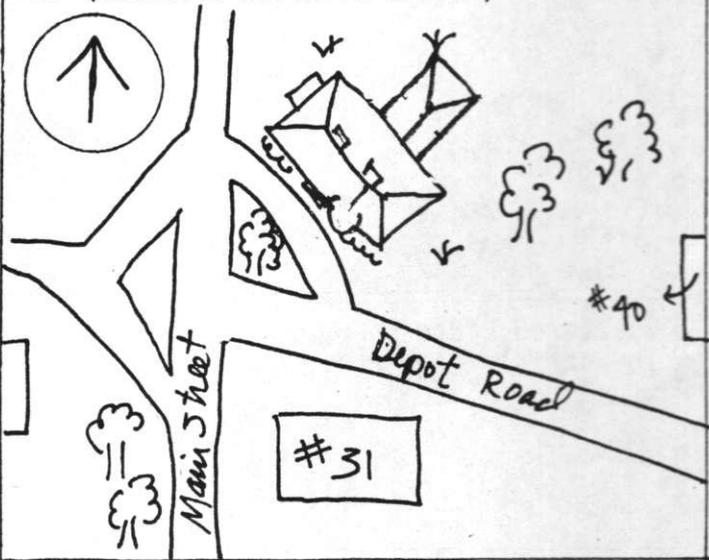
Major alterations & date: None

LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Nat'l State X Local

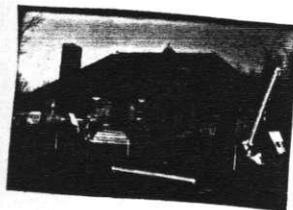
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

1. FOUNDATION: Stone X Brick Concrete Concrete Block
2. WALL STRUCTURE: Wood Frame Post & Beam Ballon Frame Other
Load Bearing Masonry Stone X Brick Concrete Block Other
Metal Iron Steel Other
3. WALL COVERING: Clapboard Wood Shingle Board & Batten Shiplap Aluminum
Novelty Stucco Stone X Brick Sheet Metal Asphalt Shingles Vinyl
Asphalt Sheeting Composite Board Other
4. ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle Asphalt Shingle Standing Seam Tim Slate X
Pressed Metal Sheet Metal Rolled Asphalt Other
5. ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:
6. OTHER:
of Stories 1 # of Bays Approx. Dimensions 30' X 40'
Roof Style: Gable Hip X Gambrel Flat Shed Mansard Jerkinhead
Monitor Sawtooth Other
Appendages: Porches Towers X Dormers Bay Windows Ells 1 Chimneys
Wings Cupolas Sheds 1 Garage Other
Entry Location: Center Sidehall Other Offset

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



PHOTO



Description of View:

Front (SW)

Photographer:

Negative with: S.R.R.C.

Negative File Number: K-80-2C-19A-20

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION: The Kingston Library is a small, elegant example of a combination of Richardsonian Romanesque and Shingle style architecture. In keeping with the design tenants set forth by the Romanesque style, it is low and heavy in feeling, with an emphasis on its horizontal elements dictated by the shingle style. The most immediately visible feature is the massive red slate hip roof, which is proportionally equal in area to the wall surface. The eaves project, and are emphasized by projecting rafters which creates a strong horizontal line midway in the mass. The ridge lines are decorated with copper finials at the peaks. The fabric of the building, is weather-faced granite blocks laid in random ashlar pattern adding to its heavy, substantial character. The facade is visibly divided into three elements which when combined balance each other perfectly.

Facing the building starting from the left they are: 1. A large window with stained glass in the top third under the eaves. The size of this window reflects the use of the interior space—a reading room. A strong vertical element is present in the top of the stone exterior chimney (same height as ridge are) which is located on the northwest elevation. 2. The central element includes the main entry and a small fat half engaged tower, with a conical slate roof topped by a copper finial. The windows arrangement in the tower cont.

RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT: The building is set at a 45 degree angle to Main Street and Depot Road which gives it emphasis in the streetscape. The landscaping is appropriate and carefully maintained.

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION: .4 Acres. Bounded to the N. by M. Bartlett, E. by Main St. S. by Depot Road, W. by Bartlett.

REFERENCES: "New Hampshire Architecture, An Illustrated Guide" by Bryant F. Tolles Jr. 1979. "Engineering News Supplement," Sept. 23, 1897, p. 110, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 13. American Architect and Building News, Oct. 23, 1897
Letter from James Garvin to Gertrude Semple, Nov. 3, 1980

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

See National Register Nomination. Listed on the National Register 1980

Building by J. Howard Nichols in memory of his parents...Nicholas & Mary Nichols. J. Howard was a native of Kingston and a successful Boston businessman.

Site originally Towle carriage shop (burned)

* SEE ADDITION / CORRECTION SHEETS
FOR OWNER COMMENTS

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land Woodland Scattered Bldgs Moderately Built Up
Densely Built Up Residential Commercial Industrial Agricultural
Roadside Strip Development Other

Recorded By: Herb Bubert, Scott Novak

Date: 12/20/79



Continuation Sheet SITE # 41*

Arch. Description Cont.

(small squares in series under the eaves) gives the effect of a medieval parapet. The main entry is suitably impressive for a scholarly building. It is sheltered by a porch whose roofline is windswept, or eyebrow shaped, with decorative carving in the wooden gable, supported by ashlar columns. One is engaged with the tower as is the corner of the roof, overlapping, thus locking these elements as one unit. The horizontal line of the roof undulates over the main entry, then is interrupted by the tower whose peak is even with the ridge line of the roof. The horizontal line is picked up again in element 3, where the solid stone wall is pierced by three small square windows under the eaves. These windows visually repeat the smaller windows in the tower and emphasize the horizontal again to make up for the interruption of the tower. They also indicate interior use to light the room where the stacks are kept. (not so much light needed here!) These three elements balance each other perfectly.

There is a one story stone ell with a matching slate hip roof which has a one story wooden shed attached.