**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE PROJECT**  
Strafford Rockingham Regional Council  
1 Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire  
Phone: (603) 778-0885

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWN: Kingston</th>
<th>COUNTY: Rockingham</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SURVEY NUMBER:</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMON NAME:</td>
<td>Nichols Memorial Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>HISTORIC NAME:</td>
<td>Nichols Memorial Library</td>
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</table>
| LOCATION:     | E Side of Main St.  
Main & Depot |
| OWNER:        | Town of Kingston |
| ADDRESS:      | 169 Main Street, Kingston, NH |
| DATE:         | 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. Good Fair Poor Ruins  
**INTEGRITY:** Original Site Moved (When: )  
**LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE:** Natl State Local

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System**

1. **FOUNDATION:** Stone X Brick _ Concrete _ Concrete Block
2. **WALL STRUCTURE:** Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon 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 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-30-20-19A-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 X. Bartlett, E. by Main St. S. by Depot Road, W. by Bartlett.


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)

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land_ Woodland_ Scattered Bldgs_ Moderately Built Up_ Densely Built Up_ Residential_ Commercial_ Industrial_ Agricultural_ Roadside Strip Development_ Other_

Recorded By: Herb Hubert, Scott Novak
Date: 12/20/79
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.