





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Pelham Library and Memorial Building  
other names/site number Pelham Historical Society (current)

## 2. Location

street & number 5 Main Street  not for publication  
city or town Pelham  vicinity  
state New Hampshire code NH county Hillsborough code 011 zip code 03076

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national    X    statewide    \_\_\_    local

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

# Hayes-Genoter History and Genealogy Library

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form  
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pelham Library and Memorial Building  
Name of Property

Hillsborough, NH  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION / Library

GOVERNMENT / Town Courthouse

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION / Research facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Museum

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup>/Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century / Classical Revival

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE / Granite

walls: BRICK

roof: STONE / Slate

other: \_\_\_\_\_

Pelham Library and Memorial Building

Name of Property

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County and State

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is on approximately one-quarter acre in the historic village center, just northeast of the town common. It is bounded on the west by the Congregational Church (built 1842), on the east and north by property with a Colonial Revival residence (now offices, built 1900), and on the south by Main Street, with the former Town Hall (built ca. 1900) and a new Cape style residence (built 2010) across the street. The Library and Memorial Building is a 1½ story Classical Revival structure, built in 1896 and relatively unchanged since. It is constructed of brick and granite with a slate roof and terracotta and wood trim. Classic details include symmetry of form, a pedimented gable dormer in the center of the façade, a recessed arched entry surrounding a door with leaded sidelights and elliptical fanlight, and dentillated cornice. A majority of the original interior features are extant and include paneled wainscot, crown molding, leaded transom windows, paneled doors and a carved wood fireplace surround. The exterior and interior of the building retain an exceptionally high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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**Narrative Description**Setting:

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is in the old village center, just off the Town Common, which was delineated when Pelham was first incorporated in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The center is still home to primary civic and religious structures in the town, including the town hall and police station (former school house, built 1920, renovated 2003), the current library (built 2003), the fire house (built 1972), the American Legion (former school house, built ca. 1885), the former town hall, now the home of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (built 1900), the Congregational Church (built 1842) and parsonage (built 1861-2), and the Catholic Church (built 1913/1953) and rectory (built 1947). There are also several residences around the common and the adjoining streets that date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The area retains its character as a historic village center surrounding a common, despite the addition, removal and renovation of many of the buildings through the centuries. The immediate context of the Library Building, however, has not fundamentally changed since its construction.<sup>1</sup>

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is set back from the road, in the center of a level lot with hard landscaping and a few shrubs and trees. The area between the building and Main Street was landscaped in 1996 in honor of the town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This work included a large brick patio and brick walkways in front of and leading to the building. Benches, a flagpole, low shrubs along the building's south foundation and a small garden in the southwest corner of the lot were also added. Many of the bricks are engraved with donors' names to dedications by subscription. There is a 5'x5' granite slab set into the center of the patio with the town seal engraved. Two smaller, square, granite slabs are placed at the east and west ends of the walkway. The sidewalk was also re-laid in brick at this time.

There are a few mature trees near each corner of the lot, including a large evergreen tree in the garden at the southwest corner of the property. There is a sign for the Pelham Historical Society mounted on a tall granite post in the southeast corner of the lot. Three granite hitching posts are set into the tree yard along Main Street. A fourth hitching post is located along the east lot line. These posts can be seen in some of the historical photographs. A small, paved parking area lies immediately west of the building, with a driveway connecting south to Main Street and north to the rear of the adjacent church building.

Exterior:

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is a one story, three-by-two bay, rectangular brick structure oriented to the south, facing Main Street with a footprint approximately 35' x 53'. The building is of symmetrical design with an accentuated center entrance. The building is clad with red, stretcher bond bricks with pink mortar. Brick quoins decorate the corners. The building is on a raised foundation of cut and mortared rusticated granite blocks.<sup>2</sup> A molded cornice with dentil band is at the eaves along all elevations, interrupted only by the projecting front entrance, which mimics and embellishes the design. The wood trim is painted white.

The roof is a steeply-pitched hipped roof clad with slate shingles. A pedimented, gable-roofed dormer extends from each of the west and east sides, each with a pair of 1/1 sash windows separated by a raised, square wooden panel. The dormers are clad with slate

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<sup>1</sup> For more on Pelham Center, see Hengen, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> It was important to the building committee that granite would feature in the design, as the stone was native to and representative of New Hampshire. The granite used may have come from Pelham's quarries along Gage Hill, as the town was a leader in granite throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hayes, 2010).

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shingles on all sides, and in the pediment. The cornices are flat. A brick chimney with concrete cap is set on the end of west dormer's ridge.<sup>3</sup> A larger pedimented gable projects at the center of the front (south) elevation, accentuating the entrance.

The main entrance, in the center bay of the south elevation, has a recessed, arched reveal. The entrance is reached via a flight of five granite steps. Iron railings were added to either side of the stairs after the mid-twentieth century. The door has a single glass pane over two horizontal raised panels. It is flanked by leaded, three-quarter length sidelights, with double vertical wood panels below (the west side also has an inset mail slot). The elliptical fan light above the window is leaded in a sunburst motif. The brick arch around the entrance has a pronounced terracotta keystone arch with terracotta trim. Above the arch, the words "Pelham Library" are applied in black painted wood to the frieze. The pediment is faced in white stucco and contains a crest-shaped opening in the center, with a leaded colored glass window with an image of an oil lamp symbolizing the lamp of knowledge.

A second entrance is centered on the east elevation. The door has a single square pane of glass over two horizontal raised wood panels. Above the door is a large square transom topped by a hood supported by molded wooden brackets. The entrance was modified in 1975; at that time the door was lowered to ground level and the transom enlarged to fill the space. The original exterior staircase to the door was removed. This entrance was again modified in 1990 to be more accessible. A third entrance is on the north elevation and allows access to the basement level. It was modified in 1992 from a bulkhead to a covered stair to provide an emergency exit for the Children's Room in the basement.

All elevations have nearly identical 1/1 windows, topped with a transom. The window frames are painted black and the exterior casings are painted white. On the south elevation (façade), the windows are paired in the bays flanking the entrance. On the east side, a single window lies to each side of the door. The west elevation windows mirror those on the east. Nine windows are across the rear (north) elevation; the two at the west end are directly opposite the two in the south elevation's west end, the remaining seven are evenly spaced in the east two-thirds of the north side (the original book stacks room). All of the window openings are recessed into the brick walls and have quarter-round casings and granite sills. The windows are topped with a decorative brick lintel. The seven windows grouped together on the east two-thirds of the north elevation have fixed, six-light wooden transoms. The remainder of the windows have transoms with leaded, diamond-paned glass. There are also horizontal openings with late-20<sup>th</sup> century replacement windows in the exposed foundation to light the basement level—four across the front, two on either side and three in the back.

## Interior:

The interior of the library retains its historic detailing and most of its spatial arrangement. The entire main floor is characterized by decorative woodwork, including paneled wainscot, crown molding, a carved fireplace surround, paneled doors and wide molded window and door casings.

The four rooms of the original design remain primarily unaltered spatially and illustrate the architect's intentions, though their functions have changed. Just inside the vestibule is the small, central Delivery Room. In the southeast corner of the building is the Town Officers' Room, a meeting space that included a safe for the town records. The Book Stack Room is at the rear of the building. The bulk of the fenestration along the back does not represent a long reading room as it does in many libraries; rather, the seven windows grouped together on the east two-thirds reflect the aisles between the bookcases, a practical and aesthetic design element. The Memorial Reading Room occupies the entire west side of the building. When first opened to the public, the walls and ceilings here were "tastefully frescoed." Reading tables for both adults and children were also located in this well-lit, open space, with its large windows on three sides and large double door on the fourth. A fireplace is centered on the west wall.<sup>4</sup>

The nearly-square Delivery Room is an antechamber at the center of the building. It is separated from the vestibule by an elaborate doorway. The door has a square glass window over two horizontal recessed panels and is surrounded by a rectangular leaded glass transom and leaded sidelights, echoing the main entrance. The wood used for most of the antechamber is Southern heartwood.

Beyond this antechamber, an open doorway that once held three tracked sliding doors leads to the former book stacks room in the rear of the building.<sup>5</sup> This room contains five windows that once lit aisles between bookcases. It also contains an interior window in the wall separating the stacks from the Memorial reading room. This was likely designed for passing books from the stacks to the patrons in the reading room. In the northeast corner of the building, two rooms were built into the stack room ca. 1972. One is a small bathroom. The other was created as a small office and is now a storage closet. It has a dropped ceiling. Opposite the door for this room is an opening that once allowed passage to the hall inside the east entrance of the building. When the entrance was modified in the 1970s, this passageway became inoperable, as the hall floor was dropped to ground level. It is now walled off with a removable panel.

The building's southeast room was once the Town Officer's Room. It was a meeting space that also included a compartment for the officers' safe and records. This room has bead board wainscot of Southern pine. A door on the north wall was removed and plastered

<sup>3</sup> From an unspecified date, until 1915, a flagpole was mounted on this dormer. Preservation of the ceiling of the Memorial Room necessitated its removal in 1915. The Trustees' report laments that this should have happened during a time when the flag was so important to the town, which had soldiers overseas fighting the war. (Pelham Annual Report, 1916.)

<sup>4</sup> "The Pride of Pelham," 1896.

<sup>5</sup> These three doors were removed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and the track built into the door jamb has recently been covered over (Hayes, 2010).

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over at some time in the mid- to late 20<sup>th</sup> century and is nearly indistinguishable (mirroring the former opening noted in the previous paragraph).

The entire west side of the building holds the Memorial Room, the largest and most decorative of the three original rooms. It has Southern hazel (or gumwood) woodwork trim and paneled wainscot. A crown molding of dentils and ovoli, painted white, joins all four walls to the high, flat ceiling. Below this, a stained wooden plate rail runs along all four walls. A brick fireplace with a hazel-colored wooden mantle and surround dominates the west wall. Its frieze contains a relief of flowers tied with bows in the center and honeysuckle motif ornaments in the corners. Doric columns support the mantle. A large painting with an Italian scene has long hung over the mantel. Marble tablets, engraved in gilt with the names of Pelham's soldiers are on the walls. The roll calls for wars up to and including the Civil War were installed in 1896 when the building opened.<sup>6</sup>

While the exterior of the library has remained principally unchanged over the past century, the interior has responded to a growing collection and shifting functions of library service. In 1924, closed book stacks were added to the attic space and electricity replaced kerosene lighting. The electricity came via conduits under the street from the basement of the town hall, where there was a Delco lighting plant. The circulation desk was located in several places through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the antechamber, the stacks room and the Memorial Room. The Town Officers' Room became book stacks ca. 1970s. In 1972, the library gained 20% additional public space when they completed Phase I of a renovation that included a new office, bathroom and reference room. In 1974, Phase II of the restoration began with the conversion of the dirt floor basement into a children's room, meeting room, storage and office. At this time, the direction of the cellar stairs was reversed and the floor dropped in the hallway to allow entrance through the modified east entrance. The mural in the stairwell to the Children's Room was completed in 1975 by Joy Rumpf. The meeting room downstairs later became a stack room.<sup>7</sup>

Since the building's use shifted from library to historical society in 2003, the interior spaces have been in transition, though no structural changes have been made. Ca. 2004, much of the historic woodwork was restored and many of the original doors, which had been removed to improve circulation, were refinished and re-hung.

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<sup>6</sup> Two articles about the library's dedication note that the walls and ceilings were frescoed. No further details about what that looked like are known. (American Library Association, 1897: 49; "Pride of Pelham," 1896)

<sup>7</sup> Pelham Annual Reports, 1925, 1974 and 1975.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Social History
- Architecture
- Education
- Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

- 1896-1960 (Criterion A)
- 1896 (Criterion C)

**Significant Dates**

- 1896: construction date

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

- Stickney, Frederick W.
- Austin, William D.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

1896-1960. The library was constructed in 1896. The latter date represents the 50-year cut-off for historic eligibility.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

n/a

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance in the social history, education, and politics/government of the town, as its only public library, as a former site of local government, and as a locus for honoring the town's veterans and patriotism. The building has an exceptionally high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant locally, but is an excellent example of social trends happening state-wide at the time, when citizens were putting public money to libraries and veterans' memorials. The Pelham Library and Memorial Building's significance in local social and educational history began when Pelham citizens voted to use tax money to erect this library building in 1895 to honor the town's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation and as a memorial to hometown soldiers. It was the town's first building erected for use as a public library, and remained its only library building until 2003, and only public education building outside of the schools. The building's function as a veterans' memorial is also socially significant, for it reflects a popular trend of the era to erect civic buildings as memorials. The building was politically significant first for its Town Officers' Meeting Room, which also held the town safe, and later for its role as court house for the Pelham Municipal Court.

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its significance in the area of Architecture, as a fine example of a small town Classical Revival civic structure and as a notable example of the works of architect Frederick W. Stickney, active ca. 1880-1918. The building retains an exceptionally high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant on a state level. The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is characterized by its Classical details, including symmetry of form, pedimented gable dormer in the center of the façade, a recessed arched entry surrounding a door with leaded sidelights and elliptical fanlight, and dentillated cornice. A majority of the original interior features are extant and include paneled wainscot, crown molding, paneled doors and a carved wood fireplace surround. Noted architect Frederick W. Stickney, of the firm Stickney & Austin, of Lowell and Boston, Massachusetts, designed the building in 1896. It is an instructive example of the small library type, which Stickney helped to shape. It is the only library Stickney is associated with in New Hampshire.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)**Criterion A: Social History, Education, and Politics and Government Significance**

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is an exceptional illustration of a town-supported library and late 19<sup>th</sup> century veterans memorial. For over 100 years, it served as the primary base for Pelham's literary and cultural activities.<sup>8</sup> The town has a long history of support for a library institution, beginning at least as early as 1797, when some of its prominent citizens first incorporated a library with the state.<sup>9</sup> In 1892, the town was quick to take advantage of New Hampshire's new fund for town libraries, using the endorsement to create a board of trustees, increase the collection and hire a librarian. The rapid growth of the library after this led quickly to interest in a more permanent home for the collection. In 1895, the citizens took a much larger step when they voted to use tax money to erect a library building to honor the town's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation and serve as a memorial to hometown soldiers. A greater than two-thirds majority vote proved the commitment of the people of the small town to pushing forward into the coming century by working to educate its citizens. Some considered it important that the town not be "left behind in the race of progress which is so characteristic of [the] waning years of the nineteenth century." It was the town's first building erected for use as a public library and remained its only library building until 2003.<sup>10</sup>

A building committee supervised the erection of the new library building. The lot, donated by Frank M. and Zena B. (Atwood) Woodbury, was in a prime location near the Town Common and within the core of the village.<sup>11</sup> The committee chose a design by Frederick W. Stickney, a noted architect and principal of Stickney & Austin, of Lowell and Boston, Massachusetts.<sup>12</sup> The contractors, George M. Cole & Co., of Lawrence, Massachusetts commenced building in October 1895 and finished in late 1896. The whole was completed under budget, for \$5,678.88. The funds were raised through public and donated monies, further evidence of the local

<sup>8</sup> In 2003, the town built a new library off Marsh Road and the former library became the home of the town historical society.

<sup>9</sup> The petition to the General Court reads: *Petition of Inhabitants of Pelham to have a Library incorporated: addressed to the General Court*. Humbly Shew that your Petitioners with their Associates have been at Considerable Expense in purchasing Books for the purpose of infusing usefull knowledge in Pelham and finding our selves under Some Disadvantages for the want of an incorporation therefore pray your Honours, that they with Such others as may hereafter Join them may be incorporated into a body politic for the purpose aforesaid under Such Rules and Regulations as are usual in Institutions of a Simular nature—and as Duty bound will Ever pray. *This petition was granted and the library incorporated December 9, 1797.* (Hammond, 1884, vol. 13: 152.) This library collection later received mention in the 1823 state gazetteer, which noted, "there is a social library in Pelham, incorporated in 1797, with about 200 vols." (Farmer and Moore, 1823: 209.)

<sup>10</sup> Board of Library Commissioners, 1896: 47; Pelham Annual Report, 1896: 45.

<sup>11</sup> The Woodburys stipulated that the land "shall be forever used and occupied by said Town of Pelham for a Library and memorial building or for some educational purpose." The lot was partitioned out from their own homestead. (HCRD Book 566/325 [1896].)

<sup>12</sup> Perhaps not coincidentally, Stickney had familial ties to the town, as his father was a native who relocated from Pelham to Lowell sometime before 1854.

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support for the new institution. Taxes were appropriated in the amount of \$4,000 and donations totaling over \$2,000 were received, as well as donations of materials, furnishings, and finishes.<sup>13</sup> Many of the donations for the project came from sons and daughters of Pelham who had since moved away and found their fortune elsewhere, a type of patronage that was customary in New England at the time.<sup>14</sup>

The trustees proudly called the newly completed Library and Memorial Building "an ornament and a luxury," as well as a necessity. The dedication ceremony took place on December 2, 1896, and the day was "generally observed as a holiday by the townspeople." The program took place in the library's Memorial Room and next door in the Congregational Church. It included speeches by library trustees, members of the building committee and selectmen. Reverend Augustus Berry, a library trustee, was the key speaker for the event. Each speaker in turn noted the beauty of the new building and the pride the town should feel. They were happy that at last the collection of books had left its "old and undesirable quarters" to enter a new permanent home, "a modest, but conspicuous building, of tasteful design."<sup>15</sup>

The Board of Library Commissioners of New Hampshire discussed the building in their 1896 report: "With its increased facilities for doing efficient work, the library now enters on a career of usefulness that will be a potent factor in advancing the material welfare of the town, and must necessarily be a source of pride and gratification to those who have so generously contributed of time and money to make its success assured." To further insure success and promote the new library, a catalog was made of the collection (over 1200 volumes by 1897) and a free copy of it was available to each family in town.<sup>16</sup>

The library was connected closely with the local schools. From the beginning, the librarian, Mary Hobbs, worked with the local schools to help students choose suitable research topics and materials. In addition to serving educational needs, the building became a social center for the town, serving a variety of community functions, including Red Cross meetings, Historical Society gatherings, school art exhibitions and antique displays. The building has also served as a location and backdrop for town-wide events, such as Old Home Days and Pelham's Bicentennial Celebration in 1946 (see Historic Views).<sup>17</sup>

The library also served in the administration of the town. The Town Officers' Room was a major component of the building. It was used for meetings and held the town safe. Additionally, for several years starting in 1955, the Memorial Room was used as the court room for the Pelham Municipal Court, presided over at that time by Judge J. Albert Lynch and Associate Justice Philip R. Currier.<sup>18</sup>

The building's secondary function as a veterans' memorial reflects a popular trend of the era to erect civic buildings as memorials. In 1896, the state Board of Library Commissioners noted Pelham's new library in their biennial report: "We wish to call special attention to the memorial feature recognized in the erection of a number of buildings as well worthy of consideration in other localities. At the entrance to the Exeter library is an arched vestibule, and the names of Exeter's volunteers in the Civil War are there inscribed on marble tablets, as a roll of honor. The buildings in Lebanon, Pelham, and Weare, each contain a memorial room, in honor of the men who fought in the Civil War."<sup>19</sup> In Pelham's Memorial Room, the marble memorial tablets—roll calls of Pelham's soldiers—were an integral part of the library building from the start. They show Pelham's representation not only in the Civil War, but in all wars since 1755 to which Pelham sent soldiers.<sup>20</sup> This aspect of the building was prominent in the minds of all the speakers at the dedication. One speaker, Reverend Berry, called the building (as memorial) "more fitting and impressive than a monument."<sup>21</sup>

In his dedication ceremony speech in 1896, Rev. Augustus Berry noted his many hopes for the future of the building and the institution. Many of his predictions came true to varying degrees. Among Rev. Berry's hopes was that the library "will be an agency by which there may be transmitted to coming generations that which shall illustrate the life of the past. That there may be an antiquarian

<sup>13</sup> The lumber for the wainscot and other decorative woodwork in the Memorial Room, antechamber and Officer's Meeting Room was donated by Pelham native and Civil War veteran John M. Woods. Woods owned a successful hardwood lumber business in East Cambridge, Massachusetts. His lumber yard was considered one of the largest in the country for mahogany, hardwoods and veneers. Additional donations included a clock, given by Mrs. Whittemore of Worcester, Massachusetts, and an oak table for the reading room, given by local man John H. Marsh. The field stone for the cellar was donated by local men Daniel P. and Jonathan M. Atwood. The marble memorial tablets were created by resident Charles Wheeler, who was also a major donor. (Hobbs: 147; Pelham Annual Report, 1897: 16-17.)

<sup>14</sup> Board of Library Commissioners, 1896: 47-48; Pelham Annual Report, 1896: 45 and 1897:16-17; "The Pride of Pelham," 1896.

<sup>15</sup> Pelham Annual Report, 1897: 44; "The Pride of Pelham," 1896.

<sup>16</sup> Board of Library Commissioners, 1896: 47-48; "The Pride of Pelham," 1896.

<sup>17</sup> Miss Hobbs, called "Miss Molly" or "Aunt Molly" (ca. 1874-ca. 1958) was Pelham's first town librarian, serving from 1893 until she retired in August 1958. She began her work with an annual salary of twenty dollars, when the library occupied a small space in the town hall. During her tenure the collection grew to 10,000 volumes. Miss Molly was fairly well educated and worked to keep up with trends in literature and non-fiction for adults and children in town. (Hobbs, 1975: 148-149; Pelham Annual Report, 1958).

<sup>18</sup> *Reflections*, 1998: 209; Hayes, 2008. Prior to 1955, Pelham held court at the Nashua District Court.

<sup>19</sup> Board of Library Commissioners, 1896: 52-3.

<sup>20</sup> The original tablets were installed in 1896 and the tablets for later wars mimic the design of the earlier ones. There is no tablet for World War II; the roll call for that war is on a monument on the Town Common.

<sup>21</sup> "The Pride of Pelham."

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department, where there may be preserved single things of a kind that shall show how former generations lived."<sup>22</sup> This is where the building is headed today as the Pelham Historical Society now uses the building as museum, library and genealogical center dedicated to local history. The Pelham Historical Society formed in 1963, and did not have a home until its agreement with the town to occupy this building.

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is the most well-preserved example of any historic present or former town building extant in Pelham. The high level of integrity of the building, which appears today virtually unchanged from 1896, is a testament to the care and respect that the people of Pelham have placed in this building.

### Criterion C: Architectural Significance

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is significant as a superb example of a modest-sized, public building in the Classical Revival style and as an important example of the work of its architect, Frederick W. Stickney.

The Classical Revival style was commonly used for institutional buildings and saw its peak from ca. 1890 to ca. 1935. It is generally defined by symmetry, low roofs, center block pedimented entrances, use of masonry for siding and accents, detailed wooden moldings, and Italian renaissance details such as porticos, columns, quoins, belt courses, and keystone arches.

The Pelham Library building is characterized by many of these Classical details. It is symmetrical in form and has a projecting pedimented center block entrance with a recessed arched entry. A prominent terracotta keystone and dentillated cornice further decorate the entrance. The substantial paneled and glass door has sidelights with a leaded semi-circle design and it topped with an elliptical fanlight. The brick exterior is accented by brick quoins, a raised granite foundation and granite trim. A majority of the original interior features are also extant and include paneled wainscot, crown molding, paneled doors and a carved wood fireplace surround.

The Library and Memorial Building is the only public building in Pelham Center that was designed by a prominent architect. Frederick W. Stickney (1853-1918), of the firm Stickney & Austin, of Lowell and Boston, Massachusetts, designed the building in 1896.<sup>23</sup> It stands as a superb illustration of the small library type, which Stickney helped to shape and which is typical to New Hampshire's small towns.

While he was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stickney contributed to the small library and memorial building typology. His entry for a class competition on the subject was chosen to illustrate a journal article about the contest in *The Architectural Sketchbook 2* (1875). The contest asked students to merge the needs of a small public library with a memorial to that town's fallen Civil War veterans. Stickney designed a French neo-classical building with a T-shaped plan that placed the book stacks in the back of the building and the reading rooms in the front wings. Stickney's design in the *Sketchbook* proved to be influential in that field.<sup>24</sup>

Stickney's first known library design to be constructed was Memorial Hall (now known as Pollard Memorial Library) in his hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts, which was constructed in 1893 as the city's library and veterans' memorial. It is a large, rusticated stone building in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, and was regarded at Stickney's death as his "most notable achievement." Stickney's only other known library is the Mark Skinner Memorial Library in Manchester, Vermont, constructed in 1897. This was designed about the same time or shortly after as the Pelham example. While it is vastly different in architectural style, it shares many functional design features in common with the Pelham Library.<sup>25</sup>

For Pelham's new building, Stickney needed to consider workspace, conservation and efficiency in his design for a small building that was to serve several functions—town officer's meeting place, records storage, book collection, reading room, and memorial to Pelham's soldiers. Though his own proficiency and the library type itself had surely evolved in the two decades since the *Sketchbook* article, elements from the 1875 design show up in the 1896 Pelham example. Most obvious is that both designs were specifically

<sup>22</sup> "The Pride of Pelham."

<sup>23</sup> Stickney completed his formal architectural training with high honors at M. I. T. in 1877 and went on to win prestigious design awards. After working for several firms in Boston and Lowell, and setting out on his own, Stickney formed a partnership with architect William D. Austin (1856-1944) in 1892. This new partnership created a firm with two offices; Stickney represented the firm in Lowell, while Austin ran the Boston office. Stickney & Austin designed public and private buildings in many locations, including New York, Chicago, Cincinnati and Boston. They worked in all of the major styles of their era, including Shingle Style, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, and Richardsonian Romanesque. Their commissions included schools, offices, recreational buildings, residences, parks and open spaces. Austin, especially, was responsible for many of the public parks in Boston. After the partnership with Austin dissolved in 1900, Stickney continued to work in Lowell until his death in 1918. Stickney was regarded as the leader in his field in Lowell, then an important industrial city, and designed many public buildings there. (Breisch, 1997: 93-97; "Frederick W. Stickney," 1918; Withey and Withey, 1970.)

<sup>24</sup> Breisch: 93-97, 114; "Frederick W. Stickney;" Withey and Withey.

<sup>25</sup> "Frederick W. Stickney." No comprehensive list of Stickney's work is known. Though larger than Pelham's library, the Skinner Library's floor plan was also T-shaped, with the stacks room in the back, a delivery room and vestibule at the front, a large reading room with fireplace to the left and a recreation room to the right. (The floor plan is printed in "Proceedings at the Opening of the Mark Skinner Library, Manchester, VT," Chicago: Lakeside Press and R. R. Donnelly & Sons, 1897.)

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intended to serve the dual purpose of public library and local veterans' memorial. In both designs, Stickney placed an arch over the main entrance, though in the 1875 exercise—a much larger building—there are a number of arched openings across the façade, while in Pelham there is a single central arch framing the recessed doorway. The arch motif was often associated with the triumphal arch of war memorials of the past centuries, and thus symbolically appropriate for a memorial building. Additionally, in Pelham's floor plan, Stickney maintained his earlier arrangement of spaces, placing the book stacks room at the rear, with reading rooms to the sides (in this case, one is a meeting space) and a delivery room at the center, albeit on a much smaller scale for the Pelham library.<sup>26</sup>

Additional details show his thoughtfulness in the design. For example, although a furnace was installed in the building at the time of construction, a working fireplace was also included in the Memorial Room. This was a nod to a nostalgic air that Stickney, like his more-famous contemporary H. H. Richardson, aimed for in memorial spaces, where patrons could contemplate the heroism of past generations and improve their intellects—a symbolism made deliberate in his time. (The sentiment was not confined to architects, as noted in the dedication speech by Rev. Berry, above.)

The Pelham Library and Memorial Building is Stickney's only known library commission in New Hampshire, and one of only four known projects he completed in the state; the others are the resort hotel New Senter House (ca. 1888, burned ca. 1919) on Lake Winnepesaukee in Center Harbor, a Shingle Style residence (1890) in Dublin, and the Chase Block (1887) in Concord. This short list of commissions illustrates Stickney's versatility and range of projects. Stickney's only other known library buildings are those mentioned above, in Lowell, Massachusetts, and in Manchester, Vermont.<sup>27</sup>

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

N/A

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)American Library Association, *The Library Journal*, vol. 22 (January 1897): 49.Board of Library Commissioners of New Hampshire, *Biennial Reports*. Concord, NH: Edward N. Pearson, 1894, 1896 and 1898.Breisch, Kenneth A. *Henry Hobson Richardson and the Small Public Library in America: A Study in Typology*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1997.Farmer, John and Jacob Bailey Moore. *A Gazetteer of the State of New-Hampshire*. Concord, NH: Jacob B. Moore, 1823."Frederick W. Stickney" (obituary). *Lowell Courier-Citizen* 18 January 1918.Hammond, Isaac W., ed. *Town Papers: Documents Relating to Towns in New Hampshire* (Provincial and State Papers of New Hampshire) Vol. 13. Concord, NH: Parsons B. Cogswell, 1884: 142-152.Harris, Jeffrey A., "Frederick W. Stickney: 1853-1918," in *A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine*, vol. 7 (1995). On file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Hayes, William T., Pelham Historical Society and town historian, correspondence and interviews with Sarah Dangelas Hofe, 2007-2008, 2010.

Hengen, Elizabeth Durfee, with Sarah Dangelas Hofe, "A History of the Pelham Town Common," report prepared for URS Corporation, 2007. In the Collection of NH Division of Historic Resources.

Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds.

Hobbs, C. Frances, *Pelham: Old Days & Old Ways*. Pelham, NH: The Pelham Historical Society, 1975.Pelham, Town of, *Annual Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Pelham, N.H.**Pelham, New Hampshire 1746-1996: 250th Anniversary Celebration: Souvenir Program Book*. Pelham, NH: Pelham 250th Anniversary Committee, Inc., 1996.

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<sup>26</sup> Breisch: 94 (reproduction of Stickney's 1875 design).<sup>27</sup> No comprehensive list of Stickney's work is known.

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"The Pride of Pelham: Beautiful Library Building Dedicated by Its Citizens." Newspaper clipping (December 1896) in "Aunt Molly's Scrapbook," Collection of the Pelham Historical Society.

*Reflections: A Pictorial History of Pelham, New Hampshire 1746 – 1996.* Pelham, NH: The Pelham 250th Anniversary Committee, Inc., 1998.

Withey, Henry F., and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

Photograph & Ephemera Collections  
Hayes-Genoter History and Genealogy Collection, Pelham, NH  
New Hampshire State Library, Concord, NH  
Pelham Historical Society, Pelham, NH  
Pelham Public Library, Pelham, NH  
Town of Pelham, Pelham, NH

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: Pelham Historical Society, Pelham, NH

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PEL0011

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** .25  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>309880</u> Easting	<u>4733650</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing	4	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)  
This property is Lot 120 on the Town of Pelham's Tax Map #8. It is bounded by Main Street to the south, First Congregational Church property on the west, and The Mary C. Berry House property to the north and east. The approximate boundary of the property is shown on the attached sketch map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)  
The boundaries of the nominated property are the same as for the lot, which was given to the Town of Pelham by Frank M. and Zena B. Woodbury in 1896 for a public town library and memorial building, described in Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds Book 566, page 325.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Dangelas Hofe  
organization on behalf of the Pelham Historical Society date November 15, 2010  
street & number 80 Indian Ridge Road telephone 603-228-8594  
city or town Hopkinton state NH zip code 03229  
e-mail nhsarah@gmail.com

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:**

**City or Vicinity:**

**County:**

**State:**

**Photographer:**

**Date Photographed:**

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

1 of \_\_\_\_.

## Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Pelham  
street & number 5 Main St. telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Pelham state NH zip code 03076

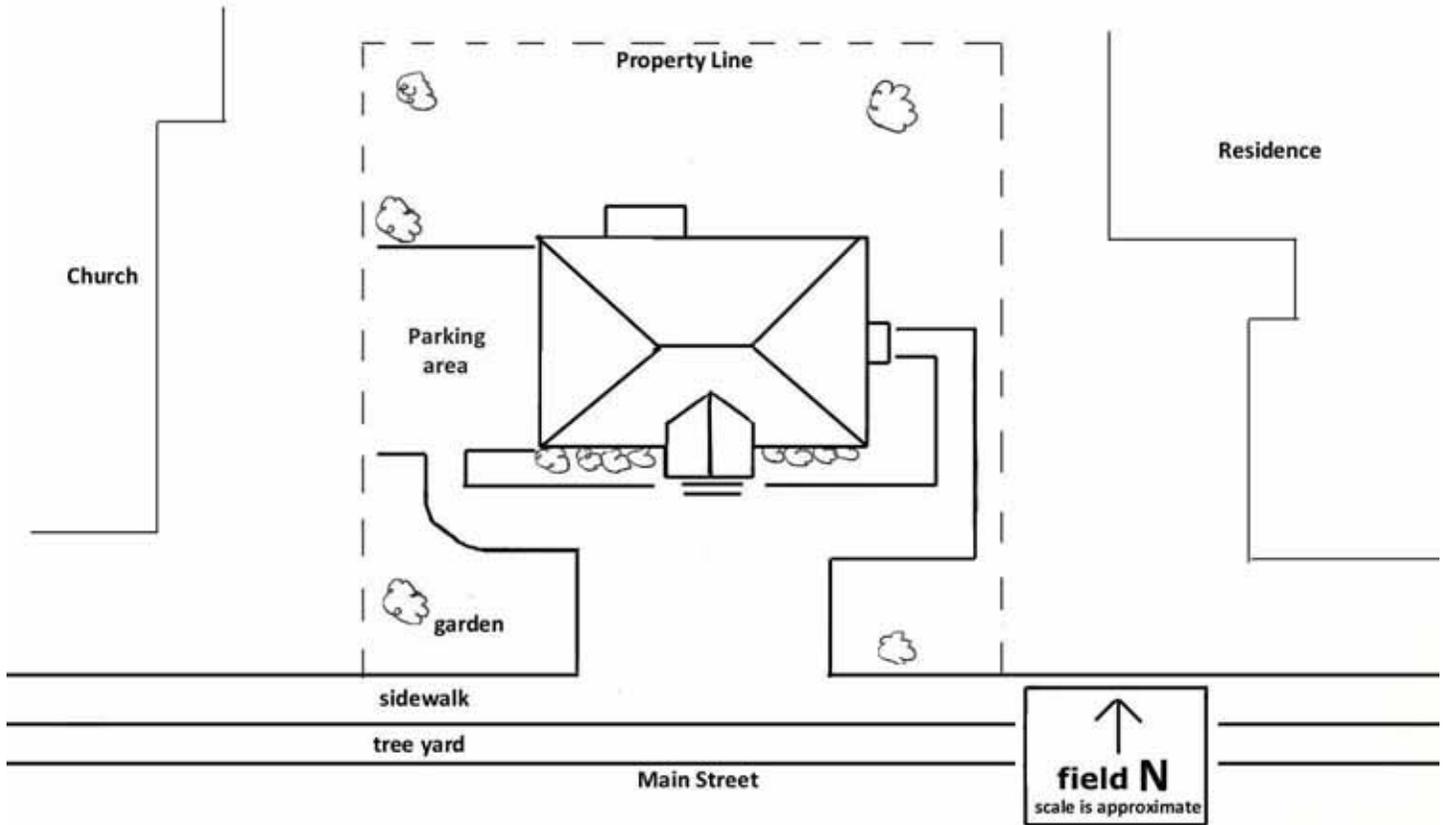
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**Sketch Map**



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## Photograph Log

Name of Property: Pelham Library and Memorial Building  
City: Pelham  
County: Hillsborough County  
State: NH  
Name of Photographer: Sarah Dangelas Hofe  
Date of Photographs: May 2010 (interiors) and November 2010 (exteriors)  
Location of Original Date Files: N. H. Division of Historical Resources, 19 Pillsbury St., Concord, NH

Photo #1 of 5 (NH\_Hillsborough County\_Pelham Library\_0001)  
South elevation (façade).

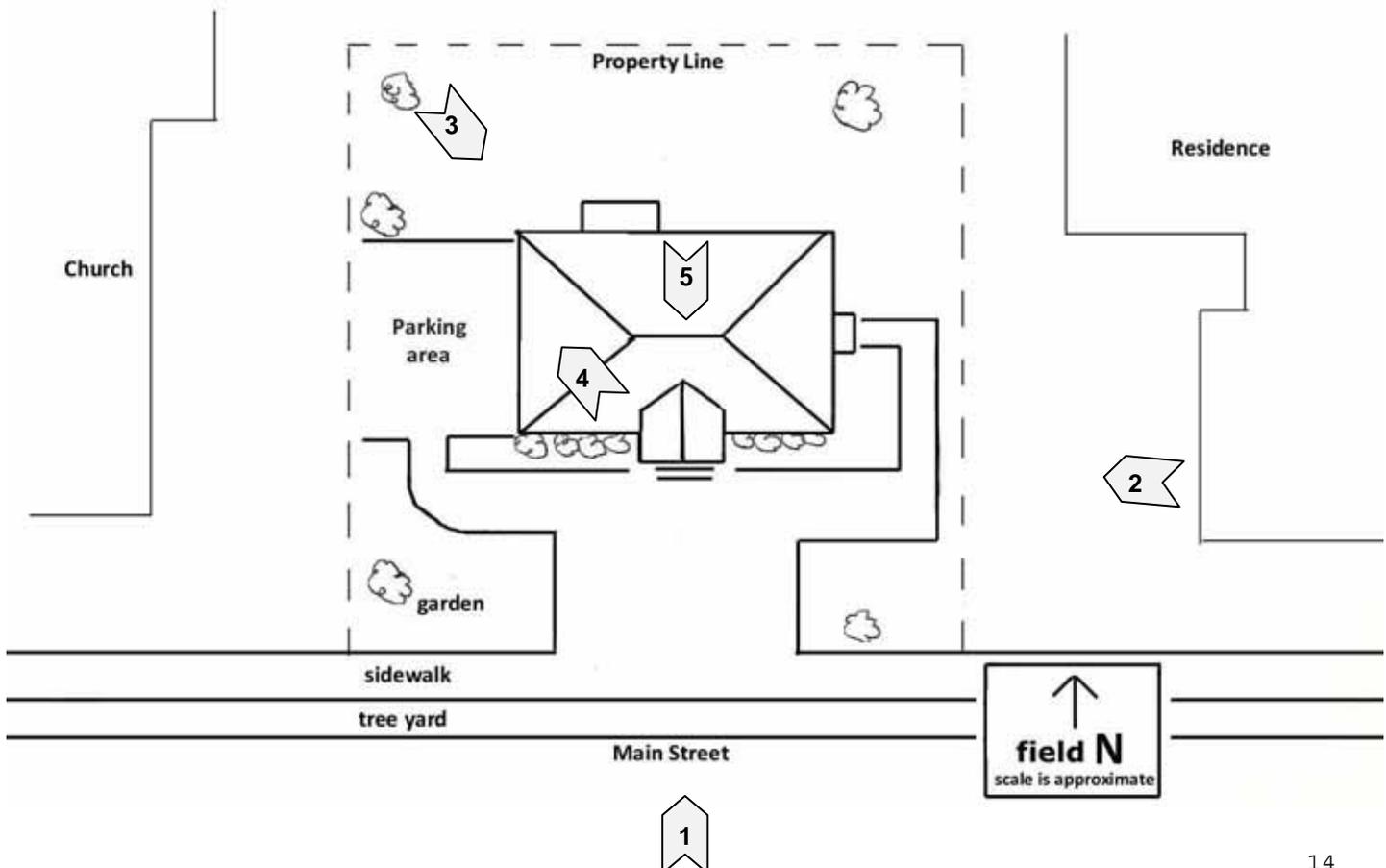
Photo #2 of 5 (NH\_Hillsborough County\_Pelham Library\_0002)  
East elevation, with partial view of south elevation (façade) and 21<sup>st</sup> century landscaping. The Congregational Church is in the background.

Photo #3 of 5 (NH\_Hillsborough County\_Pelham Library\_0003)  
North (rear) and west elevations.

Photo #4 of 5 (NH\_Hillsborough County\_Pelham Library\_0004)  
Interior view of the Memorial Room showing fireplace and typical window and wainscot, looking northwest.

Photo #5 of 5 (NH\_Hillsborough County\_Pelham Library\_0005)  
Interior view of the Delivery room/antechamber and vestibule, looking south.

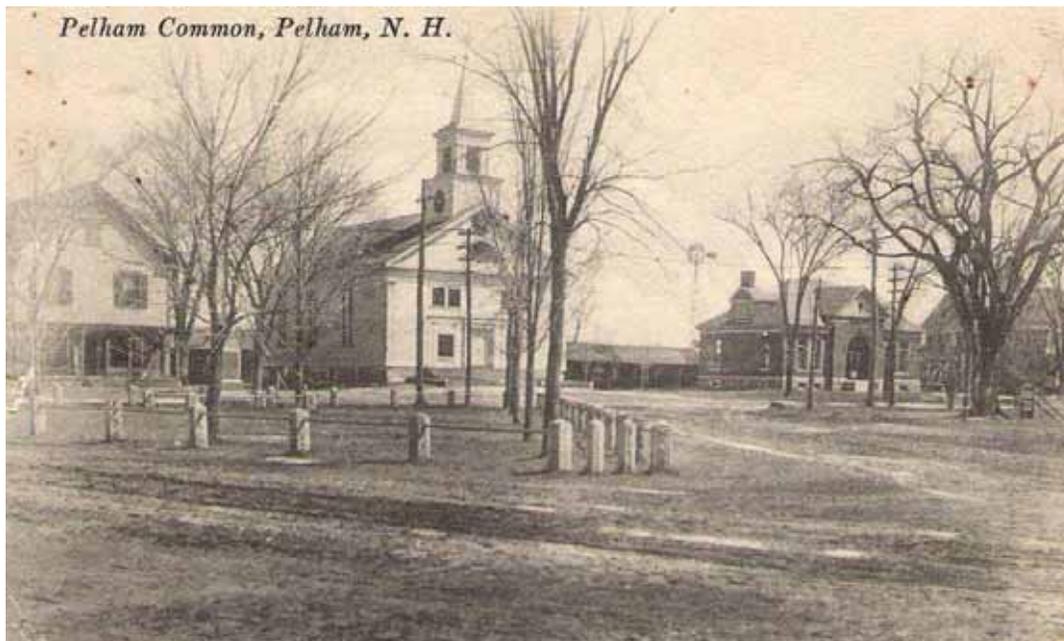
## Photograph Key



Pelham Library and Memorial Building  
Name of Property

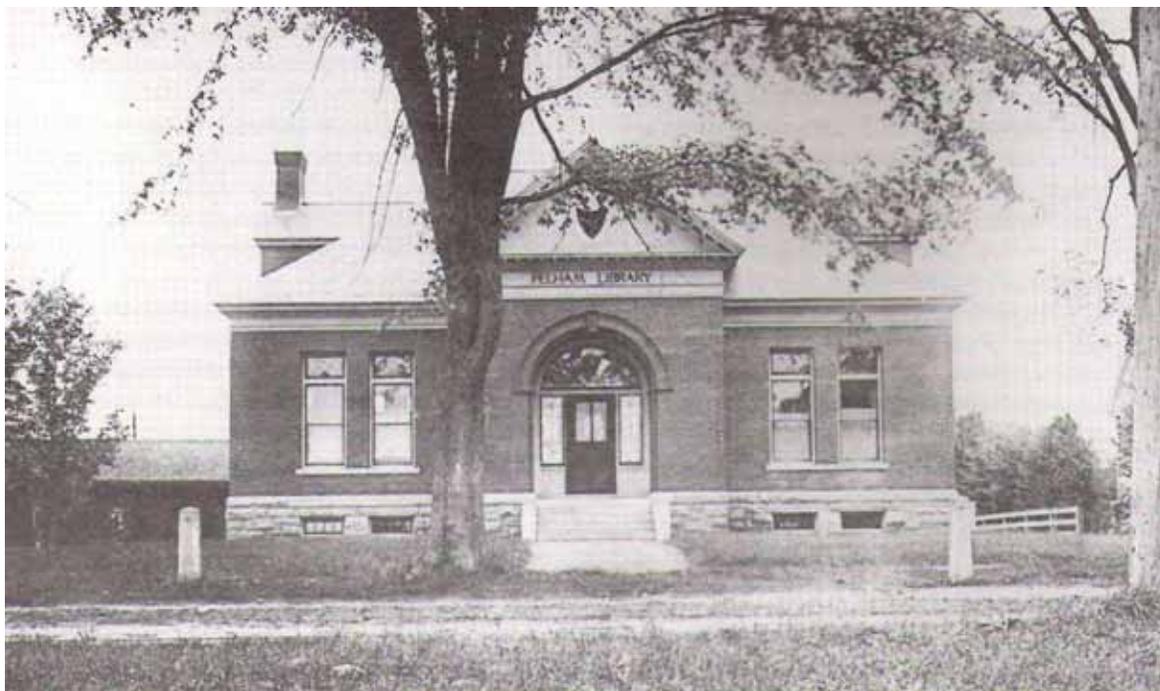
Hillsborough, NH  
County and State

**Historic Views**



"Pelham Common," ca. 1900. Looking northeast, showing, from left: Atwood's Store, the Congregational Church with horse sheds behind, and the Library and Memorial Building. The Town Common makes up the foreground.

*Courtesy Andrew and Bernice Dangelas.*



Pelham Library and Memorial Building, ca. 1903, looking north at front elevation.

*Reprinted in 250<sup>th</sup> Souvenir Book (1996).*

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Ca. 1906 postcard view of the Congregational Church, Pelham Library and Mary C. Berry House, inscribed by Berry's niece, Mabel L. Richardson. Looking northwest and showing the east entrance as originally configured with small set of granite stairs. *Collection unknown, image copied from ebay.com*



"Bi-Centennial Celebration of Pelham, N. H. and Welcome Home to World War II Veterans, Sept. 2, 1946." Showing the Pelham Library and Memorial Building as part of the event venue. *Reprinted in the 250<sup>th</sup> Souvenir Book (1996).*

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Undated (ca. 1940s) photograph of the façade of the Pelham Library and Memorial Building.  
*Collection of the Pelham Historical Society.*