

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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Kensington Social Library

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 126 Amesbury RoadCity or town: Kensington State: NH County: RockinghamNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**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 statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B C D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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Rockingham, New
Hampshire
County and State

Name of Property

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

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

☐☐

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Site

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE/granite, STONE/sandstone, BRICK,
STONE/slate, CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Kensington Social Library, built 1894-1895, is a well-preserved small public library located on a 0.53-acre parcel in the historic linear town center of Kensington, New Hampshire. The original brick building, designed by the Boston, Massachusetts, architect George T. Tilden (of Rotch & Tilden) in the Classical Revival and Queen Anne styles, rises one-and-a-half stories from a low granite foundation to a side-gabled slate roof. A two-part rear addition, designed by Earle W. Bolton, III, (who had worked in the office of Louis I. Kahn and been the supervising architect of the Academy Library in Exeter) was added in 1974, creating a T-shaped footprint. Historic detailing and finishes on the original building include the irregular fenestration patterns and varied window types, inset porch, elliptical fanlight over the center-entry double-leafed door, grooved paneling in the entry vestibule classically derived architectural terra cotta trim such as column capitals and entablature details, and sandstone name panels. The addition harmonizes well with the original building through its use of similar massing and materials while drawing upon the major tenets of Kahn-designed buildings such as the importance of brick and concrete and large window openings to light the interior. As initially built, it consisted of a one-story, glass-and-stucco stairwell section and a two-story, hip-roofed brick, glass, and concrete section. In 1986, as designed by Goodspeed and Associates, the roof of the stairwell section was raised to two stories under a hip roof. Exterior finishes on the addition, notably the brick veneer and tinted cast concrete lintels and sills, resemble the materials on the original building. The interior of the original building retains its historic floor plan, including one large room and closet vault on the first floor and a high-ceilinged lecture hall above, accessed from an enclosed stairway

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with an exterior entrance. Original interior finishes include multi-light wood sash windows and varnished wood window trim, paneled doors, wainscoting, wood railings, a pair of brick and architectural terra cotta fireplace mantels, and built-in wood bookcases along the walls. It is the only library constructed in Kensington and remains in use as the town public library. The exterior and interior of the building retain a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

The Kensington Social Library, built 1894-1895, is located on the northeasterly side of Amesbury Road/N.H Route 150 in the center of the rural town of Kensington. In Kensington, Amesbury Road/NH Route 150 is the main road between Amesbury, Massachusetts, to the south and Exeter, New Hampshire, to the north. The road runs diagonally through the center of Kensington and was laid out in various segments in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. By 1739 it ran from Pevear Lane to Meetinghouse Hill; not until 1832 was the road extended northerly to the intersection of North Road/Moulton Ridge Road in the northerly part of Kensington (Sawyer 1946, 247).



Figure 1: "The Center, Kensington, N.H.," Early twentieth-century postcard, showing library at left and the cemetery, the Grange, and the Hilliard-Prescott House across the street (Collections of Kensington Social Library).

The Library is located in the Lower Village, the southeast end of the linear rural town center that includes the Kensington Elementary School (built 1952, expanded 1961-1962 and 1986-1987), the Kensington Fire and Rescue Station (built 1952, enlarged several times), the

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Congregational Church parsonage (built ca. 1860), the Grange (originally built as the Christian Meetinghouse in 1838), the “Lower Yard” cemetery (platted 1828, expanded 1888), and some nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residences. The area retains its character as a historic rural linear village center arrayed along both sides of a primary town thoroughfare.

The southwesterly facing Kensington Social Library is set back approximately fifty-five feet from the road. It is roughly centered on a nearly square and generally flat parcel except at the rear where a stand of trees is set in a slight depression, adjacent to the abutting school lot. Expanses of lawn flank a central brick walk laid in a herringbone pattern that leads to center entry of the building. It extends between an unpaved area located between the lawn and shoulder of the road and a pair of granite steps with iron railings that lead up to the engaged porch. The southerly end of the walk begins with a granite threshold flanked by a pair of granite posts, the only remaining elements of the fence that historically ran along the front property line. The brick walkway also continues westerly in front of the building and turns the corner, leading to the barrier free access ramp on the porch. A wood sign with the library’s name and an area for posting upcoming events is located on the southeast lawn, near the road.



Figure 2: Late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century view of library and its original fence (Collections of Kensington Social Library)

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Figure 3: Late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century postcard, view of library and its original fence (Collections of Kensington Social Library)

A second brick walkway, designed by Boston landscape architect Stanley Underhill in the 1970s, runs in a zigzag fashion away from the entry in the addition in a northwesterly direction, leading to a paved area on the abutting elementary school lot. A recently added asphalt walkway runs north from this brick walk, providing direct access to some parking spaces in the school parking lot that can be used by library patrons. To the rear of the building is a sunken sitting area (also designed by Underhill), accessible from the lower level of the addition and flanked by dry laid boulder retaining walls. The grounds are handsomely landscaped with scattered mature trees and shrubs, mostly around the perimeter but also in a few locations in the front lawns near the building. To the rear of the building is a stand of mature evergreen and deciduous trees. Some mature bushes flank the sunken area at the rear.

Exterior

The Kensington Social Library is a well-preserved example of a small, late nineteenth-century public library in the Classical Revival/Queen Anne style. The two-story, side-gabled roof brick structure is oriented laterally to Amesbury Road. The three-bay wide, one-room-deep main block has a two-story, two-part rear addition, creating a T-shaped footprint. Part of the rear addition steps down from the main block to a lower grade. On the façade of the original building, an engaged porch supported by brick piers spans the left two bays. A two-bay, hip-roofed dormer with bracketed eaves is centered on the front roof slope. The

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engaged porch screens the center entry to the vestibule and original reading room beyond and a second entry on the southeast side provides access to the original interior stairway to the second-floor meeting room. Interior brick chimneys rise above the rear roof slope, near each gable end at the ridge. A cantilevered wood deck extends from the upper level of the rear addition, with stairs at the northwest end, paralleling the northwest side of the addition.

The main block rests on a rubble stone foundation with granite block underpinnings. The roof is clad with slate. The engaged porch is supported by brick piers topped with architectural terra cotta capitals. The porch ceiling is sheathed with edge-and-center bead boards. The original porch floor was replaced with a concrete ramp in late twentieth century to provide barrier free access to the original reading room.

The brick walls are detailed with a variety of classically derived architectural terra cotta decorative details, concentrated in the wide entablature that spans the façade and wraps around both gable ends. The elaborately detailed cornice features architectural terra cotta egg-and-dart and fluted patterns while a Greek key pattern runs across the top edge of the frieze. A large sandstone panel inscribed with the name of the library is centered in the frieze on the façade. The panel is detailed with brick headers on the top and bottom and flanked by architectural terra cotta sun-burst tiles. The architrave consists of a sandstone base and a Greek key pattern of architectural terra cotta. The Greek key pattern continues along the side elevations and wraps around to the rear elevation. A sandstone tablet with the inscription "The Gift of Joseph C. Hilliard MDCCCXCV" is centered high on the wall of the right third of the building.

The centered entry has three-paneled double-leafed doors, topped by a blind elliptical fanlight detailed with molded tracery and flanked by three-quarter sidelights. The doorway leads to an enclosed vestibule finished with varnished grooved wood paneling. The paneling covers the walls and ceiling and is laid vertically below the chair rail and diagonally above it. A multi-light fixed sash window is set high on the wall to the northwest of the interior six-panel door that leads into the reading room. The six-panel door into the reading room retains its original brass escutcheon plate, decorated convex knob, and key plate with drop.

The double-leafed doorway on the southeast wall leading to the interior stairway up to the meeting hall consists of a pair of three-paneled doors.

The window types vary by location but are all the original wood windows. All but the dormer windows have tooled sandstone lintels and sills. Large, three-part windows with multi-part lights that provide light to the original reading room are set high on the wall in the first bay on the façade and on the rear elevation to either side of the rear addition. On the façade, in the third bay, a semi-circular window with tracery is set high on the wall, providing light to the stairway to the second-floor meeting room. In the dormer is a pair of 6/6 double-hung sash windows with panels between and flanking the windows with carved wood decoration. On the northwest elevation, a pair of tall multi-light sash windows, set high on the wall, flank the interior chimney. Those on the southeast elevation similarly flank the interior chimney but are smaller 6/6 sash windows set lower on the wall. Centered in

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each gable end is a large 12/12 double-hung sash window topped by a semicircular fixed light which has tracery.

The massing and materials of the rear addition harmonize with those on the original building, though employed with a Louis I. Kahn aesthetic that emphasizes the form and materials, and brick and concrete in particular. The overall form and the materials are paramount to the design. Each section has a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The stucco-and-glass part adjacent to the main block has a full height glass wall on the northwest elevation with a glass entry door while the stuccoed southeast side has a centered narrow rectangular plate glass window at each story. The other section has a brick-clad upper level and a poured-concrete lower level that is partially above grade. The upper level has five regularly spaced inset window openings with narrow rectangular plate glass extending from floor to ceiling on each side elevation. Their close-set spacing and scale allows for generous lighting of regularly spaced shelving on the interior. The lintels and sills are tinted cast concrete, suggestive of the tooled ones on the main block. Centered on the gable end at each level are two-bay openings with a plate glass in one bay and a glass-and-metal door in the other bay. The upper level door provides access to the cantilevered deck while the lower level one opens onto a small grassy area with scattered steppingstones and boulders.

Interior

The first-floor plan of the original building consists of an open room with fireplaces with individualized brick and architectural terra cotta mantels at each end. The one on the southeast side is set within an arched alcove. The vestibule projects into the space, allowing for a closet vault to the southeast of the entry door. Grooved board wainscoting or original built-in bookcases cover the walls below the windows. The southeast half is now used by the librarians, separated from the rest of the space by some of the original railing and piers. Other original finishes include the door and window trim and the wood flooring.

On the second floor is a meeting hall, originally accessible only from the exterior. The high-ceilinged open space retains all its original finishes. A centered original opaque glass and metal chandelier hangs from the high ceiling, along with added wood blade fans. The elaborately decorated original Stewart Diamond No. 31 cast-iron parlor stove sits near the southwest end of the space, with the flue pipe venting into the southwest chimney. The floor is wide boards. At the southeast end is the original wood railing with a turned newel post and balusters, partitioning off the original wood stairs leading down to the original exterior entrance. The fittings for a chair lift, added in the past twenty or so years, runs along the outer side of the stairway.

A low-ceilinged basement extends under the entire building, originally accessed by a staircase in the southeast corner that remains in place. Some walls have been added since original construction. The utilitarian space, largely unfinished or roughly finished, is used primarily for miscellaneous storage but also houses the furnace and heating ducts. It is now accessible from the added doorway on the northerly elevation added at the time of the stairwell addition.

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The plan of the addition also incorporates Louis I. Kahn design elements, notably a strong distinction between the main library use spaces and other spaces such as the stairwell, restrooms, and storage. The plan of the addition consists of a stairway section, entered from the exterior at mid-level with stairs along the northwest glass wall down to the lower level and up to the main and upper floors, with added doorways into the original building at each level. The main and upper level balustrades have thin, closely set metal balusters and the stairs have wood steps and risers while that to the lower level has a painted, drywall balustrade and carpeted stairs. This section also includes a bathroom and storage closet on the main and lower levels. The finishes include painted concrete block walls and carpeted flooring.

The other section of the addition contains the stack room on the main level, and the children's reading room on the lower level. The stack room has a center aisle, flanked by metal shelving except in the northeast corner, which has been left open for a small reading area. The walls are painted concrete block, the finished ceiling has regularly spaced fluorescent lights, and the floor is vinyl tiles. Wood trim is used around the window and door openings. In the children's reading room below, the interior walls are finished with dry wall (except the one abutting the stair hall which is painted concrete block), and the floor is carpeted. An acoustical drop ceiling has inset fluorescent light panels.

Changes Since Construction

With the exception of the rear addition, the original building has remained largely unchanged since its completion in 1895. Though the building was expanded in 1974 to the rear with a one-story entry bay (later raised to two stories in the 1980s) and a two-story section that created a T-shaped footprint, it otherwise left the original footprint and massing intact though doorways were added at each level to provide access to the addition. The addition provided a second main entry, bathroom and stack space on the upper level, and a children's room on the lower level. Doorways from the original building to the stairwell section at the basement and main levels were added. On the interior, because of the added doorway on the main level, the librarian's desk and some of the railing was relocated, setting off the original reading room or southeast half of the main room for the library staff. Up to that time, the desk had been located opposite the entry door. As first built, the reading room area was entered through an opening in the screen work that extended from front to rear. The bookshelves on the other half of the building were railed off, accessible only by passing behind the librarian's desk. That railing has been removed though one of the posts remains. The northwest half retains its historic features such as the bookcases along the walls, and the fireplace. In 1986, the roof on the stairway addition section was raised to two stories for fire code purposes to provide a second point of egress from the meeting room in the original building. This entailed adding a doorway on the northerly elevation at the upper level, leading to new stairs in the stairway section.

In the mid-1990s, a barrier-free concrete ramp replaced the original inset porch floor. The thoughtfully designed alteration to the front of the building, which is not highly visible from the road, entailed replacing the front porch platform with a new sloping concrete ramp, rising

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from the west end of the porch up to the main entry level. A thin railing runs along the face of the building. The alterations at the front entry only entailed raising the platform level to that of the existing sill level and replacing the existing threshold into the vestibule. The ramp was accessed by a new Herringbone patterned brick walk that ran in front of the porch and wrapped around to the westerly end of the porch and the new ramp.

Otherwise, any changes over the first eighty years were essentially limited to technological upgrades such as for electricity and a furnace plus general maintenance and repair, such as painting and refinishing the floors. In the spring of 1967, running water and toilet facilities were installed, though their exact location has not been determined (Town of Kensington 1967, 38). The following year a work room was built in the basement, accessible by stairs in the southeast corner. In addition to shelving for storing back issues of magazines, it included space for work, processing, or mending books, and storing supplies (Town of Kensington 1968, 42). In 2017 the thirty-five-year-old furnace in the original building was replaced with a new propane furnace. As a result, the library is now entirely heated by propane (Town of Kensington 2017, 72).

In 1997 the main room of the original library building was restored though this did not include the original finishes and features, such as the window and door trim, built-in bookcases, wainscoting, relocated railings, and fireplaces. Work was confined to a new ceiling, new paint, refinished flooring, and new light fixtures (Town of Kensington 1997, 52).

Integrity

The Kensington Social Library retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The library retains its original form, Queen Anne and Classical Revival style detailing, slate roof, fenestration patterns, tooled sandstone lintels and sill, wood windows, exterior doors and door hardware, window and door trim, and inscribed sandstone panels. The architectural terra cotta decorative detailing, characteristic of the Queen Anne style is employed for the capitals, sunburst tiles, and detailing in the entablature including egg-and-dart, fluted, and Greek Key patterns. The 1974 addition partially steps down from the historic original building and is not visible from the front and so it does not compromise the building's integrity of design. Furthermore, though it incorporates Louis I. Kahn design elements such as the strong distinction between primary and secondary spaces, the materials and finishes echo those used on the original building. In addition, the T-shaped footprint is characteristic of many late nineteenth-century libraries, further demonstrating the addition's sensitivity to the original building. The library retains integrity of feeling and association as the only public library in the town of Kensington, in use for this purpose since its completion in 1895. The Kensington Social Library retains integrity of location and setting as a small, late nineteenth-century public library situated in a rural linear town center. The building is located on its original lot which has remained the same size since the building's completion. The construction of the nearby fire station and elementary school both occurred in the mid-twentieth century within the historic period and are characteristic of an evolving town center.

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The other buildings in the vicinity (a mix of institutional and residential) date to the nineteenth or early twentieth century and contribute to the location and setting of a rural linear town center.

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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.)

- ☐ 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.)

Architecture

Education

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Period of Significance

1894-1969

Significant Dates

1894-1895 (original construction)

1974-1975 (addition)

1985 (roof raised on addition)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tilden, George T. (1894-1895 original building)

Bolton, III, Earle W. (1974-75 addition)

Ricci Construction (1974 addition)

Charles H. Goodspeed (1986 roof addition)

Great Bay Building and Remodeling (1985 roof addition)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Kensington Social Library is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places significant under Criterion A in the area of education and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The period of significance begins in 1894, when construction began on the building, and ends in 1969, the current fifty-year cutoff date for National Register eligibility. Under Criterion A, the building possesses significant associations with the history of social libraries in America established and maintained through private funding and subscriptions beginning in the eighteenth century and with the history of the free public library movement, which emerged in New England in the 1840s and spread nationally during the second half of the nineteenth century. New Hampshire was the first state to enact legislation allowing

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towns to raise public funds for the establishment and maintenance of libraries. Many towns, however, were slow to adopt the conditions of the State Library Bill. Kensington only did so in March 1893. Through local philanthropy, a new library building was completed two years later. The Kensington Social Library remains a hybrid in that the Trustees of the Kensington Social Library continue to own the building and be responsible for much of its maintenance and operation, but the town pays the salaries of the librarians. It is also significant as an example of the pattern of construction of small public libraries in small towns funded by local philanthropists in the second half of the nineteenth century. It is the first and only public library in the town of Kensington and it continues to be used for that purpose.

The Kensington Social Library is significant under Criterion C as an example of the work of Boston-based architect George T. Tilden (1845-1919) who is best known for his work as a partner in the Boston, Massachusetts, architectural firm of Rotch and Tilden from 1880 to 1894. During his partnership with Arthur Rotch (1850-1894), which only ended due to Rotch's early death, the firm, one of the most active in New England, designed multiple institutional and residential buildings in a range of styles. The library is also significant as a building type, representing contemporary thought on the functional layout of libraries and is an important regional example of late nineteenth-century revival-style architecture. The building retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the date of its construction in 1894-1895 and for its period of use as the only public library in town from the time of its construction through the present.

Alterations to the exterior of the original building are few and largely limited to the rear elevation. The 1974 rear addition (which is partially sited at a lower elevation) created a footprint characteristic of many late nineteenth-century small library type. It is not visible from the street and sensitively blends with the original architecture of the building. The construction of the fire house and elementary school nearby both occurred within the historic period and represent the evolving built environment of a town center. The addition of barrier-free access through the replacement of the original porch floor with a ramp is minimally visible and retained the historic massing and circulation patterns. The floor plan is little changed except for the relocation of the librarian's desk and railing at the time of the rear addition, and the insertion of doorways on the rear wall to provide access to the addition at each story. The overwhelming majority of historic finishes including wood wainscoting, window and door trim, brick and architectural terra cotta fireplace mantels, built-in bookcases, plaster walls and ceiling, and wood flooring are still in place on the interior.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Education

The Kensington Social Library is associated with broad patterns in the history of not only private, subscription libraries but also free public libraries in New Hampshire. The Kensington Social Library is a hybrid, as its origins and use represent these two significant patterns of library establishment and construction in New Hampshire and in Kensington in particular.

One pattern is that of early libraries in America established and maintained through private funding and subscriptions. A subscription library, the Kensington Social Library, after which the town's public library is named, had been established by a group of the town's more prominent residents in 1798. The other pattern is the public library movement in New Hampshire, a state that was in the forefront of public libraries for the free use by a town's residents. The construction of the Kensington Social Library in the 1890s, funded by the generosity of a local philanthropist, is a common pattern for library construction in the late nineteenth century. The library continues to be funded in part by the Trustees and in part by the town with its collections supported by the state. The name of the library represents a continuation of the town's early library history while its use as the town's public library represents free public library system, a concept first conceived in the early 1800s but not really adopted until later in the nineteenth century.

At the local level, its construction and ongoing use represents the long-time importance of reading and libraries in the town of Kensington, dating back to the eighteenth century. Since its construction the library has been an important resource not only for a community's reading needs and literacy but also the education of children and as a site of cultural and educational programs.

Kensington has a lengthy history of libraries, albeit initially private ones, open only to subscribers whose dues covered the cost of book purchases, often known as "subscription" or "social" libraries. The first social library in New Hampshire was established in Portsmouth in 1750. Kensington's first social library, named the Social Library in Kensington, was formed in 1767 though it was relatively short-lived (Sawyer 1946, 255; Mertinooke 1964, 1). In the 1790s, a social library was revived in Kensington, one of over fifty towns in New Hampshire in which a social library was established in that decade (https://www.nh.gov/nhsl/news-events/300thanniversary_socialmedia_archive.html).

In 1798, a group of Kensington residents petitioned to be incorporated as the "Kensington Social Library." The original petitioners, identified as "Proprietors," included some of Kensington's more prominent residents: Deacon Jeremiah Fogg, Ebenezer Potter, Jeremiah Batchelder, Joseph Brown, Enoch Worthen, and Newell Healey. The first meeting was held at the home of Deacon Fogg, at which time officers of the library were elected: Directors, Jeremiah Fogg, John Dow, Captain Joseph Brown, Moses Shaw, and Colonel Jeremiah

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Batchelder; Secretary, Dr. Jabez Dow; Librarian, Deacon Jeremiah Fellows; and Treasurer, Ensign John Blake. Dues were either 0.25/year, which entitled a member to take out one book at a time or \$1.00/year which entitled a member to take out five books at a time. Non-subscribers could take out books for 0.02 per day. The librarian was Jeremiah Fellows; he was paid \$3/year. The library was open two afternoons per week. By 1816 the library had forty-three shareholders. The collection contained 139 books by 1820, with the majority in the categories of history, biography, travels, letters, or sermons. Over the years, the library was housed in different individual's homes. The Kensington Social Library remained active into the 1850s with the last group of officials elected in 1856. By that time the officers were: Directors, Stephen Green, Ira Blake, J.A. Blake, Jeremiah Poor, and William Poore; Librarian, Joseph Poor (who sold the land upon which the library now stands); and Secretary, Charles E. Tuck (Board of Library Commissioners of New Hampshire 1896, 40). Even after the library ceased functioning, the book collection remained intact, housed in a local resident's home (Mertinooke 1964).

Meanwhile, in 1849, New Hampshire became the first state to enact legislation allowing municipal taxation for the support of libraries. The first free library in New Hampshire, however, predated the state legislation. In 1822, a free public library was established by the town of Dublin, New Hampshire. Named the Dublin Juvenile Library, it was supported by voluntary contributions to provide young readers free access to books (https://www.nh.gov/nhsl/news-events/300thanniversary_socialmedia_archive.html). In the twenty-five years after the enactment of the New Hampshire legislation roughly 500 free public libraries were established in the United States. Most were housed in a room in town hall or post office or in a spare room or basement of a church or store with only roughly three dozen towns nationally building small library buildings. The majority were funded by a local philanthropist. The style of the buildings was eclectic though the plans typically consisted of a book room and occasionally a reading room and/or a small office for the librarian. By the end of the nineteenth century, however, nearly 500 purpose-built library buildings had been erected nationally, though the majority still funded by local philanthropists (Breisch 2017, 205).

In Kensington, a second private library organization was established in 1849, by the ladies of the town. Though a subscription library, its organization may have tangentially been related to the recent legislation enacted by the state. Known originally as the Ladies' Sewing Society Library, its purpose was "to promote the social, intellectual and moral improvement of its members" (Board of Library Commissioners of New Hampshire 1896, 40). Miss Hannah Moulton, Mrs. Sarah B. (Hilliard) Brown, and Mrs. Tabitha (Dow) Tilton made up the first executive committee and Miss Mary C. Hilliard was the secretary. Meetings were held every two weeks and one member would read aloud while the other attendees sewed. While the fortunes of the association fluctuated over the years it nevertheless remained intact and generally active. In 1889, the name was changed to the Ladies' Library Association, after which it continued to flourish such that by 1895, at the time of the completion of the new library, the collection contained 725 volumes. Beginning ca. 1870 it was maintained in the home of A. Maria Hilliard (1838-1909), wife of Francis Hilliard, a former schoolteacher

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(the house is still extant just across the road to the southeast from the library) (Mace et. al. 1909, 6; Board of Library Commissioners of New Hampshire 1896, 40; Martinooke 1964).

The Ladies Library Association would play a role in the public library movement in Kensington. Despite the relatively early enactment of public library legislation, it took several decades before the public library movement was fully embraced in New Hampshire and it only really gained force in the decades after the Civil War. This was due in part to the private fortunes made by some during the war that in turn inspired and allowed them to fund construction of a town library. By 1889, New Hampshire had 154 public libraries in towns throughout the state (Ruell 2007, 8:20). Kensington voters only accepted the conditions of the State Library Bill in March 1893. They approved \$25 for the establishment of a Free Public Library and appointed Trustees. A member of the State Board of Library Commissioners had suggested the entire sum be put towards the purchase of books, with the expense of establishing the library be “paid by the Selectmen from the contingency fund” (Town of Kensington 1893, 11). The books arrived in July and the public library was opened to the public in September 1893, with collection housed at the previously mentioned home of Mrs. A. Maria Hilliard, who was appointed librarian. The library was open to the public every Saturday from 2 to 5 PM and again from 7 to 9 P.M. (Town of Kensington 1893, 11).

The construction of a purpose-built public library was due the philanthropy of Joseph Chase Hilliard (1821-1905), a Kensington native who made his fortune in insurance. He gifted the newly completed library and its land to the Library Board of Trustees. It was named for the Kensington Social Library established in 1798 and, as the Articles of Association stated, the library was to be “for the free use and benefit of all the people of said Town of Kensington, to be used by said people for general library purposes under such reasonable regulations” as established by the Trustees (Rockingham County Deed 1895, Book 551, Page 1). The Articles of Association specified that the Board of Trustees was to manage the library, with nine members, without distinction of sex. Four members were to always be residents of neighboring Exeter, two of the members were to be current or past Phillips Exeter Academy faculty, and the remainder to be Kensington residents (Rockingham County Deed Book 551, Page 1).

The newly completed Kensington Social Library had shelf accommodation for 4,000 volumes. Upon opening, the library housed the 725 volumes from the Ladies’ Library Association, 163 donated by Hilliard, and the volumes purchased by town with state monies due to its adoption of library law in 1893. The public library collection totaled 204 volumes at that time. The library was open Wednesday and Saturday from 2 to 9 P.M. Those hours were increased to two days per week after one year (Board of Library Commissioners of New Hampshire 1896, 40). It also included the bookcase containing many of the 260 volumes from the original Kensington Social Library which had been in the home of Cyrus Wadleigh on Drinkwater Road for many years (*Exeter News-Letter* 28 November 1973).

Over the course of its history as a small public library, the challenge was to increase access to books within a limited budget and spatial constraints. The librarians used different methods to address this issue over time. The library relied upon a combination of sources for

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purchasing new volumes, notably funds from the town for new purchases and gifts from individuals and even institutions on occasion, such as Phillips Exeter Academy (Town of Kensington 1961, 44-45). By the mid-1930s, the librarian borrowed some fiction books from the Exeter Public Library for periods of two months and a small number of non-fiction books from the State Library in Concord (Town of Kensington 1936, 29). By the early 1950s, the Book Mobile from the State Library came to the library every two months. The librarian's Report in the 1953 Town Annual Report noted:

It brings forty or fifty of the best juvenile books obtainable for use in the school. These modern books are beautifully illustrated to please as well as to instruct. They also bring extra books for general circulation. The State Library is willing at any time to send through this library books on any subject in which one may be interested. A small library can afford to buy only a limited number of technical books. There are now 5000 books in the library, interestingly, the year 1953 ending with that number. . . I will take the chance and say that I think, we, as citizens of this small town should be proud to have what, in my opinion, approximates a first class small library. The Social Library, one of the oldest in the country, has the first book bought in 1767. It's still kept in the library (Town of Kensington 1953, 31).

In 1962 the library joined with the libraries of South Hampton, Newton, Kingston and Brentwood to form a Book Purchasing Cooperative. Each library deposited a portion of its book budget with the State Treasurer and in turn they received a State Library discount for books purchased with that money. They also received a Shieling Trust grant which allowed the libraries to jointly purchase books which then circulated in rotation between the libraries for their patrons to read (Town of Kensington 1962, 41-42). Three years later the Public Library Trustees voted to join the State-wide Library Development Plan. The annual Librarian's Report noted:

This has brought many advantages to the small library. Books purchased through the State Book Purchasing Cooperative come with catalog cards – this cuts down on the time taken to process and enter books for circulation. \$125 was made available to the library for the purchase of some much needed reference books. We continue to get fine Bookmobile service and consultant service is available to us (Town of Kensington 1965, 40).

The Central Book purchasing program ended in 1969, due to the lack of federal funding. In response, a private one was formed by a group of eight libraries including the Kensington Social Library with the Lane Memorial Library in Hampton serving as the purchasing agent (Town of Kensington 1969, 39). The Bookmobile visits ended in 1981, also due to lack of funding (Town of Kensington 1981, 38).

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Over the years, the librarians have adopted changing library science methods, including cataloging, organizing, and check-out recordation, for their management of the library and its collection. In 1936 a card-catalog of the library collection was made for the first time with the assistance of a member of the New Hampshire Public Library Commission. At the same time, “many old books were discarded. The non-fiction were all shellacked, numbered, and arranged numerically on the shelves.” Doing this allowed the librarian to not only know what was in the collection but know their location within the library (Town of Kensington 1936, 29). Several times in the 1960s the collection was weeded, re-cataloged, and reorganized again (Town of Kensington 1962, 42; Town of Kensington 1967, 38). Ongoing spatial constraints ultimately led to the decision to put on the rear addition, which provided more stack space but also a room for children’s books and activities. By the early 1980s, the library formally characterized itself as “an information center for the town,” though this had long been the case, handling a diverse range of questions from the librarian patrons, in person or over the phone (Town of Kensington 1981, 38). It had always been a reference resource, for students and adults alike, which is why the librarians had always tried to maintain current encyclopedias or other reference collections.

In the late twentieth century, the Kensington Social Library actively participated in the use of computer technology to increase accessibility of books for its patrons and to provide individuals access to a computer for their own personal use. In the late 1980s the library acquired a computer system that would be hooked up to the State Library computer. This also coincided with computerizing the library’s catalogue collection (Town of Kensington 1986, 68; Town of Kensington 1987, 54). With the connection to the State Library catalogue, it allowed the Kensington Social Library patrons to borrow books from all over the state (Town of Kensington 1991, 59). In 1993 a public-access computer was purchased for patrons to use for writing reports or other personal documents (Town of Kensington 1993, 57). By 2001 the number of computers for personal use had been increased to three (Town of Kensington 2001, 82).

Over the years, the hours for the library steadily increased, in response not only to increased demand but also new state public library regulations. By 1961 the library was open three afternoons per week (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday) for a total of twelve hours. The increased hours were done in part to increase accessibility for high school students and young school children alike (Town of Kensington 1961, 45). The hours were increased again in 1968 to fifteen hours per week, in part due to increased population in Kensington but also “to meet the requirements under the State Wide Development Program of the State Library” (Town of Kensington 1968, 43). The Trustees were also considering altering the times open further to include Saturday mornings (Town of Kensington 1968, 43). The hours were modified again in 1970, with the library opening at 2:00 on Thursdays so the school children at the elementary school next door could visit with a class. Just two years later the hours were modified again, to be open Thursday evenings in addition to Tuesday evenings. They would continue to be modified slightly through the 1970s in an effort to conserve energy or to better coordinate with the needs of the elementary school teachers and children. In 1975, the library was open 19 hours per week (Tuesday and Thursday 1-5 and 6-8; Wednesday 1-4;

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and Saturday 1-5) (Town of Kensington 1975, 35). By 2016, the library hours had nearly doubled to thirty-one hours per week (Town of Kensington 2016, 85).

Though the importance of children's literacy had long been a focus of the librarians, the construction of the elementary school on the adjoining property in the 1950s strengthened that connection. Reading programs and story book hours for younger children have always been an important component of the library's function. Up to the present day, children's story hours and programs in conjunction with elementary school classes remain an important component of the library's programing and scheduling. By the middle of the twentieth century, one of the librarian's primary responsibilities was the children's programing and children's books. In 1972, the Elementary School children visited with their teachers, with the lower three grades coming on Tuesday afternoons and the upper three grades on Thursday afternoons (Town of Kensington 1972, 49). As of 1976 the newly completed Children's Room in the addition was used four mornings per week by the Elementary School for special classes. In addition, three afternoons a week it was used for class visits for a story session and to check out books (Town of Kensington 1976, 39).

Activities have evolved over time, though some have remained constant or even ebbed and flowed. Since its completion and up to the present day the library remains the town's primary base for literary activities. By the 1990s library programs included a book discussion group, indexing of vital records, creation of files on houses in Kensington, and lecture series and concerts (Town of Kensington 1996, 64).

The Kensington Social Library remains a prominent and vital institution within the community, a focus of educational and cultural activities for the residents of Kensington. The Librarian's annual report for 2018 noted that visits to the library remained steady and events attendance had increased. "This is a common thread in libraries as they become more than repositories for materials, rather community centers for learning and education" (Town of Kensington 2018, 74). While readership remains high, more frequently it is in the form of e-books and audio book downloads rather than checking out books. The library acquired a new catalog/circulation system and two new computers. It is open thirty-one hours per week and has 16,756 items in its collection (Town of Kensington 2018, 74).

Criterion C: Architecture

The Kensington Social Library is significant as an outstanding example of an 1890s small public library in the Queen Anne and Classical Revival style and is a representative example of the work of its architect, George T. Tilden. In addition, the rear addition (a contributing element though outside the period of Significance at this time due to the fifty-year cut-off), is significant as an example of the work of Earle W. Bolton, III, (architect in the office of Louis I. Kahn and clerk of the works for the 1970s Kahn-designed Phillips Exeter Academy Library).

The Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles individually and in combination were frequently used for institutional buildings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The creative yet elegant combination of the two styles on a late nineteenth-century public library building form elevates it beyond a typical example. The massing, symmetry, center

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entry, and masonry construction are characteristic of the Classical Revival style while the combination of building materials (red brick, sandstone, granite, and architectural terra cotta) plus the decorative detailing on the entablature, capitals, and the sunburst tiles are characteristic of the Queen Anne style.

In addition to the form, the interior plan of the original building and its later addition are characteristic of small public libraries. The decade in which the library was constructed was one when considerable discussion occurred nationally about library design with the goal to improve access of books to the visitor and reduce the work burden on library staff.

As first constructed, the reading room was located on the right side, with an opening in the screen work to allow access. The librarian's desk faced the visitor upon entry from the vestibule. The left side housed five-foot high built-in shelving (with enough space to allow for additional shelving set in double rows as the collection expanded). This arrangement allowed the librarian to

command a view of the entire premises, which insures an orderly reading room, and any one privileged to go to the shelves or reference books does so by passing, with her permission, back of her desk, and thus the library as a whole in this one large room . . . is wholly under her eye, while by the careful arrangement of suitable divisions of the floor space, it is made to keep the different portions to their distinct and separate uses (*Exeter News-Letter* 16 November 1894).

The building is also significant as a representative and well-preserved example of the work of George T. Tilden (1845-1919) of the prominent Boston-based firm Rotch & Tilden. At the time of the design of the library, the partnership had just ended owing the early death of Arthur Rotch (1850-1894). The pair, who had set up their partnership in 1880, had similar architectural training backgrounds. Rotch, the younger of the two men, initially worked as a draftsman in Tilden's office before they formed their partnership.

A native of Concord, New Hampshire, but raised in Massachusetts, Tilden was educated at Phillips-Exeter Academy. His architectural education included attending the Lowell Institute, the precursor of the architecture school at MIT; working in the office of Ware and Van Brunt; and studying abroad including in Paris. Upon his return he established a practice with J. Pickering Putnam (1847-1917), which lasted for two years. His next partner was H. W. Hartwell, though that practice was short-lived as by 1879 Tilden was on his own again. By then Rotch was likely working in his office and they established their partnership soon thereafter. After Rotch's death, Tilden maintained a solo practice until he retired in 1915 (Herndon 1892, 423; *MIT Technical Review* 1919, 571-572).

During their partnership, Rotch & Tilden designed several libraries, churches; collegiate, arboretum, and observatory buildings; and fashionable residences, the majority located in New England but not exclusively so. Library designs included the Bennett Library (1881, extant) in Billerica, Massachusetts; the Bridgewater Library (1882, extant) in Bridgewater,

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Massachusetts; the Albert Peavey Memorial Library (1893, extant) in Eastport, Maine; and the Exeter Public Library (1894, extant). New Hampshire buildings designed by the firm include the Dublin Town Hall (1881, extant, altered), a House and outbuildings for Emily Sears in Harrisville (1882-1881, demolished), and the Phillips-Exeter Academy Gymnasium (1886, demolished).

The layout at the Kensington Social Library had been previously employed by Rotch & Tilden in their 1882 design of the Bridgewater Memorial Library and it “was to prove an important innovation in planning for the small town library, which normally employed only a single staff member who was, nevertheless, responsible for supervising the operation of the entire institution” (Breisch 1982, 275). In addition to the building form, the Queen Anne design elements on the exterior, notably red brick, reddish sandstone, and architectural terra cotta trim, and interior end wall chimneys also had been previously used by Rotch & Tilden for some of their other institutional designs (Breisch 1982, 276).

Bolton’s design for the rear addition featured materials similar to the original building while drawing upon many design elements, including the use of brick and concrete and regular, large expanses of glass to illuminate the interior, that are characteristic of many of Louis I. Kahn’s designs. The Building Committee considered specific design elements of the addition including “the link between old building & addition” and “A feeling it should be of some other material than brick to ease transition between the old & the new” (Kensington Library Building Committee, 1973-1978 Files). This way of thinking resembled the ideas of the Academy Library Building Committee which wanted a brick building that harmonized with the many Georgian-styled brick buildings on the school’s campus and that Louis I. Kahn so distinctively and innovatively achieved in his design.

Additional Historical Background

1973-present

As previously noted, by the 1970s, the library needed more space. Consequently, the Trustees embarked on an addition to the library. It would “serve as an open stack room and work area, children’s reading room, lavatory and emergency exit” (Kensington Library Building Committee, 1973-1978 Files). A November 1973 article in the *Exeter News-Letter* described the main components of the proposed addition. The stack area was to measure approximately 22’ x 22’. The adjoining hall to the original block was to include a rest room and stairs to the new basement under the addition, which would eventually be finished for use as a children’s reading room.

The estimated cost for the addition fluctuated over time. An architect had initially estimated the cost to be \$22,500; this would later be increased to be \$30,000 as the design evolved, and again to \$34,000 or approximately \$30 a square foot. If the basement was left then the cost was estimated to be slightly less, perhaps \$30,000-\$32,000 (Kensington Library Building Committee, 1973-1978 Files).

Financing the building project was a major focus of the Trustees and the Building Committee beginning in 1973. In May 1973, after a special Town Meeting where \$5,000 was “voted by

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the town to commence plans for an addition to the Library,” Finance and Building Committees were formed (Town of Kensington 1974, 51). The town appropriation, however, left a considerable amount still to be accounted for to move forward with the construction. The Building Committee sent out a fund-raising letter for the proposed addition in the fall of 1973. The letter suggested different levels of donations. In addition to purchasing one or more of the 10,000 bricks anticipated for its construction, donors could pay for one or more of the windows or book stacks; or a spiral iron staircase, to name a few (Kensington Library Building Committee, 1973-1978 Files). At the 1974 Town Meeting, the town appropriated more funds for the project (Town of Kensington 1974, 51). A 20 March 1974 letter from the Building Committee to Emil W. Allen, Jr., New Hampshire State Library, informed him that the funds had been found to make the library eligible to receive assistance for the construction. Under Title II, Act PL.88-269, the library qualified for Federal Aid up to as much as \$12,000 or 40% of the cost. The total budget was expected to be \$30,000 with \$13,000 from the town and an additional \$5,000 from private contributions. In the end, a combination of town appropriations, monies raised by fund-raising campaigns, Federal Aid, and the generosity of Kensington residents and businesses (in terms of money and labor) made it possible.

The Building Committee accepted plans and elevations for the addition, submitted by the architect Earle W. Bolton, III (1932-2003) (Town of Kensington 1974, 51). The addition also had been officially designed to “incorporate the special needs of a school library within our walls, and a room to fill this need is in the planned addition” (Kensington Library Building Committee, 1973-1978 Files). The design also included new access to the basement in the original building, eliminating the need to use the original one in the southeast corner of the building.

Bolton was the son of Earle W. Bolton Jr. (1904-1970), a well-known Philadelphia architect. The younger Bolton, a graduate of Middlebury College and Columbia University School of Architecture, had moved to New Hampshire to oversee the construction of the Louis I. Kahn-designed Academy Library on the Phillips-Exeter Academy campus in neighboring Exeter, New Hampshire. He remained in southern New Hampshire after the completion of the Academy Library and the Kensington Library and established an independent practice, Earle W. Bolton and Associates in Newfields. He later moved to South Carolina.

In April 1974, three contractors submitted bids for construction of the addition. Ricci Supply Company submitted the lowest bid, which was accepted. Work began in July 1974 and the contracted work was completed in November 1974. Portions on the interior, however, remained to be finished, notably installation of “heat, ceilings, lighting, floorcovering, plumbing fixtures, book stacks, furniture for the children’s room” and landscaping around the exterior (Town of Kensington 1974, 51). In the end, the Earle W. Boulton III was paid \$2,299.54 and the builder, Ricci Construction Co., was paid \$10,672.50 (Town of Kensington 1974, 47).

The new landscaping, including the woodland landscape to the rear of the addition, was designed and overseen by Stanley B. Underhill (1910-1992), landscape architect. He

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directed the work of Mark Kimball of Kimball Farms in building the stone retaining walls at the back of the addition. Underhill would continue to supervise the maintenance of the grounds into the 1980s or 1990s.

In 1985-1986, renovations were made on the top floor of the original building to make it available for library use and for use by the public. An inside stairway was installed "to meet with existing fire laws, and while this work is being done, a new furnace will be installed" (Town of Kensington 1985, 52). Bolton, the architect of the original addition, provided specifications for the alterations but the trustees appeared to have used a plan by Goodspeed & Associates of Exeter, New Hampshire. Upon completion of the work, the original lecture hall was dedicated as the Sawyer Memorial Meeting Room 21 June 1986 in memory of Ruth Elizabeth Sawyer, oldest daughter of the twentieth-century town historian Roland Sawyer (Town of Kensington 1985, 68).

By 1994, a ramp planned by the Library Trustees and designed by Ken Marshall and Carl Rezendes, to provide barrier free access to the library had been completed. As with many library projects over the years, it was funded in part by money donated by Kensington residents (Town of Kensington 1994, 59).

Joseph Chase Hilliard (1821-1905)

How Joseph C. Hilliard came to hire Rotch & Tilden to design the building is unknown though it is likely he may have known them or knew of them because of their work in Exeter and/or Boston. As the benefactor of the new library building, Hilliard was characteristic of such individuals who funded such buildings in towns in New Hampshire and across the country. His benevolence was extended to a town with which he had a personal connection.

Hilliard was born in Kensington in 1821. He was one of two sons and three daughters born to Joseph C. and Mary (Hodgdon) Hilliard. His maternal grandfather had been a revolutionary soldier. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter and after graduation taught for a few years in New Hampshire and Massachusetts before turning his attention to the insurance business. He moved to Boston and achieved considerable financial success. Hilliard was known as "an expert and examiner, and had long been detailed for service in adjusting losses from specially destructive fires" through the United States. He was active in civic affairs in Exeter (where he maintained a home though he rarely lived there), serving one term as representative in the state legislature, on the school committee, and as town auditor (*Boston Globe* 11 February 1905).

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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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.53 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 42.928219 | -70.943365 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

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UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the National Registered nominated Kensington Social Library is the legally recorded parcel that contains the historic building. The boundary is shown on Town of Kensington tax map 8, parcel 23. The parcel is nearly square. On the southwest, the boundary is defined by Amesbury Road/NH Route 150. To the northwest, the boundary is defined by parcel 22 and to the northeast by parcel 21. Parcels 24 and 25 define the southeasterly boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the parcel historically associated with the Kensington Social Library since Joseph C. Hilliard purchased a one-half acre parcel on Amesbury Road from Joseph Poor in July 1894 for the purposes of constructing a public library. Hilliard deeded the parcel and building to the Kensington Social Library in March 1895.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura B. Driemeyer, Lynne Emerson Monroe, Teresa Hill
organization: Preservation Company
street & number: 5 Hobbs Road
city or town: Kensington state: NH zip code: 03833
e-mail: PreservationnCompany@comcast.net
telephone: 603.778.1799
date: October 2019

Kensington Social Library

Name of Property

Rockingham, New
Hampshire
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Kensington Social Library

Rockingham, New
Hampshire
County and State

Name of Property

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Kensington Social Library

City or Vicinity: Kensington

County: Rockingham

State: NH

Photographer: Lynne Emerson Monroe

Date Photographed: 19 April 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 0001

Façade (southwest elevation), camera facing northeast

Photo 0002

Northwest elevations of addition and original building, camera facing southeast

Photo 0003

Rear (northeast elevation) and retaining walls, camera facing southwest

Photo 0004

Southeast elevations of original building and addition, camera facing north-northwest

Photo 0005

Interior, northwest half of reading room with fireplace and built-in book cases, camera facing northwest

Photo 0006

Interior, southeast half of reading room with fireplace, built-in book cases, and relocated original librarian's desk and railing, camera facing southeast

Photo 0007

Interior, stairwell in addition, camera facing northwest

Kensington Social Library

Rockingham, New
Hampshire

Name of Property

County and State

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 100 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.