

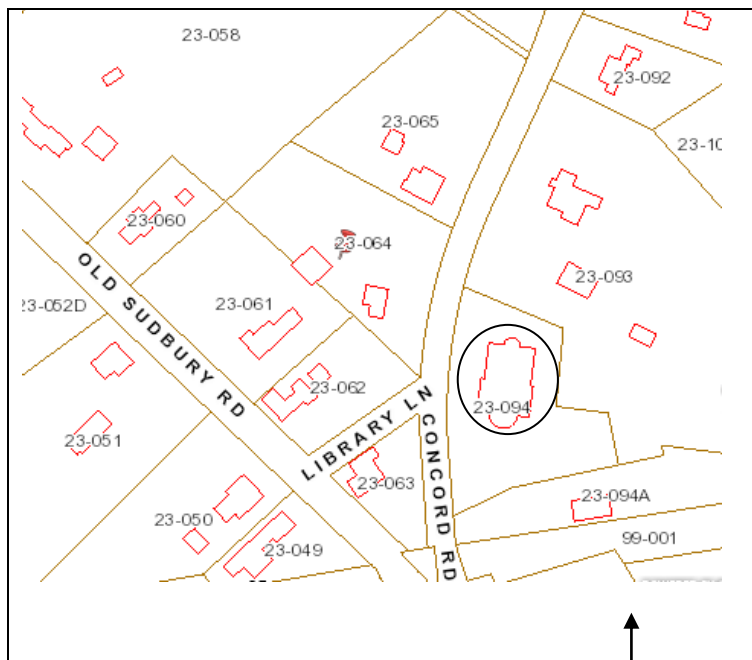
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization: for Wayland Historical Commission

Date (month / year): October 2012

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

23-094

Natick

WAY.33

Town: WAYLAND

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Address: 5 Concord Road

Historic Name: Wayland Public Library

Uses: Present: institutional - library

Original: institutional - library

Date of Construction: 1900

Source: local histories, cornerstone

Style/Form: Romanesque Revival

Architect/Builder: Cabot, Everett and Mead

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick and stone

Wall/Trim: brick

Roof: terra cotta tiles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*): large addition – 1987; side entry with brick cover – last quarter of 20th C. Roof repair and replacement – 2011.

Condition: good

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** n/a _____

Acreage: 1.02 acres

Setting: On the edge of a residential neighborhood at town center, next to railroad and among late 19th and early 20th C. dwellings, parking lot on south side, wetlands behind.

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: *Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Situated next to the railroad just north of the major intersection of Wayland Center is this one-acre parcel that contains the distinctive Wayland Public Library and parking area. The lot slopes slightly downward from north to south, so that the basement is raised on the south side and not on the west and north sides. This large brick, Romanesque Revival building consists of three distinct shapes or parts: the gabled-front, two-story rectangular, east-west block oriented to Concord Road with the original main entry; the large two-story rotunda projecting from the middle of the south side of the rectangular block; and a rectangular 1987 addition on the north side. A small entry addition on the south side is a mid-to-late 20th century accommodation for access to an elevator, which services both the basement and the main library floor. This is now the main entry and the former entrance facing Concord Road is no longer used due to steps that are not accessible. The building has a granite block foundation, brick walls and a distinctive red terracotta-tile roof. Wrapping around the original building – the rectangular block and the rotunda – are granite and brick bands including a wide granite cornice just under the roof eave, corbelled bricks under the granite cornice and a slightly projecting brick band about a foot below the cornice. Additional decorative aspects are the ends of the roof tiles that form a scalloped edge wrapping around the roof edge of the original building. Two tall rectangular brick chimneys with corbelled tops pierce the terra cotta roof near the intersection of the rotunda with the gable-roof block.

Facing Concord Road is the three-bay, two-story brick façade topped by a temple-like or closed pediment which is trimmed in granite with a corbelled brick cornice. In the pediment there is an oculus with four granite keystones. The original slightly recessed center entry is flanked by monumental Ionic columns made of granite carrying a large horizontal granite sign tablet etched with “WAYLAND LIBRARY.” A tall arched entry consists of a heavy paneled door topped with a tall arched glazed light, full side lights, a wood arched surround all set in a heavy granite casing, which has a keystone at the top of the arch. Windows are slightly recessed and each opening is articulated by curved or rolled brick edges. First-story windows are large with 2/2 sash topped by a granite horizontal tablet and granite sills. The second-story windows, also 2/2 sash, that are recessed and square, are substantially smaller than the first-story windows. The brick casing of each window bay recess is trimmed with granite corner blocks.

The rear/east elevation of the rectangular block has a closed pediment with granite trim; an oculus with keystones within the pediment; five second-story square windows each with corner granite blocks; five first-story window bays, one of which has infill brick and four have 2/2 sash with a granite tablet over the window within the recessed opening; and five raised basement windows that are slightly larger than the second-story windows and have 2/2 sash set in recessed openings with rounded brick edges and granite lintels. The foundation that wraps to the south side also is a cut finished granite-facing stone with a rough-cut granite block corner stone.

The south elevation of the building consists of window bays in the south wall of the gable block flanking the wide rotunda. These flanking bays have similar window patterns as the rear elevation; on the right side of the rotunda the basement level is a door rather than a window; on the left side of the rotunda there is only the second-story square window and the entry door to the split level where one accesses the elevator. The rotunda has three glazed window bays clustered together and flanked by a blind window bay, which is covered with ivy. The rotunda windows are the reverse of the gable-front block – here the small windows are below the

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first story in the basement level. Windows are recessed and the outside casing of each is articulated with rolled brick footers and mitered corners. Basement level windows have 2/2 sash. First-story windows are grand in scale with 1/1 sash of curved glass, granite sills, a granite keystone and a horizontal granite tablet over each bay (half way between the keystone and the roof cornice). The bay closest to the side main entry to the building is filled with a brick panel up and an unused door at the basement level, rather than the square windows in the other rotunda bays.

The 1987 flat-roofed addition has a string of three windows on both the east and west sides near the original building and solid brick walls for the rest of the side walls to accommodate book cases on the interior. The large double-hung 12/12 windows have two lights in each sash in which there is a leaded design of swags and corner flowers. The north end of this addition has a large rounded-end bay with seven long windows each topped by an awning transom.

The interior space of the library is of note with many defining characteristics worthy of preservation. Two features of note are the decorative aspect of the rotunda and the balcony, stairs, railing and cornice molding that encircles the main circulation desk space. This square space which is at the center of the gable-front block has a balcony that wraps around three sides (north, east and west), which is carried by elongated carved heavy wood scroll brackets and narrow iron columns with acanthus leaf capitals. The railings of the iron balcony and stairs display a decorative X-pattern. The cornice in the square room and of the rotunda consists of modillion blocks-over-an egg and dart band-over-dentil molding-over-an acanthus leaf swirl band. This cornice is carried by monumental fluted Composite columns and pilasters. The rotunda is on the south side of the square circulation space and is framed by round, tapered, fluted Composite columns on an axis with the center window bays. The space has recently been refurbished. The wall is divided into bays by the same monumental fluted pilasters. At the top of the wall under the cornice of the rotunda is a wide band of Adamesque swags encircling the room (rotunda). In between the tall pilasters there are slightly curved oak book shelves and two fireplaces (on east and west sides of rotunda) displaying similar wood. The fireplaces each have acanthus leaf-brackets carrying a mantel trimmed in a Greek-key band, and egg-and-dart band, and modillion blocks. A framed swag panel is centered on the fireplace surround under the mantel. Other architectural elaboration of note includes the frieze and plaster panels above each of the three windows that were influenced by Donatello's *Cantoria* in Florence's Museum of the Opera del Duomo. These panels are echoed on the exterior by the plain granite tablets over each window. At the center of the rotunda there are two large tables with sofas on each side facing the fireplaces. The addition has a center north-south aisle which is marked by narrow iron columns with modest caps of acanthus leaves. At the end there is a small semi-circular bay with upholstered chairs.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

A monument in front of the Grout-Heard House (12 Cochituate Road) states that the Wayland Public Library, established in 1850, was the first public library in the Commonwealth and the second in the United States. In 1847 an offer was made by the Reverend Francis Wayland, then president of Brown University and close friend of Judge Edward Mellen (24 Cochituate Road), to match funds of \$500 raised by the town residents. The money was raised through contributions of 208 residents of \$553.90 in time for the March 6, 1848 Town Meeting to create the library. At the time that the funds were raised Judge Mellen had questioned the legality of compulsory fee of the residents; thus the \$500 match was made voluntarily.

There are many other libraries laying claim to the same status as the first library in the Commonwealth or in the United States. The Boston Public Library was founded on March 18, 1848 and even earlier in 1790 the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts voted to direct that the minister make available to the residents of the Town those books that had been donated by Benjamin Franklin to towns' people in 1778. Thus Franklin's first public library

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was established in 1790 and celebrated its 200 years in 1990. It is likely that the first Massachusetts library status for Wayland stems to the March 6, 1848 date which precedes the Boston Public Library March 18, 1848 date. A plaque inside the main entry of this library confirms the 1848 date as it reads: "Wayland Free Public Library Founded 1848 – This Building the gift of Warren Gould Roby 1900." Thus the claim as the first probably refers to the first publicly funded library. The founding of the Wayland Public Library preceded the Library Act of 1851 which is discussed below.

The first physical space for the Library was established in 1850 using a small ante room in the Town House (now known as Collins Market, 21 Cochituate Road). Previous Wayland libraries included the East Sudbury Social Library organized in 1796 by the Rev. Josiah Bridge (47 Old Sudbury Road) and the East Sudbury Charitable Library in 1815 by the Rev. John Burt Wight, the pastor at the First Parish Church, who was an advocate of free libraries. This latter library was established with private funds but its use was free to any East Sudbury citizen (East Sudbury was renamed Wayland in 1835). Wight, no longer the minister at the First Parish, was the local representative to the General Court in 1851 and introduced the legislation that became the Library Act of 1851 which made it legal to raise funds through taxation to "establish and maintain libraries for the use of the inhabitants thereof." Librarian from 1850 until 1865 was Henry Wight (1820-1886), son of the Rev. John Burt Wight.

The next home for the Wayland Library was the 1878 second town hall (no longer extant) built on the site of the Grout-Heard House, which had been moved north on Old Sudbury Road; the first Town House was sold into private ownership for a grocery store. When the town offices moved across the street to the enormous Stick Style town hall in early 1879, so did the library, occupying two first-floor rooms – a reception room and a reading room. In 1881, just after the construction of the new town hall the Massachusetts Central Railroad passed through Wayland Center with tracks adjacent to the town hall and with the Massachusetts Central Passenger Station (WAY.82) and Freight House (WAY.256) nearby.

James Sumner Draper (1811-1896) had taken over as librarian in 1865 while still in the Town House (Collins Market) and continued until 1885. He was one of Wayland's early historians who contributed his street list to Hudson's Annals of Sudbury, Wayland and Maynard and who wrote many papers on the history of facets of life in Wayland. Under Draper's leadership the library gained in holdings to 7,485 volumes by 1880. Following Draper as librarian was Sarah E. Heard (d. 1902) from 1885 until 1901. She was the owner of the Grout-Heard House, which then was on Old Sudbury Road.

In 1896 Warren Gould Roby (1834-1897), who lived just north of the town hall and north of the railroad at 11 Concord Road, donated a half acre of his land and \$25,000 to the town for the purpose of constructing a library that would be as fireproof as possible. An additional half acre was donated a few years later by Roby's heirs. The building was designed by Cabot, Everett and Mead with Samuel Mead as the lead architect. The cost was \$28,866.43, most of which came from Roby. Mead's design for the Wayland Public Library won a competition for which 14 other designs had been submitted. During travels to Italy Mead had gained an interest in Roman architecture and Renaissance sculpture which influenced his work at the Wayland Public Library. This is particularly evident in the interior frieze around the rotunda which is made up of plaster panels over the windows depicting scenes reminiscent of Donatello's *Cantoria* in Florence's Museum of the Opera del Duomo. The plaster work was executed by P.P. Caproni for a cost of \$115. The granite ornamentation around the main entry and windows came from a quarry in Marshfield, Maine, near Machias.

Cabot, Everett & Mead, a Boston based architectural firm had been established in 1885 by Edward Clark Cabot with two of his former draftsmen, Arthur Greene Everett and Samuel W. Mead. The principal architect on the Wayland Library project was Mead who lived in nearby Weston where he designed many late 19th and early 20th century estates. He went onto another large project in Wayland designing "Greenways" (6 Greenway) for Edwin Farnham Greene in 1910. Other well-known buildings by the firm included: the Robbins

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Library (ARL.603) in Arlington in 1892, Sir Alexander Graham Bell's house "Beinn Bhreagh" (1892) in Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and the 1897 Runkle's School in Brookline (since demolished).

The first librarian in this new building was Mabel T. S. Small (65 Cochituate Road, 25 Concord Road), however Mabel only served as librarian for two years until Margaret Wheeler was appointed in 1903 and served until 1941.

In the 1960s the Wayland Garden Club financed a landscaping plan which was drawn by Benjamin Gary of Marshall Gary Landscape Architects of Woburn and planted by the Garden Club.

In 1987-88 the library was expanded using the design of Tappe Associates with Anthony Tappe as principal architect on the project. The large rectangular addition on the north side is expressive of the 1900 design in materials and architectural elaboration with a clear statement of a later design. The original rotunda is echoed by the small rounded window bay in which there are chairs and tables. This room is dedicated to "the memory of Charlotte Lewy Gossels 1903-1943? And all of the other innocent victims of the Nazi Holocaust who shared our love of reading, learning and living." (The question mark is on the plaque as Charlotte Gossels' sons do not know when she passed away.) This space was donated by Peter and Werner Gossels and their families, both of whom live in Wayland and have been active in local life.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas/Maps: 1908 Walker (Library); 1927 Sanborn (Wayland Library); 1946 Brooks (Town of Wayland).

Emery, Helen. *The Puritan Village Evolves*. Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing. 1981.

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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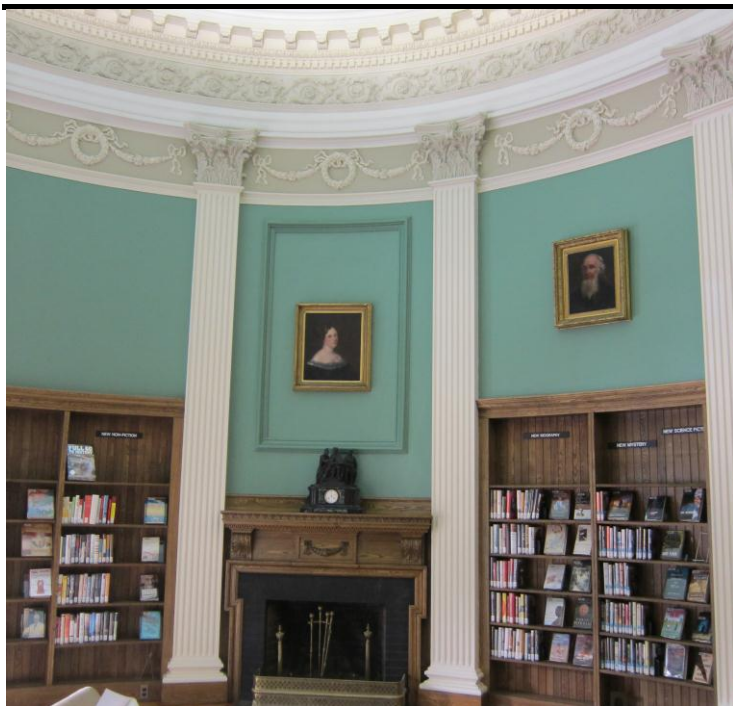
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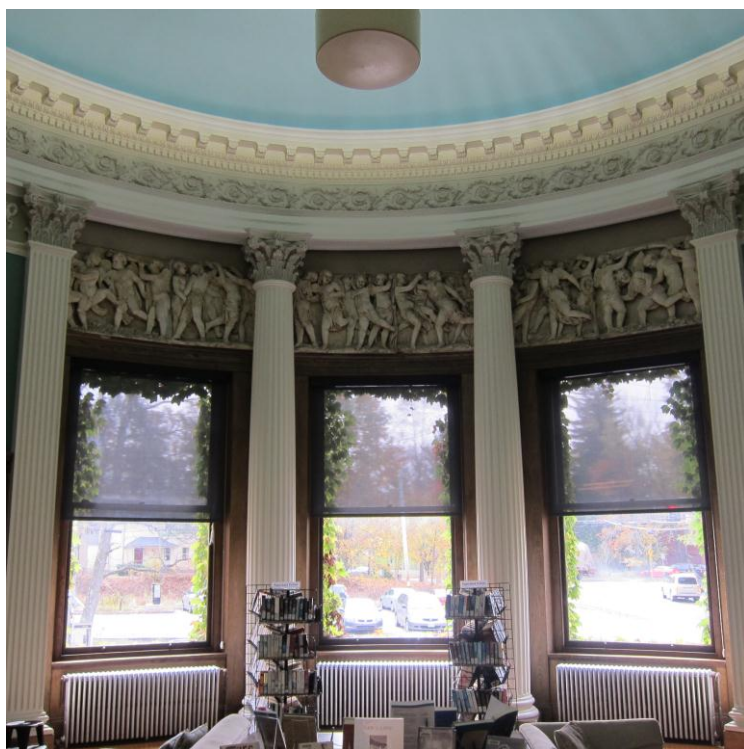
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Interior of rotunda – one fireplace



Interior of rotunda – curved windows

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☒ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by _____ Gretchen G. Schuler _____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Wayland Public Library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as part of a Wayland Center Historic District. It is one of the most significant buildings in Wayland Center for its Romanesque Revival architecture and for its important historical role in the development of the town. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling and association.