

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.460
Historic Name:	Fowler, Loring N. Memorial Library
Common Name:	
Address:	1322 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	D10-2446
Year Constructed:	1930
Architect(s):	Little, Harry Britton
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival
Use(s):	Library
Significance:	Architecture; Education; Politics Government
Area(s):	CON.E: Concord Junction CON.EH: Church Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (04/27/2005)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick; Wood Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

D10-2446

MAYNARD

E

460

CON. 460

Town

CONCORD

SEA A

West Concord
neighborhood or village

Concord Junction

1322 Main Street

Name Loring N. Fowler Memorial
LibraryPresent branch libraryOriginal branch libraryConstruction 1930Harry Little's ConcordForm Georgian RevivalArchitect/Builder Harry Little

Exterior Material:

Foundation brickWall/Trim brickRoof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

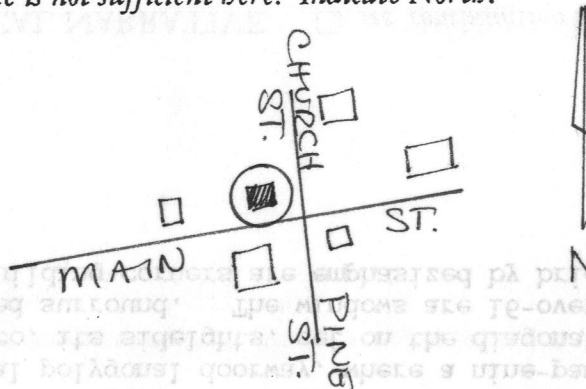
Major Alterations (with dates)

no significant alterationsCondition excellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acre

Setting At corner of Church Street in
residential/institutional area of West
Concord. Church opposite; church and
former school across Church Street to
east. Landscaped side lawn.

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



Recorded by Anne Forbes
research by Corinna Favorito
Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) July, 1992

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

The Fowler Library is one of several public buildings in Concord that were designed by well-known local architect Harry Britton Little (1822-1944). Built in 1930, it is a small hip-roofed one-story brick building with tall square roof lantern and a five-sided central entrance portico. The portico, which is supported on the Tuscan columns that were ubiquitous on Concord's Colonial Revival buildings, is topped with a spindle-work balustrade. It shelters an unusual polygonal doorway, where a nine-panel door projects outward into the portico, its sidelights, set on the diagonal, serving as transitions to a wide paneled surround. The windows are 16-over-12-sash, with splayed brick lintels. The building corners are emphasized by brick quoining; the roof cornice is wood.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ see continuation sheet

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.

The need for a library at the west end of town was apparent by the turn of the century, when the Concord Free Public Library began delivering books to West Concord for the use of the school children. In 1918/19 the West Concord Branch library was opened in a single room in the West Concord School, where it was soon expanded into a second. The first branch librarian was Mrs. H. Maybelle Park.

This building was made possible by the generosity of one of West Concord's most prominent citizens, former store-keeper, postmaster, and real-estate developer Loring N. Fowler (1855-1921). In his will he left a bequest of \$73,000 for the construction of a library building at West Concord. The town hired architect Harry Little (1822-1944) to design the structure, which was dedicated in 1930.

The building is significant as the earlier of the two municipal buildings that Mr. Little designed for the town of Concord, four years before his larger, more well-known project, the renovation and enlargement of the Concord Free Public Library on Main Street. Renderings for the building show that that it was planned with a future stack room which, although badly needed today, was never built. (See #263 Simon Willard Road for more information on Harry Little.) The building's first librarian was Ruth Lapham, who held the position until 1947.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: Sanborns from 1942.

Harry Little's Concord.

Town directories.

French, Allen, Longstreth, T. Morris, and Little, David B. A History of the Concord Free Public Library. Concord: Members of the Library Corporation, 1973.

Richardson. Concord Chronicle.

Concord Free Library obituary file.

- ☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.