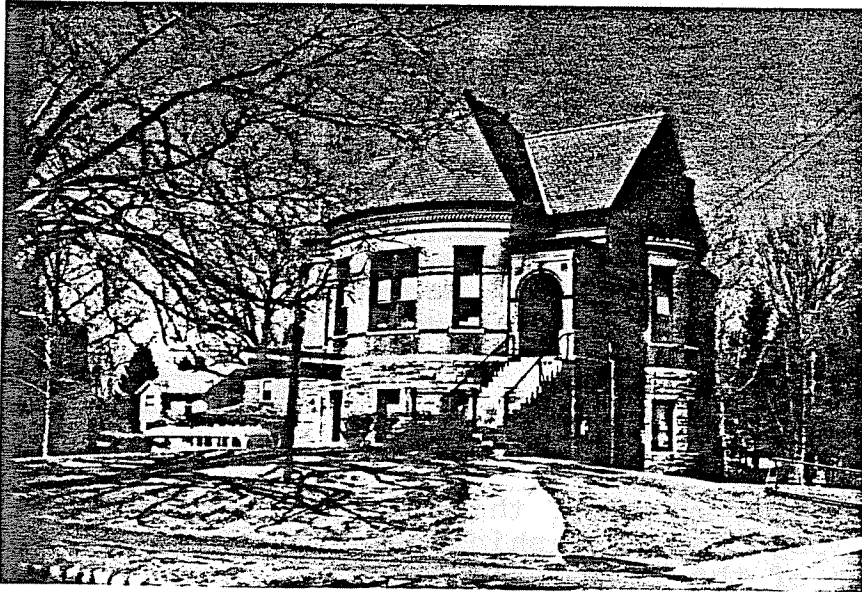


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	17C-279



Northampton (Florence)

Address Meadow Street

Lilly Library

Present use Library

Present owner City of Northampton

Description:

1890

Source Daily Hampshire Gazette  
February 5, 1889

Richardsonian Romanesque

Architect C. H. Jones

Exterior wall fabric granite & brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features rough granite, 1st  
story; granite & brick above;  
slate roof

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 120 feet

Approximate distance of building from street  
40 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical

Commission  
Date October 15, 1976

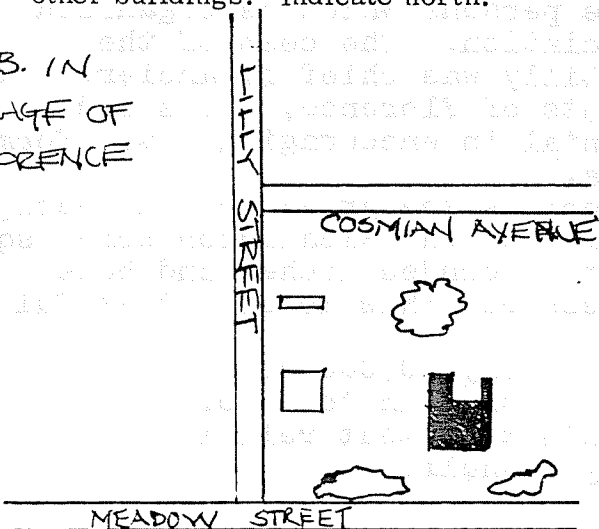
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MAY 5 1976

MASS. HIST. COM. 1.

4. Map. Draw sketch of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

V.B. IN VILLAGE OF FLORENCE



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Original use Library \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>x</u>	Religion	<u>x</u>
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Initial plans for the construction of the Lilly Library were procured by Alfred Lilly in 1883. A biographical sketch of Mr. Lilly reveals that he was one of the leaders in Florence; a shrewd and innovative businessman. Prior to his affiliation with the library, he served as president of the Florence Furniture Co. and sought the incorporation of the Florence Savings Bank.

In 1888, Mr. Lilly selected nine persons which he organized in corporative form as a library association. The cost of the building was \$13,000 of which Alfred Lilly was chief financier. It was built in 1890 to serve the residents of Florence, Leeds and Haydenville; it proved to be instrumental in encouraging novel forms of literary works to permeate the area.

Perhaps the most appealing element is the architectural design itself. The library is reminiscent of the H.H. Richardson Romanesque Revival with its heavy masonry, turrets, rounded arches and bowed fronts. The library connotes ruggedness but this is of a tasteful sort.

By 1934, the library had approximately 10,000 books and each was selected with the most careful discretion in terms of literary and entertainment value. It was at this time that religious newsletters were placed on the library's shelf.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Hampshire Gazette, May 5, 1864, May 23, 1871, May 22, 1883 February 5, 1889, November 6, 1888, October 26, 1934.