

PR - 7124107

# FORM B - BUILDING

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

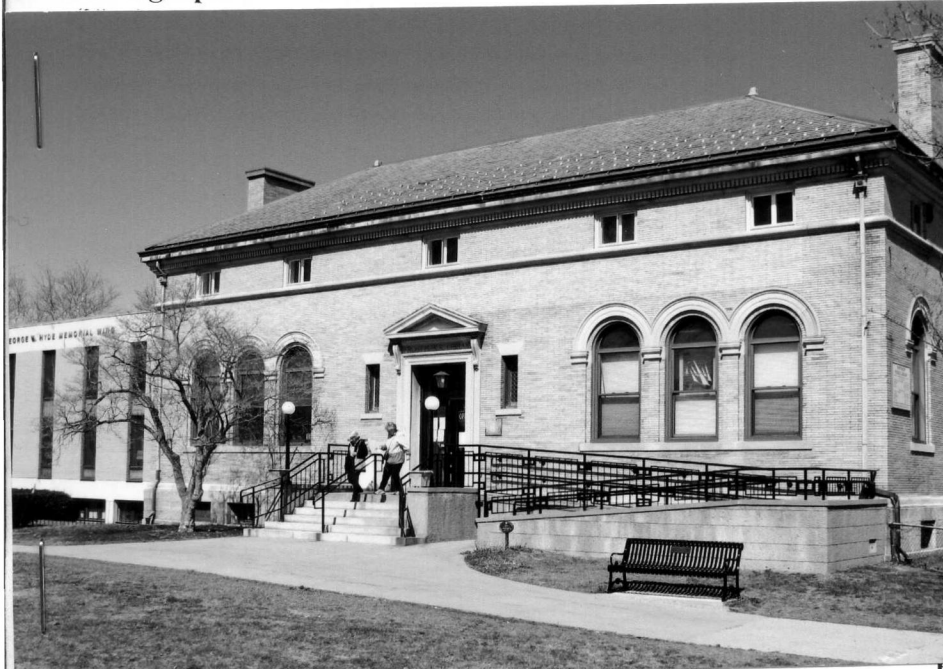
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

	Lynn	D	132
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**Town:** Winthrop

**Place** (*neighborhood or village*): Metcalf Square

## Photograph



Address: 2 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152

**Name:** Frost Public Library

**Present** - Public Library & Museum

**Original** - Public Library & Museum

**Construction:** 1898 - 1899

Source: Clark, William H.: "History of Winthrop, Massachusetts," Winthrop Centennial Committee, 1952, pp.

**Style:** Renaissance Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Willard M. Bacon

**Material:**

**Foundation** - Rubble

**Wall/Trim** - Brick/Limestone

**Roof** - Slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

### Major Alterations (with dates):

1973 - George W. Hyde wing constructed. Concrete foundation with brick veneer walls and concrete trim..

1991 - Addition/alteration to add handicapped ramp to the front of the Frost Building. Elevator added to service all floors of both the Hyde Wing and Frost Building.

2005 - Renovation of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Frost Building.

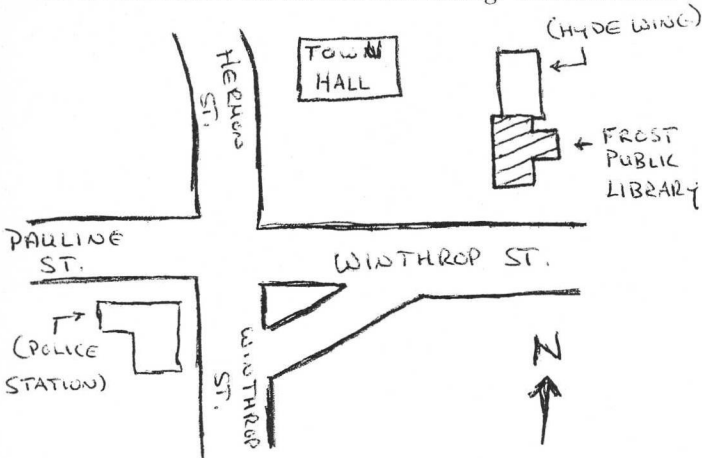
**Setting:** Central business district on a landscaped lot with Town Hall and bounded by Pauline Street and Hermon Street to the south and east, respectively.

**Acreage:** 1 acre or less

**Condition:** Good

Moved  no  yes Date

Photograph of labeled streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



**Recorded by:** Alan M. Thibeault

**Organization:** Winthrop Public Library & Museum

**Date** (*month/year*): September, 2009

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2009

MASS. HIST. COMM

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions in completing this form.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

WINTHROP

2 METCALF SQUARE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D

WTH.132

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.*

The Frost Public Library is, perhaps, the most architecturally sophisticated public building in the town and probably represents the greatest design achievement of architect Willard M. Bacon's long career. Rendered in the Renaissance Revival Style, the 1899 Frost building is T-shaped, constructed of yellow brick with limestone trimmings and rises two stories from a granite block basement to a low hip roof. The main facade features a tall and recessed center entrance with well-molded stone enframements with a console bracketed and pedimented lintel. The tabature above the front entrance exhibits incised letters reading "Frost Public Library." Flanking the entrance are small, narrow windows set high in the wall accented by stone sills and wedge-shaped lintels. Flanking either side of the entrance bay are three window set within limestone arches which spring from brick and limestone Doric pilasters. These treatments would be reproduced for the Winthrop Town Hall twenty years later. Four-fifths of the way up the facades are limestone sill courses above which are 5 eyebrow windows in denticulated cornice. The building retains its roof slates and massive brick chimneys. The rear and side walls of the Frost building are similarly treated in terms of surface details. An iron lantern is suspended from the facade wall above the front entrance. The vestibule features a mosaic vaulted ceiling, mosaic floors and marble walls. The double door at the front entrance appears to have been added later.

## 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.*

The Frost Public Library building was built and furnished from 1898-1899 from designs provided by Willard M. Bacon. Mr. Bacon, a native of Willsboro, PA, was born in 1860. By 1880, he was working as a draftsman for the important architectural firm of Sturgis and Brigham in Boston. He had established his own firm by 1884 and settled in Winthrop during that decade. He designed Winthrop's Fire Stations, the Edward B. Newton School, Winthrop Yacht Club and, in 1928, the Town Hall adjacent to the Frost Public Library. Mr. Bacon retired in 1929 and died at his home at 3 Elmwood Court, Winthrop, in 1947. In addition to his legacy of public buildings, he left a large legacy of private homes and Douglas Shand Tucci, in "Built In Boston, City and Surburbs" singles out his residences on Carruth Street, Dorchester, as being exceptional examples of his work. The construction of the Frost Public Library cost approximately \$25,000.00 The building was occasioned by the generous gift of Mrs. Eliza W. Frost in memory of her husband, Morrill Frost (for whom the building is named), provided the town raised the balance. It was constructed on land that had been part of the James Blaisdell farm near the southeast corner and was officially dedicated on June 27, 1899. The building sits in what is now known as Metcalf Square, named for Corporal Richard Metcalf, who died in World War I.

The George W. Hyde wing was added to the east side of the structure in 1973 in the area between the Frost Public Library building and the Town Hall. In 1991 a handicapped ramp was added along the right facade of the Frost Building and an elevator installed between the Frost Building and Hyde Wing to service all floors of the combined facility. The top floor (Museum Space) of the Frost Building was renovated and refurbished in 2005, largely through a \$40,000.00 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

WINTHROP

2 METCALF SQUARE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D	WTH.132
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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Winthrop Maps/Atlases - 1873, 1886, 1896, 1906 and 1914

Clark, William H: "History of Winthrop, Massachusetts," Winthrop Centennial Committee, 1952, pp. 551-3

Tucci, Douglas Shand: "Built in Boston, City and Suburb," New York Graphic Society, 1978, p. 90

Massachusetts Historical Commission, MHC Form B, Frost Public Library, recorded by Harriet White, MAPC, October 1978

Massachusetts Historical Commission, MHC Form B, Frost Library, recorded by Edward W. Gordon, Winthrop CDO Historic, September 1993

essor' number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

Lynn

D

132

Town-Winthrop

Place (neighborhood or village) Winthrop Center

Address 2 Metcalfe Square

Historic Name Frost library

Use: Present Public library

Original same

Date of Construction 1898

Source William H. Clark's History of Winthrop, p.251-253

Style/Form Italian Renaissance Revival, L-shaped

Architect/Builder Willard M. Bacon

Exterior Material

Foundation rock faced granite blocks

Wall yellow brick with limestone trimmings

Roof hip roof w/ slate shingles + copper edging

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

Major Alterations (with dates) Modern stacks wing added c.19??, handicapped access at front added c.?

Condition good

Moved  yes  no

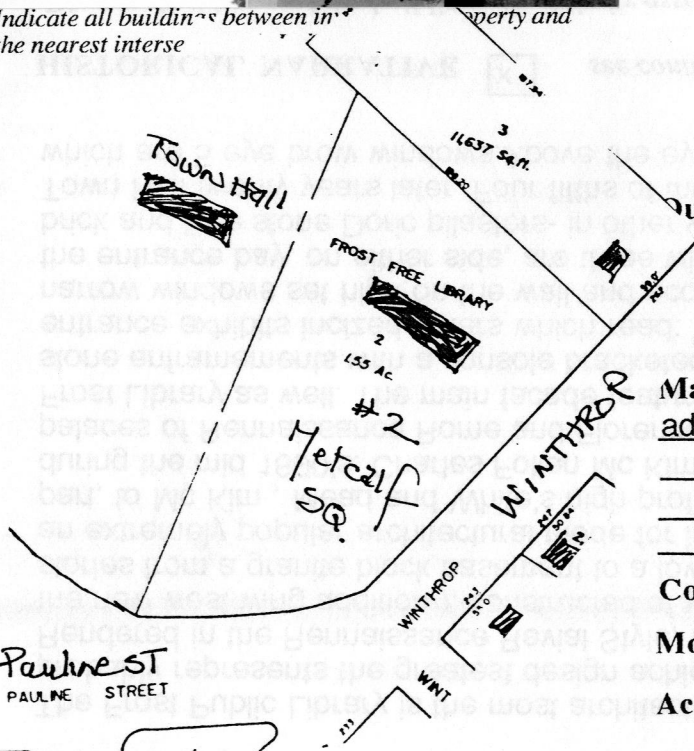
Acreage less than one acre

Setting Together with the Renaissance-Georgian Town

Hall next door stands as major landmarks at town center.

Main facades faces ample, war memorial dotted lawn.

Indicate all buildings between in property and the nearest interse



Pauline ST  
PAULINE STREET

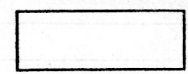
Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Winthrop CDO+Historic

Date(month/day/year) September, 1993

PR  
7/24/07

**BUILDING FORM**



**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**  *see continuation sheet*

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

The Frost Public Library is the most architecturally sophisticated public building in the town and probably represents the greatest design achievement of architect Willard M. Bacon's long career. Rendered in the Renaissance Revival Style, this building is L-shaped in form (actually T-shaped with the new west wing addition), constructed of yellow brick with limestone trimmings and rises two stories from a granite block basement to a low hip roof. The Italian Renaissance Revival Style was an extremely popular architectural mode for libraries during the 1890's and early 1900's thanks, in part, to Mc Kim, Mead and White's high profile Boston Public Library project which was completed during the mid 1890's. Charles Follen Mc Kim, the chief "design man" for this firm looked to the palaces of Renaissance Rome and Florence for inspiration and this influence is seen at Winthrop's Frost Library as well. The main facade features a tall and recessed center entrance with well molded stone enframements with a console bracketed and pedimented lintel. The entablature above the entrance exhibits incised letters which read: "Frost Public Library". Flanking the entrance are small, narrow windows set high on the wall and accented by stone sills and wedge shaped lintels. Flanking the entrance bay, on either side, are three windows set within limestone arches which spring from brick and lime stone Doric pilasters- in other words treatments that he would reproduce for his Winthrop Town Hall twenty years later. Four fifths of the way up the facades are lime stone sill courses above which are 5 eye brow windows. Above the eye brow windows is a denticulated cornice. (continued)

**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.*

Winthrop's Frost Library was built in 1898 from designs provided by Willard M. Bacon. This building was constructed on land that had been part of the James Blaisdell farm which had a Tewksbury house near the south eastern corner. As early as 1854, a group of local people established a library in connection with the "Winthrop Lyceum". This library's 600 books were stored in the old Town Hall of 1855, which stood on the site of the present police station. In May, 1885, the town voted to establish a library committee. The library was set up in a room in the old Town Hall that had formerly served as the Grammar School room. By January of 1898, there were 4,875 volumes. The trustees in 1898 were Alfred Phinney, David Floyd 2nd, Channing Howard, Frank W. Tucker, Isaiah Whorf, and Francis A. Ingersoll. In 1898-99, the new library was built from plans provided by Willard M. Bacon at a cost of about \$25,000.00. Willard M. Bacon was a native of Willsboro, PA. Born in 1860, he was working in Boston by 1880 as a draftsman for the important architectural firm of Sturgis and Brigham. By 1884, he established his own firm and settled in Winthrop c. during the 1880's. He designed Winthrop's Fire stations, Edward B. Newton School, Winthrop Yacht Club and the Town Hall in 1928. (continued)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**  *see continuation sheet*

Winthrop Maps/Atlases-1873, 1886, 1896, 1906 and 1914  
William H. Clark's History of Winthrop-pages 251-253

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

See Area Form D Winthrop Center

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: <i>Winthrop</i>	Form No: <i>132</i>
Property Name: Metcalfe Square	

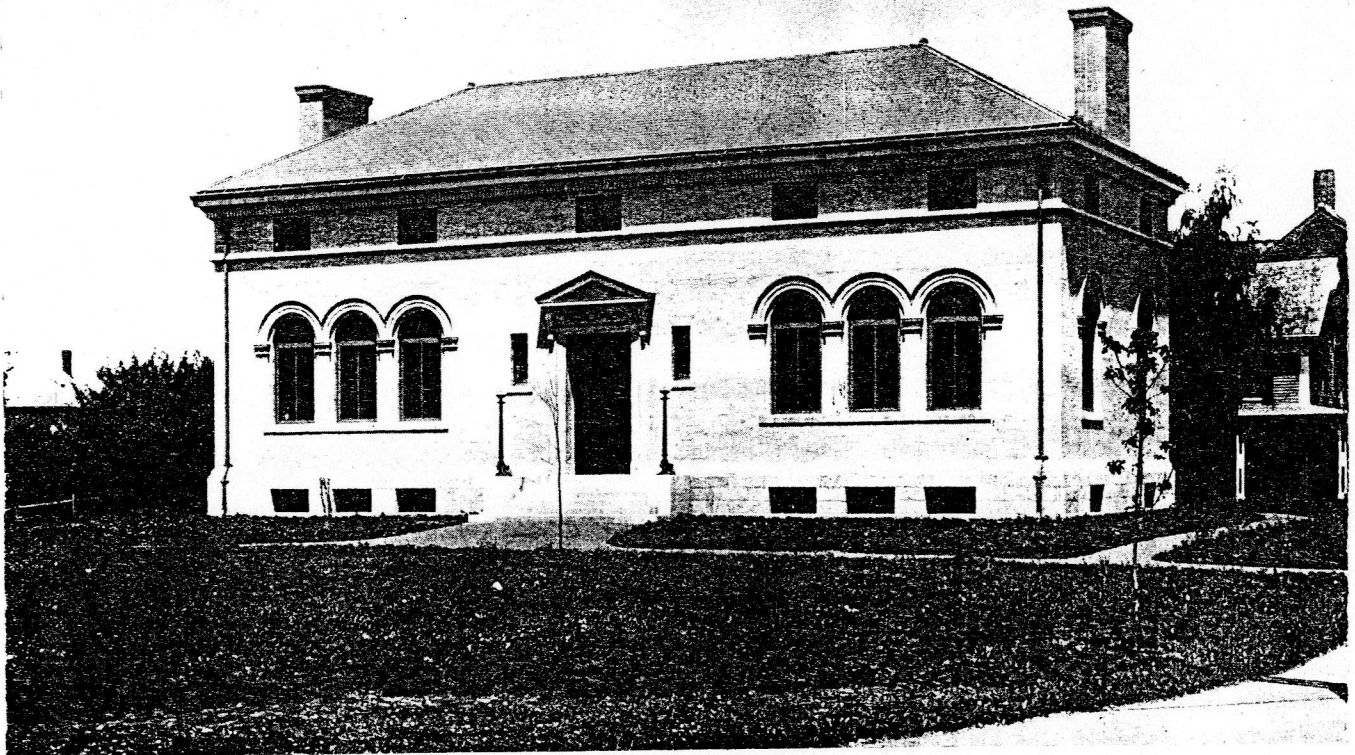
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

**Architectural Description continued**

This building retains its roof slates and massive brick chimneys. Therear and side walls of the old building are similarly treated in terms of surface details.

**Historical Narrative continued**

Willard M. Bacon retired in 1929 and died in his home at 3 Elmwood Court in 1947. In addition to his public buildings he left a large legacy of private homes and Douglas Shand Tucci in Built in Boston, City and Suburb singles out his residences on Carruth Street, Dorchester as being exceptional examples of his work. At any rate, the new library was named in honor of Morrill Frost, late 19th century summer resident of Winthrop (Court Road). His wife Eliza W. Frost gave \$10,000.00 towards the construction of this library. The new ibrary wing was added in. 19???. The library continues to serve the citizens of Winthrop. It has an out standing and very comprehensive collection of old photographs, nespaper clippings and other research items as well as a dedicated and knowlegeable staff.



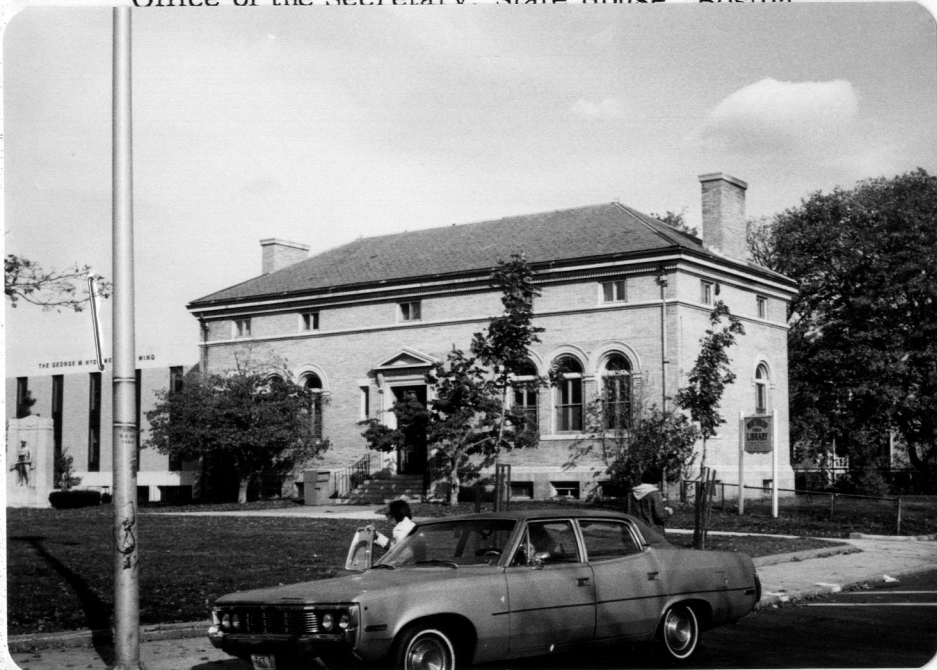
*FROM: Historic Winthrop  
1630-1902 by  
Charles W. Hall*

FROST MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY. - built 1898  
2 Metcalf Sq. Winthrop.

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no. 11
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Town Winthrop 132

Address Pauline St. at Metcalf Squa

Name Frost Public Library

Present use " "

Present owner Town of Winthrop

Description:

Date 1899

Source interior plaque

Style Renaissance Revival

Architect Willard M. Bacon

Exterior wall fabric yellow brick

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features 2-story, T-plan with  
slate hipped roof, copper ridge &  
seams and interior end chimneys.

Altered wing added (side) Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 50'

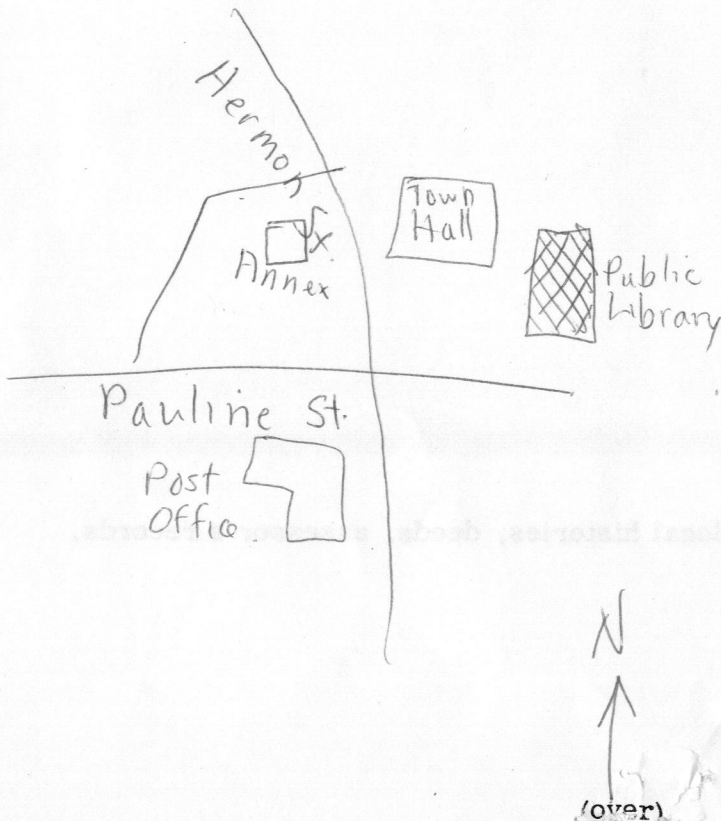
Approximate distance of building from street  
18'

6. Recorded by Harriet White

Organization MAPC

Date 10/18/78

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



(over)

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

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

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

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

WTH.132

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Winthrop	Form No:
Property Name: Public Library	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Other features:

Side entrance. Dentil molding along cornice. Copper gutters and leaders. Central entrance has pediment supported by console brackets. Arcades of 6 round-arched windows. Entresol windows along cornice.

Double door with a transom appears to be later. Iron lantern suspended from facade wall above entrance.

Vestibule has mosaic vaulted ceiling, mosaic floors and marble walls.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file  
Copies: Inventory form  
Town file(w/corresp.)  
Macris  
NR director \_\_\_\_\_

Community: Winthrop

**MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date Received:

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 7 Mar 07

Type:  Individual

District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Frost Free Library

Inventory Form: WNT. 132

Address: 2 Metcalf Square

Requested by:

Action:  Honor

ITC

Grant

R & C

Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review:

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

**DISTRICTS**

Eligible

Eligible

Eligible, also in district

Ineligible

Eligible only in district

More information needed

Ineligible

More information needed

**CRITERIA:**

A

B

C

D

**LEVEL:**

Local

State

National

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** by Phil Bergen

Already in proposed Metcalf Sq NRDIS – nomination on hand.

Individual eligibility opinion sought for 1898 public library building. Designed by Willard M. Bacon in the Renaissance Revival style, this elaborate library building sits in a prominent town location next to a similar Bacon-designed town hall. Buff granite blocks, a slate-shingled hip roof lined with copper edging, and distinctive arched windows dominate the library which was named for an early donor.

Bacon was a resident of Winthrop and designed many public buildings in town including the town hall, Newton School (NR), and fire stations. The library has an ell that is somewhat recent, and sits close to a library annex. Water damage to the ceiling of the top floor was well-documented, but interior views of other public spaces and outside facades is still needed. It is likely to be individually eligible, but photo images are needed.