

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	WEY.8
Historic Name:	Fogg Library
Common Name:	
Address:	1 Columbian Sq
City/Town:	Weymouth
Village/Neighborhood:	Weymouth
Local No:	62
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	Cutting, Carleton and Cutting; Redding, Baird and Company
Architectural Style(s):	Renaissance Revival; Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Library
Significance:	Architecture; Education
Area(s):	WEY.A: Columbian Square
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (6/11/1981); Preservation Restriction (1/27/1986)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Granite; Glass; Ashlar Random Laid; Limestone; Copper Foundation: Granite



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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

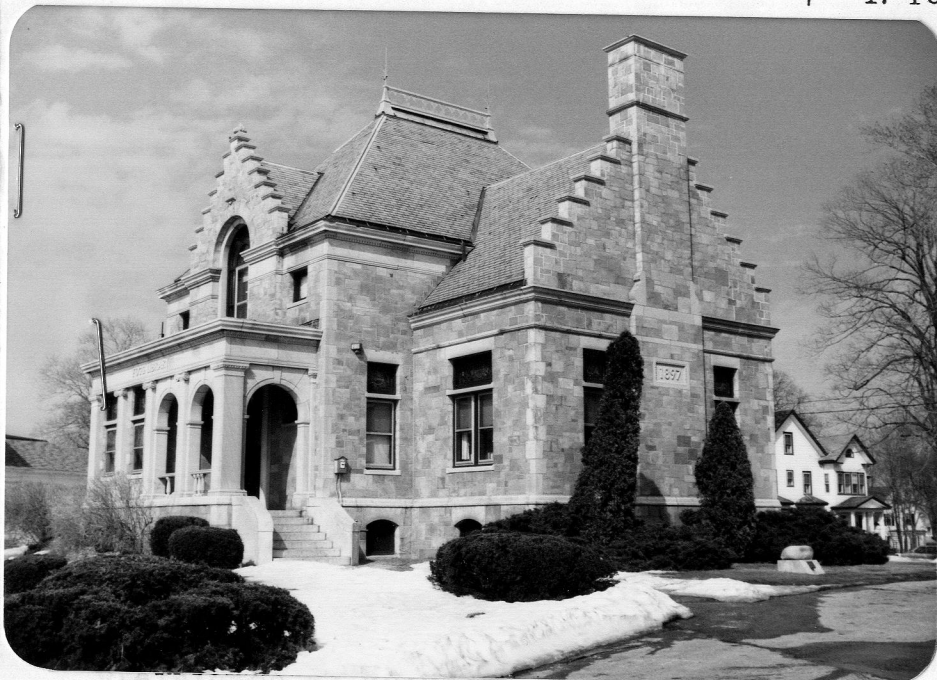
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

NRIND
6/11/81
PR-112786

In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>862</u>
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PR. WEY

USOS WEY



1. Town Weymouth

Address 1 Columbian Square

Name Fog Library

Present use Branch Library-Library
for
Weymouth Historical Society

Present owner Town of Weymouth

Description:

Date 1897

Source Dedication booklet

Style Italian Renaissance

Architect Cutting, Carlton, & Cutting

other buildings. Indicate north.

Exterior wall fabric Weymouth granite

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features stained glass windows in
renaissance design

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

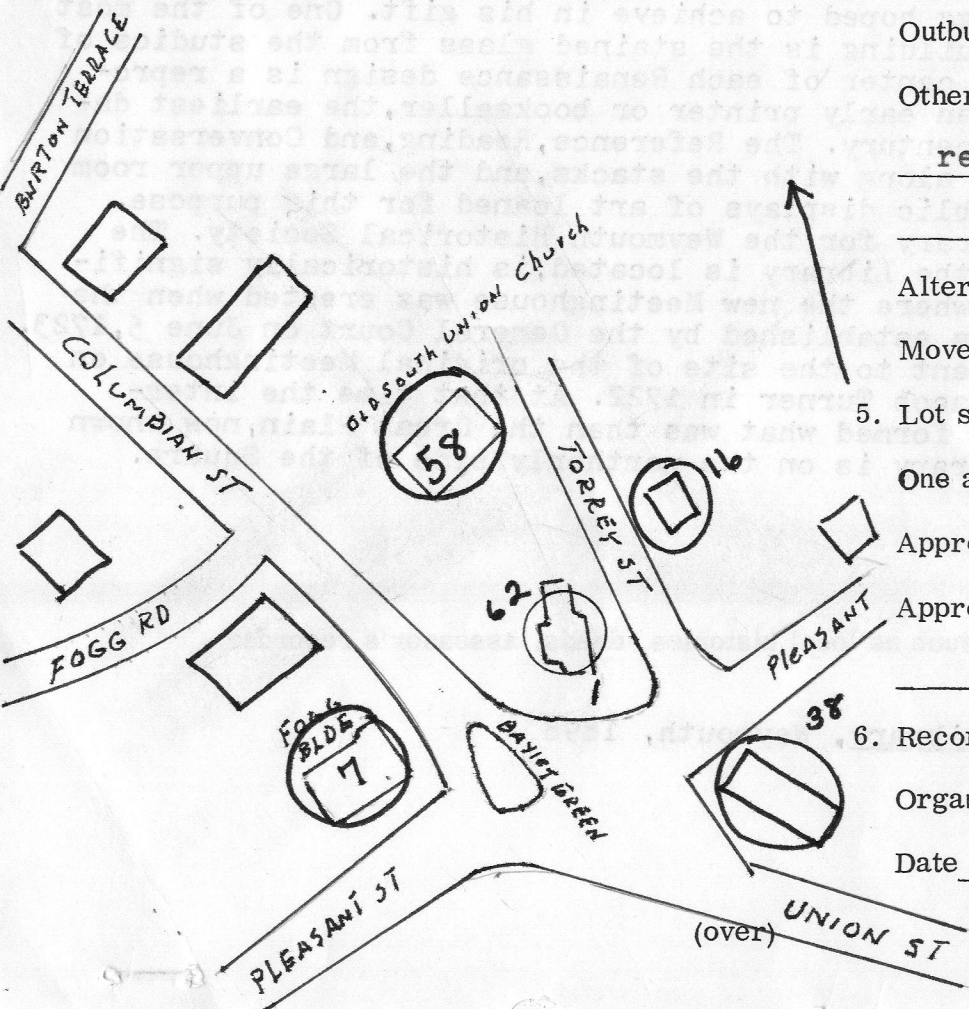
Approximate frontage 75'

Approximate distance of building from street
85'

6. Recorded by Sharon Cassani Clarke

Organization Weymouth Historical Com.

Date March 10, 1978



7. Original owner (if known) Trustees of Fogg Library

Original use Library

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

John S. Fogg (1817-1892), a prominent Weymouth business, specified in his will that the sum of \$50,000 be donated to the town and designated towards the construction of a library in South Weymouth. Completed in 1898, the Fogg Library remains as one of the outstanding buildings in Weymouth. Designed by the firm of Cutting, Carlton, and Cutting of Worcester, the building approaches Italian Renaissance in style and the exterior is completely constructed in Weymouth seam-face granite. The spacious and graceful interior reflects the dignity John Fogg hoped to achieve in his gift. One of the most impressive features of the building is the stained glass from the studios of Redding, Baird, and Co. In the center of each Renaissance design is a reproduction of a trademark from an early printer or bookseller, the earliest dating back to the fourteenth century. The Reference, Reading, and Conversation rooms occupy the first floor along with the stacks, and the large upper room was originally devoted to public displays of art loaned for this purpose. This room now houses the library for the Weymouth Historical Society. The Columbian Square area, where the Library is located, is historically significant as it marked the site where the new Meetinghouse was erected when the second precinct or parish was established by the General Court on June 5, 1723. The Library is located adjacent to the site of the original Meetinghouse on the land formerly owned by Jacob Turner in 1722. At that time the intersection of two Indian trails formed what was then the Great Plain, now known as Columbian Square. The Library is on the northerly side of the Square.

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

The Dedication of the Fogg Library, Weymouth, 1898

Weymouth Historical Commission

3 April 1979

Architectural Evaluation of The Fogg Library, South Weymouth

Mr. John S. Fogg, in true 19th century philanthropic fashion, donated to the town of South Weymouth, a fine library building to be named after him. He also intended that it be "used for public assemblies: and that it would be "an ornament to the community and town."¹

The architects were the "well known firm of Cutting, Carlton & Cutting of Worcester. The style of architecture, while not strictly pure, approached the Italian Renaissance."² Again, we have another fine example of Weymouth eclecticism in the 19th century. The Renaissance element is visible in the fine arched entrance loggia, yet the presence of Dutch stepped gables indicate a wish to break away from the pure classic idiom. It is quite possible to surmise that this unexpected Dutch element might have been derived from the "Dutch House" at 20 Netherlands Road, Brookline. This building was once the pavillion of Holland in the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. In 1894, it was "dismantled and reconstructed in Brookline."³ Its facade has the high steep roof and stepped gables, characteristic of the High Renaissance Dutch architecture, and is once again reiterated in the gables of the Weymouth library.

The massing is a rectangular prism, whose facade is pierced by a tall stepped gable, with a round arched window (the Dutch and the Classic) and fronted by an impressive Renaissance type loggia,

today minus its original balustrade of 1898. The structure has also two wings, each with stepped gables and high roofs. At the time of the dedication, 1898, the second floor room, reserved for a museum was lit by a skylight (see photo in the frontispiece of the Dedication Booklet), but due to leaking problems, this has been removed. Still extant is the iron cresting at the ridge line.

The interior plan, follows one that has proven successful with the libraries of Henry Hobson Richardson: a reading room on the right, a central part for library business, and on the left, a long room for the stacks.⁴ The stacks in the Weymouth library are decorated, each at the top, with a recessed panel, edged with an egg and dart moulding. Another Renaissance derived type of ornament is the rows of Tuscan columns which line the center section and separate it, in an open fashion, from the wings. Of great interest, is the stained glass from the studios of Redding, Baird & Co., Boston,⁵ fully described in the Dedication Booklet.⁶ These type of windows were popular in the preceding Queen Anne Period and particularly in commemorative buildings.

Monique Lehner

1. Dedication of the Fogg Library at South Weymouth, Mass. Sept. 14, 1898. p. 12
2. Ibid. p. 13
3. Brookline Village Walking Tours, Town of Brookline, 1977. p. 74
4. VanRensselaer, Mariana Griswold, Henry Hobson Richardson and His Works, Dover Publications, Inc. New York, 1969. p. 79
5. Dedication Booklet, p. 15
6. Ibid. p. 15

WEY. 8

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT—DISTRICT POLICE

PLAN RECORD

CASE B RACK 3 APART. 6 NO. 4003 ✓
BUILDING Fogg Library. STORIES 2B
CITY OR TOWN Weymouth. STREET Colombian Sq.
TO BE USED FOR Library Purposes. CLASS Misc.
OWNER Town of Weymouth. Hall.
ARCHITECT Cutting, Carleston & Cutting. Brick

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL—SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS—REFERRED

DATE Oct. 30/97

INSPECTOR MOORE.