

STATE OF VERMONT Division for Historic Preservation VERMONT ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY Individual Property Survey Form	SURVEY NUMBER: 1018-3 (Assigned by VDHP)
	Listed in State Register <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for State Register Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> -or- No <input type="checkbox"/> Date: 9/27/2023
	PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Hitchcock Memorial Museum and Library
	ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Hitchcock Memorial Museum and Library
COUNTY: Orleans	PRESENT USE: Library/Museum
TOWN: Westfield	ORIGINAL USE: Library/Museum
ADDRESS: 1252 VT Route 100	ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: George D. Story & Co.
COMMON NAME: Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: H.W. Burnham
PROPERTY TYPE: Building	DATE BUILT: 1899-1900
OWNER: Town of Westfield ADDRESS: School Street, Westfield, VT 05874	
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/>
	STYLE: Colonial Revival
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System: 1. <u>Foundation:</u> Stone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Block <input type="checkbox"/> 2. <u>Wall Structure</u> a. Wood Frame: Post & Beam <input type="checkbox"/> Plank <input type="checkbox"/> Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Platform <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. Load Bearing Masonry: Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Block <input type="checkbox"/> c. Metal: Iron <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> d. Other: 3. <u>Wall Cladding:</u> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Shiplap <input type="checkbox"/> Novelty <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick Veneer <input type="checkbox"/> Stone Veneer <input type="checkbox"/> Other: 4. <u>Roof Structure</u> Truss: Wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iron <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Other: 5. <u>Roof Covering:</u> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheet Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Built Up <input type="checkbox"/> Rolled <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Seam <input type="checkbox"/> Other: 6. <u>Engineering Structure:</u> 7. Other:	
Appendages: Porches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Towers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cupolas <input type="checkbox"/> Dormers <input type="checkbox"/> Chimneys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheds <input type="checkbox"/> Ells <input type="checkbox"/> Wings <input type="checkbox"/> Bay Window <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Roof Styles: Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Jerkinhead <input type="checkbox"/> Saw Tooth <input type="checkbox"/> With Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> With Bellcast <input type="checkbox"/> With Parapet <input type="checkbox"/> With False Front <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Number of Stories: 2 Entrance Location: center bay, front elevation Number of Bays: 5 x 3 Approximate Dimensions: 30' W x 60' L	

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Completed in 1899, using native woods and ornate design, the Library/Museum has a staircase on either side of the entrance room, leading to a balcony, where the natural history displays are located. Interior is elaborately paneled with wood and has a pressed metal ceiling.

RELATED RESOURCES ON THE PROPERTY:

N/A

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

The Hitchcock Memorial Museum and Library was a gift to the Town of Westfield by Aaron Charles Hitchcock, a successful farmer, businessman, and member of an early Westfield family in 1899. He gave the land and sum of \$10,000 to the Town of Westfield to erect a two-story building; the lower story to be used as a public library and the second story to be devoted to a museum of Natural History and Science.

Town records indicate that the building was designed by George W. Story & Co. of Newport, VT, and built by H.W. Burnham at a cost of \$3,074. One half of the balance of \$7000 was to be used for specimens and furniture, while the other half was to be put into a trust. The building was completed in 1899. A.C. Hitchcock died in 1900. The Hitchcock Memorial Museum and Library operates today as its desired intention.

REFERENCE CITATIONS:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Woodland
Scattered Buildings Moderately Built Up Densely Built Up
Residential Commercial Agricultural Industrial Mixed Use
Roadside Strip Development Other:

RECORDED BY: Jennifer Stelma

ORGANIZATION: Board of Trustees, Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library

DATE RECORDED: 9/20/2023

ATTACHMENTS: Please insert maps and photographs here. Use additional pages if necessary.



1252 VT Route 100

**Proceedings of the Meeting for Building a Library and Museum
Dated October 15th, 1898**

The legal voters of the town of Westfield are hereby notified and warned to meet at the town hall Westfield, Saturday, October 15th, 1898 at 1 P.M. to hear and act on proposition of A.C. Hitchcock to build a library and museum building for the town.

Westfield, Vermont, Oct. 3, 1898
/s/ E.H. Miller
/s/ E.H. Hitchcock Selectmen
/s/ W.S. Gilpin

Westfield, Vt., Oct. 15th meeting agreeable to warning and the moderator opened the meeting by reading the Warning and proceeded to act on the following proposition of A.C. Hitchcock as follows:

A.C. Hitchcock to the people of Westfield, Vt., the proposition herein made to you is no new thing on my part I conceived the idea over twenty years ago of doing something for my dear native town along the line indicated by the present writing and I caused to be drawn two instruments which embodied my ideas in regard to the matter and them duly executed. But as they were not too operative until after my decease and as in the good Providence of God my life has been graciously spared beyond my expectation, I propose now to enter at once upon my plan if it is accepted by you and do what I can while in life to bring it to perfection.

The advantages of a good library do not need any sounding by me. They are un ----- recognized and believed in. Most heartedly believing in them myself. I hereby agree to pay to the town of Westfield the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) in notes or other evidence of indebtedness to be used and appropriated by said town as hereoften indicated. It is my desire that I may have the privilege of making further gifts in addition to the above mentioned sum should I see fit. So to do and ----- for such sums together with the above mentioned sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.) the town shall be responsible only for the amount collected by reasonable diligence. It is my purpose that such portion of said ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.) as may be necessary shall be used by the town to erect, complete and furnish a building, the lower story of which shall be used by the town as its public library and in which the books of the town library shall be stored and preserved and the upper or second story of which shall be devoted to a museum of natural history. The above mentioned building shall be constructed on land deeded by me to the town and in accordance with the plan and specifications drawn by Geo. D. Story and Co. of Newport, Vt. which are submitted herewith. It is my desire that preparations be made the coming winter, by getting lumber, stones and other building materials ready so that active operations may commence as soon as practicable in the spring. It is my further desire that one-half of such sum as shall be found remaining after the construction of said building may be used by the town in procuring and purchasing

specimens for a museum of natural history and that the then remaining sum be safely invested by the town and preserved as a permanent fund, the income from which may be applied first to defray one half the expense of all repairs on the above mentioned building, the balance of which may be used by the town to procure additional specimens for the museum. It is also my desire that the town may at all times keep the above mentioned building in good and suitable repair and that it may be kept open at least one whole day or two half days during each week, in such manners that its advantages may be fully enjoyed by the public.

Westfield, October 15, 1898

/s/ A.C. Hitchcock

The above read by Albert Farman and remarks made by the people of the town on motion of L.S. Woodworth and seconded by Wallace Wakefield to accept A.C. Hitchcock's proposition and a motion to amend by N.C. Hoyt and seconded by E.S. Miller at the pleasure of A.C. Hitchcock the motion was so put. And it was voted to accept of the above writer's proposition at his pleasure of giving it meaning anytime he was ready to furnish the funds on motion of W.D. Miller the town voted to give A.C. Hitchcock the Thanks of the town. Voted to adjourn without date.

A true copy of the proceedings of the town meeting as near as I could make it.

Attest: /s/ N.C. Hoyt
Town Clerk

State of Vermont
Orleans County, ss.

I, Jeanne G. Beaulieu, Town Clerk of Westfield, hereby certify that the above is a true recording of the proceedings of the town meeting held Oct 15 - 1898 as recorded in Book 3 pgs - 449 - 450 of the Westfield Town meeting records March 30 - 1962 /s/ Jeanne G. Beaulieu
Town Clerk

Minutes of Town Meeting, October 15, 1898, to accept A.C. Hitchcock's offer to fund a library and natural history museum. Plans and specifications drawn by George D. Story & Co. of Newport, VT.
Westfield Town Meeting Records, Book 3, pages 449-450

"	"	38	17.00	D.E. Wright
"	"	39	3.00	O.P. Wright
"	"	40	84.33	O.P. Wright
"	"	41	3.25	H.B. Sil
"	"	42	8.28	Chas. G. t
"	"	43	2.00	

We give no order for the State tax of 224.00 nor did
 we give any order for Highway + School 221.00
 nor for County 22.00
 Making a total of 467.00 which

the Treasurer's receipts will show that he has paid.
 We have made two appointments - Dwight Standing for
 Surveyor of wood and lumber in place of A.C. Austin removed
 from town - Miss Thea Hendrix Library trustee in place of
 Elgie Brown who also went from town

On May 1st there came into our hands the funds for the
 Hitchcock Museum + Library building Ten thousand dollars.
 About eight thousand of this money was first mortgage notes
 on farms in Troy - Lowell - Jay and Westfield. These funds
 were turned over to Mr. H.W. Burnham who was chosen
 and appointed to erect the building.

The building was completed and turned over to us January 25, 1900
 We found the building a good thorough well made structure, well
 finished throughout. The building is a two story clock and

Town Records stating that funds for the construction of the building "were turned over to Mr. H.W. Burnham who was chosen and appointed to erect the building."
 Building completed January 25, 1900.



c. 1901 postcard view, courtesy UVM Special Collections Library



<https://penobscotmarinemuseum.pastperfectonline.com/media/1A092C20-9C7A-4BF2-B160-851343601850>



Undated historic street view, with red arrow indicating location of the Hitchcock Memorial



2023



2023



2023 – first floor library



2023 - first floor library



2023 – pressed metal ceiling



2023 – natural history display cabinets



2023 – stairwell between first floor library and second floor natural history museum