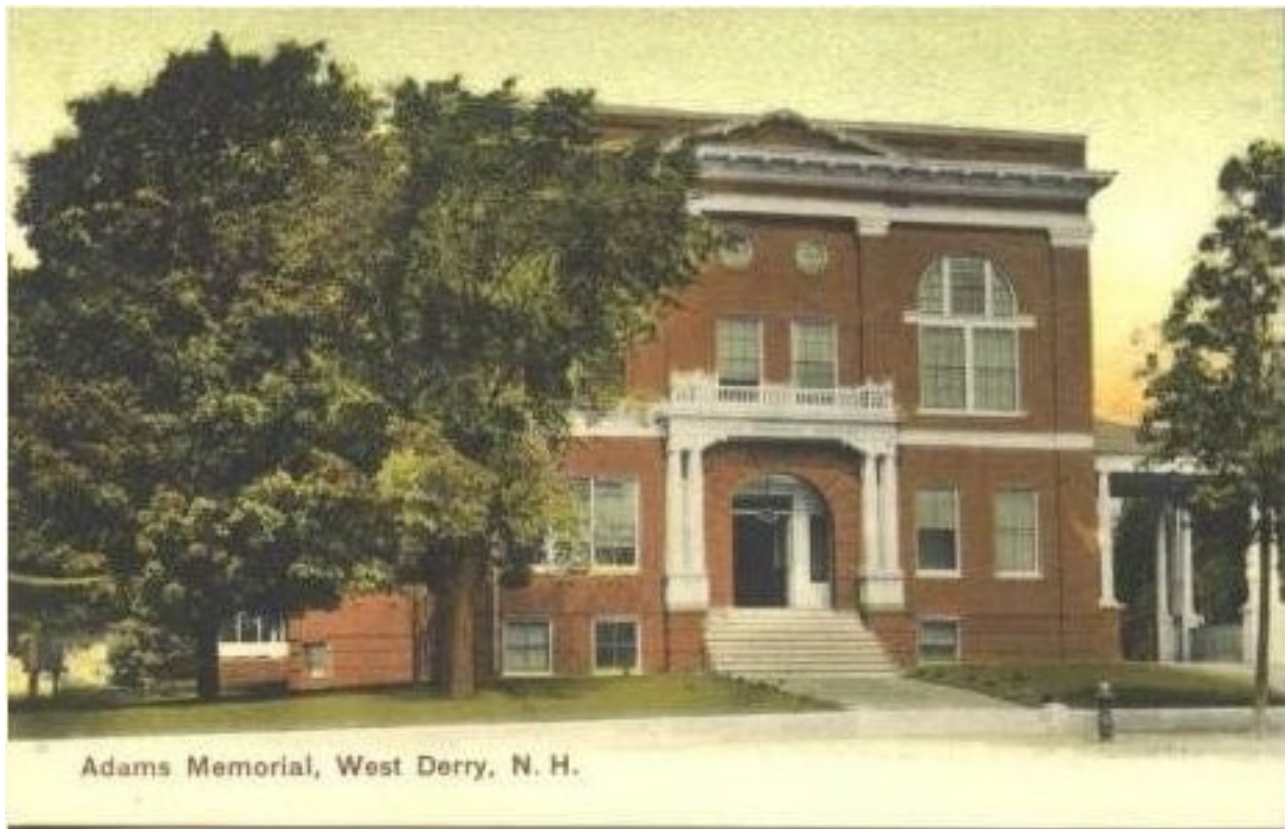




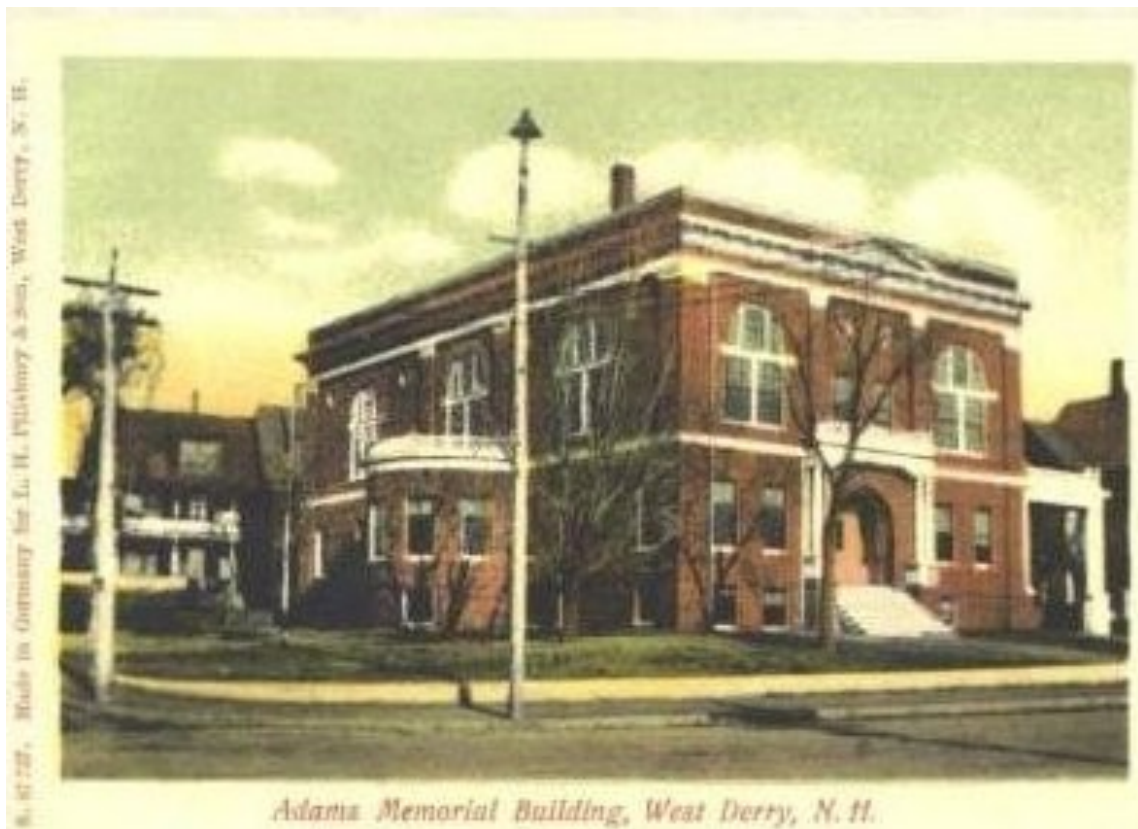
In 1901, Benjamin Adams left a bequest to the town of Derry of \$10,000 to be used to build the “Benjamin Adams Memorial Building” which was to contain “a public hall” and “suitable rooms for the keeping of the town library,” as well as town offices and fire-proof vaults for storage of town records.



Amid controversy over whether the new building would be located in Derry or East Derry, the town voted on June 26, 1901 to build the facility on property donated by Rosencrans Pillsbury.



The Adams Memorial Building, also called the Opera House, quickly became the social center of Derry.



The Derry Public Library opened its doors in the Adams Memorial Building, August 10, 1905. Rosencrans Pillsbury also gave \$1,000 to buy the first books. A town appropriation of \$500 furnished the space.



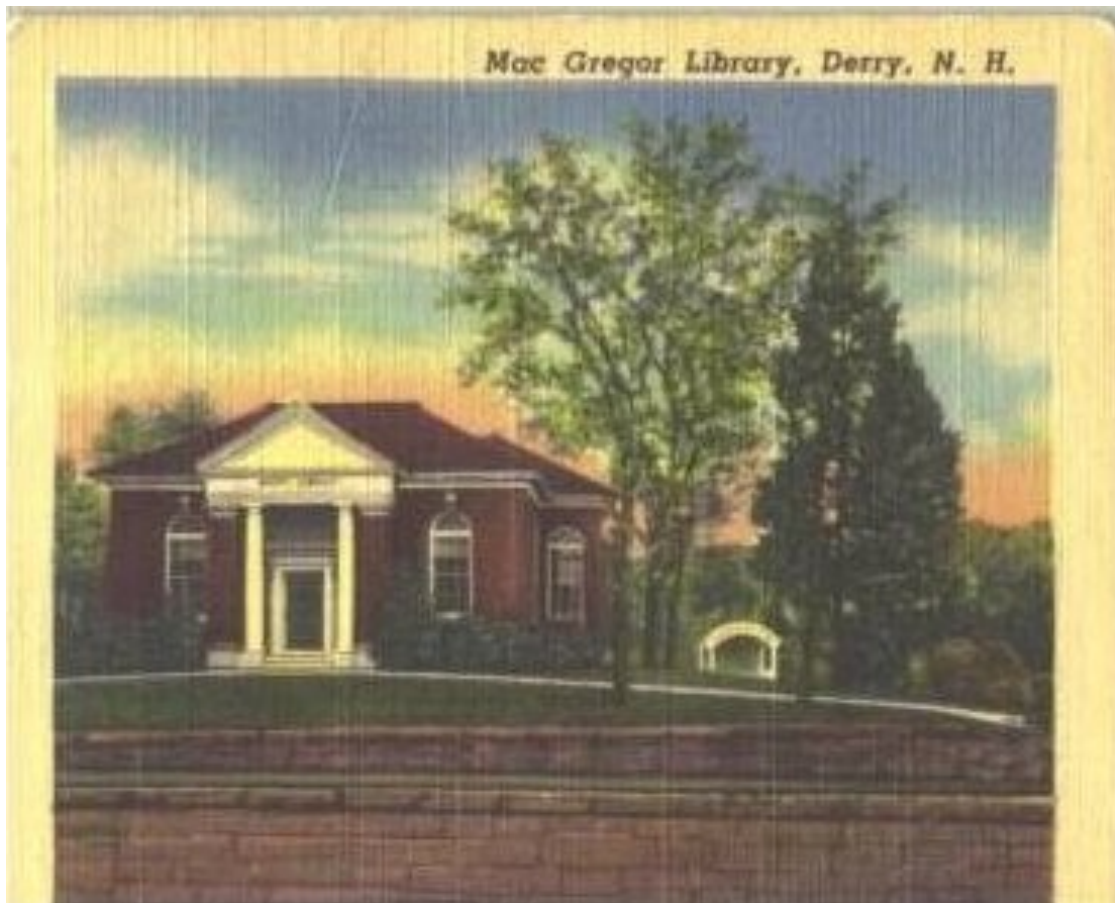
Rev. William Gaskin, a Universalist minister, was appointed librarian; his daughter Elsie Gaskin, assistant. The Reverend resigned after six months due to ill health and Miss Elsie Gaskin was appointed librarian.



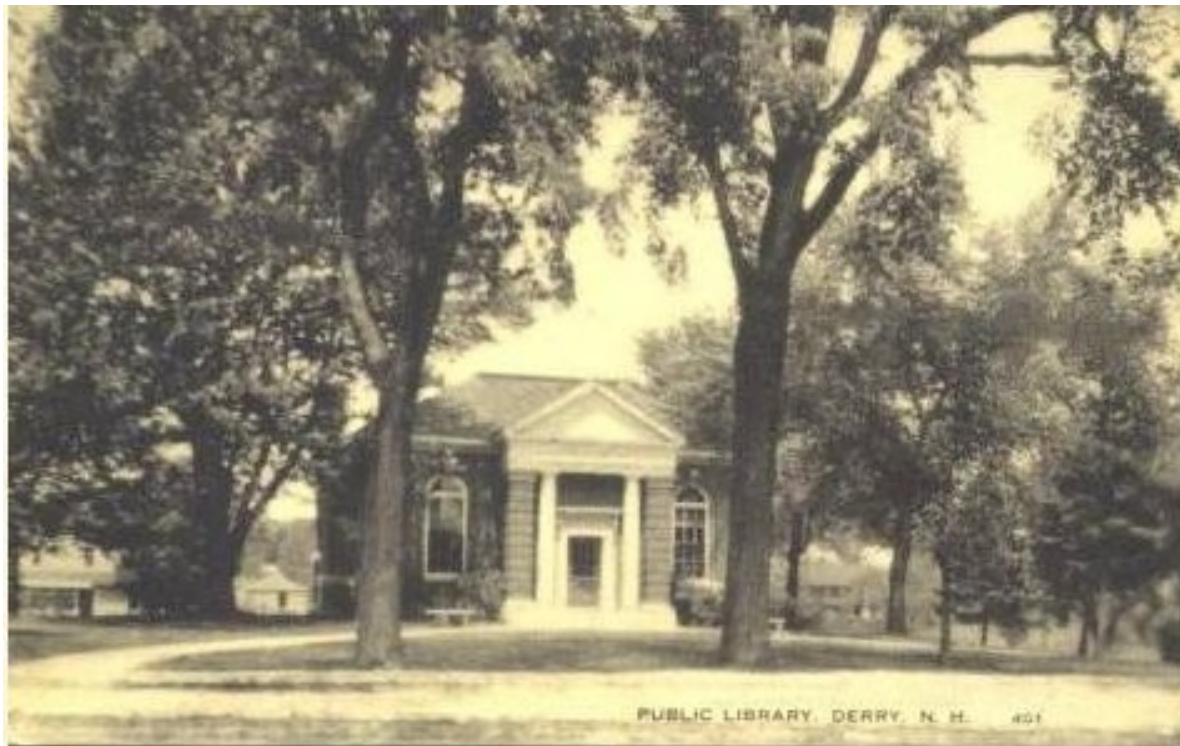
The book collection numbered 1,229 and in the first year 922 cards were issued and 9,747 books loaned. This patronage showed the popularity of the library. It was felt the new library would supply a much needed factor in development of the educational and literary tastes and habits of the community.



In 1923, wealthy capitalist and philanthropist Henry F. MacGregor died and left provisions in his will for the construction of a new building to house the library, as well as for an adjoining public park. Henry's widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens MacGregor, oversaw the fulfillment of the terms of Henry's will.



A parcel of land was purchased on East Broadway, the main street through the center of town. An attractive red brick building, designed by architect George G. Adams, was constructed on the site.



**The entire project involved an investment of approximately \$67,000.
The new building was formally dedicated on January 14, 1927**



**Photo of the interior of the library. The sign under the window reads,
*"Only clean hands may touch these books."***



Of particular note was a stained glass window taken from the MacGregor home in Houston, TX, depicting the MacGregor coat of arms, which was installed in the rear wall of the new building as a memorial to Henry. *The photo here shows the MacGregor window in its current location in the New Hampshire Room.*



*Photo of the interior of the library prior to the addition.
The window in the background is the MacGregor stained glass window.*



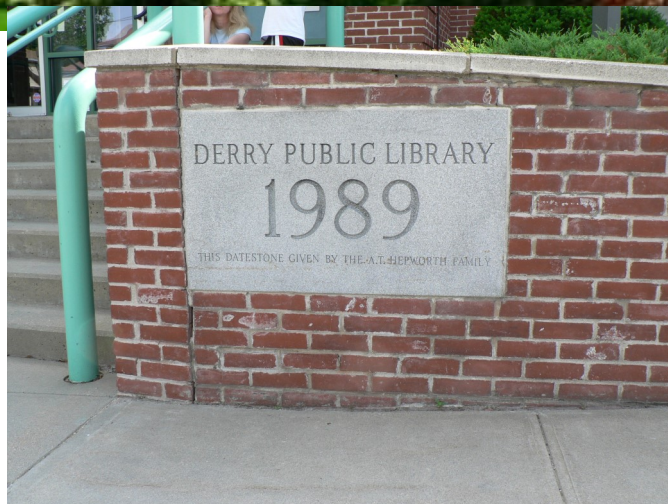
The fireplace of tapestry bricks and fixtures were the gift of Mrs. Elsie Gaskin Griffin, former librarian. Directly over the fireplace is a picture of Mr. MacGregor painted from memory by his widow.



As the population of Derry grew, so did a need for expanding the library. In 1977, the Board of Trustees obtained a federal grant of \$25,000 to finish the basement of the library for a Children's Room.



Then, in 1989, Paul Collette, Derry's first mayor, became the driving force behind the acquisition of funds for a 15,000 square foot expansion, more than quadrupling the space. A \$2,345,000 bond issue was approved in October, bids were let in March, and construction began in May.



The architectural firm of Ingram-Wallace of Manchester and the construction company of DCM North of Hooksett created the library we enjoy today. The new building opened March 8, 1990.



Today's library is an integral part of a vibrant community.

Our mission is

"The Derry Public Library is a welcoming space for the community to connect, explore and grow."