

Groton Public Library: Then & Now: 1994 & 2024

Library Photographs from the 1990's (Before the 1999 Renovation and Expansion Project) Compared to the Library Today

In Celebration of this 25th Anniversary Year of the Project's Completion!



Then & Now: Aerial View of the Library

1994: 4,000 sq. ft



2018: 17,000 sq. ft.



1893 Historic Library with 1999 Expansion Down and Back

Aerial view of the Groton Public Library from above Main Street.

The yellow line indicates the approximate limits of the original 1893 structure and the 1999 addition.

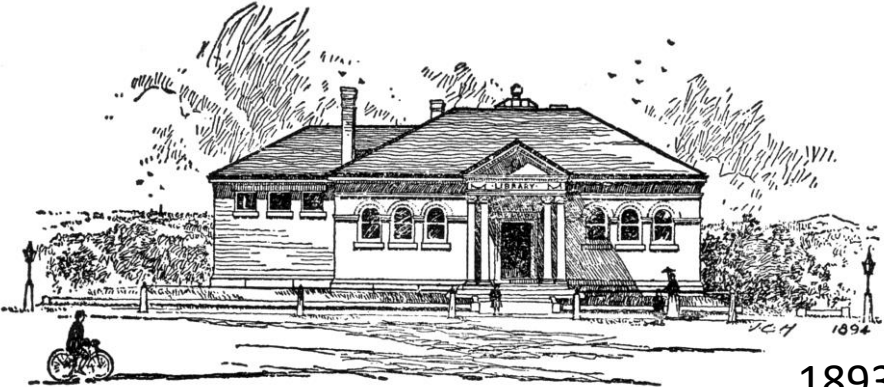
GPL QUADRUPLED IN SIZE, going from 4,000 to 17,000 square feet!

The Library purchased the adjacent parcel of land for the expanded parking lot.

2020 drone photo by John Ellenberger



Then & Now: Historic Library Front Preserved



1893



1993



2018

1999 Library Building Expansion

1893 Building



SOUTH ELEVATION

4,000 to 17,000 sq. ft.

Then & Now: Library North Side

1994: 4,000 sq. ft with 2 floors



2024: 17,000 sq. ft. with 3 floors



Then & Now: Library Rear (note Playground Rd.)

1993



2018



Then & Now: View from Playground Road

1994



2024



Then & Now: Parking Lot

1994: 17 spaces (0 accessible)



2020: 39 spaces (2 accessible)



Then & Now: Back of the Library

1990: 4,000 sq. ft.

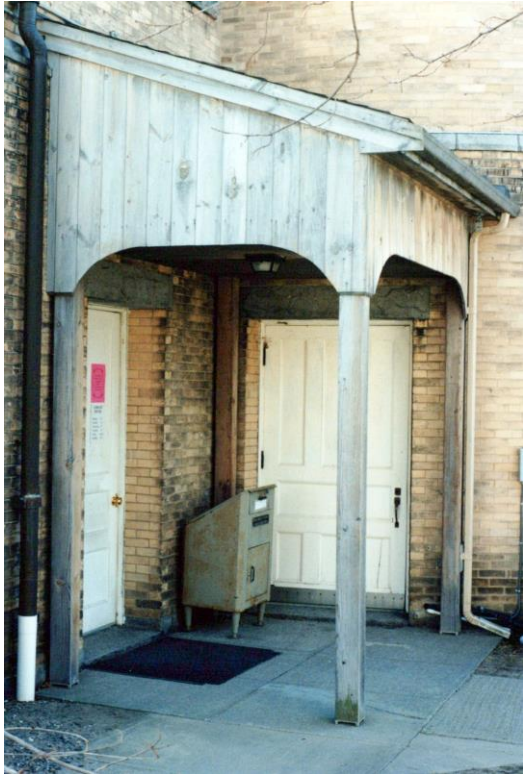


2020: 17,000 sq. ft.



Then & Now: Rear Entrance Door

1994: Rear Entrance



2014: Rear Entrance



Then & Now: Children's Room

1994



2024



Then & Now: Children's Room

1994



2024



Then & Now: Children's Play Area

1994



2024



Then & Now: Same Windows

1994: Children's Room
(Then the bottom floor)



2024: Staff Room & Small Kitchen
(Now the middle floor)



Then & Now: Children's Storytime Rooms

1994: One (& Only!) Meeting Room



2024: Community Room
(1 of 4 Meeting/Conference Rooms)



Then & Now: Main Meeting Room

1994: The One (& Only!) Meeting Room
(Also staff lunchroom and work space)



2024: Sibley Hall
(Also the Owen S. Shuman Art Gallery)



Then & Now: Historical Collection

1994: Historical Collection in Bookcases
(Located with copier on stair landing)



2024: Historical Room & Collection
(And 3rd meeting room)

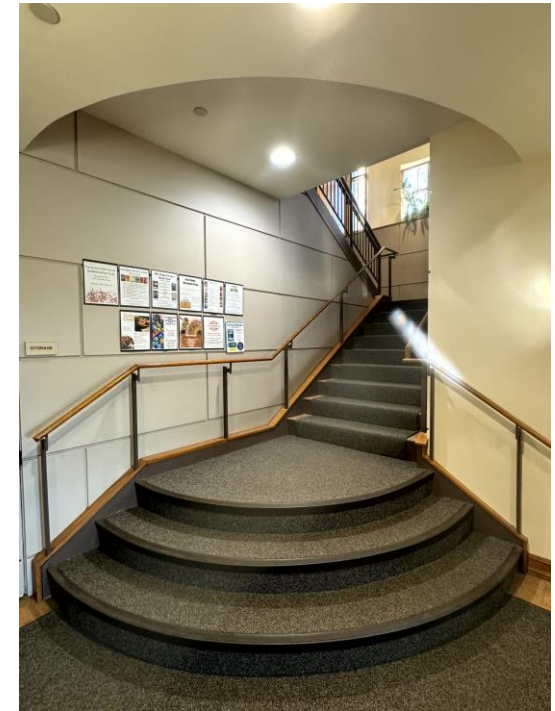


Then & Now: Lobby, Stairs, & Elevator

1994: Entrance, Lobby, and Stairs
(NO ELEVATOR)



2024: Entrance, Lobby, and Stairs, & ELEVATOR



Then & Now: Main Circulation Desk

1994



2024



Then & Now: Adult Fiction Stacks

1994 (Now top floor Historical Room)



2024: Expanded, Open Second Floor



Then & Now: Film & TV Collections

1994: 4 Spinners of VHS Tapes



2024: 4 Aisles of DVDs

(+ Hoopla & Kanopy Apps for streaming video)



Then & Now: Renovated/Expanded Top Floor

1994 4,000 sq. ft.



2024: 17,000 sq. ft.



Then & Now: Top Floor

1994: Circulation Desk, Card Catalog, & Adult NF Stacks



2024: Public Computers, Teen Collections, & Teen Lounge



Teen Area & Lounge Redesigned in 2018

2024: Teen/YA Collection



2024: Teen/YA Lounge



Then & Now: Top Floor

1994: L: Hall to First Floor Stairs & Attic with R: Adult Fiction Stacks



2024: L: Hall to Restrooms (& Secured Attic Access) with R: Historical Room



Then & Now: Adult Non-Fiction

1994: Crammed in next to Circ. Desk
(with one chair)



2024: Spacious, with Reference Desk
(with many seating options)



Then & Now: Aisle Width & Accessibility

1994: 27" Wide Aisle – NOT Accessible
(Owen Shuman demonstrates)



2024: 36" Wide Aisle – ACCESSIBLE
(Vanessa Abraham demonstrates)



Then & Now: Magazines & Reading Area

1994



2024



Then & Now: Staff Office

1994: One Shared Office for All Staff
(Behind Circulation Desk)



2024: One Office for 2 Librarians
(With other staff space elsewhere)



1997 Groundbreaking & 1999 Re-Opening

July 18, 1997: *Groton Herald* cover



Digging in! The Public Library held its ground breaking ceremonies last Saturday with officials using shiny shovels to make the symbolic first cut into the area where the library expansion will be constructed. Shown in photo are Frank Adams, Stahl Assoc. Architects, (left to right); Ed McNierney, Building Committee member; Katie Madigan, Library Trustee; Owen S. Shuman, Library Director; Mike Muse, Castagna Construction Corp.; Martha McLure, co-chair Library Endowment Committee. Valerie Jenkins, Library Trustee, is in the back.

March 6, 1999: Ribbon Cutting



We Thank All Who Made This Possible!

- Town of Groton Trust Commissioners, John H. Robbins Library Trust
- Mass. Board of Library Commissioners, State Construction Grant
- The Voters and Taxpayers of Groton
- Many Generous Gifts from Library Supporters
- Library Trustees: James G. Cullen, Valerie D. Jenkins, Sandra A. Lovelace, Katherine L. Madigan, Michael G. Manugian, and Andrew B. Searle
- Building Committee: James G. Cullen, Valerie D. Jenkins, Edward J. McNierney, Cola G. Parker, Owen S. Shuman, and James R. Western

