



JOHN BASILESCO/Staff photo

Pelham's former library has been included on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

Pelham's former library deemed historic by state

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PELHAM — A building rich in town history has been added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

It is the town's former library on Main Street, which served in that capacity for more than a century until the new facility opened in 2003.

When it opened in 1896, the building also housed a town office, where selectmen met and kept records, and a memorial room, with marble plaques honoring Pelham veterans of the Civil, French and Indian and Revolutionary wars, said William Hayes, past president of the Pelham His-

torical Society.

He will serve as curator of a new museum inside the building that will open before the end of the year.

For a while, Pelham District Court operated out of the building before moving to another location and eventually merging with Salem District Court, Hayes said. A local American Red Cross chapter used the building during World War II to prepare bandages, he said.

Hayes said he is pleased the building has been designated as a historic building by the state. He also expects that it will be named to the National Register of Historic Places.

"It recognizes the uniqueness of

the building," he said, "and it should help us in the future when we renovate the building."

The historic designation should help the town receive grant money to refurbish the aging structure, Hayes said. Meanwhile, work to establish a town museum in the building continues.

Some display cases are in place and more are being set up, he said. The woodwork is being reconditioned and the ceilings are being painted.

The building has not changed much over the years, but needs repairs, Hayes said.

The slate roof needs to be fixed, and the dormers and windows are in disrepair, he said. The building also hasn't been painted in years.