

The mantel clock in the Black Reading Room appears to be one of the original furnishings for the library when it was built and dedicated 1896/97.

It was made by the firm of B.E. Cook & Son, Northampton, Massachusetts. The maker is marked on the clock face.



This father-son partnership firm was in existence from 1858-1900. This is just one firm in the series of silversmiths, jewelers and watchmakers in Northampton for many years.

See this link <http://www.historic-northampton.org/collections/garecollectionII.html> for the Gare

Collection at Historic Northampton, which gives more details about the firm and the father, Benjamin E. Cook, Sr., (1803-1900) and Benjamin E. Cook, Jr., (1841-1930), who also served as the first Mayor of Northampton.

The clock is 16  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long; 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide; 9 inches tall and winds with a key. The original brass key is in the Meekins archival file.



The clock is heavy but hollow in some parts. It may be marble or granite, with rose-colored marble inlays. There are simple lines and floral motif decorations engraved in the housing and gilded. The clock face seems to be enamel or porcelain with painted numerals and a brass clock mechanism as well as brass decorative elements around the glass. The gold decorations around the clock face itself may be gilt. The interior of the clock is as yet unexplored. There is a wooden board screwed into the bottom of the clock. There are some chips in the clock housing, but overall it is in good condition. The glass bezel is intact and it open and closes correctly. (See photographs below for the front and rear views of the clock.)



