

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received **APR 29 1981**

date entered **MAY 28 1981**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic _____

and/or common **BOSCAWEN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

2. Location

street & number **King Street (Boscawen Plain)** _____ not for publication

city, town **Boscawen** _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district **Second**

state **New Hampshire** code **33** county **Merrimack** code **013**

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name **Town of Boscawen--Public Library**

street & number **King Street**

city, town **Boscawen** _____ vicinity of _____ state **New Hampshire**

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **Merrimack County Courthouse
Merrimack County Registry of Deeds**

street & number **PO Box #248
North Main Street**

city, town **Concord** _____ state **New Hampshire**

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title **NONE** has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Boscawen Library is a one-story brick building consisting of three rooms and full basement. It was designed by Guy Lowell of Boston, Massachusetts in 1912 for a public library and repository for town records.

Facing the front of the building, which is on the east side of King Street facing west, one sees a semi-circular pillared portico with two Doric columns and two half-engaged columns resting on two half-circular granite steps.

A divided door is surmounted by a semi-circular fan light with half side lights on either side. Over the fan is decorative carved molding which continues in muted cornices.

Two full-length--twenty over twenty light--windows are recessed under a blind arch with marble keystone and impost blocks. Decorative iron grills protect the lower half of these windows.

There are two chimneys, the one to the right or south end is false erected for balance. One to the left, or north, is the real chimney which juts out a foot but does not disturb the symmetry of the building.

The gable roof is slate. The foundation has a change of brick arrangement to add interest and break monotony.

The north side of the building shows the smaller window construction, and all section housing the two smaller rooms. On the northeast corner is the Selectmens room.

In the East picture (photographer facing northwest because of shrubs preventing a full picture) we see a dignified back door with transom and pediment and half-engaged columns. To the right is the one jarring anachronism--a bulkhead (originally for putting wood in the cellar for the wood-burning furnace) raised and covered for Civil Defense personnel now occupying the north end of the basement. This was found to be causing dampness and deterioration, thus the cover from the roof was installed. All could be easily removed and present no permanent problem. The two windows--one east, one south--are in the librarians room.

On the south, we are facing north, the same window treatment and an added feature with a bullseye window added purely for beauty, high up on the false chimney wall.

Inside the front door one enters a small foyer with inner door and closets either side which open from the main library. The floor is marble grout throughout and the walls are panelled oak with pilasters and entablatures rising to a segmented vaulted ceiling of plaster. Windows are all recessed in panelled reveals.

A plain marble-bordered fireplace has the following inscription over it deeply carved into the wood panel. "This building was presented to the Town of Boscawen for its library and its records by John Kimball, the heirs of Enoch Gerrish, Benjamin Kimball August 20, 1913."

Oak furniture (seen in the interior view) and three chandeliers plus several other heavy solid tables are all original as are the book shelves built in on two walls and two stacks on the southern end.

A permanent librarians desk is opposite the main door, is panelled and painted white.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1-DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Photographs of the donors, Daniel and Ezekiel Webster, Dr. Samuel Wood and several other prominent Boscawen citizens adorn the walls. There are two glass-front bookcases of a later date but in keeping with the period.

The Selectmens room on the northeast corner has plaster walls, two windows and a walk-in vault. This room is plain and utilitarian.

On the southeast corner the Librarians room is larger with book shelves on four sides--broken only by the windows. These shelves we feel are original to the building with the only change those on the south side are glass-doored to protect rare books. The same floor treatment is in both rooms.

Leading from the main library and behind the librarians desk is a door to the back hall and stairs to the basement, which is full size with the north third having a temporary partition for the separate Civil Defense room. The middle section has the furnace and the south side has two large lavatories and movable stacks for extra library materials.

The building is on the original site, land donated by Frank L. Gerrish--an heir of Enoch Gerrish. It is bounded on the west by King Street; north and east by Sanborn Farm (originally Frank L. Gerrish) south by the road (closed to gates and bars) which ran from King Street to a brickyard siding at the rail road. Across the street is the Boscawen Congregational Church parsonage and Community Park owned by the church.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Boscawen Public Library is a small rural library building which was designed by the distinguished Boston architect Guy Lowell. The structure was given a colonial revival style which was seen as harmonizing with its village setting; this harmony, in turn, led to the structure's use as a prototype for several nearby village library buildings designed by other architects.

Architecture: The Boscawen Public Library is one of New Hampshire's best examples of a small institutional structure in the colonial revival style. Funds for its construction were donated by two brothers, John Kimball and Benjamin Ames Kimball, who had become wealthy through investment in local industry. Both were public-spirited men; Benjamin Kimball had been closely associated with Boston architect Guy Lowell (1870–1927) during the planning and construction of the New Hampshire Historical Society Building (1909–1912) in nearby Concord.¹ Kimball was therefore instrumental in engaging the Boston architect to design the Boscawen building. Local pride entered into the arrangement, also; this was the era when libraries donated by Andrew Carnegie were appearing throughout New England, and the committee in charge of building the Boscawen Library were anxious to build their own structure strictly with local capital and with a design by an architect chosen by local citizens.²

Lowell's design for the Boscawen Public Library was deliberately "colonial." This style, contrasting with the grander Greek and Roman designs that Lowell favored for more monumental structures, nevertheless permitted free expression of the architect's Beaux-Arts-derived classical vocabulary.³ In scale, materials, and detailing, the Boscawen Library harmonized with the predominantly Federal-style structures that line the town's King Street. The structure was also a substantial expression of local progressivism, for it was one of New Hampshire's first public buildings in the colonial revival style. As such, the building was the precursor of several other nearby colonial revival town libraries. Those at Belmont (1927–8) and Allenstown (1932), in particular, share Boscawen Library's general plan, fenestration, and detailing.

¹Dedication of the Building of the New Hampshire Historical Society (Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1912)

²Dedication of the (Boscawen) Library Building (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Printing Company, 1913), pp. 14–15.

³Dumas Malone, ed., Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XI (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933), pp. 457–458.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dedication of the Building of the New Hampshire Historical Society. Concord, N.H.:
 New Hampshire Historical Society, 1912.
 Dedication of the Library Building (Boscawen, New Hampshire). Concord, N.H.: Rumford
 Printing Company, 1913.

-continued-

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Penacook, N.H.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	1	9	2	8	1	7	1	1	1	0	4	7	9	9	4	0	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing									

B

Zone			Easting						Northing								

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map #81-D, parcel #12.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy R.W. Sanborn and other Trustees

organization Boscawen Public Library date December 15, 1980

street & number Box #242 telephone 796-2211

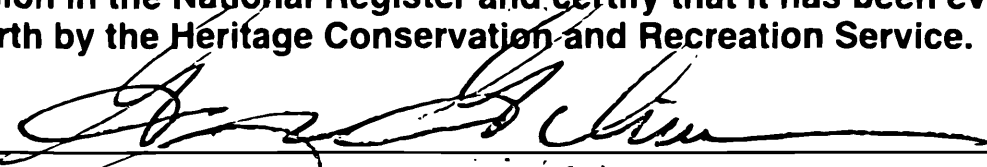
city or town Boscawen state New Hampshire

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

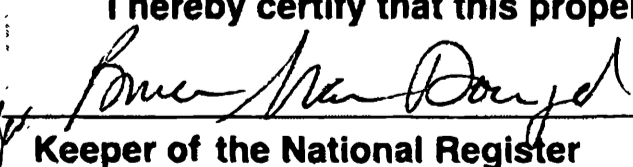
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, Department of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date April 9, 1981

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



Keeper of the National Register date 5/28/81

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	MAY 28 1981

MAJOR
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

CONTINUATION SHEET #2-REFERENCES ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. XI. New York:
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933. "Lowell, Guy," pp. 457-458.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

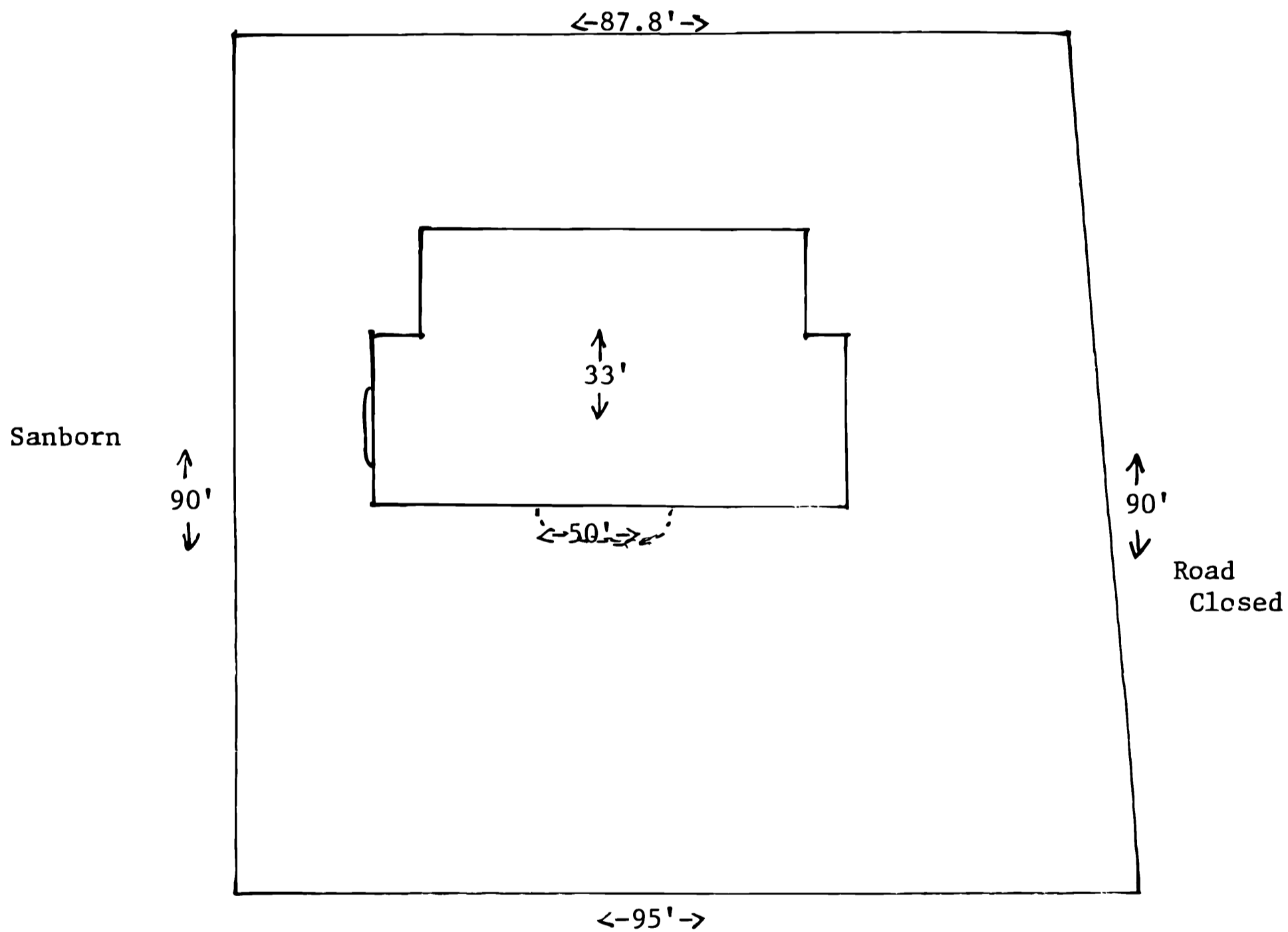
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CONTINUATION SHEET #3-SKETCH MAP ITEM NUMBER PAGE 1

BOSCAWEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sanborn



King Street, Route 3



Scale 20 Feet to an inch.