

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

For HCRS use only

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

received DEC 08 1979

date entered JUN 05 1980

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

1. Name

historic COOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

and/or common COOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2. Location

street & number Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Tamworth _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state New Hampshire code 33 county Carroll code 003

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Library |

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Tamworth

street & number Main Street

city, town Tamworth _____ vicinity of _____ state New Hampshire 03886

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Registry of Deeds
Carroll County Courthouse

street & number PO Box 208

city, town Ossipee _____ state New Hampshire 03864

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA 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 type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cook Memorial Library is a small rectangular framed structure of one story with a basement and unfinished attic. The main body of the structure measures 28 by 32 feet and has a gable roof with hipped ends and deeply projecting eaves supported by paired ornamental brackets at each corner of the building. At the northwest corner of the structure is a low tower with an arched doorway, a clock in the second story, and a high-pitched roof with flared eaves. The upper facades of both the main body of the library and the tower have alternating bands of ornamental cut wooden shingles, while the first floor facade, as well as the side and rear elevations of the building, is clapboarded. All wall covering is presently painted white. The two main first floor rooms are lighted on the sides and rear by rectangular windows bearing flat exterior casings and simple caps. The front of the reading room has a pair of windows treated as a single architectural feature and covered by a long hipped pent roof supported on three pairs of turned brackets. Above this double window, in the center of the second floor gable, is a flattened Palladian window with radiating muntins in its arched portion and leaded stained glass in its rectangular sashes.

The reading room at the front (north) of the building has fine late-nineteenth-century interior detailing. Measuring 28 by 15 feet, the room is lighted by windows on the east and west walls as well as by the paired windows on the north. Window and door casings are varnished hard pine, with symmetrically-moulded faces and corner blocks ornamented by recessed circular bosses. The ceiling, 12 feet high, is sheathed with varnished hard pine boards laid diagonally in a herringbone pattern and supported by ten heavy beams with beaded lower corners. A frieze band 2-1/2 feet deep, created by the application of a wall moulding bearing egg-and-dart enrichment above a continuous lily motif, extends around the upper portion of the walls.

The building has a stone foundation and framing which is sawn to a full 2-inch thickness. The full basement is now used for stack space. In the late 1960s a small addition was constructed on the west wall of the building, behind the tower, to provide toilet facilities.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input 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 1895 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture: The Cook Memorial Library is one of New Hampshire's finest small wooden late-nineteenth-century library buildings. Inspired primarily by the Queen Anne style, this little-altered building incorporates the patterned surfaces, asymmetrical plan and varied door and window openings that characterize this romantic architectural fashion.

Education: The Cook Memorial Library has its roots in the social library movement of the late eighteenth century. Before the age of public subsidization of libraries, citizens in scores of New Hampshire towns established private libraries on a proprietary basis. These institutions were warmly supported by social theorists like Jeremy Belknap, New Hampshire's first historian, as a means of placing a wide range of books in the hands of readers at a moderate cost. By 1820, 159 such libraries had been incorporated by the New Hampshire legislature. Tamworth's social library, established in 1796, was supported by proprietors who paid \$3 a year; eventually it acquired some 600 volumes. It is the direct ancestor of the present library.

Charles P. Cook, whose name the present Tamworth library building bears, was born in Tamworth in 1820 and became a successful local merchant and political leader. His widow, Susan Staples Cook, established the library in his memory in 1895.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Harkness, Marjory Gane, The Tamworth Narrative, Freeport, ME, Bond Wheelright Co., 1958.
 Dawes, Norman H. Parson Samuel Hidden, Pioneer Minister and Librarian of Tamworth, NH
 Tamworth American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 3,860 sq. ft.
 Quadrangle name Mt. Chocorua, NH

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 15'

UMT References

A

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tamworth Tax Map Identification: C-3-V

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 Margaret A. King, Secretary, and James Breasted, Art Historian

organization Trustees of Cook Memorial Library date (603) 323-7907

street & number Also, Richard Devens, III (AIA)
RFD 1, Box 123, Meadfarm

city or town Tamworth, NH 03886 state NH Center Harbor, NH 03226
(603) 253-7301

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 Theodore Wath Acting (Signed by SHPO on Feb. 20, 1980 - see phone report of 6/18/80)

title Commissioner, Dept. Resources & Economic Development
NH State Historic Preservation Officer date October 9, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Bravham date 6-25-80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 6/18/80
 Chief of Registration