

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 2 1980
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Boscawen Academy and (adjacent) "Much-I-Do" Hose House

AND/OR COMMON

Boscawen Historical Society Building and (adjacent) Boscawen Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

King Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boscawen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

New Hampshire, 03303

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

33

COUNTY

Merrimack

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Boscawen Historical Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

King Street

CITY, TOWN

Boscawen

STATE

New Hampshire, 03303

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Merrimack County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street, P.O. Box 248

CITY, TOWN

Concord

STATE

New Hampshire, 03301

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 Boscawen Academy Building is a two-story rectangular brick structure measuring 32 by 42 feet. The walls of the building, which are laid in a common bond with a header course every eight courses, extend to the top of the second floor; the front and rear gable ends are of frame construction. The building has a split stone foundation with squared hammered granite blocks at grade level. The structure is oriented with the narrow end facing southwest toward the road (King Street) and treated as the facade. The building has a low-pitched gable roof, the end of which creates a pediment above the facade. Rising from the ridge of the roof near the front of the building is a square belfry.

The facade of the building has three-bay fenestration. In the center of the first floor is a wide (53 inch) doorway topped by a semielliptical arch which encloses a fanlight with radiating tracery. On each side of the doorway is a window with a wooden sill, a granite lintel with splayed ends, and 6/6 sashes. On the second floor are three windows, the two outermost of which match those on the first floor. The central window is slightly narrower; its top is 16 inches lower; and it has 12/12 sashes.

Both sides of the building have four windows on each floor with sills and lintels similar to those on the front of the structure. All window openings are of equal width, but second floor window sashes are slightly wider than those on the first floor, a total of 14 inches higher, and have larger panes of glass. The windows on the front (westernmost) bay on each floor have been closed with brickwork on both side elevations, evidently in conjunction with stairway alterations in the mid nineteenth century; other window openings have 6/6 sashes. The rear of the building originally had two symmetrically placed windows on each floor. The southernmost of these windows, on both the first and second floors, have been lengthened and converted to doorways, the door on the second floor being accessible from a modern steel fire escape. The two northernmost window openings on the rear elevation remain their original size, but have been closed with brick (second floor) and plywood (first floor).

The entablature of the academy is formed partly of brickwork and partly of wood. At the level of the second-floor window lintels, three courses of brick project slightly from the main wall plane to form an architrave. Above this is a wide wooden frieze, separated from the brick architrave by a wooden half-round-and-cavetto moulding. The deeply-projecting plancia of the cornice is supported by bed mouldings of cyma reversa and ovolo-and-fillet profiles. The crown moulding of the cornice is a cyma recta. While the raking bed moulding of the pediment on the rear elevation duplicates that on the horizontal cornice, the raking bed moulding on the front elevation consists of a Grecian ovolo pierced with vertical double rows of drilled holes. Below this moulding is a row of trinangular drops or guttae.

Front and rear tympani are both clapboarded; in the center of the front tympanum is a semielliptical louvered fan of about the same width as the doorway on the first floor. This is surrounded by an archivolt pierced with decorative drilled holes and bearing a cavetto backband moulding with a beaded inner edge.

The two-stage tower of the academy consists of a square clapboarded lower portion which is capped by a strongly-projecting cavetto cornice, and a square belfry supported by four posts at the corners. These posts have cavetto capitals which support semielliptical wooden arches that span the belfry openings. Above the arches,

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7 DESCRIPTION, continued:

the belfry is surrounded by a strongly-projecting cornice with a cyma recta crown moulding and an ovolo and cavetto bed moulding. The bell deck is enclosed by a balustrade with square corner posts and square balusters. The four-sided dome of the belfry supports a tall central mast that is capped by a weathervane having wrought iron scrolls and a lyre-shaped vane. The bell was presented to the school in 1828 by Daniel Webster, a native of the area.

The roof frame consists of six sets of rafters and rafter ties. The third, fourth and fifth sets of rafters from the front of the building have king posts extending from their apexes to the rafter ties. Between these posts, about half way from top to bottom, horizontal wooden ties extend longitudinally from truss to truss. Two vertical iron rods extend downward from these ties to the second floor as a means of additional support for this otherwise unsupported surface. The tower of the building has a strongly-braced frame of heavy timbers which are supported on two longitudinal beams running from the front rafter tie to that of the second set of rafters.

The Academy building has a single large schoolroom on each story. In the front of the structure is a stairhall with two symmetrical flights of stairs rising to the second story on the right and left of the front doorway. Beneath these stairs are other flights that lead to the basement. On the second floor, between the two staircases, is a small chamber accessible through a doorway in the center of the west schoolroom wall; this room is lighted by a single window in the center of the facade, above the doorway.

The interior detailing of the building generally represents work of the mid-nineteenth century. The Academy was operated between 1856 and 1868 as the "Boscawen Academy and Elmwood Institute," and Jonathan Tenney, the lessee of the building and the principal of the institution during this period, wrote in the 1858 catalogue of the school that "the building has recently been entirely remodeled, and is now finished internally in a style of neatness and convenience, by contributions from the most active and liberal-minded of the present citizens." These mid-nineteenth-century changes are especially evident on the second floor, where door and window casings are of a Greek Revival style and are surmounted by horizontal entablatures embellished by simple mouldings. Doors have four flat panels and their stiles and rails have beveled inner edges. Window sashes have the very thin muntin profiles associated with the mid-century; only the sashes in the central window of the second story of the facade retain the earlier muntin profile of the Federal era.

The building's interior also bears evidence of later remodellings carried out subsequent to 1872, when the Boscawen School District purchased the structure. These later changes include the addition of maple flooring in both schoolrooms, a pressed metal ceiling on the first floor, and wall sheathing of beaded "ceiling" board, laid vertically, on all four walls of the first floor schoolroom.

Both the first and second floor schoolrooms have a variety of slate and painted wood black-

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7 DESCRIPTION, continued:

boards applied to their walls. The second floor room is unusual in having plaster coves at the juncture of walls and ceiling, and a circular plaster rosette in the center of the ceiling. Two iron tie rods extend down from the longitudinal ties of the roof trusses to give additional support to the floor of this room.

"Much-I-Do" Hose House:

The "Much-I-Do" Hose Company building is a rectangular frame structure located north of the Academy building. It has a gable roof and clapboarded walls, and the front of the gable is screened by a clapboarded parapet with a raised central panel. The building has varied fenestration, with three windows and one door on the south wall; a post office window and door and a sliding overhead door on the west elevation; a single window on the north elevation; and two windows on the east (rear) elevation. All doors and windows have casings made up of flat boards. An additional window in the center of the facade lights the attic of the building. Windows are generally fitted with 6/6 sashes. The cornices of the building have deep projections which are supported by ornamental sawn brackets placed at all four corners of the building.

The interior of the structure has varied finish. The post office section has modern wall panelling, while the garage stall on the south is sheathed with beaded "ceiling" boards on walls and ceiling.

The building was originally a small gable roofed structure measuring 16 by 28 feet (about half its present size), with a gable roof and a single central doorway. It was constructed in 1893 to shelter the hose company's equipment, which then consisted solely of one hand reel with 250 feet of 2-1/2 inch hose. During the summer of 1922 the building assumed its present form with an addition that doubled the size of the structure and provided a partial cellar and afforded better accommodations for a chemical truck that had been purchased three years earlier. The building eventually included two adjacent overhead doors on the front elevation. Later it was remodelled for the use of the Boscawen Police Department, with office space on the north side. It presently houses the Boscawen Post Office in this side, while the southern part of the building is used by the Boscawen Historical Society for storage and occasional displays.

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 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 1827

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Colonel William Abbot

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boscawen Academy building is one of the earliest brick academy structures remaining in New Hampshire and is one of the best-preserved survivors from the great age of academy-building in New England (1790-1850). The building reflects the late Federal style in its exterior architectural detailing and exemplifies the proliferation of private academies in small New Hampshire towns during the early nineteenth century.

Architecture: Boscawen Academy is a well-preserved brick structure with over-all design and detailing which reflect the Federal style. It was built at a time when brick buildings were still relatively uncommon in the upper Merrimack Valley of New Hampshire, and is one of only three or four brick structures among the dozen pre-1850 academy buildings that remain in New Hampshire. The building's design and detailing make it one of the most significant late-Federal non-domestic structures in the upper Merrimack Valley.

The Academy building was constructed in 1827-8 under the supervision of Colonel William Abbot (1793-1837) of Boscawen. Abbot was a joiner and designer who is credited with many dwellings in the area and with the construction of meeting houses in the New Hampshire towns of Somersworth, Cornish, Wentworth, Unity, Thornton, Henniker and West Concord. In 1823, along with local master carpenter George T. Pilsbury, Abbot had completed the nearby meeting house for the Westerly Religious Society in Boscawen, now (due to a subdivision of the town in 1860) called the Corser Hill Meeting House in Webster. Thus, the Academy building represents a locally-designed and constructed building of social and architectural importance.

Education: Boscawen Academy was incorporated in 1828 as one of 42 academies that the New Hampshire Legislature had chartered by that year. The Academy was part of a major movement toward improved secondary education in early nineteenth-century New England. Beginning in the 1790s and ending about 1850 with the increasing establishment of public high schools, the academy movement had been encouraged in New Hampshire by the Rev. Jeremy Belknap, the state's first historian. Writing in 1792, Belknap noted that private academies were "instituted at a time when there was a general neglect of town schools in many places; and had it not been for . . . [such] institutions, the neglect might have increased by insensible degrees, till ignorance had overspread the country."

The Boscawen Academy building thus represents an important phenomenon in private secondary education in New Hampshire.

In 1872 the building was sold to the Boscawen School District for \$2,000; it operated as a public schoolhouse until 1966. The building therefore has an additional significance as an important component of the local public school system. In 1967 the Merrimack Valley School District, having acquired title to the building but finding no educational uses for it, deeded it to the Boscawen Historical Society.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coffin, Charles Carleton, History of Boscawen and Webster from 1733 to 1878.

Concord, N.H.: printed by the Republican Press Association, 1878.

Buxton, Willis G., History Boscawen-Webster Fifty Years 1883-1933. Penacook, N.H.:
printed by W. B. Ranney Co., n.d. [ca. 1933].

Tenney, Jonathan, First and Second Catalogue of Boscawen Academy, a Family Day School.
Concord, N.H.: Butterfield & Merriam, printers, 1857 and 1858.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .8 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	2	8	7	3	5	0	4	7	9	9	2	0	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the easterly side of the Daniel Webster Highway at the northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Robert Malcolm; thence northerly by said highway eight rods; thence easterly parallel with the northerly line of the said Malcolm premises about 16 rods to land of the New Hampshire Bituminous Company, Inc.; thence southerly by land of the New Hampshire Bituminous Company, Inc. approximately eight rods to a point which is 56 feet northerly of the southerly line of said Malcolm's premises; thence westerly by the northerly line of said Malcolm's premises about 16 rods to the point begun at.

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

Virginia L. Colby, Librarian and Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Boscawen Historical Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

134 Mountain Road

CITY OR TOWN

Concord

DATE

December 5, 1979

TELEPHONE

(603) 225-3122

STATE

New Hampshire, 03301

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

George L. ...

TITLE Commissioner, NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

NH State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 29, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

10/8/80

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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PAGE 2

8 SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

"Much-I-Do" Hose House:

This small frame building has a number of connections with the civic life of Boscawen. Presently owned by the Boscawen Historical Society and leased as a United States Post Office, the building was constructed as a smaller structure in 1893 to shelter the hose reel of the Boscawen Hose Company, No. 2. In 1897 a horse-drawn wagon was substituted for the reel, and in 1904 the company was renamed the "Much-I-Do" Hose Company. In 1919 the company purchased a 1917 Ford Model T chemical truck. The building was enlarged in 1922 to accommodate additional equipment and activities, and continued in use by the fire company until 1969.

Between 1971 and 1973 the Boscawen Police Department used the structure as its headquarters. In 1974, having been vacated by the police department, the building was conveyed by quit-claim deed to the Boscawen Historical Society. The Society uses parts of the structure for storage and occasional display while making the northern side available for use as the local post office.

Thus, the structure has served three separate civic functions for the town of Boscawen since 1893, and continues to play an active role in the community both as post office and historical society building.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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According to Boscawen Selectmen's Office:

Boscawen Academy -- Tax map #81-A
Parcel # 8