

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Strafford Rockingham Regional Council

1 Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire

Phone: (603) 778-0885

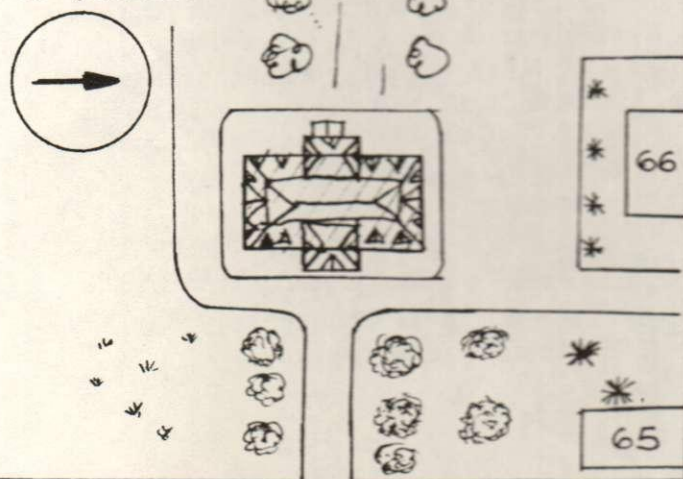
TOWN: Kingston	COUNTY: Rockingham	UTM: Z 19 /E 332375 /N 4755875
SURVEY NUMBER: 69*		USGS QUAD: Haverhill Quad 15' series
COMMON NAME: Sanborn Regional High School		FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Educational
HISTORIC NAME: Sanborn Seminary		PRESENT USE: Educational
LOCATION: W. side Main St., .16 Mi. N. inter. Main & Depot		ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Oliver L. Giddings
OWNER: Sanborn Regional School District		CONDITION: Exc. <del>xx</del> Good Fair Poor Ruins
ADDRESS: 178 Main St., Kingston, NH		INTEGRITY: Original Site <u>X</u> Moved (When: )
MAP & PARCEL #: R34 17		Major alterations & date: Unknown
DATE: c. 1883		1962: 2nd floor converted from chapel to classrooms. Trees planted c. 10 yrs after bldg.
SOURCE: Engraved in Stone		LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl State Local
STYLE: High Victorian Gothic		

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

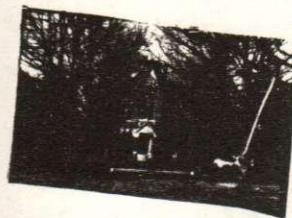
Arched entry gate removed for school buses.

- FOUNDATION: Stone X Brick Concrete Concrete Block
- WALL STRUCTURE: Wood Frame Post & Beam Ballon Frame Other  
Load Bearing Masonry Stone Brick XX Concrete Block Other  
Metal Iron Steel Other
- WALL COVERING: Clapboard Wood Shingle Board & Batten Shiplap Aluminum  
Novelty Stucco Stone Brick X Sheet Metal Asphalt Shingles Vinyl  
Asphalt Sheeting Composite Board Other
- ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle Asphalt Shingle Standing Seam Tim Slate X  
Pressed Metal Sheet Metal Rolled Asphalt Other
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:
- OTHER:  
# of Stories 3 # of Bays 5 Approx. Dimensions 85' x 50'  
Roof Style: Gable Hip Gambrel Flat Shed Mansard X Jerkinhead  
Monitor Sawtooth Other  
Appendages: Porches Towers 2 Dormers 14 Bay Windows Ells Chimneys 1  
Wings Cupolas Sheds Garage Other 2 porticos  
Entry Location: Center X Sidehall Other

## MAP (Indicate North in circle):



## PHOTO



## Description of View:

Front (E)

Photographer: Scott Novak

Negative with: S.R.R.C.

Negative File Number: K-80-30 8-8A



### ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Sanborn Regional High School embodies all the characteristic features of late nineteenth century High Victorian Gothic architecture. The extreme massiveness of the 2½ story building is emphasized by a steeply-pitched hip roof and the strong vertical thrust of its entry tower. The contrast of pressed brick, limestone and colored slates gives the building a lively polychromatic appearance.

The centrally-located tower, which continues above the main roofline, serves as the prime focus of the building's symmetrical design. It is highlighted by a gabled portico supported on clustered collonettes rising to Corinthian capitals. Two pointed-arched windows topped with limestone (labels) hoods dominate the second level. The arched portion of the windows is flanked by engaged columns which visually support a decorative gable projecting from the tower's pyramidal roof. Ornamental cresting embellishes the apex of both. Accenting the symmetry on both sides of the tower, the facade is divided into two bays by brick piers rising from a limestone water table that divides the wall surface from the raised basement. Each bay contains two pointed arched windows on the first story and three on the second, all articulated by limestone corner blocks and keystones. The roofline is defined by blocky, brick corbelling and a bracketed cornice. Four symmetrically placed gable dormers project from the roof face. Cont.

**RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:** The Sanborn Academy is set between Main St. and Church St., approached from either by a stately driveway shaded by a column of maples. Recent additions to the school have not wholly compromised the integrity of the site.

**BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION:** Total 10 Acres. Bounded on the N. by Peard, Reynolds Sanborn Regional, South by Larson, Bartlett, East, Main Street, West Church Street Merrick, Carr, Clark

**REFERENCES:** History of Kingston, 1694-1969. Kingston Improvement & Historical Soc. Exeter Newsletter, Feb.23, 1883; September 4, 1884; March 21, 1890.  
Boston Globe, September 4, 1885  
New Hampshire Architecture: An Illustrated Guide. Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., 1979  
1892 Map

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The Sanborn Seminary, built 1883, in Kingston, NH, is an outstanding polychromatic brick and limestone edifice which has completely retained its integrity of design, setting, materials and workmanship. It is architecturally significant to N.H. as the only school in the state built in the High Victorian Gothic style, and is in fact the finest example of this style in the state's building stock. Relatively few examples of the High Victorian Gothic style were built in N.H., and the grand scale, massing, detail and materials used in the Sanborn Seminary most fully articulate the tenets of this exuberant style. The architect of the Sanborn Seminary is unknown, but the builder, Oliver L. Giddings of Exeter, N.H. (b.1836 - d.1890) is known to have built many monumental structures throughout New England. Among them are the Baptist Church, Exeter, N.H. designed by Peabody and Stearns; Masonic Block and First Baptist Church, Haverhill, MA.; Rice Public Library, Kittery, ME; Stone Hall, Music Hall and Simpson's Hall at Wellesley College; the Burlingame and Merrill Blocks and 3 buildings at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, N.H.; as well as buildings in Philadelphia, PA, and St. Johns, New Brunswick, Canada. The Sanborn Seminary cost approximately \$55,000 to build. It was a gift of Major Edward Stevens Sanborn, b.1819, d.1885, who also endowed it with \$175,000..."as a token of his regard for his native town and his appreciation (continued)

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:** Open Land \_\_\_ Woodland \_\_\_ Scattered Bldgs \_\_\_ Moderately Built Up X  
Densely Built Up \_\_\_ Residential \_\_\_ Commercial \_\_\_ Industrial \_\_\_ Agricultural \_\_\_  
Roadside Strip Development \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

Recorded By: Herb Bubert, Scott Novak

Date: 12/26/79



CONTINUATION SHEET

Site #69\* - Sanborn Seminary

Continuation of Statement of Significance:

of the importance of education."<sup>1</sup> The Major is a colorful character in Kingston history, as a son of one of the original and prominent town families, who strayed to the city of Boston where he earned a fortune as the proprietor of several brothels. The founding of the Sanborn Seminary was a great philanthropic gesture representative of the era of the great American fortunes of Carnegie, Ford, and Rockefeller. Due to the controversial nature of his wealth, his will was contested after his death in 1885, and the Seminary did not open until the fall of 1888 when it was settled.

Educationally, the founding of the Seminary was intended to bring Kingston into the ranks of its neighbor, Exeter. The objective of the Seminary seems to have been typical of such institutions during this period "...designed as a school of the highest class for the preparation of both young women and young men for our best colleges and scientific schools."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Inscription on base of bust of Major E.S. Sanborn, Main Hall, Sanborn Seminary

<sup>2</sup> Circular of Information, Sanborn Seminary, Kingston, NH., 1888, 1889

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Continuation of Architectural Description:

The side and rear elevations exhibit similar polychromatic embellishment and have matching fenestration. The brick piers, cornice and a limestone sillcourse encircling the building at the second story level echo the architectural motifs of the facade. Three symmetrically-placed gable dormers punctuate the roof face with the larger central dormer creating a focus.

Contributing to the building's attractive polychromy, all the roof surfaces display an ornamental banded pattern composed of contrasting colored slates, a common hallmark of High Victorian Gothic architecture.



