

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hamburg Public Library
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 35 North Third Street N/A not for publication
city, town Borough of Hamburg N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19526

3. Classification

Ownership of Property <input type="checkbox"/> private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	Category of Property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	Number of Resources within Property <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing	<u>1</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>		Total
Contributing	Noncontributing													
<u>1</u>	_____													
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<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>													
	Total													

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use
 Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 Education/Library

 Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 Education/Library
7. Description
 Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

 foundation Brick

 walls Brick

 roof Slate

 other Stone
Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hamburg Public Library is located in Downtown Hamburg, a short distance from the main intersection. It is surrounded by mainly residential architecture that is of a vernacular style from the Late Federal and Victorian periods. There are a few Queen Anne style homes. A few small buildings house commercial uses. The former Hamburg Public School (1928, now Borough Hall) is located to the west and the Colonial Revival (1939) Post Office is across the street. The library is a modest sized, "L" shaped, 1-1/2 story, brick building of proportions and scale of the Victorian period. The overall dimensions are 63' by 63'. Each leg of the "L" is 30' wide. The floor to ceiling height is 18'. The building primarily expresses a Late Victorian, Romanesque Revival style. However, many of the details borrow from other periods and styles. Nearly all materials and components including those of the interior, are original. The building is in good to excellent condition.

The "L" shaped building is oriented so that one leg of the "L" extends westward along the right (south) side of the site toward the street, presenting a gabled end as the wall nearest the street. The other leg extends northward toward the left (north) side of the property. Entrance to the library is through a small courtyard, up a few steps and, through the arches of a square portico located on the interior angle of the "L". The portico is surmounted by an octagonal turret. The main roof is gabled at the west and north ends of the legs. The roofs intersect in a hip. On the south side there is a large attic dormer. The turret is roofed with a steep octagonal pyramid. Tall windows emphasize the vertical dimension of the building.

All walls are of hard, red brick. The bricks are laid up with thin "butter" joints in a continuous stretcher bond. The foundation walls project about 6" beyond the face of the main wall. The first floor line is expressed by a 12" wide, sloped watercourse of smooth blue marble (blue veining in a light gray matrix).

The front (west) facade presents the gabled end of the leg, the portico and the side of the other leg. Tall, triple-sash windows are featured at the first floor level. On the gable end single windows are located at the outside corners, and a pair of windows at the center. A Palladian window is featured above, at the attic level. Along the inside of the leg are a single corner window and then a pair of windows between that single window and the entrance portico. The window sills are of smooth, blue marble. The lintels and Palladian window arches are of rusticated, light gray, native limestone. The triple-sash windows consist of double-hung windows with a vent sash above. The top sash has been covered with aluminum siding. The jambs of all windows feature a half-round, full length colonette topped by a small-up shaped capital with a leaf motif.

 See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet**

Hamburg Public Library

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The entrance portico is of brick. The steps and porch floor are of concrete. The portico features 6-1/2' wide archways on the north and west sides. The archways are defined by simple, untapered, 3/4 round, engaged limestone colonettes on each side and a half round arch of rusticated, native limestone above. Above the spring line the archways are filled with a wrought iron filigree grill. The blue marble stone above the front archway is inscribed with the words "Hamburg Public Library". The outside corner of the portico is finished with a 3/4 round, slender (5"), wooden colonette. The colonette is topped with a 2' hemispherical, galvanized metal capital decorated with a radiating leaf pattern. The capital supports a round metal drum about 2' high that reaches above the first floor roof. An octagonal turret rises above the portico roof. Double-hung windows make up the walls of the turret. The windows have been covered with aluminum siding with the exception of two windows that face away from the street. The main entrance is an oak paneled, double-leafed door with a half-round transom above. The doors and transoms are about 13' high. The doors are paneled to a height of 4' with single panes of clear glass above. A bronzed aluminum and glass vestibule has been added to the entrance.

The main roof is shingled with thin, dark gray slate. The slates alternate every five rows from square-tipped to octagonal-tipped shingles. The ridge is capped with an ornamental galvanized sheet metal ridge cap which is painted tuscan red. Finials are located at the peaks of the gables. The eaves have a wooden crown molding of Greek proportions. Eave soffits are beaded tongue and groove boards. The gutters and downspouts are copper. The octagonal turret roof is of flat seam copper with a finial at the apex.

The left (north) side elevation is similar in every way to the front facade except that everything is reverse hand.

The south side elevation faces a narrow yard. Only the front portion is readily visible from the street. The front portion has two single, triple-sash windows separated by a brick chimney that projects about 6" from the wall and penetrates the roof. The windows to the rear of the south side are smaller and irregular in spacing and size. These small windows reflect the arrangement of interior spaces such as the toilet, janitor's closet, stair landing, etc. At the east corner another triple-sash window marks the location of the Reference Room. At the attic level a large dormer dominates the south elevation. The dormer is faced with slate shingles. Three windows in a Palladian arrangement give light to the attic. The dormer gable is decorated with wooden filigree expressive of the Stick Style. The dormer ridge is capped by decorative galvanized sheet metal with a finial at the gable.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Hamburg Public Library

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The rear (east) elevation is very simple. The blue marble watercourse is returned from the sides of the building for about 1-1/2' and terminated. The marble watercourse is supplanted by one of stepped brick coursing. The rear wall is punctured by six high windows. These windows have a sill height about 10' above the first floor. The windows have been covered with aluminum siding. The gutter and downspout are of galvanized steel. A steeply sloped double door allows entrance to the basement.

The main interior spaces include an elaborate entrance rotunda, a children's reading room, reference room and library room (see floor plan). High ceilings and high windows provide ample natural light to all rooms except the rotunda. There are 18' ceilings in all rooms. Dark oak trim and a paneled, 4' high, wainscot extends to all rooms, including the toilet. The moldings are of a Roman profile. The walls are plaster. With the exception of the rotunda all ceilings are elaborately finished in coffered (3") tin plate. The tin plate modules are approximately 2' x 2' or 2' x 4' and arranged in patterns that form borders and fields. Elaborately decorated cast iron radiators are used throughout.

The rotunda is the most elaborate space. The rotunda is an octagonal room about 20' across. All rooms and stairways connect with this space. The octagonal shape is emphasized by eight, freestanding columns. The columns are set on square pedestals about 3' high. The 9" diameter columns extend to a 13' high ceiling soffit from which springs a shallow dome about 15' in diameter and 5' deep. The pedestals are paneled oak. The oak columns are fluted with simple round capitals decorated in an egg and dart motif. On the south side a finely finished stairway leads to a landing and the attic stairway. The attic is not used. The librarian's desk is located on the northeast wall. It is furnished with a wrought iron grill.

A feature of the Children's Room is a fireplace. The fireplace, which was coal burning, is fitted with a green and white glazed tile front. The surround is of light oak. Side colonettes support an oak mantel.

A feature of the Reference Room (originally used as the Board Room) is an inlaid floor. A border of oak strip flooring outlines inlaid tiles of walnut and maple. The 4" x 4" tiles are laid out in a checker board pattern.

The light oak book shelving in the Children's, Reference and Library rooms is of a later vintage.

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The building was designed originally as a library and is still used as a library. There has been little change to the building. Changes to the exterior include covering the upper sash of the triple-sash windows and the high windows of the rear wall with aluminum siding. Although this has changed the expression of openness somewhat the window openings are still clearly articulated. The original sash has not been removed, merely covered. A vestibule was added to the front entrance. The light framed bronzed aluminum and glass vestibule still allows full view of the original entrance. The most serious loss of integrity on the exterior has resulted from covering the windows of the turret with aluminum siding. The siding was wrapped around the whole. Although the original windows are still in place the articulation of window openings and the visual quality of the turret have been largely obliterated. Other missing elements include several cresting components and finials from the roof ridge and some brick mortar (perhaps 2% to 3% of the wall area).

The interior spaces are remarkably well preserved. Where additional shelving has been installed it has been carefully cut to preserve the original moldings and wainscoting. The most serious loss of integrity on the interior has been the installation of suspended, strip florescent lighting in the Children's Room and the Reference Room. In order to suspend the lighting, small holes were cut through the ornamental tin plate ceiling. More offensive, however, are the facts that the lighting blocks full view of the original ceiling and that the lighting layout ignores the pattern of the tin plate.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1903 - 1904

Significant Dates
1903
1904

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder

Dreibilbis, Monroe M., Architect

Seaman, Charles F., Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Hamburg Public Library is significant as a well preserved example of turn of the century architecture in Hamburg, and as the first public library building to be built in Berks County. The library is representative of the high style architecture and epitomizes a flourishing period of development in Hamburg. Although not the first library to be established in Berks County, the Hamburg Public Library was the first to be designed and constructed specifically for use as a public library.

In February, 1903 the County School Superintendent appealed to Andrew Carnegie for help in building a library in Hamburg. Carnegie responded by giving \$10,000 toward the construction of a library building. The School Board provided a site for the library on the corner of the Hamburg Public School property. The community provided \$500 for books and the School Board committed itself to provide \$1,000 per year for the staffing and maintenance of the library. Monroe M. Dreibilbis was engaged to design the building. Dreibilbis, as best can be determined, was a local architect. Charles F. Seaman was awarded the contract for construction. The cornerstone was laid on October 12, 1903 and the library opened its doors to the public on November 5, 1904. The library remained under the care of the School Board until 1966 when the building and site were transferred to the Borough of Hamburg.

The building has remained virtually unchanged except for the addition of book shelves and fluorescent lighting in the 1940's and 1950's and the covering of some windows with aluminum siding (an energy saving measure) in 1983.

The architectural styles found in Hamburg are often altered or mixed with one another and do not express the purity of style more often found in larger communities. A style that may have been introduced in Philadelphia often found its way to Reading a few years later with some locally interpreted features. In turn, styles would often appear in Hamburg a few years following their introduction in Reading and with even more of a vernacular twist. New styles appeared later in Hamburg, continued longer and were often subjected to much local interpretation. In particular, most styles are given somewhat of a Germanic flavor by the use of certain architectural forms or by the details of the brick work or wood work. Even most of the high style buildings

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Hamburg Public Library

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express this adoption of styles to the local culture. The Hamburg Public Library is representative of the high style buildings that appeared during the Victorian Period.

The Hamburg Public Library borrowed freely from a variety of turn of the century styles and incorporated a few inventions of its own. The roof lines are more reminiscent of the Gothic Revival style, the arched windows and doorways are Romanesque Revival, rusticated lintel and arch stones borrow from Richardsonian Romanesque Revival, yet the eave crown moldings are of Classical Greek Revival profile and the dormer window is decorated with filigree reminiscent of the Stick Style. The interior details and moldings echo a modified expression of Roman architecture.

Other high style buildings in Hamburg represent their styles in a similar manner. These include the following:

Veterans of Foreign Wars lodge at 1 South Fourth Street - A 2-1/2 story, rambling, brick, Queen Anne style building with peaks, dormers and turrets somewhat expressive of the German Gothic style.

Store and offices at 57 North Fourth Street - A 3 story, brick row building in the Italianate style with a Victorian store front.

Offices at 260 West State Street - 2-1/2 story, brick building in the Gothic Revival Style with the addition of Stick Style filigree at the gable peaks and the use of molded brick in the German vernacular.

First National Bank and Trust Company at 20 South Fourth Street - A 2 story marble building, with a columned entrance done in the Classical Revival style primarily with Greek detailing.

Hamburg Savings and Trust Company at 52 South Fourth Street - A 2 story limestone building done in the Classical Revival style with Roman arched windows.

First United Church of Christ at 86 South Third Street - A 2-1/2 story, brownstone church - done in the Gothic Revival style combining elements of Norman Gothic and English Perpendicular styles.

Saint Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church at Pine and Church Streets - A 2 story yellow brick church that combines Norman and German Gothic forms laid up with Roman style brick.

Bethany United Methodist Church at 101 North Third Street - A 2 story, rubblestone church in a rambling "Country" Gothic style with some Romanesque forms and Gothic details.

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The other public buildings in Hamburg are not comparable. The Borough Hall is housed in a 1928 school building, the Union Fire Company is contemporary and the Post Office is a Colonial Revival building from 1939.

The Hamburg Public Library building was not only designed to function as a library, but also, to symbolize the importance that the community placed upon the values of education and knowledge. The larger than life scale, the special features entrance portico, turret and rotunda, the expression of vertical elements and the better than average quality of building materials gives the library prominence among the architecture of Hamburg and its surrounding communities.

The development of libraries in Berks County began at an early date. The Reading Library was founded in 1763 thirty-two years after Benjamin Franklin established a library in the City of Philadelphia. Like Franklin's library the Reading Library was a subscription library supported by its members. Following a national trend toward the provision of free public library services the Reading Library, in 1898, was reorganized as the Reading Public Library. Other Berks County communities were moved to establish their own public libraries. The Hamburg Public Library was established in 1903 and was followed by Wernersville and Wyomissing.

Although the Hamburg Public Library was the second library to be established in Berks County, it was the first to be built specifically as a library. The Reading Library, the first library, was located in a social hall. In 1910 that social hall was raised and replaced by the present Reading Public Library. The Hamburg Public Library is the oldest library building in the county.

The other sixteen libraries in Berks County include the 1910 Classic Revival, Reading Library; the 1937 Georgian Revival, Wyomissing Library and various modern branch libraries of the Reading Library. The remaining libraries are housed in buildings or portions of other buildings originally built for other purposes.

9. Major Bibliographical Referen

Bicentennial History of Hamburg Borough, Hamburg Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Berks County Recorder of Deeds, Volume 1482, Page 750.

Architectural blue prints of Hamburg Public Library, Monroe M. Dreibilbis, 1903, Hamburg Public Library records.

Carnegie Libraries - Their History and Impact On American Public Library Development. George S. Bobinski, American Library Association, Chicago, 1969.

Bobinski, George S., Carnegie Libraries - Their History and Impact On American Public Library Development, Chicago, American Library Association, 1969.

Public Library Services For Berks County, Berk's Libraries Planning Project, The Board of Trustees of the Reading Public Library, 1985.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.1

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The property is located at 35 North Third Street, Hamburg, PA. Beginning at the southwest corner at the intersection of the right-of-way of North Third Street and the mutual property line with the old Borough Hall proceed northerly along North Third Street 85.5' to the northern boundary; thence easterly 72.9' to the eastern boundary; thence southerly 85.5' to the southern boundary; thence westerly 72.9' to the western boundary and the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire area and Borough lot that has been historically associated with the property.

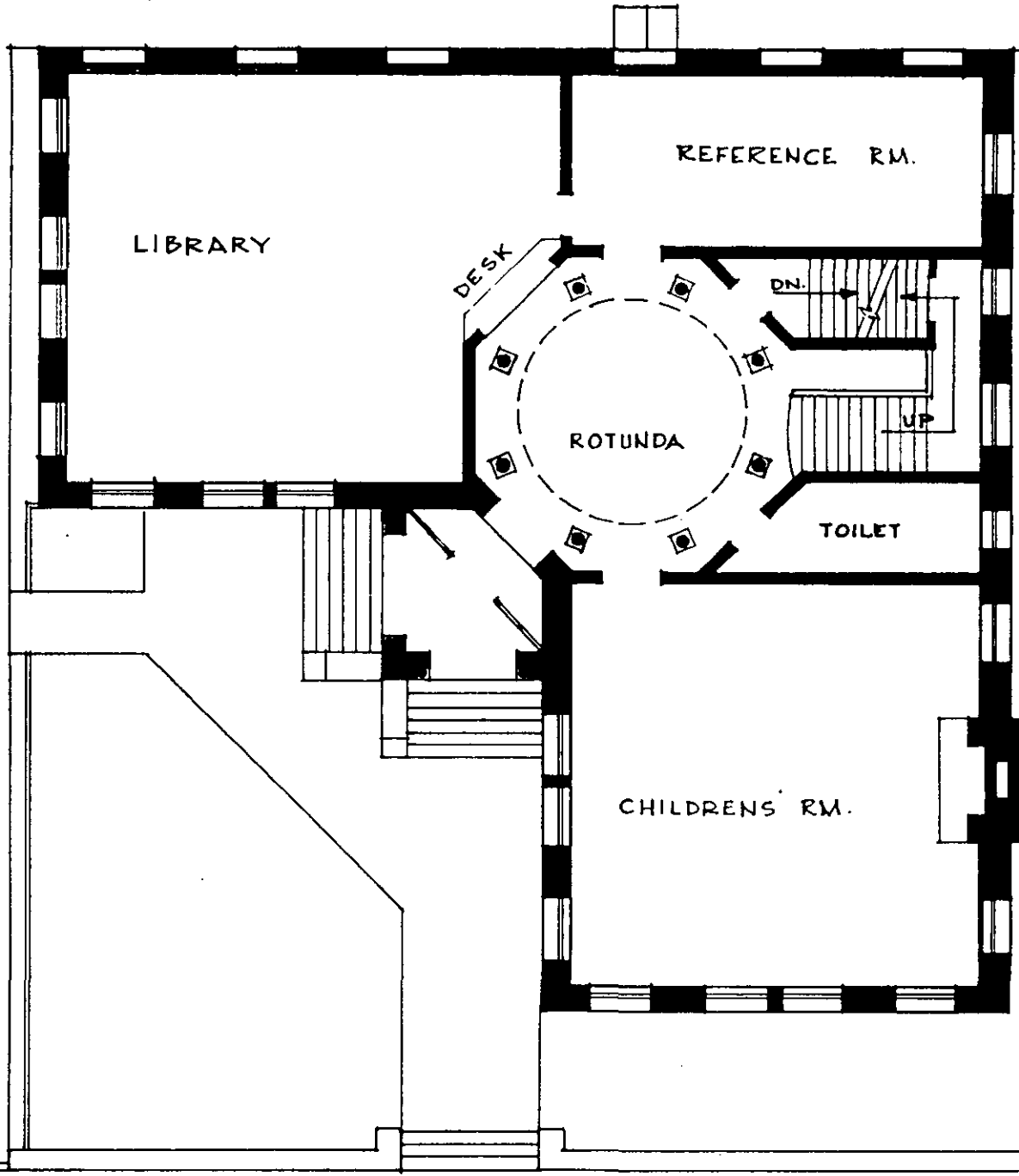
See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

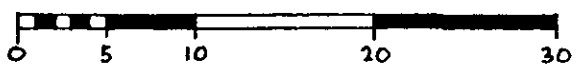
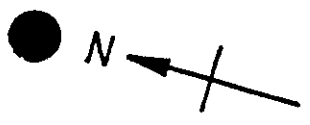
name/title Robert E. Bartmann date July 8, 1988

organization Robert E. Bartmann, Consultant telephone (215) 376-5684

street & number 1324 Pike Street city or town Reading state PA zip code 19604

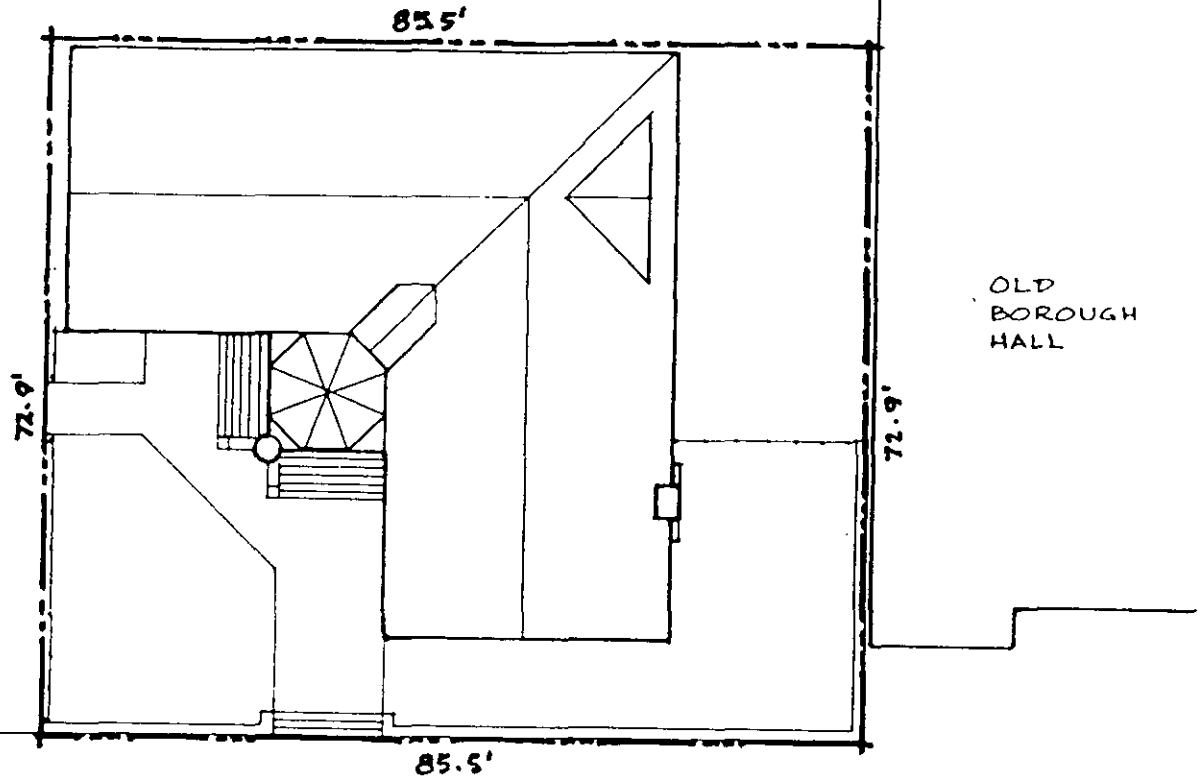


NORTH THIRD ST.

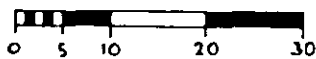


FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 HAMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
 35 NORTH THIRD ST.
 HAMBURG, BERKS CO.
 PENNSYLVANIA

PARKING AREA



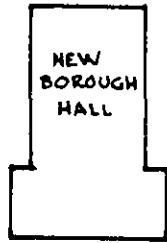
NORTH THIRD ST.



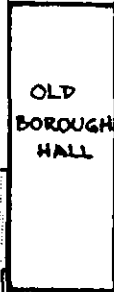
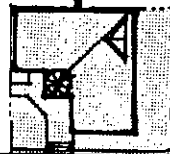
BOUNDARIES
HAMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
35 NORTH THIRD ST.
HAMBURG, BERKS CO.
PENNSYLVANIA

NORTH FOURTH ST.

RESIDENTIAL



PARKING
HAMBURG
PUBLIC
LIBRARY



RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

STATE ST.

NORTH THIRD ST.

RESIDENTIAL



RESIDENTIAL

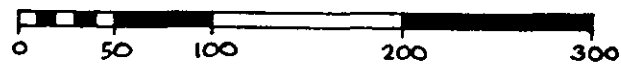
COMMERCIAL

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

SETTING

HAMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
35 NORTH THIRD ST.
HAMBURG, BERKS CO.
PENNSYLVANIA



Hamburg Public Library
Berks Co

Hamburg Quadrangle
Zone 18
E - 416645
N - 4489695

