

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

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



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

**1. Name**

historic Bosworth, Ralph Lyman, House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 833 NW Buchanan Avenue        not for publication

city, town Corvallis        vicinity of        congressional district First

state Oregon code 041 county Benton code 003

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Thomas D. and Katherine L. Powell

street & number 525 NW Mt. Laurel Circle

city, town Corvallis        vicinity of        state Oregon 97330

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Courthouse

street & number 120 NW 4th Street

city, town Corvallis        state Oregon 97330

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title        has this property been determined eligible?        yes  no

date               federal        state        county        local

depository for survey records       

city, town        state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1979
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The R. L. Bosworth House (1922) is a two-story, brick masonry building in the English Cottage Style with stucco exterior finish and red brick trim sparingly used. Rectangular in plan with hipped roof and a cross axial gable on the east end, it measures 41 x 30' and presents its major frontage to the south, on NW Buchanan Avenue. The neighborhood lies north of the central business district of Corvallis and was once a fashionable residential area. However, because it is in the corridor of the Southern Pacific Railroad, which lies to the east of the property, the immediate neighborhood has made the transition to commercial-industrial zoning. A single-story, gable-roofed solarium measuring 14 x 18' extends from the east end of the building. Its multi-paned windows in each of three sides are grouped in large, segmental-arched openings which are the hallmark of the Arts and Crafts Style perpetuated in the 20th century as the English Cottage Style. Other distinguishing features of the building's style are multiple groupings of double-hung windows with many small panes in the upper sash, multiple gable ends on the principal facade, frameless openings in exterior walls, and a broad, tapered outside end chimney with clay pots, or flue liners exposed above the necking. The principal facade, while asymmetrical in detail, is formally organized with two bays each on either side of a central, hood-less entry with rolled jambs and segmental arched head, sidelights the width of a single pane, and a simple porch of three bowed concrete steps. Tripartite window openings in the second story of the west section of the facade are contained in a corbeled gablet with up-turned eaves. The east section of the facade, under a gable with louvered opening in the peak, has as its most distinctive feature a ground-story picture window with a surround of a single row of red header bricks. Other ground story openings in the main block are similarly trimmed. In keeping with the Arts and Crafts/English Cottage Style, the overall effect of the facade is that of a light, taut surface in which pictorial relief is provided by the contrasting dark areas of openings rather than surface decoration.

Walls are constructed of double-layer brick with a 4-inch insulating space between. Exterior brick are faced, as noted, with stucco, and the interior wall is finished with lath and plaster over 2 x 2" furring strips. All double-pitched roof surfaces, including those of the solarium on the east end, a west side porch, and a breakfast nook on the north, are clad with Colorado red composition shingles. A raised concrete porch, ten feet in depth, extends 37' across the easterly end of the rear elevation. It has a flat, built-up roof, classical cornice, five square columns with capitals, and a solid railing--all surfaced with stucco. All gutters are built into the eaves and are coated with stucco. The downspouts are 3 x 4" with decorated straps and funnel tops.

The house originally was oriented to the west at 1109 NW 9th Street. Following Bosworth's death in 1953, the property was managed by Bosworth's second wife, Eva, until its sale in 1978, at which time plans for development called for demolition of a garage and breezeway on the north end to allow for road construction. Early in April, 1979 the house, having been slated for demolition to permit construction of a restaurant, was purchased by the present owners. The building was moved 400 feet from its site fronting 9th Street to a new location fronting Buchanan Avenue, the south property line of the original estate. On August 6, 1979, approximately three months into the relocation process, the building was dropped as it was being winched from its foundation, and it sustained considerable damage. An apparent failure of the winch allowed the 330-ton building to travel uncontrolled about 20 feet before coming to rest against a corner of the old foundation. The house was on its new foundation in September, and the repair and restoration work began. The rear porch was reconstructed to the original configuration, and the small side porch on the present west elevation was constructed to duplicate the lost breezeway. Low concrete retaining walls in

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front and at the northeast corner of the house were stuccoed, painted white and given a coping of red brick to match the color treatment of the exterior of the house. Garden benches and such shrubbery as could be transplanted were combined with privet and box hedges as foundation plantings with the result that the house appears well integrated with its present setting.

Interior spaces are arranged around a central entry stairhall. The staircase, traditional in design, has a shaped handrail and turned balusters which are scrolled around the newell post. Access to living and dining rooms on either side of the hall is provided by two sets of double-leaf French doors with sidelights. The living room and sunroom, or solarium are on the east, and the dining room, kitchen and breakfast nook are on the west.

The upstairs contains three bedrooms with closets, a nursery off the master bedroom, and a tile-lined bathroom with original fixtures. Flooring throughout the house is oak, except in the kitchen, breakfast nook, bathroom, and sunroom. Heating is from hot water radiators. All original glass door knobs, beveled mirrors, bedroom light fixtures, and plumbing fixtures are intact.

The focal point of the living room is a large red brick fireplace with segmental-arched firebox opening. Located on the east wall, it has a molded wood mantelpiece. The hearth is of glazed ceramic tile. The sunroom has a diagonal corner fireplace on the opposite side of the wall. The red oak living room flooring in the living room is laid with a 4-foot border which joins in the corners in a herringbone pattern. The dining room has two built-in corner cupboards, or china cabinets with round-arched doors. The kitchen has its original sink and cabinetry, and the breakfast nook has a corner cupboard similar in design to those of the dining room.

The building is in excellent condition and is being used at present as a realty office, to which use it has been well adapted without detriment to the period feeling or integrity of the house.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1922

Builder/Architect Lou Traver, Contractor

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house built in Corvallis in 1922 for Ralph Lyman Bosworth is significant as the city's preeminent example of the English Cottage Style closely related to turn-of-the-century work in the Arts and Crafts tradition by English architects C.F.A. Voysey and Edwin Lutyens. The house is significant also for its association with distinguished local physician Ralph Bosworth (1890-1953), who, after ten years of practice and with capital accumulated from investments in projects such as construction of the Benton Hotel, built a fashionable house fronting NW 9th Street on a 3.5-acre parcel north of the city limits--a house which he occupied until his death in 1953. Bosworth is noted in medical annals of the state as a major force behind construction of Corvallis General Hospital and as a founder member of the Central Willamette Medical Society. He was elected to the City Council and served two calendar years. In 1922 he resigned his seat on the Council because, at the time, his new house was located outside city limits. Thereafter, he served a year as City Health Officer. His major contribution as councilman had been promotion of a successful \$100,000 bond issue for overhauling the city's water system. While relocated elsewhere on the Bosworth holding to avoid untenable encroachment from road widening in 1979, the house nevertheless embodies the distinctive characteristics of its style and, having been relocated intact, possesses integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and association with its original setting, if not its original location.

Ralph Bosworth was born September 20, 1890, the son of Fred and Minnie Bosworth, in Orleans, Nebraska. An engineer for the Burlington Northern Railroad, the father was transferred to McCook, Nebraska soon after the boy's birth. Ralph Bosworth was educated in public schools in McCook and entered the University of Colorado to study medicine. He was graduated from the University of Colorado in 1912, interned at St. Luke's Hospital, and married Anna Elizabeth Ford, a nurse, in the same year. The pair moved to Corvallis in 1912 also, where Bosworth soon set up his practice.

In 1922 Bosworth built his house on 3.5 acres north of what was at the time the corporate limits of Corvallis. The construction engineer was Lou Traver, Bosworth's partner in the Benton Hotel project and the superintendent of construction for a number of projects on the campus of Oregon State University, including the south unit of the Men's Gymnasium, additions to the Home Economics Building, and the additional story of Apperson Hall.

Dr. Bosworth quickly developed "a large and remunerative practice." In 1918, during the influenza epidemic which swept the nation, Bosworth was placed in charge of a temporary hospital which was set up in Waldo Hall at what was then Oregon Agricultural College. Corvallis recorded 785 cases of influenza, and Bosworth tended his patients night and day until the outbreak had spent its course. By contemporary account, the "precautions taken and the careful nursing no doubt may be credited with the small percentage of deaths." Only four of the 785 stricken died, and the statistics were considered remarkable. (Gazette-Times, Oct. 23, 1975, p. 48)

Dr. Bosworth vigorously promoted construction of Corvallis General Hospital. Prior to Corvallis General, the city had only a small hospital in a house at 21st Street and Monroe Avenue. An earlier hospital closed because of an outbreak of smallpox. In preparation for

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Clark, Robert C., History of the Willamette Valley, Oregon, -Vol. 3 (Chicago, 1927), 475.  
 Biographical note entitled "R. L. Bosworth, M.D."  
 Obituary article, Corvallis Gazette-Times (September 18, 1953), p. 4.  
Corvallis Gazette-Times, "Some More Delay in Matter of Sewer Extension to West" (March 20, 1923),  
 p. 1: "Flu Epidemic Brought Crisis." "We've Come a Long Way," (October 23, 1975), 48, 29.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one  
 Quadrangle name Corvallis, Oregon Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 0	4 7 9 3 9 0	4 9 3 5 6 1 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot D, Marysville Estates Addition to the City of Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon (Tax Lot 904).

### 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 Thomas and Katherine Powell

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date August 1, 1980

street & number 525 NW Mt. Laurel Circle telephone 503/745-5323

city or town Corvallis state Oregon 97330

# 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 [Signature]

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date March 13, 1981

For HCRS use only	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
<u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>12/9/81</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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the hospital project, Bosworth "traveled all over the coast looking at hospitals and working out plans... He worked tirelessly selling the idea to the other local doctors and helping to raise the necessary money." (Obit., Gazette-Times, Sept. 18, 1953) The hospital was financed by about 125 physicians and businessmen of Corvallis and the surrounding area. When completed, "Corvallis General... incorporated many modern facilities for the care of patients and at that time was looked upon as one of the finer hospitals on the west coast." (Gazette-Times, Oct. 23, 1975, p. 29) Bosworth served as the hospital's first president and was also chief of the surgical staff. He also held the chair of surgery for the Nurses' Training School associated with the hospital. During this time Bosworth was "regarded as an authority in his profession and... frequently called into consultation in serious cases, his accuracy as a diagnostician and his skill and ability as a practitioner was widely recognized." (Clark, 475)

As a founder member of the Central Willamette Medical Society, Bosworth promoted the gathering of physicians in neighboring Linn, Benton, Lincoln and Lane counties to discuss current developments in medicine. He also was a member of the Oregon Governing Committee of the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine, the Oregon State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, and the American College of Surgeons. His practice was active until his retirement a few years before his death in 1953.

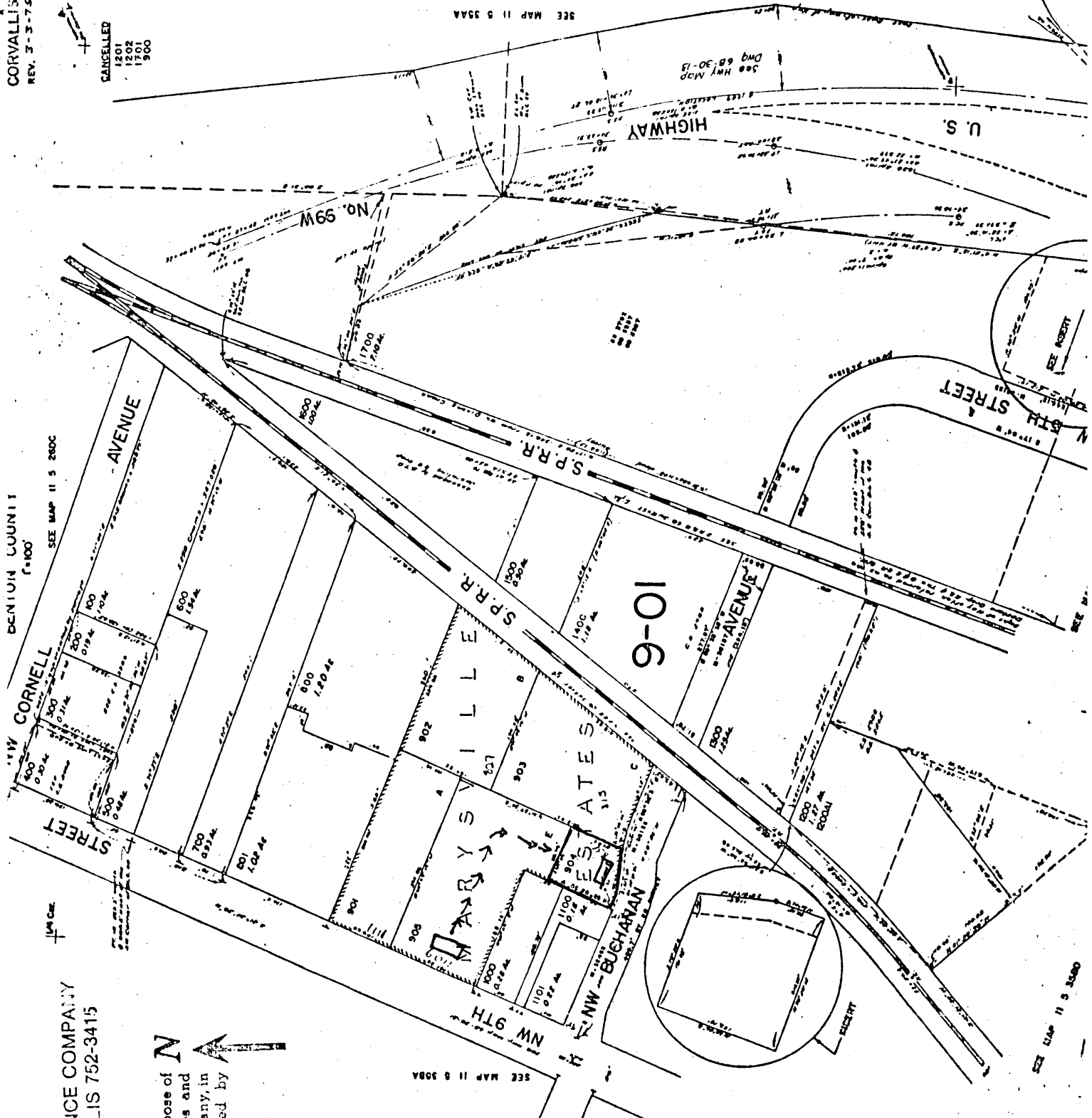
Bosworth's political convictions are reported to have been strongly influenced by his mother, Minnie Bosworth, who came to Corvallis with the newly-weds in 1912. Bosworth ran for a seat on the Corvallis City Council representing the second ward in 1920 and received 249 votes in the primary. In the ensuing election, he received 521 votes and was elected. He took office on January 10, 1921 and held office until January 8, 1923, at which time he resigned because his new house had been completed outside the city limits. As a councilman, Bosworth was assigned to the Fire and Water, Sewer, and Health Committees. He was in large part responsible for the passage of a resolution to issue \$100,000 worth of bonds for the construction, expansion, repair and improvement of the city's water system. He also introduced a resolution for a \$10,000 bond to buy a modern fire engine that could use chemicals because of the water shortage in Corvallis during the summer. During his tenure the Council also improved and constructed a large number of streets and sewers which helped bring Corvallis the image of a "modern" city. After his resignation from the Council, Bosworth was appointed City Health Officer, a position which he "indicated a willingness to accept purely as a matter of service to the community." (Gazette-Times, March 20, 1923) He served one year in the latter capacity and received a salary of \$25 per month.

Bosworth involved himself in the commercial development of Corvallis. With Lou Traver, and with the support of the Kiwanis Club, Bosworth helped capitalize the Benton Hotel, one of the landmarks of downtown Corvallis. He was a director in the Benton County State Bank. The Benton County State Bank Building, entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, housed Bosworth's office for a number of years. He also erected in Corvallis one of the "most modern grocery store buildings in the northwest," a building which still stands at the corner of 5th Street and Monroe Avenue. (Obit., Gazette-Times, Sept. 18, 1953)

Bosworth was interested in other facets of community life as well. He served as team physician for the football and basketball teams at Oregon State College (now University) from 1926 to 1937. He was a member of the Corvallis Commercial Club and was president of the local Kiwanis Club. Eventually, he became a Kiwanis District Lieutenant Governor.

CANCELLED  
1201  
1202  
1501  
500

SEE MAP 11 5 2800



DENIUM COUNIT  
T=100

SEE MAP 11 5 2800

CORNELL  
AVENUE

STREET

SP.R.R.

SP.R.R.

9-01

HARRY STILES  
ATES

NW 9TH ST.

NW BUCHANAN ST.

NW 10TH ST.

SEE MAP 11 5 3080

SEE MAP 11 5 3080

COURTESY OF  
TRANSAMERICA TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY  
ALBANY 928-3368 — CORVALLIS 752-3415



This sketch is made solely for the purpose of assisting in locating certain premises and notability is assumed for variations, if any, in dimensions and locations ascertained by actual survey.

227 N. W. 3rd. ST.  
Corvallis, OR. (752-3415)



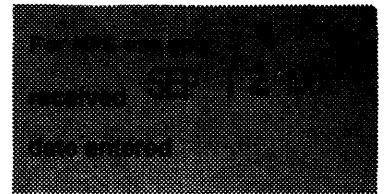
BOSWORTH, RALPH LYMAN, HOUSE

UNDATED PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING HOUSE ON ORIGINAL SITE AT 1109  
NW 9th STREET, CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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BOSWORTH, DR. RALPH LYMAN, HOUSE  
833 NW Buchanan  
Corvallis  
Benton County  
Oregon

Control number: 81000471

Listing date: 12-9-81

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to verify that the correct and complete historic name of the above-named property includes the professional title of the historic figure: Dr. Ralph Lyman Bosworth.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 5, 1986



Bosworth (Ralph Lyman) House  
833 NW Buchanan Avenue  
Corvallis, Benton County  
Oregon

Tim Wydronek photo, 1980  
419 NW 26th Street, No. 4  
Corvallis, OR 97330

**DEC 9 1981**

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South (front) elevation

**NOV 24 1981**



Bosworth (Ra1ph Lyman) House  
833 NW Buchanan Avenue  
Corvallis, Benton County  
Oregon

Tim Wydronek photo, 1980  
419 NW 26th Street, No. 4  
Corvallis, OR 97330

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DEC 9 1981

East elevation

NOV 24 1981



Bosworth (Ralph Lyman) House  
833 NW Buchanan Avenue  
Corvallis, Benton County  
Oregon

Tim Wydronek photo, 1980  
419 NW 26th Street, No. 4  
Corvallis, OR 97330

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North (rear) elevation  
NOV 24 1981



Bosworth (Ralph Lyman) House  
833 NW Buchanan Avenue  
Corvallis, Benton County  
Oregon

Tim Wydronek photo, 1980  
419 NW 26th Street, No. 4  
Corvallis, OR 97330

DEC 9 1981

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West elevation

NOV 24 1981



Bosworth (Ralph Lyman) House  
833 NW Buchanan Avenue  
Corvallis, Benton County  
Oregon

Tim Wydronek photo, 1980  
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DEC 9 1981

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Entry stairhall, looking  
north



Bosworth (Ralph Lyman) House  
833 NW Buchanan Avenue  
Corvallis, Benton County  
Oregon

Tim Wydronek photo, 1980  
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DEC 9 1981

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Livingroom, looking north



Bosworth (Ralph Lyman) House  
833 NW Buchanan Avenue  
Corvallis, Benton County  
Oregon

Tim Wydronek photo, 1980  
419 NW 26th Street, No. 4  
Corvallis, OR 97330

DEC 9 1981

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East wall of livingroom  
showing chimneypiece



Bosworth (Ralph Lyman) House  
833 NW Buchanan Avenue  
Corvallis, Benton County  
Oregon

Tim Wydronek photo, 1980  
419 NW 26th Street, No. 4  
Corvallis, OR 97330

DEC 9 1981

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Livingroom, looking east

NOV 24 1981