

56-1492

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Swan River Schoolhouse

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)



2. Location

Street & number: 31 Roe Avenue

City or town: East Patchogue State: New York County: Suffolk

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

Michael P. Lynch Deputy SHPO 19 JUNE 2017
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

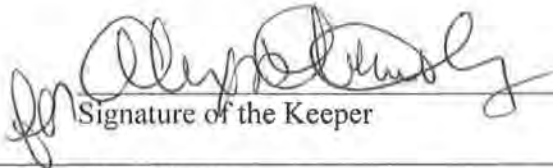
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

8/18/17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☒
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

2

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

2

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Brick

Walls: Wood

Roof: Wood

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Swan River Schoolhouse is located on the east side of Roe Avenue, near the intersection of Swezey Street and Roe Avenue, in the hamlet of East Patchogue, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County. The hamlet of East Patchogue sits along Patchogue Bay, with the hamlet of North Bellport and the village of Bellport to the east and the hamlet of Medford to the north. The school is situated towards the southwestern edge of the East Patchogue hamlet, between two inlets of Patchogue Bay, not far from downtown Patchogue, a neighboring village to the west. Just south of two major arterial roadways of Long Island, South Country Road and Montauk Highway, the schoolhouse is easily accessible by East Patchogue residents and visitors alike. Located in a primarily residential area, the Swan River Schoolhouse is situated close to Roe Avenue and is surrounded by twentieth-century residences.

The Swan River Schoolhouse occupies only a small portion of its lot, the remainder being covered in a grassy lawn. Small trees and shrubbery are located along the facade and northern side of the school, with more landscaping along the fence. The property is defined by a wooden fence along the north and east edges of the property and a line of trees and shrubbery delineating the southern edge of the lot. A small, non-contributing shed sits along the back fence near the tree line. The second, smaller non-contributing building was historically used by the railroad and moved to the property during the twentieth-century by the Greater Patchogue Historical Society. The nominated parcel is the lot historically associated with the Swan River Schoolhouse, and includes the schoolhouse and the two non-contributing sheds.

Narrative Description

The Swan River Schoolhouse is a one-story, three-bay by four-bay building erected in 1858. The wooden-shingled schoolhouse is a single rectangular mass covered by a front-gabled wood-shingled roof. The roof has a slight overhang and features a wide frieze and molded cornice with returns. Evenly spaced, decorative wood brackets have been placed under the roof overhang on all four elevations. Due to the brick foundation, the building is slightly raised above the ground level. The façade (west elevation), facing Roe Avenue, is articulated with two entrances separated by a central rectangular six-over-six double-hung window that is set back into the facade. Two sets of wooden stairs, accompanied with railings, lead to the front entrances, which

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are multi-paneled wood doors (not identical). These entrances are slightly recessed into the facade and framed on either side by pilasters. The pilasters support a wooden entablature with three sets of double wooden brackets supporting a projecting, gently sloped cornice. Larger pairs of brackets are located at either end, while a smaller set of brackets sits centrally above each entrance. Towards the top of the gable is a sign placed on the building, date unknown, that reads "Swan River Schoolhouse, Erected 1858, Trustees of the Common School District 39."

The north and south elevations echo one another, with four evenly spaced six-over-six double-hung wood windows that start one-third of the way up the side of the exterior walls. As on the west facing elevation, these windows are slightly recessed into the wall. On the east elevation, there is a recessed window and a flush doorway that leads to the back of the property. The door is set to the south side of the facade, while the window sits towards the northernmost side of the building. The doorway lacks the doorframe decoration that the front entrances have; there is only a simple pent roof over the doorway, directing water away from the building. This doorway on the east elevation was added in 1962, along with a handicapped-accessible cement ramp and metal handrail. As on the west elevation, the east facade is capped by a cornice and cornice return with brackets. The roof line on the elevation has a cornice and cornice return supported by brackets.

The interior of the school is divided into a cloakroom vestibule and a large, single classroom. Each entranceway originally led to a separate square coatroom vestibule. Today, only one of the entrances and vestibules (the north) is accessible from the exterior. The south entrance was closed off and the vestibule converted into a restroom in 1962. The vestibule feeds into a single room that is filled with natural light from the windows along all four sides. The room has exposed wooden beams running from the north to the south side on the ceiling. These beams were hidden beneath a ceiling, until the Great Hurricane of 1938, when the school's bell tower collapsed, damaging the roof and the ceiling below. The bell tower was never rebuilt due to the fear of another hurricane and the beams were left exposed.

The walls of the schoolroom are lined with twentieth-century wooden paneling, painted white to match the outside of the schoolhouse, while the original floor boards run north to south and are painted a tan color. The schoolroom retains its historic eight wooden benches and desks set in the central area of the space. The desks today are unattached; however, when the school was originally built, the benches had been screwed to the floor closer to the windows on the north and south sides (holes in the floor indicate their original location). The original potbelly stove sits at the rear of the schoolhouse, at the east end of the interior. In 1962 electrical lighting and heating were added to the building.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1858 - 1936

Significant Dates

1858

1936

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Swan River Schoolhouse is significant under Criterion A in the area of education as the first schoolhouse built to serve the hamlet of East Patchogue. To better serve the growing community, the Town of Brookhaven established a new school district for the area in 1857. The schoolhouse was built on donated land the following year and continued to serve as a one-room schoolhouse until it was closed and students were sent to newer schools in 1936. The Swan River Schoolhouse is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an intact example of transitional Greek Revival / Italianate style design as applied to the typical schoolhouse type. Built in 1858, the building was constructed in the basic one-room schoolhouse form and was decorated with Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. For example, the building features pilasters, cornice returns, and a wide cornice band, as well as Italianate brackets. The building additionally retains an intact interior plan as well as eight historic period 'Triumph Dovetailed Desks' designed by A. H. Andrew and Company, a prominent furniture company of the nineteenth century. The school retains an exceptionally high level of integrity for its type.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of East Patchogue

In 1664 the governor of Connecticut, Major John Winthrop, purchased a parcel of land from the Unkechaug Indians, a portion of which included the future East Patchogue.¹ Sixteen years later, in 1680, Governor Edmund Andross gave a patent to the eldest son of the major, John Still Winthrop. The property remained a patent of the Winthrop family and, later, the Strong and Brewster families, until 1773, when the patent was annexed by Brookhaven.²

During the late eighteenth century, Patchogue began developing into a central village with settled areas to the east and west. Several families moved to East Patchogue, establishing a number of farms that grew wheat and potatoes and raised livestock. The most important farming family was the Smiths. The family sold land in East Patchogue to two brothers, Joseph and Phineas Robinson, to construct what would later become an extremely successful sawmill near the entrance to Swan Creek. The family would "use their influence to establish a school, churches and social organizations for the sole benefit of East Patchogue residents for more than a century to come."³

During the early nineteenth century, the rivers and streams in and around Patchogue attracted industrialists interested in water-powered manufacturing. Flour, grist, twine, cotton, and paper mills were all established in the area. In East Patchogue, Squire Mott built a Mill Dam on the

¹ Dorothy Pavacic, *History of East Patchogue, NY* (Patchogue: Greater Patchogue Historical Society, 2016).

² Ibid.

³ Dorothy Pavacic, *History of East Patchogue, NY*.

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Swan River in 1814; grist and grain mills built on the waterway served nearby farmers. The “Swan River” mills, established in the second quarter of the century, manufactured carpet warp and twine and were the most substantial mills in East Patchogue.⁴ By the late 1860s, the shipping business that had been essential to the economy of the region since the early 1800s came to a near halt when the Long Island Railroad extended its tracks to neighboring Patchogue.⁵ As a result, the area’s woodland began to be cut down more readily, to provide burning wood for locomotives as well as to clear land for farming.

Early Education in the United States and New York

The early settlers of New England held a firm belief in the value of education, making sure that arrangements were made for building educational institutions for their children in both rural and urban areas.⁶ The creation of country schools in the seventeenth century resulted in institutions that were built under a specifically “unique American concept – free, nonsectarian public education.”⁷ In 1647, the Massachusetts Bay government created the first ruling stipulating the creation of a public school system.⁸

When New Englanders began to migrate and explore south into New York State throughout the seventeenth century, they established several towns, including the town of Brookhaven, Long Island in 1655. Having grown up with a form of public education, many of Patchogue’s early settlers made education and establishing schools within their community a priority.

The attitude towards children and their education, however, was drastically different in the early years of schoolhouse design. During the early stages of education in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, children received an education that was a mixture of biblical teachings and basic subjects, such as reading and arithmetic, due to the perceived notion that children were immoral. The school was therefore more structured and religiously based; yet, by the nineteenth century “influences of the Age of Enlightenment had stimulated a profound change in beliefs about children and education.”⁹ Children were no longer considered evil, but precious beings that were good and could learn to become respected citizens within their community through a less religiously based curriculum.

Before 1784, New York State did not have a formal school system. While individual schools did exist, often in larger communities, they received no direction or funding from the state. Prominent citizens and state leaders believed that an educated citizenry was needed to ensure the independence and prosperity of the nation, but early attempts to support education at the state level had uneven results. Local authorities were authorized by the 1812 common school act to create school districts; the law placed school districts in charge of local education and made funding a joint responsibility between localities and the state. Two years later, an amendment

⁴ Richard M. Bayles, *Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County* (Port Jefferson: Richard Bayles, 1874), 269-71.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ H. Wellington Gordon, *A History of Patchogue* (Patchogue: H. Wellington Gordon, 1924), 83.

⁷ Andrew Gulliford, *America's Country Schools* (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984), 36.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Gulliford, *America's Country Schools*, 37-38.

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required them to do so; this amendment also allowed schools to charge tuition if the cost of instruction exceeded the amount of funds provided by state aid and local taxes. By the mid-nineteenth century, over 10,000 common school districts existed in New York State. Typically each district had a one or two-room schoolhouse where students were educated in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, and geography. The 1812 common school act shaped the future of public education in New York by establishing that education was a state function under state control, that funding was a joint state-local responsibility, and that the school district, rather than the local municipality, was the primary administrative unit for public education.¹⁰

One-Room Schoolhouses

The creation of the one-room schoolhouse symbolized the birth of American education, serving as the center of activity in what was a predominately rural nation. The schoolhouse “housed the activities that joined people into a community, and the identity of rural communities became inextricably linked with their schools.”¹¹ Being the central gathering place, the names of these schoolhouses reflected important values, beliefs or even the local waterways of the community.¹² This was the case for the Swan River Schoolhouse, being named after the Swan Creek that flowed not far west of the school.

Starting in the beginning of the eighteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century, schools in rural America were invariably one-room schools. The reason for this design was that the schools usually were only built to serve a limited number of children, i.e. those from families who lived in the general vicinity of the schoolhouse. In the instance of the Swan River Schoolhouse, it was built for a number of families, such as the King, Avery, and Robinson families, who lived in East Patchogue.

To ensure local school districts were providing effective education, the New York State legislature passed a series of reforms in the 1840s focused on improving the quality of education, increasing the opportunities for students to receive a free education, and ensuring adequate funding. In addition, legislators and educators focused on the environment of the school building itself and advocated for the importance of comfortable, clean, and well-lit environments as more conducive to learning. Recommendations for the number and location of windows, the division of interior spaces, the arrangement of blackboards and teacher’s desk, and the provision of restrooms were influential in the design of new schools and the alteration of others.¹³

Swan River Schoolhouse and East Patchogue

In 1857, School District 39 was newly formed, created out of the old Common School Districts 15 and 27 in the town of Brookhaven. This new school district served the residents of East Patchogue. Previously, students had walked to either of the neighboring districts, but East

¹⁰ James D. Folts, “History of the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department, 1786-1996,” 1996, available online at:
<<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/edocs/education/sedhist.htm#free>>.

¹¹ Gulliford, *America's Country Schools*, 35.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Folts, "History of the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department 1784 - 1996."

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Patchogue had become progressively less rural. The establishment of the Swan River mills and their 1854 reconstruction after a fire promoted the development and expansion of a small industrial population in the area.¹⁴

Norton Robinson, a member of the notable Robinson family of East Patchogue, who owned a successful sawmill on Swan Creek, named himself the sole trustee of the school district, and purchased land "for the purpose of building and maintaining a school house thereon for the benefit of the district."¹⁵ On August 12, 1857, Robinson purchased a small lot from Stephen S. and Huldah S. Roe, his wife, which was located on the east side of Pine Neck Road (now Roe Avenue) for twenty-five dollars and donated it to the district.¹⁶ The schoolhouse, built in 1858, was surrounded by farmland, situated midway between the built-up villages of Bellport and Patchogue. This school district maintained a rate system; this system permitted parents to pay according to the number of children they had enrolled in the public school system.

In 1867, almost ten years after the establishment of the rate system, a Free Common School System was organized in New York State, abolishing the rating system being used by the Swan River School.¹⁷ Two years later, District 39 was renumbered District 26 (Patchogue Lane). The Swan River Schoolhouse was absorbed into this district and continued to hold classes for the children in the area. The school would remain in use until 1936, when the district was absorbed into Union Free School District 24; this allowed children in the area to attend a larger, more modern school.

Schoolhouse Architectural Layout and Detail

The first form of American education began at a more localized and personalized scale. The first classes were held in meeting halls or someone's home, but over time people learned that in order for children to become educated, education needed to be received in its own, stable environment. Originally, these schools were conceived as basic structures for their communities, which could provide enough space for the children of farmers or those working in the immediate vicinity, and a teacher. However, over time the architecture of the rural school became more standardized and educators recommended separate entrances and cloakrooms for girls and boys.¹⁸ The 1836 book *School Architecture* stated that:

The entrance, which must be separate for the two sexes, should be so planned that both boys and girls may be under the eye of the teacher in entering and leaving the room. They may be in the wall behind him, a very common position, but are better either in the side or opposite of the walls, so that without turning his head, his glance may follow them through the vestibules until they are out of the building. The best arrangement will be to

¹⁴ Bayles, *Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County*, 269-270.

¹⁵ "The Swan River Schoolhouse," *Long Island Library Resources Council*: 1. Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ Folts, "History of the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department 1784 - 1996."

¹⁸ Virginia E. McCormick, *Educational Architecture in Ohio: From One-room Schools and Carnegie Libraries to Community Education Villages* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2001), 38.

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put one entrance door in the side wall, near the teacher's end of the room, and the other on the opposite wall.¹⁹

Inside the schoolhouse, the arrangement was designed specifically to provide "convenience, comfort and health" for those using the space.²⁰ At the Swan River Schoolhouse the desks were originally organized in straight lines near the windows on the north and south sides. This not only allowed for ventilation, and more importantly light, but also allowed the teacher to easily walk amongst the students to teach and deterred conversation and rule breaking.

The desks used by the Swan River School were installed in the school in the late 1870s. The eight desks seen today in the schoolhouse are examples of 'Triumph Dovetailed Desks' created by A. H. Andrews & Company. The company, founded in Chicago in 1865 by Connecticut native Alfred H. Andrews, served as a large office and school furniture manufacturer of the late-nineteenth century.²¹ These desks were a popular item, winning multiple awards between 1876 and 1878. For instance, at the U.S. Centennial Exhibition of 1876, these school desks were awarded the highest premium award for "strength, durability and good form."²²

Schoolhouse Design and the Greek Revival and Italianate Styles

The Swan River Schoolhouse is a good, and relatively uncommon, example of a schoolhouse designed in a transitional Greek Revival / Italianate style. While these styles were commonly used by rural builders during the mid-nineteenth century, it was less common to apply them in anything but a modest form to a schoolhouse. Based in part on guidance from the state as well as the financial abilities of small communities, a simple, iconic one-room schoolhouse building type had developed by the mid-nineteenth century. Typically, these schoolhouses were rectangular in form, featured gable roofs, banks of windows, and generally open interiors heated by woodstoves; stylistic details could be easily added to this template, but were usually much simpler than those used at the Swan River Schoolhouse.

The Swan River Schoolhouse incorporates features of the Greek Revival style, which had been popular in the previous decades, and the newly popular Italianate style. During the nineteenth century, Americans were fascinated by the architectural style of the ancient Greeks. This style was not only implemented in residential homes, but in public institutions across the country, adopted from building handbooks used by carpenters and builders. The Greek Revival style was also promoted in the construction and design of educational buildings. One such book that popularized this educational architectural model was Henry Bernard's book *School Architecture*. This book, published in 1838, was largely responsible for the spread of Greek Revival designed schoolhouses throughout the east coast; "between 1838 and 1855 more than one hundred and twenty-five thousand copies of this book were printed in various forms, and copies were

¹⁹ J. George Hodgins, *School Architecture and Hygiene* (Toronto: Education Department, 1886), 45.

²⁰ Jean and Robert McClintock, *Henry Bernard's School Architecture* (New York: Teachers College Press, 1970), 53.

²¹ "Andrews (A. H.) & Co," *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Available at:
<<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/2549.html>>.

²² *Catalogue of American Merchandise Manufactured by A. H. Andrew and Co.* Chicago, 1882. Available at: <<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t1xd1n77b;view=1up;seq=1>>.

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furnished to every town in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Indiana.”²³

The architectural design of the nineteenth-century Greek Revival schoolhouse was to serve as the community’s “symbolic reflection of the country’s democratic national ideals of the time.”²⁴ W. Dean Eastman states that “pattern books allowed Americans to adopt a vernacular style that could serve as a unifying symbol of the citizens lofty democratic visions while still being adaptable to local interpretations, materials and conditions.”²⁵ Sometimes to suit these ideals, the schoolhouses themselves were built as grand features, usually painted white to represent the monumental style and meaning of the institute. This may have been the case for the Swan River Schoolhouse, but it was more likely that:

The United States obtained its own lead supply (rather than importing it) and the price dropped accordingly so white lead (lead oxide) could be used for painting the Cape Cod cottages of New England and farmhouses elsewhere. The most logical reason to explain why in later years schoolhouses came to be painted white rather than red after white paint became cheap is the idea that a schoolhouse should be painted like a house- it didn't seem quite right to paint a school like a barn.²⁶

The Swan River Schoolhouse incorporates basic features of the schoolhouse type, such as its rectangular form, front-gabled roof, and number of windows. The roofline is highlighted by a wide cornice band and the west and east facades also feature cornice returns, typical of the Greek Revival style. The schoolhouse’s façade features its two entranceways framed by pilasters supporting wooden entablatures. While the building’s shingle siding was relatively common on Long Island, the choice to paint it white offered a sense of simplicity and monumentality reflective of the style.

The schoolhouse’s simple Greek Revival features were dressed up with heavily ornate Italianate detailing. Italianate bracketing, typical of the newly popular style, was installed all along the roofline and above the front entranceways. The Italianate style allowed the local builder to dress a more conservative design with inexpensive finishes, reflecting East Patchogue’s understanding of the architecture and fashionability of the time.

²³ Jean and Robert McClintock, *Henry Bernard’s School Architecture* (New York: Teachers College Press, 1970), 23.

²⁴ W. Dean Eastman, "The Greek Revival Architecture of the American One Room School as a Symbolic Reflection of Our Democratic National Ideals," Primary Research. August 18, 2013. Available at: <<http://primaryresearch.org/the-greek-revival-architecture-of-the-american-one-room-school-as-a-symbolic-reflection-of-our-democratic-national-ideals/>>.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Gerald J. Stout, *Requiem for the Little Red Schoolhouse* (Athol, MA: Athol Press, 1987), 39.

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Later History of the Swan River Schoolhouse

After 1936, when the schoolhouse became obsolete, neighborhood children began to use the building as a bus-shelter as they waited to be transported to the newer schools to the east and west of East Patchogue. Residents in the immediate vicinity looked after the building and keep it maintained. The pot-bellied stove would be fired up to keep the children warm while waiting for the bus in the winter. The school retained its bell tower until 1938, when it was damaged and fell through the roof. The roof was rebuilt and the wallboard was likely installed around that time.²⁷

In 1962, a proposition was approved by the voters of the Patchogue School District No. 24 to sell the schoolhouse to the town of Brookhaven for the purpose of establishing a town-owned museum. From 1962 to 1970 the museum was the site of many exhibits depicting the numerous historical highlights of the town and its inhabitants. The southernmost vestibule was modified to serve as a restroom during the early 1960s. In 1971, the museum was restored to the original one-room schoolhouse of the late 1800s, featuring the historic schoolhouse bell, desks, benches and books used by the students who attended the school.

In the 1980s, Brookhaven announced that the Greater Patchogue Historical Society would manage the Swan River Schoolhouse. Since that time, the historical society has been hosting students, teachers and the general public at the schoolhouse. The society continues to add educational memorabilia to the displays throughout the schoolhouse and children come to experience class lessons in the one-room schoolhouse as part of educational field trips. The schoolhouse not only serves as a reminder of the past of East Patchogue and many other hamlets throughout Long Island, but also provides a wealth of knowledge, both architectural, as well as educational, about the history of education in Suffolk County.

The Swan River Schoolhouse is a fine example of one-room schoolhouse architecture, not only demonstrative of the classroom experience, but of the national style of the time. The schoolhouse is a surviving physical statement of nineteenth-century rural education in America and the architectural preferences of the time, Greek Revival and Italianate. Additionally, the schoolhouse serves as a symbol of the history of education in the East Patchogue community, as well as the nation as a whole. The building contains a rich history that covers nearly eight decades, aware but untouched by the transformations of education, and the physical change of the Long Island landscape and many other rural communities like it, over time.

²⁷ Anna Mae Musso, "Oral History of East Patchogue," Interview by Dorothy Pavacic. Transcript.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Hodgins, J. George. *School Architecture and Hygiene*. Toronto: Education Department, 1886, p.45.

McClintock, Jean and Robert. *Henry Bernard's School Architecture*. Teachers College Press, New York, 1970, p.23.

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McCormick, Virginia E. *Educational Architecture in Ohio: From One-room Schools and Carnegie Libraries to Community Education Villages*. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2001, p. 38.

Musso, Anna Mae. "Oral History of East Patchogue." Interview by Dorothy Pavacic. Transcript.

Pavacic, Dorothy. *History of East Patchogue, NY*. Report. Patchogue: Greater Patchogue Historical Society, 2016.

Stout, Gerald J. *Requiem for the Little Red Schoolhouse*. Athol, MA: Athol Press, 1987, p. 39.

"The Swan River Schoolhouse." *Long Island Library Resources Council*: 1. Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library.

Swan River Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
 - ☐ Other State agency
 - ☐ Federal agency
 - ☐ Local government
 - ☐ University
 - ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Swan River Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .19 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 18	Easting: 669761	Northing: 4514566
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

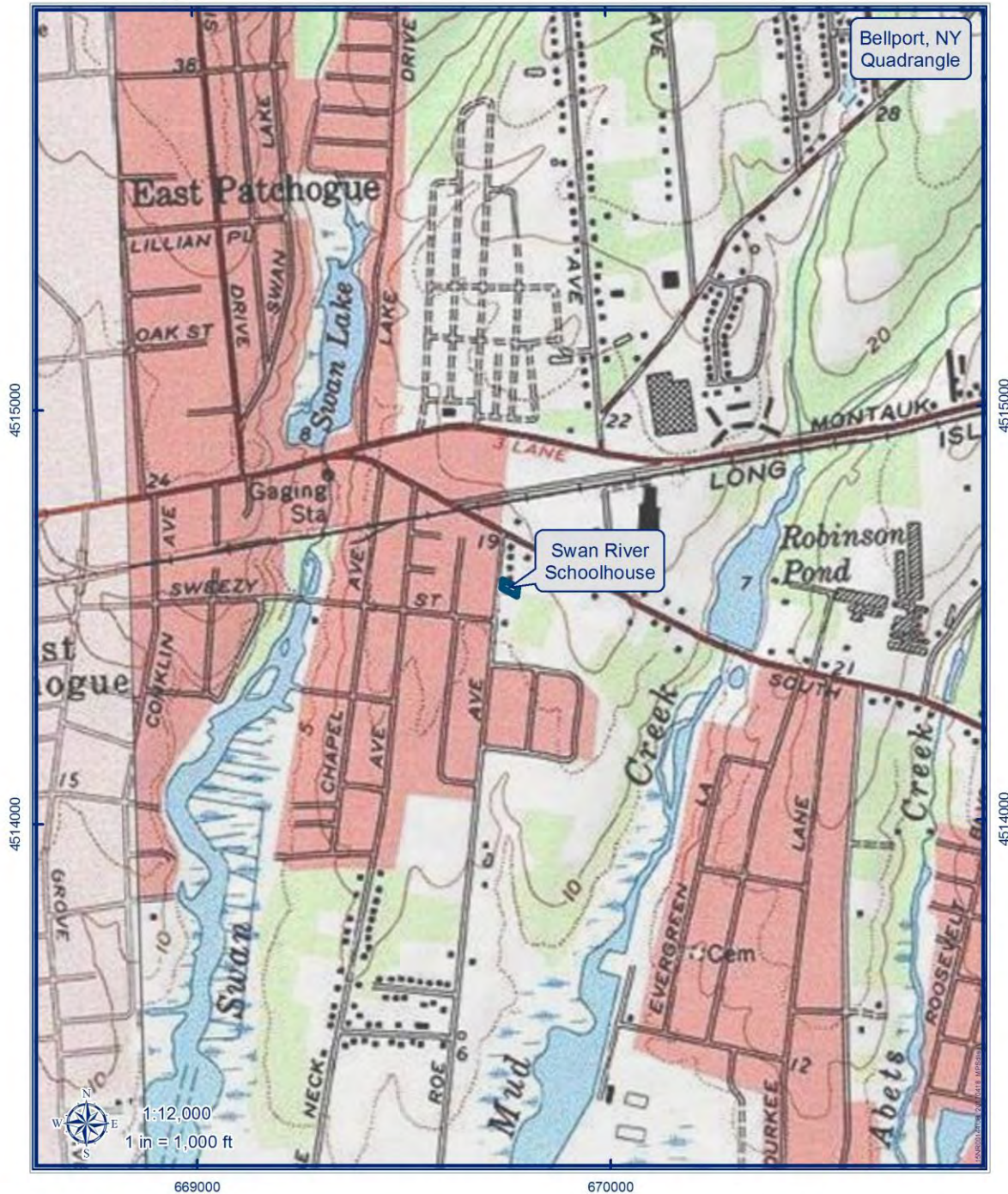
The boundary was drawn to include the parcels historically associated with the Swan River Schoolhouse.

Swan River Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State

Swan River Schoolhouse
East Patchogue, Suffolk Co., NY

31 Roe Avenue
East Patchogue, NY 11772



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 340 680 1,360 Feet



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Swan River Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State

Swan River Schoolhouse
East Patchogue, Suffolk Co., NY

31 Roe Avenue
East Patchogue, NY 11772



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 85 170 340 Feet



Schoolhouse



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Swan River Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Cameron Robertson
organization: Columbia University GSAPP
street & number: 771 West End Ave, 12I
city or town: New York state: NY zip code: 10025
e-mail cmr2224@columbia.edu
telephone: 214-763-3922
date: 5/7/2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Swan River Schoolhouse

City or Vicinity: East Patchogue

County: Suffolk State: NY

Photographer: Jennifer Betsworth

Date Photographed: February 2016

Swan River Schoolhouse

Suffolk County, NY

Name of Property

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

NY_Suffolk Co_Swan River Schoolhouse_0001

Façade, facing east

NY_Suffolk Co_Swan River Schoolhouse_0002

Façade, detail, facing southeast

NY_Suffolk Co_Swan River Schoolhouse_0003

Northern elevation, facing south

NY_Suffolk Co_Swan River Schoolhouse_0004

Southern elevation, facing northwest

NY_Suffolk Co_Swan River Schoolhouse_0005

Interior, facing east

NY_Suffolk Co_Swan River Schoolhouse_0006

Interior, facing west

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Swan River Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State



Swan River Schoolhouse, undated photo. Greater Patchogue Historical Society collection.



SWAN RIVER
SCHOOLHOUSE
ERECTED 1858
Trustees of the Common School Dist. 39













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination	
Property Name:	Swan River Schoolhouse	
Multiple Name:		
State & County:	NEW YORK, Suffolk	

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
7/7/2017	8/2/2017	8/17/2017	8/21/2017	8/24/2017

Reference number:	SG100001492
Nominator:	State
Reason For Review:	

 X Accept Return Reject 8/18/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:	A one room school house.
Recommendation/ Criteria	A and C, education and architecture

Reviewer	<u>Alexis Abernathy</u>	Discipline	<u>Historian</u>
Telephone	<u>(202)354-2236</u>	Date	<u> </u>

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



GREATER PATCHOGUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.

June 6, 2017

N.Y.S Board of Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce, Inc., I want to take this opportunity to endorse having the Swan River Schoolhouse in East Patchogue designated as a Historic Place and listed on New York State's register of Historic Places.

As one of our community's oldest surviving structures still in operation, as well as possibly Long Island's oldest one room schoolhouse, it is certainly worthy of this honored distinction.

Exceptionally maintained and operated by the Greater Patchogue Historical Society, The Swan River Schoolhouse is a prime area attraction that deserves special recognition. That you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

David Kennedy
Executive Director



Patchogue-Medford School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Kelli Anne Jennings, First Vice President
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Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Administrative Center
241 South Ocean Avenue
Patchogue, New York 11772
(631) 687-6380
(631) 687-6389

June 1, 2017

N.Y.S. Board of Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

RE: The Swan River Schoolhouse

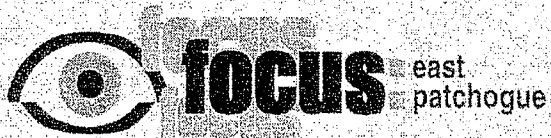
To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Patchogue-Medford School District, I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of the Swan River School House to be recorded on the National Registry of Historic Places. We recognize the historical significance of this building which contains original furnishings, including the desks, benches, pot-belly stove, and school bell - which, together with the structure of this original building, embody the distinctive characteristics of an important historical period in the Greater Patchogue Community. This building is currently owned by the Town of Brookhaven, and is managed by the Greater Patchogue Historical Society. We greatly support the Greater Patchogue Historical Society and the opportunities it provides to keep educating our school community.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

/tl



President: Marita Morello
V. President: Kevin McGiff
Secretary: Tom Berger
Treasurer: Nicholas Depalo

One South Country Rd, East Patchogue, NY 11772

June 1, 2017

Rose Harvey, Commissioner
NYS office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Commissioner Harvey

We would like to join with and support the Greater Patchogue Historical Society to request of you that New York State designate the 'Swan River School House' as a Historical Site and added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Greater Patchogue Historical Society was formed in 1981 to promote and educate a greater knowledge of the history of Patchogue. One such Historic site, the 'Swan River Schoolhouse,' has been a site they have preserved and is of historic pride to our community. This one room schoolhouse is said to be the oldest on Long Island and was constructed over 159 years ago, in 1858.

It is a most deserving Historical site and one that students and teachers are amazed to visit. There are girls and boys front entry doors. Inside are original desks with carvings from some of the students. There is a pot belly stove and the schoolhouse bell to summon the students.

We certainly would appreciate your help to have this wonderful site added to the National Registry of Historic Places. We thank you for your anticipated help. God Bless.

Respectfully,

The Board of Focus East Patchogue



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



23 June 2017

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following nine nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

International Paper Administration Building and Time Office, Saratoga County
Potter Historic District, Monroe County
Second and Ostrander Historic District, Suffolk County
Charles and Anna Bates House, Suffolk County
Swan River Schoolhouse, Suffolk County
Congregation Ohab Zedek, New York County
George Sumner Kellogg House, Nassau County
West High School, Cayuga County
Morgan Dunne House (Ward Wellington Ward in Syracuse MPDF), Onondaga County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office