

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 13 1980
DATE ENTERED

**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

Square Schoolhouse

AND/OR COMMON

Square Schoolhouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

SR
Corner-Route 156 & Ledge Farm Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Nottingham

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

33

COUNTY

Rockingham

CODE

015

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Else Cilley Chapter #1-012-NH, Daughters of American Revolution

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Nottingham

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire, 03290

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rockingham County Registry of Deeds
Rockingham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Hampton Road

CITY, TOWN

Exeter

STATE

New Hampshire, 03833

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Square Schoolhouse at Nottingham Square is a two-story gable-roofed frame structure with one gable end facing the Square and treated as a facade. The building is 28'-6" wide and 40'-7" long and stands on a foundation of split granite slabs set at grade level. The facade has three-bay fenestration, with the doorway placed in the center and with a single attic window in the gable. The east and west elevations both have three bays; the east elevation has a first-floor doorway in its rearmost bay to provide access from the schoolroom to a detached woodshed and privy located off the northeast corner of the schoolhouse. The rear elevation has two windows on each floor. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The exterior detailing of the Square Schoolhouse is in a simplified Greek Revival style. The doorway has a rectangular transom, flanking pilasters with simple capitals, and a pediment with a very shallow pitch. The doorstep is a squared granite block with remnants of two boot scrapers. The windows have square sills, flat casings, and flat caps with tops cut to resemble slightly-pitched pediments. Sash are mostly 6/6 with very thin muntins that are characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century. The building's corner boards are elaborated into pilasters, with simple caps near the top, while the cornice has a Grecian ovolo crown moulding, ovolo-and-cavetto bed moulding, and a wide frieze board. On the rear, this cornice is supplanted by simple rake boards. The structure has a thick wooden water table at sill level. Clapboards are nailed with cut nails and have square butts.

The interior of the building retains most of its original mid-nineteenth-century features. The front of the structure is partitioned off from the main rooms on each floor, and this front area is divided on each level into a central stairhall and flanking cloakrooms, the latter retaining many of their original hooks. The walls of the first-floor schoolroom are plastered, with simple boarded wainscoting rising about one-third of the wall height. Interior door and window casings are simple square-edged boards. Doors on both first and second floors are four-paneled, and in some cases the panels are surrounded with Grecian ovolo mouldings characteristic of the Greek Revival style. Ceilings throughout the first floor are sheathed with beaded "ceiling board;" those on the second floor are covered by modern plasterboard.

The exterior of the schoolhouse remains essentially in original condition. The interior has been altered by the addition of a modern fireplace in the first-floor schoolroom adjacent to the stairhall partition; by the installation of a kitchen in the southwest first-floor cloak room; and by the construction of a toilet room, enclosed by modern vertical pine sheathing, in the northwest corner of the first-floor schoolroom. During the 1950s a beam was run longitudinally down the center of the ceiling of the first-floor schoolroom to reinforce a sagging second floor, and this beam is supported at its midpoint by a wooden post. The second-floor schoolroom retains a number of original scholars' benches, together with some iron framed desks and cast iron pedestal chairs of the post-Civil War era.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Square Schoolhouse at Nottingham Square is a well-preserved mid-nineteenth century school building which reflects a more ambitious design and progressive attitude than most such structures. The building is characterized by simplified Greek Revival design; this, along with the two-story plan, was probably inspired by Henry Barnard's School Architecture (1848). The structure played an important educational role in Nottingham from its construction about 1850 until 1920, when its use was discontinued due to declining population.

Significance, architecture: In June, 1849, the New Hampshire Legislature authorized the distribution of a copy of Henry Barnard's School Architecture; or Contributions to the Improvement of School-Houses in the United States (1848) to the selectment of each town in the state. The volume seems to have had an immediate effect in Nottingham, because the Square Schoolhouse, which was authorized the same year and paid for from funds appropriated in 1850 and 1851, is far more ambitious than most rural school buildings of its era. The simplified Greek Revival detailing of the building, together with its two-story height, may reflect Barnard's ideas. The building survives today as one of the least-altered mid-nineteenth century schoolhouses in southern New Hampshire.

Significance, education: The Square Schoolhouse was authorized in 1849 and paid for by appropriations over the next two years totalling \$540. The building was erected at the early town center of Nottingham, on a site where a schoolhouse had stood at least as early as 1770. Even before the present structure was built, the district centering on the schoolhouse at Nottingham Square was designated as Number 1 and received a larger appropriation of school monies each year than any of the outlying districts of the town. The construction costs of the present building reflected the prominence of the Square district in town, being more than twice as great as those of other school buildings constructed at about the same period in Nottingham.

Shortly after the structure was built, it received the designation of "Pawtuckaway Hall," retaining this name at least until the 1890s. The fact that only one teacher was employed by the district during each school term suggests that only one room was used for school purposes at a given time; possibly the other room served as a "hall" for social or civic uses.

When the schoolhouse was built about 1850, Nottingham's population was 1,268; by 1920, population had declined to 520. In that year, accordingly, School District No. 1 was combined with the nearby Nottingham Center district and the town discontinued the use of the Square Schoolhouse. In 1928, the town sold the building to Mrs. Jennie Grenell for \$50. By her will, Mrs. Grenell bequeathed the structure to the Else Cilley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who accepted it in 1976. The D.A.R. have authorized the Nottingham Historical Society to restore the building as a school museum and as a meeting place for both organizations.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Town Records, Town of Nottingham, New Hampshire, on deposit at the New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, New Hampshire.

Town Reports, Town of Nottingham, New Hampshire.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 61,000 sq. ft.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	3 2 8 3 5 0	4 7 7 4 2 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Nottingham Town Tax Records: Map 54, Part Lot 7 & 5.

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

Mrs. John Voll

ORGANIZATION

Else Cilley Chapter #1-012-NH, Daughters of the American Revolution

DATE

April 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Nottingham

STATE

New Hampshire, 03290

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

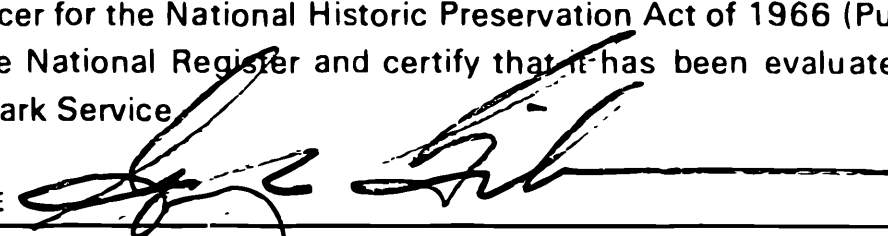
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Commissioner, Department of Resources & Economic Development, New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 13, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Fatrick Andrus*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/17/80

DATE

4/16/80