UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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CONDITION

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__UNALTERED

X_ALTERED

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_ORIGINAL SITE

XMOVED

DATE 1874

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

District No. 1 Schoolhouse in Madison is a 1 1/2 story gable-roofed clapboarded frame structure set on a foundation of split granite blocks. A single-flue chimney rises inside the building against its rear wall and pierces the roof at the ridge. Attached to the north wall of the structure, near its center, is a small gable-roofed projection accessible from the interior as a closet; adjacent to the northeast corner of the building is a gable-roofed woodshed with its roof oriented at right angles to that of the main building.

The south gable end is treated as the facade, and has two symmetrically-arranged doorways surmounted by rectangular transom sash and opening into vestibules. Each door has four panels surrounded by Grecian ovolo mouldings and is framed by simple square casings. Above the doors, in the center of the gable of the facade, is a square window framed by square casings and covered by a louvered blind. The building has a bank of five adjacent windows, separated by mullions and framed by square casings, at its northeast corner. Adjacent to these windows, on the north (rear) elevation, is another window, which was one of a pair until the construction of the north closet wing necessitated the closing of the innermost of these windows to provide a doorway to the closet. At the opposite end of the north (rear) elevation is an undisturbed pair of windows. On the west elevation of the structure, in an area which was probably occupied by a bank of five sashes like those on the east, two small windows, set directly under the building's entablature, have been substituted to provide uninterrupted wall space on the interior.

The building's exterior detailing, though simple, is characteristic of the Greek Revival era. At each corner the narrow corner boards have been transformed into pilasters by the addition of moulded caps. These pilasters, in turn, support a wide architrave formed from a single flat board. Immediately above, a deeply-projecting cornice is composed of a delicate bed moulding, a wide plancia, and a fascia or corona fitted with a crown moulding in the form of a Grecian ovolo. On the facade are short cornice returns which support a raking cornice of the same design. On the rear (north) elevation, the crown moulding extends up the raking edges of the roof against a fascia which is set tightly against the clapboards.

The interior of the structure is composed of a single room accessible through the front vestibules. The ceiling and walls are constructed of painted boards. Floors are wooden, now covered by modern carpeting. The brick chimney at the north has a brick hearth and vents a wood-burning stove. Some of the interior doors retain early hardware. Window sash are 2/2.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW _ARCHEULUGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __PREHISTORIC **_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE** __RELIGION __CONSERVATION __1400-1499 __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _LAW __SCIENCE __AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS __1500-1599 __LITERATURE _SCULPTURE _XARCHITECTURE _XEDUCATION __1600-1699 __MILITARY _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __ART __1700-1799 __ENGINEERING __MUSIC __THEATER **X**1800-1899 __COMMERCE __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY _TRANSPORTATION __COMMUNICATIONS __1900-__INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Education: The District No. 1 Schoolhouse in Madison was built in the summer of 1835 about 1/2 mile from its present location. Land for the original location was taken by power of eminent domain; town records for June 23, 1835, report that "as a result of a petition caused by John Kenison's refusal to sell a lot for a schoolhouse for reasonable compensation, the selectmen laid out a lot three rods deep and 6 3/4 rods on the road, and paid Kenison \$10.50." The building served Madison School District No. 1 at this location until 1873. Because of its central location with respect to the dispersed population of Madison, the District No. 1 Schoolhouse was often used for town meetings during the late 1850's, the 1860's, and the early 1870's.

In 1873, James J. Burke deeded the Town of Madison, for \$1.00, a lot 12 1/2 rods square about 1/2 a mile from the original location. Probably to accommodate a shift in population, the schoolhouse was moved to this new lot, which was fenced with stone posts and wooden rails. It was probably at this time that the large banks of windows were added to the east, west, and north elevations of the structure to provide better light.

In 1950, all elementary school classes in Madison were transferred to the Madison High School building, which had been built in 1922 on the same schoolhouse lot. This change left the District No. 1 schoolhouse available for other uses. In 1951 the trustees of the Madison library and the school board agreed to move the library from its former inadequate location to the schoolhouse. In 1978 the town voted to build a substantial addition to the east side of the old High School building. Because this addition occupies the former site of the schoolhouse, the building was moved a few feet to the west in 1980, retaining its former compass orientation. The structure continues to serve as the town and school library, now as part of a larger complex of educational buildings that include the remodeled 1922 high school structure and the newly-constructed classroom wing.

The District No. 1 Schoolhouse was moved in 1873 and in 1980. Both moves were made to enhance the educational usefulness of the structure in light of the changing needs of the town of Madison. On its present site, the building continues to occupy part of the same lot upon which is has stood since 1873 and to serve an important role in local education, as it has since 1835. The Madison District No. 1 Schoolhouse is a typical rural New Hampshire district schoolhouse, now remodeled as a town and school library. Exhibiting both its original Greek Revival architectural features and evidences of its later alterations, the building continues to serve the educational needs of Madison, as it has for nearly a century and a half.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Public Schools of Madison, <u>A Brief History of Madison</u> [N.H.], n.p., 1925-26.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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MADISON SCHOOL, DISTRICT NUMBER 1

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Architectural: Madison District No. 1 Schoolhouse is a typical New Hampshire district school building that displays the simple Greek Revival detailing in fashion when it was constructed in 1835. Moved and remodeled in 1873, the building retains many of its older features but also shows evidence of the enlarged window treatment that was recommended in Henry Bernard's influential School Architecture (1848) as a means of better illuminating schoolrooms and decreasing eyestrain. Remodeled in 1951 as a town and school library, the building still retains a high percentage of its 19th century features both inside and out.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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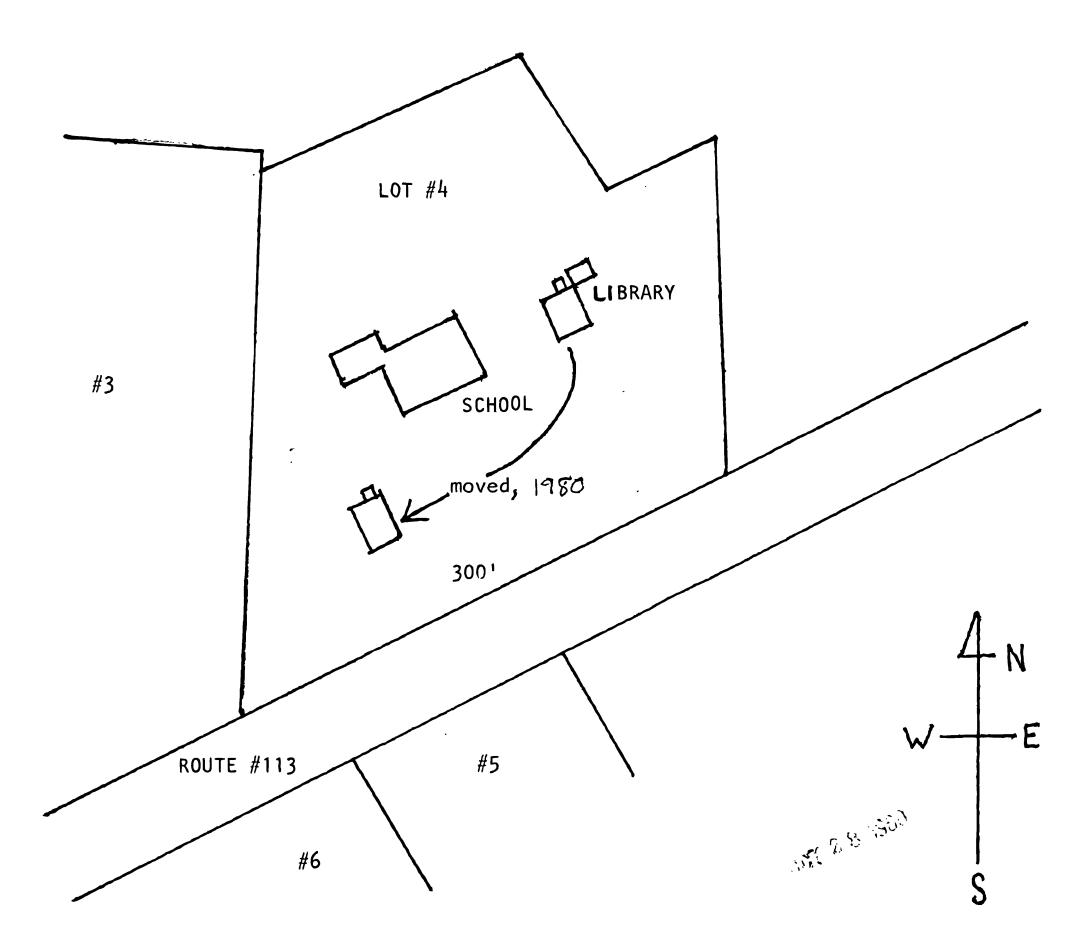
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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

MAP #34



From:
Madison Tax Map
Traced by:
K.E. Hocking
September, 1979