

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 13 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 24 1976

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 **
Cedar Grove School
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *E of old Bridge on NJ 516*
Route 516, opposite Cedar Ridge High School Entrance
CITY, TOWN *old Bridge* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4th
~~Madison Township~~ VICINITY OF
STATE New Jersey CODE 034 COUNTY Middlesex CODE 023

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Madison Township Historical Society
STREET & NUMBER Route 516, R. D. #1
CITY, TOWN Matawan VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Bayard Street
CITY, TOWN New Brunswick STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory
DATE 1972 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection
CITY, TOWN P. O. Box 1420 STATE New Jersey
Trenton

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 Cedar Grove School, a one room schoolhouse, is located in the Cedar Grove section of Madison Township on Route 516, opposite the entrance to Cedar Ridge High School. The area known as Cedar Grove has no clearly defined boundaries, and is so named for its great prevalence of cedar trees and the cedar swamp located directly behind the Cedar Ridge High School grounds.

The present location of the school has been a school site since 1851 as evidenced by the deed from Frederick Hennell to Hennell School District No. 11, South Amboy, November 6, 1851. Madison Township was a part of South Amboy at that time. Two other school buildings existed on the site at different times, but were moved to other locations. The present building, a wooden structure, was erected in 1885. It was originally clapboard, and the wooden shingles on the building as it appears today were added in the early 1920's. Originally there were three windows on the east side of the building, and three on the west side. However, when a state law went into effect requiring that light come over the left shoulders of the students, windows on the east side of the building were boarded up and three windows added on the west. The original building had a little porch, and early in the 20th century a roof was built over the porch. The interior of the building has its original wainscoting and slate blackboards. There was a platform for the teacher's desk which has been removed and there was also an organ in the school. Electricity was put in the building in the late 1930's. This was the result of a petition circulated by students of the school. The school was closed in 1948 when New Jersey State law abolished the use of one-room schools.

In 1964 the Madison Township Historical Society was formed. The school was made a museum by Society members and was deeded to the Society by the Board of Education. A heating system was put in shortly thereafter. Aside from this, the interior of the building remains essentially the same as when it was constructed in 1885.

and the other ...

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Community History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1885-1945

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Education:

The enrollment of the Cedar Grove School was between 20 and 30 pupils through the years. Since the school was located in a rural area, many students did not attend classes in the spring and fall because they were helping on the farms.

The school year was from September through May. The hours were from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M., and on Fridays until 3 P.M. A 15 minute recess was held in the morning and in the afternoon. School began with a reading from the Bible and a prayer. Later the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was added to the opening exercises. In the early years of operation there was no flag in the building. However, in 1897, through the efforts of Middlesex County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ralph Willis, a campaign was conducted among the Board of Education, teachers and pupils, and through entertainments and donations, the school districts raised enough money to furnish every public school in the county with a United States flag. In 1900, by an act of the Legislature, Boards of Education were compelled to purchase and display flags at all public schools. Middlesex County was the first county to uniformly display the flag over its schoolhouses and the State of New Jersey was the first state to require by law a flying flag.

Until the early 1900's pupils of the Cedar Grove School advanced by readers instead of by grades. At that time algebra and book-keeping were taught in the elementary grades. Spelling and multiplication tables were taught by drill. Other subjects included were reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, grammar, history, geography, penmanship, hygiene, and civics. A little later physical exercises were performed to a record played on a victrola.

The children themselves cleared the schoolyard of trees and dense undergrowth for playing a game called anty-over and the girls played tisket-a-tasket. They also crocheted and exchanged patterns with one another.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Minutes of the Board of Education of Madison Township show that in 1908 payment of \$2.00 per month was made for janitorial services for each of its schools. Later, however, these duties were performed by teachers. The teachers often required that the students do the cleanup and firing of the stove for them. The fire was kept overnight, but had to be started up anew every Monday morning after a long weekend.

Several generations of the Warne Family taught at the Cedar Grove School. They were direct descendants of Thomas Warne, one of the 24 proprietors of East Jersey.

In the horse and buggy days the Cedar Grove School figured prominently in the religious and social life of the township, since there was no other building around to be used for public meetings. For one year in 1886 the building also served as a Sunday School. The teachers would walk nearly two miles to teach the Sunday classes. Sometimes a minister would conduct church services in the building in the evening.

The Madison Debating Club organized in Cedar Grove in 1890 and met at the school on Friday evenings. Readings were also held at that time.

Socials were held at the school, and entertainments were also held to earn money for various items related to the school and community. One such social was held for the purpose of raising money for the school banner. All the schools took turns in hosting a yearly game day of competition, probably towards the end of the school term.

The school was used for social purposes such as monthly gatherings and dances between 1948 (after the school closed) and the early 1950's. After this the school was used for storage by the Board of Education. In 1964 the Madison Historical Society formed and took the school as its headquarters.

The Cedar Grove School is one of the oldest buildings in Madison and the oldest school building. It is representative of school buildings in the area. It is directly involved with the history of Madison and was the center of social and religious life in the town. Its importance in town history is something that the local townspeople have taken pride in for many years and have worked to keep the building as a useful part of the community; in its function as a library and museum.

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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY (cont.)

Verbal information supplied by: Marian L. Smith, whose mother, Annie R. Warne Lambertson, taught 33 years in the Cedar Grove School. Ms. Lambertson died in 1969 at age 95.