

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

For HCRS use only

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

received  
date entered **DEC 04 1979**

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

**1. Name**

historic DAME SCHOOL

and/or common DAME SCHOOL

**2. Location**

street & number NH 152 Route #152  not for publication

city, town Nottingham  vicinity of First congressional district

state New Hampshire code 33 county Rockingham code 015

**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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Nottingham School Board - Town of Nottingham

street & number Route #152

city, town Nottingham  vicinity of 03290 state New Hampshire

**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 03833 state New Hampshire

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NA 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 <u>1952</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Dame School is a 1 1/2 story clapboarded frame building with a gable roof and steeple, measuring 28'6" by 40'9". Constructed about 1840 as a meeting house, the building originally stood a few hundred yards south of its present location. It was moved in 1952 when it became part of an elementary school complex.

The building is predominantly Greek Revival in style. The single entrance door, surmounted by a transom sash and flanked by two windows, is in the center of a narrow end of the building. The raking cornices on the gable of the facade have small returns at the eaves level, but the gable is not treated as a true pediment. Each side of the building has seven windows with 6/6 sash; three windows on each side are currently blocked for various reasons. Each window is treated with flat side casings and with top casings whose upper edges pitch upward slightly to a point in the center, resembling miniature pediments. The front and side exterior cornices have crown moldings of the typical Greek Revival echinus profile; the rear gable is trimmed with simple flat rake boards set flush against the clapboards.

The steeple has three stages: a box-like clapboarded lower stage with no openings except a small rear door that provides access to the roof; a belfry with flush-boarded walls, louvered openings with segmental-arched tops, and a moulded cornice; and a short clapboarded spire which rises from the center of the shallow hipped roof that covers the belfry. This spire is topped by a weathervane in the form of a quill pen, symbolizing the building's use as a school after 1870.

The interior is a single large room. Original plaster has been replaced or covered by modern wallboard, but the room retains its wainscoting of wide pine boards.

After being moved, the building was placed on a concrete foundation and equipped with a hot air furnace in a partial cellar. A concrete block chimney was constructed at the northeast corner of the structure. A modern wing extends from the southeast corner of the building, connecting it with a large modern school to the east.

The modern school is a 1-1/2 story gable-roofed structure covered with clapboards and characterized by detailing in the colonial revival style. At the time that the Dame School was made part of the modern complex in 1952, care was taken to utilize a style and materials that established harmony between the old schoolhouse and the newer building.

## 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 checked="" 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 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 c. 1840

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

**Architecture:** Dame School, originally built as a meeting house, is a good example of a rural religious structure in a simple Greek Revival style. Though altered somewhat in its conversion to a schoolhouse, the building retains its basic character and many of its original design elements. Local legend asserts that timbers from a 1740 meeting house at Nottingham Square, about a mile away, were used in the construction of the Dame School.

**Education:** The Nottingham town meeting of March 13, 1849, authorized the construction of a high school on the half-acre lot originally occupied by Dame School. It is not clear whether such a school was erected but records indicate that the Dame School building, though still used as a meeting house, began to be utilized as a school beginning in 1870. In 1878 it was adapted for full school use after the Universalist Church, which had shared in the construction and use of the building, erected its own church building elsewhere. Bartholomew van Dame, a Nottingham schoolmaster, is said to have donated the "quill pan" weathervane for the building when he began to teach there in 1870. In 1875 van Dame also bequeathed to the town a trust fund of \$100, the interest from which has been disbursed as prize awards.

In 1878, Dame School was designated Nottingham District School No. 13, being the last district school in the town system. By 1892 the building had become school No. 6, then successively No. 5, 4, 3, 2 and finally, upon removal across the North River to its present location in 1952, School No. 1. Since 1952 the building has been an element of a growing elementary school complex, lately serving as a general-purpose classroom and an assembly hall.

**Religion:** Authorized in 1838 and constructed about 1840, Dame School was originally a meeting house shared by two Nottingham churches: the "Orthodox Church" or Congregationalists, and the Universalists. The structure served these two sects until 1878, when the Universalists constructed their own building; the Congregationalists were absorbed by other denominations. The building is thus part of a religious history that began when the first church was established in Nottingham in 1729. It also reflects an era in nineteenth-century religious history when the concept of universal salvation began to supplant the Calvinist tenets of limited salvation held by the New England Congregational churches.

The modern school complex to which the Dame School was attached in 1952 is a 1-1/2 story wooden structure with clapboarded walls and detailing in the colonial revival style. The newer building is generally compatible in scale and materials with the older school. The entire school complex represents the process of consolidation of elementary schools which has characterized educational change in rural New England since the late nineteenth century. In 1849 Nottingham had twelve separate schoolhouses and the Dame School was added as a thirteenth in 1878. Thereafter, as population in remote areas of the township declined and transportation became more reliable, these structures were gradually abandoned and their function was absorbed by the growing central school complex. The moving

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Town Records, Town of Nottingham, Nottingham, NH  
 Town Records, NH State Archives, Concord, NH  
 History of Nottingham, by Elliott C. Cogswell, Deerfield & Northfield, 1878, p. 119.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 9 acres **ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle name Mt. Pawtuckaway Quadrangle scale 15'

UMT References

A	<u>119</u> Zone	<u>328924</u> Easting	<u>47761510</u> Northing	B	<u>  </u> Zone	<u>  </u> Easting	<u>  </u> Northing
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
E	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	F	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
G	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	H	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Town of Nottingham Tax Map 38, Lot 1

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John A. Gardner, Jr. (Chairman)

organization Nottingham Youth Advisory Committee date April 15, 1978

street & number Route #152 telephone 942-7731

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]  
 Commissioner, NH Dept. Resources & Economic Development  
 title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date October 5, 1978

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
[Signature] date 10-30-80

for Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Significance, continued:

of the Dame School a short distance to its present location in 1952 permitted the structure to continue to serve an educational function in town as it had for some eighty years; the building is now the only former district schoolhouse that continues to serve an educational function for the Town of Nottingham, and is one of the few still in use in New Hampshire. At the same time, the move and adaptation of the old schoolhouse were carried out in a manner that left the building relatively unaltered. The Dame School and the modern complex to which it is linked thus establish an unusual degree of continuity in the educational history of Nottingham.

DEC 04 1979

