

DATA SHEET

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Hillsborough
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Ash Street School

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Ash Street School

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ash Street, between Ash, Bridge, Maple and Pearl Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Manchester

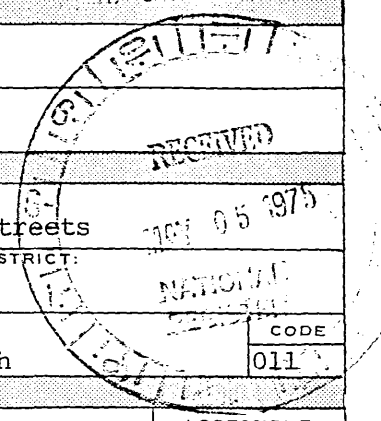
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE:  
New Hampshire

CODE:  
33

COUNTY:  
Hillsborough

CODE:  
011



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<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 (Specify) _____ _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Manchester, New Hampshire

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Manchester City Hall, 908 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Manchester

STATE:  
New Hampshire

CODE:  
33

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hillsborough County Court House, PO Box 370, 19 Temple St.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Nashua

STATE:  
New Hampshire

CODE:  
33

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Survey of Manchester

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
The Manchester Historic Association

STREET AND NUMBER:  
129 Amherst Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Manchester

STATE:  
New Hampshire

CODE:  
33

STATE: New Hampshire

COUNTY: Hillsborough

ENTRY NUMBER: May 30 1975

DATE: May 30 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present Physical Appearance

The Ash Street School occupies the entire block bounded by Ash, Bridge, Maple and Pearl Streets. The neighborhood is almost entirely residential and includes several nursing homes and homes for the elderly.

The school building is of richly ornamented and pilastered brick work built in 1874 in what was then known as the French Style. It is two stories in height in addition to the basement and roof stories and is surmounted by a slated mansard roof. The Plan is that of a Greek cross, the arms being 88 feet long and 32 feet wide with towers 18 feet square at the northeast and southwest angles. It contains eight school rooms, utilities in the basement and an area in the attic originally designed as a combination gym-auditorium.

The underpinnings, windowsills, the entrance stairs with their solid railings and the belt course above the basement are of cut granite as are the two belt courses above the second story on the towers. The windows are tall and narrow with arched tops on the first floor and rounded ones on the second. The attic dormers are wide with tall narrow windows and small pediments.

The main, southwest, tower is 112 feet high to the base of the eight foot weathervane support surmounting its high mansard roof with its ornamented top. Four round black clock faces with scroll ornamentation are mounted on the four sides of the roof. Beneath the roof, tall round-topped louvered openings, two to a side, surround the school's bell. Below these in a line with the attic roof are two round windows one on each visible side of the tower. Beneath these the windows are a continuation of those on the main body of the building. The northeast tower is 70 feet tall and is topped by a shallow pyramidal roof with a central wooden ornament. It is similar to the main tower except that round-topped windows on the top story have replaced the louvered ones on the main tower.

There are four entrances to the first floor, two in the towers and two in the other corresponding angles. All have broad porticoes, wooden bracketed hoods and double, multi-paneled wooden doors with the exception of the southeast entrance which now has a flush or laminated pair of doors. The main halls leading from these entrances are eight feet wide and cross the building diagonally, crossing each other at right angles in the center. The first story is 12-1/2 feet high and the second 14-1/2 feet high. Each contains four 6-sided classrooms each of which has windows on three sides. Teacher's rooms are located on the second story over the angled entrances. The Principal's room is in the West arm of the cross.

Continued on continuation sheet 1

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE MAY 30 1976

(Number all entries)

7. Description, continued.

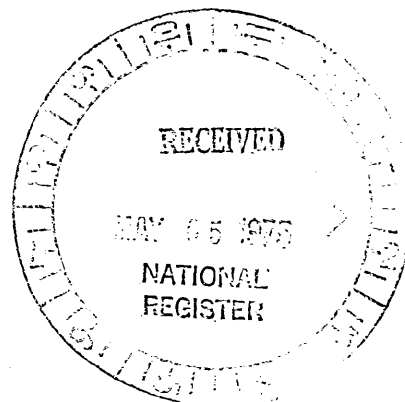
Presently the school yard is entirely asphalted and includes modern play equipment. The whole area is surrounded by a high wire mesh fence.

Original Appearance

The school stands today largely as it did when first built. Four small round ornamented dormers have disappeared from the upper sections of the mansard roof and the arrow is no longer in place on the weather-vane. Interior changes in lighting, heating and so forth have been made during the years as necessitated by the school's continued use.

The play area around the school was originally grass with cement walks leading to the entrances and around the building. Several trees stood in the school yard which was not fenced but surrounded only by the granite curbing still in place, outside the modern fence.

When the school was constructed in 1874 the surrounding area was much less built up than at present. The majority of the area was developed within the next decade and has retained its character up to the present time with the addition of the several facilities for the elderly.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1872-4; 1876

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture:

The Ash Street School was designed in the then popular "French" style by George W. Stevens, Civil Engineer for the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, and built between 1872 and 1874 on land purchased from that company for \$.04 a foot. In line with company policy of assistance to the city which it has built, this was a very low rate, the lot next door being valued at \$.50 a foot.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Stevens wished to design a school beautiful, comfortable, convenient and superior in both lighting and ventilation to his Lincoln School built in Manchester two years before. His solution, suggested by a "Dolly Varden" paper collar box,<sup>2</sup> was a unique cruciform design resulting in windows on three sides of each of the eight classrooms. These in combination with the broad hallways running from corner to corner of the building also gave the sought for ventilation.

The foundations for the building were put in by Gilman H. Kimball of Manchester and the walls put up and roofed over by Alpheus, Gay, a prominent Manchester contractor. The interior finish was by Mead and Mason of Concord. The completed structure was dedicated on September 4, 1874. The next year it was valued at \$60,000.

A model of the school was sent to the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876 where it is said to have been selected as a model school building of the time.<sup>3</sup> The model itself so impressed the President of a South American country that it was presented to him at his request.<sup>4</sup> According to newspaper reports of the time, the Ash Street School is said to have been the first school in the country built on a cruciform plan, and the inspiration for others of this plan built across the country.

Engineering:

The great clock in the main tower of the ash Street School was made by the Howard Clock Company and was the first and only one of its size with a gravity escapement and compensating pendulum in the state at that time.<sup>5</sup> The gravity escapement acting through two escape wheels insured that no variation caused by wind pressure on the hands or gummy oil

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clippings from unidentified Manchester newspapers all dated 1874. Architectural File, "Ash St. School". Library, The Manchester Historic Association.

Tracy, Paul. "Won Prize in 1876, Ash Street School a Trap." Manchester Union Leader. Manchester, N.H.: Union Leader Corporation, January 19, 1952.

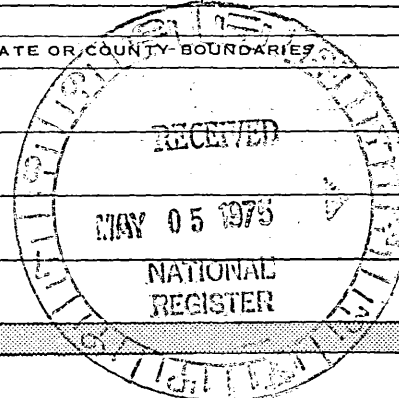
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		40°	59'	46"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		71°	27'	16"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia G. Plisko, Director

ORGANIZATION: The Manchester Historic Association DATE: May 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
129 Amherst Street

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 03104  
33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
Commissioner, DRED  
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
Date: April 30, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/30/75

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register  
Date: 5.30.75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2

STATE	
New Hampshire	
COUNTY	
Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 30 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance, continued

in the mechanism could effect the beat of the pendulum. The compensating pendulum guarded against thermal changes affecting its oscillations.

At the time this clock was considered the best of its size ever turned out by the Howard Company. It is probably one of the first, if not the first, installed in a building as the installer visited the factory just when this pattern was in the process of building.<sup>6</sup>

Education:

This school has been in almost continuous use for classes since its construction 100 years ago. At that time it became one of three grammar schools in the city and it continued in that role until a few years ago when it was closed. Shortly thereafter it was reopened for use by the special classes which occupy it today. The School Department plans to move these students to other facilities in the near future and presently has no other plans for the building. At least one developer has already approached the city for permission to buy the property and construct a new office building on the site.

<sup>1</sup>"Manchester and Vicinity, The Ash Street School House."  
Clipping from a Manchester newspaper. Manchester, 1874. Architectural File, Ash Street School. Manchester Historic Association.

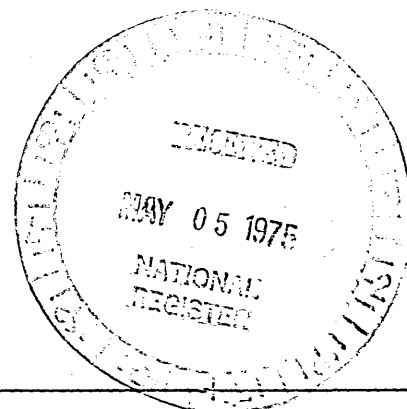
<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Paul Tracy. "Won Prize in 1876, Ash Street School a Trap."  
Manchester Union Leader. Manchester, N.H. January 19, 1952.

<sup>4</sup>"Manchester School Reports." 1876

<sup>5</sup>"Ash Street Schoolhouse Clock." Clipping from a Manchester Newspaper, September 26, 1874. Architectural File, Ash Street School, Manchester Historic Association.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 3

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 30 1975

(Number all entries)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued

10.2 UTM References

Zone 19  
Easting 2-99-900  
Northing 47-63-100

*UTM  
OK  
HA*

