

2695

RECEIVED

OCT 31 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Umpawaug District School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Umpawaug Road N/A not for publication
city, town Redding, N/A vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06896

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

October 25, 1988
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain):

[Signature]

12/1/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Wood shingle

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Umpawaug District School is a one-story red brick schoolhouse located in Redding, Connecticut. It occupies a clearing on a steep wooded hill and is nearly adjacent to Umpawaug Road, a northwest-running town road. Its immediate surroundings are wooded, with a small stream cutting through a deep ravine approximately 50-100 yards south of the schoolhouse. No houses are visible from the site except in the winter and late fall, when a recent large-lot subdivision can be seen to the south and east. A Federal-period house, not visible from the school, is located a few hundred yards to the west, at the intersection of Marchant Road. (Photograph 1)

The schoolhouse is 20' x 33' and rectangular in shape, resting on a foundation of fieldstone. The foundation is above ground, creating an approximately 1' crawlspace below the floor. Gaps have been left in the stones in the south and east elevations to allow for drainage and for access to the crawlspace. The stone was originally dry-laid, but has been pointed with cement. (Photographs 1, 2). The building is two bays wide and four bays deep, with brick walls. Individual bricks are approximately 2½" x 8" and are laid in American common bond, with a row of headers for every five of stretchers. The original mortar is tinted red, but the walls have been re-pointed in places with Portland cement. One section at the southwest corner of the west facade and south elevation has been replaced by new brick which matches the dimensions and approximates the color of the old brick. The facade and side elevations have been inscribed with scores of initials by former pupils at the school. Some of the initials are in old lettering styles and two full names were inscribed by pupils from the mid-1920s. (Photographs 2, 3, 4).

The windows are set in simple plank frames, some of which have visible square-cut nails, and are fitted with double-hung, six-over-six sash and board shutters. The sash and shutters appear to be replacements, possibly from a 1938 restoration. Window lintels are formed by soldier courses of brick and are roughly splayed. The gable roof is wood-shingled. It features a simple cornice with round moldings, frieze, and returns. From the ridge of the roof rise a gabled, louvered cupola and a brick chimney stack, the latter dating from a 1965 restoration. (Photographs 2, 3, 4).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Umpawaug District School
Umpawaug Road
Redding, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 2

A wooden flagpole has been mounted on the east gable. (Photographs 1,2)

The facade has a centered front entry, above which in the gable is a small lunette window which has been bricked in. A large granite step is located at the front door. The door is a batten type set in a heavy wood frame and is fitted with a Suffolk latch and interior strap hinges. Inside the front door is a narrow vestibule, with a hatchway into the attic, serviced by a wooden ladder. (Photographs 4, 5, 6).

The remainder of the interior consists of a single large classroom, with a plaster coved ceiling and plaster walls above tongue-in-groove wainscoting. Flooring is narrow-board pine. The horsehair plaster is believed to be original, while the flooring and wainscoting were applied in the late nineteenth century. Blackboards, desks, and a woodstove were installed by the Redding Historical Society in 1964-5 when the building was converted into a museum. (Photographs 6, 7)

Other than routine repairs during the years when the building was in active use as a school, alterations date from three periods: interior remodelling was undertaken during the late nineteenth century when new flooring and wainscoting was installed, and a privy, no longer extant, constructed near the stream to the south of the school; in 1938 the building was restored by the Redding Women's Civic Club, at which time the window sash were probably replaced; and in 1964-65 the Redding Historical Society replaced the roof and pointed the masonry, as well as added school furnishings.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Education
Architecture

c. 1790-1930

c. 1790

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Umpawaug District School is significant to the history of education in Redding. The last of the town's fourteen one-room district schools to survive, its survival is significant as representative of a period in which all public education was carried on in one-room district schoolhouses. (Criterion A). It is also significant as a good, well-preserved example of a rural schoolhouse of its period. (Criterion C).

Redding was recognized as a separate parish of Fairfield in 1729. Its first recorded school was a parish school established in 1737 and supported by the Congregational Society. Sessions of the school were held alternately at schoolhouses constructed at three different locations in the town. In 1742 the parish was divided into three districts, each of which was serviced by the schoolhouses already built within its boundaries for the parish school. In February, 1768, shortly after Redding became a separate town, a town meeting authorized the division of the town into seven school districts.¹ A school committee of seven men was selected, each of whom was responsible for hiring a teacher and collecting school taxes within the district where he resided. In 1795 the Redding School Society was organized to take advantage of moneys distributed to the towns by the state for education, out of the sale of lands in the Western Reserve. The School Society largely assumed responsibility for the schools, including acquisition of land and construction of new schoolhouses. By 1819, the number of school districts in Redding had expanded to eleven.² The school districts were consolidated in 1908, but several of the town's one-room schoolhouses remained in use until 1930.

The common or district schools provided the rudiments of education to generations of children in rural Redding. Several accounts of Redding schools during the early nineteenth century indicate that male schoolmasters were employed for at least part of the year, discipline was strict, and conditions, as elsewhere in rural Connecticut, were primitive. Until the mid-1820s, furniture consisted of long oak-slab benches.³ As late as the 1880s the curriculum was rudimentary: mathematics, reading, spelling... and English were taught in Umpawaug School. Children of all ages were present in the classroom at the same time.⁴ However,

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Danbury News articles, June 14 and September 12, 1882.

Gulliford, Andrew, America's Country Schools, Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1984.

Pease, John C. and Miles, John M., Gazetteer of Connecticut and Rhode Island, Hartford: William S. Marsh, 1819.

Redding Bicentennial Committee, Redding Bicentennial Program, 1767-1967.

Redding Town Records: Town meeting, vital, probate, Ecclesiastical Society: located in the following locations: Redding Town Hall, State Library, Hartford, Conn., and Probate Office, City Hall, Danbury, Conn.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
Redding Historical Society
P.O. Box 23, Redding, Ct. 06896

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .10

UTM References

A

1	8
---	---

6	30	4	5	0
---	----	---	---	---

45	7	4	78	0
----	---	---	----	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include all of the acreage that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title William E. Devlin
organization for Redding Historical Society date March 27, 1988
street & number c/o Ebba Anderson telephone (203) 938-2954
city or town 65 Umpawaug Rd., W. Redding state Ct. zip code 06896

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Umpawaug District School
Umpawaug Road
Redding, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

there is evidence that Redding made efforts during the late nineteenth century to improve conditions. "Textbooks were more numerous and varied than in other rural towns in Connecticut,"⁵ and physical improvements at the Umpawaug School alone consisted of installation of new flooring and wainscoting, and the construction of a privy and an attached woodshed, neither of which is extant.

Umpawaug District, or District Number Seven, was one of the seven school districts laid out by the town's school committee in 1768. The Umpawaug District School is believed to date from 1790-1810. The schoolhouse was constructed on the land of Peter Sanford, born in 1756, who was active during the 1790s as a district committeeman and was a member of the original committee of the Redding School Society when it was organized in 1795. The inventory of his estate, probated in January, 1828, lists among his landholdings "the School House Lot."⁶ Physical features of the building, including early horsehair plaster, the front batten door with strap hinges and Suffolk latch, and the modest Federal ornamental details of flat arches, lunette gable window, and cornice returns, further support a late eighteenth-early nineteenth century date of construction.

During most of the nineteenth century, from 1795 until the mid-1870s, Umpawaug Road was a part of the Danbury & Norwalk Turnpike, a major north-south route for commerce and farm products between Danbury and the Long Island Sound. The Umpawaug District was one of the largest in Redding in population, its 1879 enrollment of 51 pupils the second highest in the town. The schoolhouse remained in use after consolidation, until 1930, when the last session was held in it. It stood vacant and abandoned until 1938, when the Redding Women's Civic Club undertook to repair and preserve it. In 1964 the Town of Redding acquired the land upon which the schoolhouse stands from a developer and leased the building to the Redding Historical Society, which converted it to a museum.

The building is a good example of a one-room schoolhouse of its period. Its significance is enhanced by the generations of graffiti scratched into its brick and by the integrity of its rural setting. (Photograph 1). Its coved ceiling is an unusual feature, but its simple, functional floor plan and single entry is characteristic of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century schools, as is its absence of all but a few details of formal styling. Alterations to the building over the years have not compromised its significance. The two twentieth-century efforts were in the nature of repair and restoration, while the late nineteenth-century installation of new flooring and wainscoting reflects Redding's efforts to improve and maintain its existing schools at a time when the town's population was declining and the common school system was under attack from educational reformers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Umpawaug District School
Umpawaug Road
Redding, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 3

ENDNOTES

- 1 Redding Town Records, Vol. 1 (unpaginated) at State Library, Hartford
- 2 Pease, John C., and Niles, John M., Gazetteer of Connecticut and Rhode Island, Hartford, William S. Marsh, 1819.
- 3 Danbury News article, "The Old Schoolmaster," June 14, 1882, p.2
- 4 Ryder, Ralph, quoted in Redding Bicentennial Program, 1767-1967, Redding Bicentennial Committee, 1967. Ryder was a student at Umpawaug in the 1880s.
- 5 Sturges, Dell C., "Story of the Little Red School House, Bethel, Connecticut: Warren Press, 1939, p.9.
- 6 Danbury Probate Records, 15:581, in Danbury City Hall, Danbury, Connecticut.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Umpawaug District School
Umpawaug Road
Redding, Ct.

Section number 9 Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY continued:

Sturges, Dell C., Story of the Little Red Schoolhouse, Bethel,
Conn.: Warren Press, 1939.

Todd, Charles Burr, History of Redding, privately publ., 1879.

Interviews:

Ebba Anderson, July, 1987. Former Redding Town Clerk and area
resident.

Frank Kokoska, December, 1987. Carpenter who conducted repairs
to the school in 1965 and thereafter.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Umpawaug District School
Umpawaug Road
Redding, Connecticut

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The property is described in Volume 77, page 21 of the Redding Land Records as follows:

All that certain piece, parcel or tract of land together with the buildings and improvements thereon, if any, situated in the Town of Redding, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, and shown and designated as Plot 11A, 2,725 square feet, more or less, on map entitled "Revised Map of Property Prepared For Puritan Development Corp. at Redding, Conn. Scale 1" = 100', September 2, 1967 by John M. Farnsworth, Land Surveyor, Redding, Conn. Certified Substantially Correct John M. Farnsworth, Revised December 8, 1967, Revised January 10, 1968," which map is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Redding,, Conn. as Map No. 1211.

See Figure 1.

Figure 1.

REVISED
MAP OF PROPERTY
PREPARED FOR

PURITAN DEVELOPMENT CORP

AT

REDDING, CONN.

SCALE 1" = 100'

SEPT. 2, 1967

BY JOHN M. FARNSWORTH, LAND SURVEYOR.

REDDING, CONN.

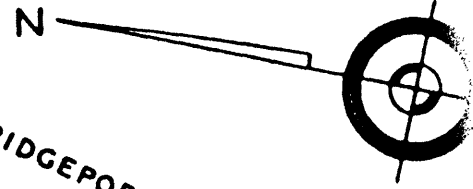
"Certified Substantially Correct"

John M. Farnsworth

Revised Dec. 8, 1967
Revised Jan. 10, 1968

APPROVED
REDDING PLANNING
COMMISSION

James J. ...
April 23, 1968



BRIDGEPORT

HYDRAULIC

WEST REDDING
NO. 2

NO. 2

(2)

(2)

20.2 AC.

(3)

2.1 AC.

(10)

20 AC.

(9)

2.0 AC.

(11)

2.0 AC.

(12)

2.08 AC.

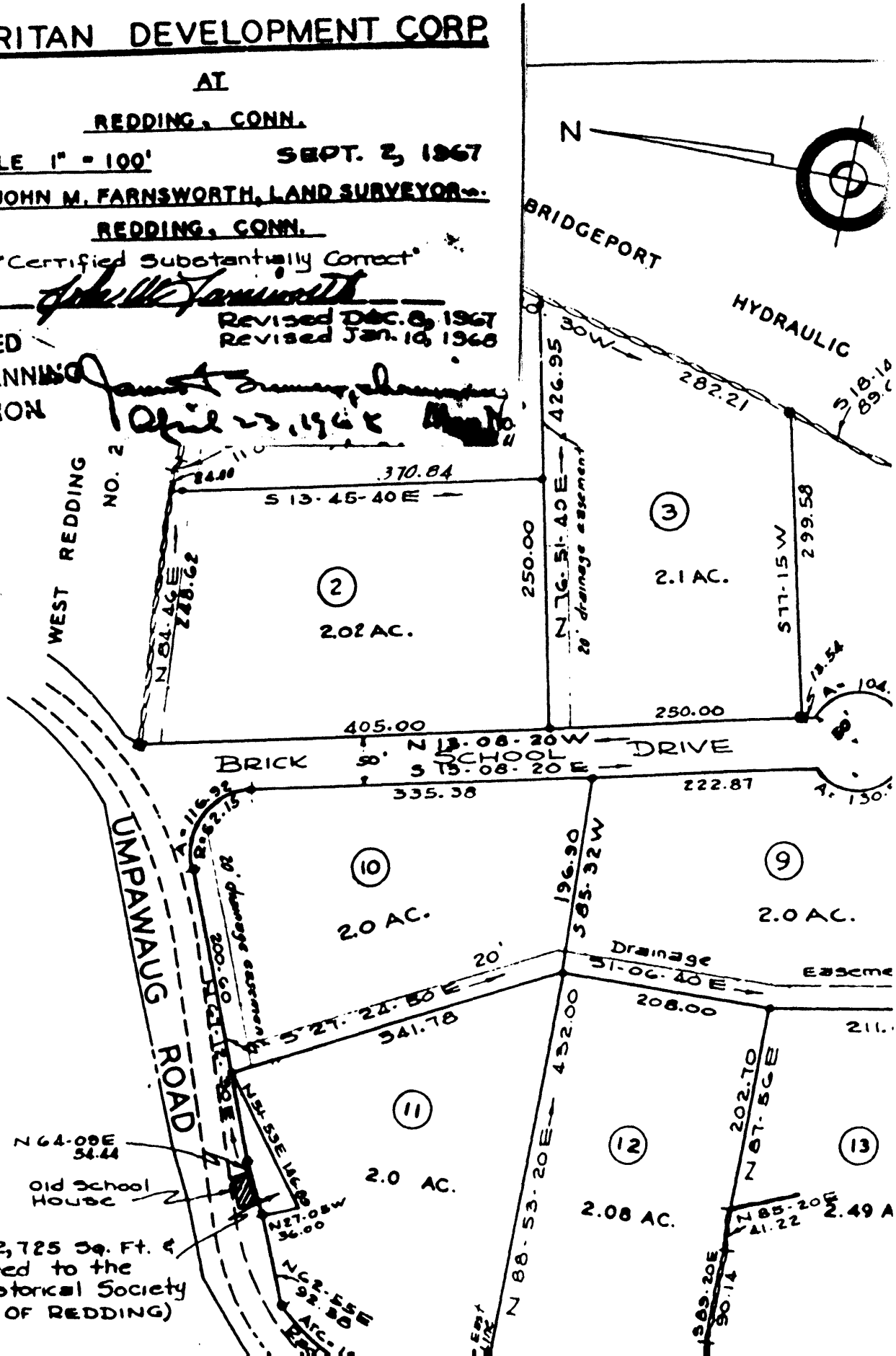
(13)

2.49 A

N 64-00E
54.44

Old School
House

Plot 11A - 2,725 Sq. Ft. &
is dedicated to the
Redding Historical Society
(TOWN OF REDDING)



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Umpawaug District School
Umpawaug Road
Redding, Conn.

Photographs

Section number _____ Page 1

For each photograph:

Umpawaug District School
Umpawaug, Redding, Connecticut
Photo by William E. Devlin July, 1987
Negative on file Connecticut Historical Comm.

Photograph 1: Looking east

Photograph 2: North and west (rear) elevations, looking northeast

Photograph 3: East facade and north elevation, looking west

Photograph 4: East facade and south elevation, looking northwest

Photograph 5: Front door, interior, showing strap hinges

Photograph 6: Classroom, looking towards front

Photograph 7: Classroom, looking towards rear