

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 17 1980
DATE ENTERED	AUG 26 1980

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

Atkinson Academy School

AND/OR COMMON

Atkinson Academy School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Academy Avenue

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Atkinson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

New Hampshire

__ VICINITY OF

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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

Timberlane Regional School District

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Atkinson

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire, 03811

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

STATE

New Hampshire, 03833

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NA

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Atkinson Academy building is a two-story, hip-roofed framed structure measuring 34 by 60 feet. A three-bay central pedimented pavilion projects slightly from the center of the facade, and a four-stage tower rises from the middle of the roof. The building is seven bays wide, three bays deep, and has a hip-roofed one-story entrance porch on each end. The main doorway, in the center of the pavilion, is flanked by two Tuscan pilasters on pedestals and surmounted by an architrave, frieze, and triangular pediment. The projecting pavilion is similarly flanked at each corner by attenuated two-story Tuscan pilasters on pedestals, and its pediment is of the same proportions as the doorway pediment. The tympanum of the pavilion pediment is decorated by a semicircular arched false window in the center. All other windows are surrounded by casings having eared projections near the top; those on the first story also have frieze boards and horizontal cornices with crown and bed mouldings. Window sash are 6/6. The building's tower, copied closely after that of the now-destroyed second Phillips Exeter Academy building (1794) in nearby Exeter, New Hampshire, is the chief ornamental feature of the structure. Its lowest stage, rising from the center of the ridge, is a square clapboarded platform surmounted by a cavetto crown moulding and a balustrade with small urn finials at each corner. The stage above this is an open octagonal belfry supported on eight posts. Semi-elliptical arches with pronounced keystones span the intervals between the posts, creating an arcade which encircles the belfry. Above the arcade is a full wooden entablature surmounted by an octagonal balustrade with urn finials at each angle. Above the belfry is an octagonal lantern bearing an arched false window on each face, and above this is an octagonal dome with a short central spire.

The Atkinson Academy building has undergone several changes over the years. In 1843 a portion of the building was partitioned off to be used for town meetings. Other remodellings occurred in 1913 and 1924 or 25. The structure was eventually deeded to the town and underwent a period of disuse and deterioration. It was finally reopened as a school and two modern masonry additions were added at the rear. Throughout these changes, however, the exterior has remained relatively unchanged, the only noticeable exterior alteration being the replacement of the original 9-panel main door by a glazed door.

Several accounts suggest that the interior of the academy originally had a single room on each floor. Writing in 1805, when the building was little more than a year old, the minister and diarist William Bentley of Salem, Massachusetts, stated that "the building is in an most elevated situation & well accomodated. It is in a plain but lofty style & is surmounted by a bellfry with good effect. The lower part lays in one great undivided room & the stairs ascend on the north part of this room. The School of the Academy is in a spacious room & the females are on one side & the males on the other." Although the interior of the building has been remodelled since Bentley's day, a comparison of the present exterior features with those shown in early photographs suggests that the exterior has been altered very little over the years.

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 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 checked="" 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 1803

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ebenezer Clifford

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Atkinson Academy building is one of the oldest academic structures in New Hampshire and is the only surviving building which can be documented as having been designed by Ebenezer Clifford, an important architect and inventor in early nineteenth-century New Hampshire. Its design is unusually sophisticated, having been based on that of the nearby 1794 Phillips Exeter Academy building, one of the finest educational structures in late eighteenth-century New England. The Academy is said to be the second oldest coeducational secondary school in New England.

Architecture: The Atkinson Academy building is a rare survival of the type of academic structure that evolved in New England during the late eighteenth century. The immediate prototype for the Atkinson Academy building was the somewhat larger second Phillips Exeter Academy structure (1794), some 15 miles distant, but both of these New Hampshire academy buildings were ultimately based upon such collegiate structures as Harvard Hall (1764) and Dartmouth Hall (1784). The Atkinson Academy building was designed in 1803 by Ebenezer Clifford (1746-1821), who had earlier been one of two designers of the Phillips Exeter Academy building and of several other unusual structures, and who was an ingenious inventor, craftsman and entrepreneur. The Atkinson Academy building is today the only surviving structure which can be documented as solely Clifford's design, and is one of the finest early academic structures remaining in New Hampshire.

Education: Atkinson Academy is said to be the second oldest coeducational secondary school in the United States, preceded only by the academy at Leicester, Massachusetts. Eleven girls were entered in the academy in 1791, and the surviving lists of three years before 1800 reveal the names of 46 girls who attended the Academy. William Bentley, the minister and diarist from Salem, Massachusetts, noted in 1805 that the school included some thirty girls among its students, together with an equal number of males who were instructed on opposite sides of the same spacious schoolroom. The Atkinson Academy building has continued to serve the educational needs of its community and region to the present day.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Felt, Joseph B., An Address before the Alumni of Atkinson Academy, N.H. Boston: Wm. S. Damrell & Frank C. Moore, 1859.
- Garvin, James L., "Ebenezer Clifford, Architect and Inventor," Old-Time New England LXV, 3-4 (January-June, 1975), pp. 22-37.
- Marr, Harriet Webster, Atkinson Academy, The Early Years, n.p., the author, 1940.
- , The Old New England Academies Founded before 1826. New York: the author, 1959.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES Quadrangle name Salem Depot, NH Scale 1:24000

A	1,9	3,2,4,5,5,0	4,7,4,5,0,4,0	B	Mass.			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C				D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Map # 13 -- Lot # 69

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Eleanor M. Zarembo, President

ORGANIZATION

Atkinson Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Island Pond Road

TELEPHONE

(603) 362-4485

CITY OR TOWN

Atkinson

STATE

New Hampshire, 03811

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner, NH Department of Resources & Economic Development, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 7, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Lucas MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 8/26/80

Donna M. Orgera DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

8-22-80

Donna M. Orgera KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER