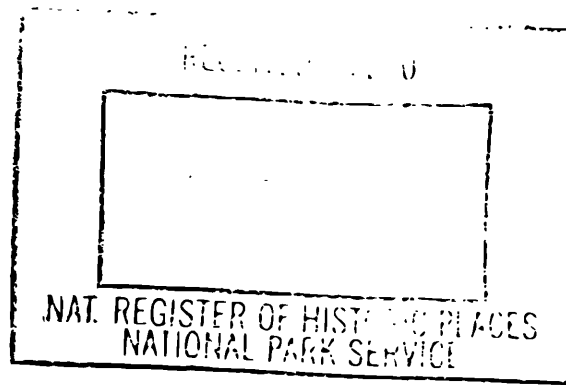


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

957



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name District Two Schoolhouse; East School; Center School; School of the Middle Class

other names/site number BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 432 NH Route 123 NA not for publication

city or town Sharon NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Hillsborough code 011 zip code 03458

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James McLaughlin 7/29/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson R. Beall 9/14/02
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Brick Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Hillsborough NH
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall
GOVERNMENT/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite
walls brick

roof wood shingle

other brick chimney

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Brick Schoolhouse
Sharon (Hillsborough Cty) NH

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Brick Schoolhouse is a one-story brick building in the Greek Revival Style. The exterior appearance has changed little in the nearly 170 years since its construction. Similar to its original setting in 1832, it sits on a grassy knoll surrounded by forested land and a cluster of rural homes. The rectangular building measures 26 x 30 feet and is situated lengthwise to Route 123, the front-gable façade facing south. The interior of the building consists of two rooms: a 5 x 24 foot entry and a 23 x 24 foot main room, complete with pine and wrought-iron desks. There are no outbuildings on the property although there are some wooden remains of a former outhouse that once stood to the north of the schoolhouse. To this day, the Brick Schoolhouse remains on its original site and is the center of the town's social and political establishment.

This load-bearing brick building is supported by a granite foundation and topped by a gable roof sheathed with wooden shingles. An interior brick end-chimney rises on the rear (north) end just below the ridge on the west slope. The school's main entry is centered on the south elevation and consists of a four-panel door with plain surrounds. A single, fixed 10-pane window is located on each side of the entry. Fenestration on the east, west, and north sides consists of two 12/12 double-hung sash on each elevation.

Inside the schoolhouse, the wall separating the entry room from the main room consists of unpainted pine planks in widths varying up to 27 inches. A six-panel door with iron hook latch provides access to the main room. The main room has unpainted floor boards in widths varying from three to seven inches. The interior pine walls have a three-foot wainscoting topped by a one-inch chair rail. The painted wainscoting on the exterior walls varies from 14 to 17 inches in width; those on the interior wall are considerably narrower. Above the chair rail, horizontal planks extend to the ceiling, which appears to be plaster over lath.

For seating, five rows of six pine and wrought-iron desks (with attached seats) face west. The seats and desks in the first row are sized for smaller children, while the seats and desks in the last row are sized for larger children. The desks, dated with a patent of 1872 and inscribed with "Northville High," are not original to the site. These replacements to the original seats were made some time in the late 1800s. Earlier accounts indicate that original home-made seats were of white pine and arranged in two sections, one on the east side and one on the west side of the room, separating boys from girls. Each section rose a step higher per row as one advanced up the aisle toward the back. A blackboard was on the south wall and the teacher's desk on the north. (King, 81)

Minor alterations to update the schoolhouse's systems and to add other conveniences have not changed the original design of the building. The original 12/8 double-hung windows were replaced c1910 by 12/12. Prior to 1920, a wooden flagpole was added directly above the entry, and wooden shutters were removed from the windows on the east and west sides. Other alterations, whose exact dates are unknown, include the installation of an oil-fired furnace, electricity, and a vault in the southwest corner of the building for records storage. Additionally, the original wooden roof shingles have been replaced in-kind and the original wood- or coal-fired stoves removed. In 2000, granite steps were added leading from the parking area up toward the schoolhouse.

The landscape immediately surrounding the building is simply grass. Two stone walls form a close boundary within 22 feet on the south and east sides of the building.

Brick Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Hillsborough NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.47

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth LaRose/Member

organization Sharon Conservation Commission date January 2002

street & number 579 Jarmany Hill Road telephone 603-924-4400

city or town Sharon state NH zip code 03458

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Sharon NH

street & number 432 Route 123 telephone 603-924-9250

city or town Sharon state NH zip code 03458

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1832 - 1920

Significant Dates

1832; 1833

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Brick Schoolhouse/Town Office Vault

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

Brick Schoolhouse
Sharon (Hillsborough Cty) NH

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

SIGNIFICANCE

The Brick Schoolhouse is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for significance in education. It is a very well-preserved schoolhouse, constructed in 1832 and little changed over the years. It is the only one of three one-room schools that once served the town of Sharon NH. In fact, it is the only school of any kind existing in Sharon today as the town's children have been sent to neighboring Peterborough for public education since 1920. The school retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the period 1832 to 1920 – the year of construction through its use as a school.

The Brick Schoolhouse was constructed in 1832 and opened its doors to students in 1833. At that time, the Brick Schoolhouse was one of two one-room schoolhouses in the town of Sharon, which is located in the southwestern corner of Hillsborough County in New Hampshire's Monadnock Region. A third one-room schoolhouse was added in 1838 to accommodate a population of around 400 residents and 80 students. (Collier, 13, 22)

Known through the years by several names including the East School, the Center School, the District Two Schoolhouse, and even the School of the Middle Class, it was the only one-room schoolhouse in Sharon made of brick. Because two previous clapboarded wooden schoolhouses erected in District Two had been destroyed by fire, in 1799 and 1832 respectively, the town chose to construct this particular schoolhouse of brick for its permanence. (Collier, 21, 22)

A new site was selected for the Brick Schoolhouse across Street Road (known today as Route 123) from where the two previous District Two schoolhouses had stood. The deed of Samuel Clark to the East School District of the ground on which the Brick Schoolhouse stands was given on July 20, 1832. (King, 78) The Brick Schoolhouse was constructed at a total expense of \$300. (Collier, 22)

Little is known about the builder of the Brick Schoolhouse. It is suspected that he was a brick mason and either the father or grandfather of sisters Etta Ryan and Mrs. Calvin Hurd. (King, 78, 79) However, additional research has proven inconclusive.

The Brick Schoolhouse was in use as a public school for nearly nine decades, from 1833 to 1920. During that time, the student population fluctuated from a high of around 40 students to a low of around 10 students. Of the three one-room schoolhouses in Sharon, the Brick Schoolhouse appears to have had the largest student population through the years, holding both a winter session that lasted about 10 weeks and a summer session that lasted about 12 weeks. (Collier, 22, 23) As was common for the time, a lone teacher was responsible for instructing up to 40 students from first through eighth grade.

It should be noted that the Brick Schoolhouse served other important town functions during this time period. Baptist and Congregational church services were held at the Brick Schoolhouse intermittently in the 1800s. (King, 74, 75) It is also believed that the Brick Schoolhouse functioned as a town meeting hall in the 1800s, as Sharon has never had a meeting house or town hall.

In 1920, the total population of Sharon fell to below 50 and the townspeople decided to send their children to neighboring Peterborough for public education because it was too costly to educate the dwindling number of students in town. This practice continues to this day. The Brick Schoolhouse is the only existing public school building that remains within the borders of Sharon, NH.

Since 1920, the Brick Schoolhouse has remained the property of the town of Sharon, NH and has been in continuous municipal use. The Brick Schoolhouse has served various public town functions including that of town meeting hall,

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

National Register of Historic Places Brick Schoolhouse/Sharon (Hillsborough Cty) NH
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

polling place, and repository of town records. The Brick Schoolhouse continues to be used for these municipal purposes and has never been vacant since its construction in 1832.

Of the utmost importance is the cultural significance of the Brick Schoolhouse to the town of Sharon NH. The building itself marks the de facto center of this tiny New Hampshire town (current population: 364). Historians have, in fact, referred to this section of town as "Sharon City". (King, 79) By erecting a schoolhouse out of brick almost 170 years ago, the town established the permanent center of Sharon – geographically, politically, and socially. This town center remains today, evidenced almost solely by the Brick Schoolhouse and the Sharon Arts Center (est. 1947). No other retail or municipal buildings exist within the town's borders.

Into the 21st century, the Brick Schoolhouse remains a building of simple aesthetic beauty and utilitarian usefulness. The Brick Schoolhouse gives Sharon, NH its core identity and a strong sense of place. Not only does the building stand as a tribute to early rural education in New Hampshire, it is also closely associated with the history of the town of Sharon – its educational and political decision-making, its population fluctuations, and its cultural development.

Brick Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Hillsborough, NH
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 4

Bibliography

Written Materials:

Collier, Abram T. The Secret of Sharon. Sharon, NH: Bicentennial Committee, 1991.

Garvin, James L. Report on the District Number Eight Schoolhouse. Peterborough, NH: 11 May 1996.

Hancock History Committee. The Second Hundred Years of Hancock, NH, 1979.

Historical Collection for "Sharon, New Hampshire". MSS 101. Peterborough Historical Society, Peterborough, NH.

King, Jr. Thom H. Sliptown: The History of Sharon, New Hampshire, 1738-1941.
Tokyo, Japan: Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc., 1965.

Records of the Town of Peterborough, New Hampshire, 1900-1925. Peterborough, Town Library,
Peterborough, NH.

Interviews:

Jordan, John, Registered New Hampshire architect, Personal Interview conducted by Taylor Shipman, 4/16/01.
Transcript located at the Brick Schoolhouse/Town Vault.

Neary, Gloria, Hancock, NH Historical Society, Telephone Interview conducted by Tina Rapp, 6/07/01. Transcript
located at the Brick Schoolhouse/Town Vault.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Brick Schoolhouse/Sharon (Hillsborough Cty) NH
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are indicated on the attached sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property are the property boundaries of the lot of land originally deeded in 1832 for the school's construction.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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