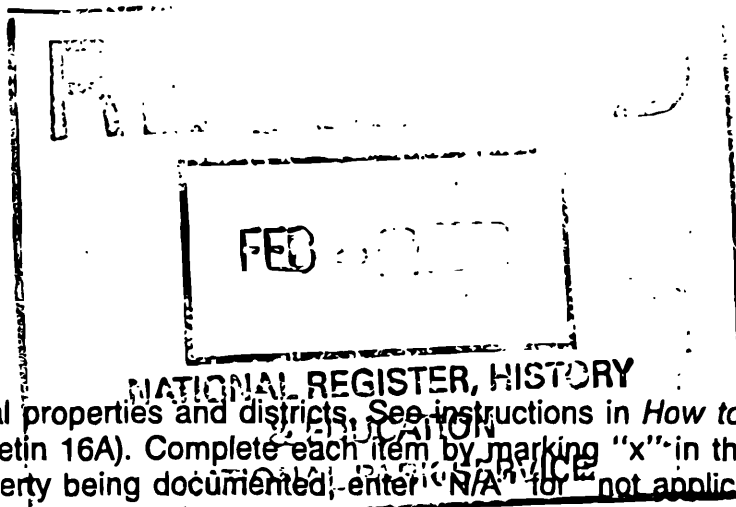


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DEC 1 1999



198

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 No. 9 Schoolhouse

other names/site number Hoyt School, Weeks School, Under the Mountain School

2. Location

street & number 358 Hoyt Road NA not for publication

city or town Gilford NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Belknap code 001 zip code 03246

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.)

Nancy C. Dutton 1/28/2000
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): _____

Elson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

3/15/00
Date of Action

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	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

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

N/A

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)

DOMESTIC/camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

see continuation sheets

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)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

A: 1815 - 1935

C: 1815, ca. 1835, ca. 1856, ca. 1892, 1924

Significant Dates

A: 1815, ca. 1835, ca. 1856, ca. 1892, 1924, 1935

C: 1815, ca. 1835, ca. 1856, ca. 1892, 1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

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:

District No. 9 Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Belknap Co., NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9	3	0	6	3	4	0	4	8	2	2	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

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 Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant

organization (for Town of Gilford) date November 4, 1999

street & number 25 Ridge Road telephone 603-225-7977

city or town Concord state N.H. zip code 03301

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 George McCray

street & number 2301 Massachusetts Avenue telephone 617-876-1430

city or town Cambridge state Mass. zip code 02140

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.

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
Gilford, Belknap Co., New Hampshire

7. DESCRIPTION

District No. 9 Schoolhouse is an early-nineteenth century rural schoolhouse that reflects several remodelings in the 1830s, 1850s, 1890s, and 1920s, largely in response to sequential periods of statewide schoolhouse reform. Though the property has served as a seasonal residence since 1938, it continues to express its character as a district schoolhouse on both its interior and exterior.

The nominated property includes the schoolhouse and a small outhouse built in 1924. The property is located on the north side of Hoyt Road, a short distance west of its intersection with Belknap Mountain Road. The one-fifth-acre that comprises the nominated property is triangular in shape, wooded, and slopes downward in a westerly direction. The surrounding area is rural residential: immediately west of the property and also across the street are late twentieth century houses, while east of the property is a late eighteenth century farmstead whose field abuts the nominated property's boundary. Beyond the farm rises the western slope of Belknap Mountain. A field granite wall defines the western boundary of the property; an early roadbed runs along side it through the nominated property.

1. Schoolhouse, 1815/ca. 1835/ca. 1856/ca. 1892. Contributing building.

The schoolhouse is a 1-1/2 story, side-gable, 3x2 bay wood frame structure measuring 24-1/2 feet in length and 22 feet in depth that rests on a mortared field granite foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles (original roof was wooden shingles); a single brick stove chimney with an exposed metal flue pipe projects from the ridge, off-center to the east. Each gable end has an approximate 8" overhang, and a Georgian/Federal-era cornice molding is found beneath the boxed eaves on all four sides. Above it, along the two eaves sides (south and north), is Greek Revival-era cornice molding. Walls are covered with clapboards and trimmed with flat corner and eave boards. The east, west, and south walls are clad with butt clapboards and the north wall with lapped clapboards.¹

¹ Early school board records indicate the building was originally shingled, at least on some sides. In 1900 the building was "shingled on one side and a portion clapboarded." Given the high number of wire nails used on the south wall clapboards and the presence of lapped clapboards only on the north wall, it is probable shingles covered the east and west walls until the late nineteenth century and the south (facade) wall until after 1900.

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
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First floor windows contain 6/6 Greek Revival sash. The east gable end window is mid-nineteenth century and has twelve lights; the west gable end window, added after 1938, has a twelve-light casement sash.²

The overhanging gable ends and the presence of Georgian/Federal-era cornice molding on all four sides strongly suggest that the building originally had a hipped roof. In the attic, there is one patch in the roof plate in a location where the foot of a hipped roof rafter could have been received, further corroborating the likelihood that the building was originally constructed with a hipped roof, but most of the length of the roof plates is not visible.

The entrance to the schoolhouse is located in a small gable-roof projection at the east end of the building and whose south wall is flush with the building facade. Roll asphalt roofing covers its roof, and its walls are clad with butt clapboards. Above the five-panel Greek Revival door is a narrow three-light transom with Federal muntins. There is a definite division in the wall between the main building and the projection, but the Georgian/Federal cornice molding matches, suggesting the projection was added within the first two decades of the original building. The Greek Revival character of the door (which matches that on the Benjamin Rowe House in town, built ca. 1838) places the likely date of the projection in the 1830s; the transom window was probably reused from the original entrance.³

Immediately behind the entry projection is a shed-roof shed that was added ca. 1907 to replace an earlier shed of unknown date.⁴ Its roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the walls with clapboards and wider, flat trim boards than those found on the main building. A window with six-light sash punctures the south wall, and a smaller six-light window the east wall.

² Measurements are known for only two other Gilford schoolhouses. No. 8 Schoolhouse, built in 1807 (before Gilford was incorporated), was 16' x 20', and No. 1 Schoolhouse was 22' x 16'. [Mulligan, 1995: 417-19.]

³ The interior of the building has late 19th century wainscot on all exterior walls, hiding any obvious evidence that the window at the east end of the facade might once have served as a doorway.

⁴ In 1907 and 1908 there were a variety of unspecified repairs to the building; expenditures were for lumber and building stone. In 1924 there is a reference to the "large shed built some years ago," making a ca. 1907-08 date for this shed likely. [Gilford school reports]

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
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The interior of the schoolhouse reflects few alterations since the building ceased functioning as a school in 1935. The main building is divided into a large room and a narrow kitchen (formerly used for wood storage).⁵ Exposed elements of the post and beam framing include flared corner posts, hewn beams, and a rafter and purlin roof system comprised of three hewn rafters, two log purlins and a ridge pole. Beneath the plaster on the walls are shadow lines of split board lath. Floors have varied-width pine boards.⁶ The vertical beaded-board wainscot that runs around the exterior walls, including the entry projection, dates from ca. 1892, as do the blackboards between the windows on the south and north walls, which are painted boards with chalk holders.

Alterations made after the building was converted into a dwelling in 1938 have been limited to converting the wood storage area into a kitchen, removing the ceiling plaster, adding a stairway alongside the interior partition to access the attic, and adding a window in the west gable end. The building continues to be heated by a stove, its sole electrical outlet is in the kitchen, and the only plumbing is at the kitchen sink.⁷

2. Outhouse, 1924. Contributing building.

A narrow, gable-roof outhouse on a stone and granite post foundation stands directly behind the schoolhouse shed addition. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles; a square, wooden vent rises from the ridge. Walls are sided with clapboards and trimmed with narrow, flat boards. A small window with two vertical panes is found in each side wall; each is presently covered with metal. The two doors made of vertical beaded boards on the south wall reflect the structure's interior division into two sections (for boys and girls), each with two seats and a fir floor. The outhouse was built in 1924 to replace an earlier structure.⁸

⁵ The schoolhouse probably had a full north-south corridor in the approximate location of the existing partition between the main room and kitchen.

⁶ The floor was probably slanted when the schoolhouse was initially built, but the wainscot hides any interior evidence of that feature.

⁷ Arthur Weeks interview.

⁸ School board report, 1924.

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
Gilford, Belknap Co., New Hampshire

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Paragraphs

District No. 9 Schoolhouse, built in 1815 and remodeled ca. 1835, ca. 1856, ca. 1892, and in 1924, is significant as an excellent example of a nineteenth century district schoolhouse whose modifications over the course of the century reflect continuing reform in schoolhouse architecture. The property possesses integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. Today, the District No. 9 Schoolhouse is the only schoolhouse in Gilford to retain a high level of integrity. The other five surviving schoolhouses, all of which have been converted to dwellings, have lost their architectural integrity through additions, new fenestration and entrances, and in some instances, relocations.

District No. 9 Schoolhouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C within the area of Architecture. Its significance under architecture is derived from its distinctive representation of an early nineteenth century schoolhouse that was modified in subsequent years to reflect local concerns and a statewide movement for improvement in schoolhouse design and construction. The period of significance and significant dates under Architecture coincide -- 1815, ca. 1835, ca. 1856, ca. 1892, and 1924 -- reflecting the approximate dates when the building was first constructed and subsequently substantially altered to its present-day appearance.

The property is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Education due to its ability to convey shifting trends in the field of elementary education, imposed initially by local officials and, later, through statewide reform. Its period of significance for Criterion A is 1815-1935, reflecting the period during which the property was used as a school. The significant dates, 1815, ca. 1835, ca. 1856, ca. 1892, 1924, and 1935, reflect the years in which the property was first constructed, years in which it underwent substantial alterations in response to local or statewide educational initiatives, and the year in which it ceased functioning as a school.

Architecture

District No. 9 Schoolhouse's significance in the area of architecture is derived from its high

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degree of integrity as a representative of an early-nineteenth century, vernacular, rural schoolhouse that evolved in response to changing educational philosophies over the course of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Despite its conversion into a residence in 1938, its appearance today continues to reflect its final years as a schoolhouse. It also retains a number of physical features that illustrate its early nineteenth century origins.

At the time the schoolhouse was first erected in 1815, towns placed little importance on providing comfortable facilities. The modest dimensions of District No. 9 Schoolhouse (24-1/2' x 22') meant tight quarters for the upwards of fifty children crowded within. Its hipped roof precluded the additional light gable windows afforded, and interior heat was provided by a fireplace.

For unknown reasons, but the district committee replaced the hipped roof with the existing rafter and purlin gable roof, probably ca. 1835. At approximately the same time, the existing entry projection was appended to the east elevation, freeing up some interior space.

Following the creation of a State Commissioner of Common Schools in 1846, who decried the state of district schoolhouses, Gilford responded by renovating its many schoolhouses. Though school reports of this period offer no specific information on the nature or extent of renovations, the Greek Revival sash in the District No. 9 Schoolhouse, which would have introduced additional light, dates from ca. 1856, and it is possible that the fireplace was replaced with a more modern, efficient iron box stove at this time.

Later alterations to the building, though more modest, continue to reflect evolving educational philosophies expressed by the state. Circa 1892, the town replaced the shared benches/desks with detached, individual desks and chairs. At approximately the same time, it installed blackboards and beaded board wainscot on perimeter walls. Shortly before the building ceased functioning as a school, it erected a new outhouse (1924).

Though the building has served as a seasonal residence since 1938, alterations in the past sixty years have been limited to converting the wood storage area into a modest kitchen, adding stairs to access the attic, adding a window opening in the west gable end, and removing the ceiling plaster.

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
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Summary of physical evolution

- 1815 Schoolhouse constructed with a hipped roof
Entrance likely on east end of south wall
- ca. 1835 Hipped roof replaced with existing gable roof
Entry projection added, reusing original transom light
- ca. 1856 New Greek Revival sash
- ca. 1892 Shared benches replaced with individual desks and chairs
Beaded board wainscot installed
- 1924 Outhouse replaced with existing structure
- post-1938 New window opening created in west gable end
Stairs to attic added, ceiling plaster removed, wood storage area converted
to kitchen

Education

District No. 9 Schoolhouse's significance in the area of education is derived from its ability to convey shifting trends in the field of elementary education during the course of the nineteenth century, imposed initially by local officials and, later, through statewide reform. In the early nineteenth century, schoolhouses in northern New England were rudimentary affairs. Written accounts describe unpainted buildings that often were little more comfortable than a barn. Square buildings, ranging in size from 15 to 26 feet square, were typically capped with hipped roofs. Upwards of fifty children were often crowded into its single room. In many schoolhouses, the floors were slanted and in most cases, seating consisted of shared benches with backs that formed the desk of the row in back.¹ District No. Schoolhouse aptly fitted this description. Following major legislative reforms in 1846, 1885 and 1919, it, like many schoolhouses throughout New Hampshire, was renovated to provide more modern conditions.

¹ Fennelly, 1962: 14-20.

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
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One of the first tasks facing the Town of Gilford following its separation from Gilmanton in 1812, was to establish school districts. The town voted \$ 492 to support ten district schools, each overseen by a school committee. Additional districts later brought to the total to fifteen. The high number of schools, not uncommon in New Hampshire, was a result of the difficulty in traveling more than a few miles to attend school. With extensive acreage and a mountain range to cross, Gilford's farm neighborhoods were well spread out.

The boundary lines for school district no. 9 were specified in 1813. In June of 1815, the subscribers of this district were assessed a tax of \$ 57.32 in order to build a schoolhouse, such building to be "agreeable to a requirement of the clerk of said district."² Four years later, Benjamin Weeks Esq. gave a piece of land to the District No. 9 school committee (James Hoit, Joseph Thing, and Joseph Sleeper) for a schoolhouse. At the time Weeks made his gift, a schoolhouse, evidently the existing building in its original form, was already standing immediately adjacent to this parcel. Weeks' gift comprised 1/8 acre, for which the committee paid \$3.00.³ Though the number of children in the neighborhood at the time is not known, the 1859 map of Gilford shows a handful of farms clustered around the intersection of Hoyt and Belknap Mountain Roads, many owned by members of the Weeks family.

In 1846 the State of New Hampshire appointed its first Commissioner of Common Schools. He immediately identified the need for improved school buildings, characterizing many of those in use as "miserable hovels." As early as 1853 and likely in response to the Commissioner's annual reports, Gilford's superintending school committee cited the need for thorough and immediate repairs to District No. 9 Schoolhouse. It also called for remodeled or new schoolhouses in other districts, suggesting that most of Gilford's schoolhouses at that time were those erected in the initial years of incorporation. District No. 9 Schoolhouse, among the larger schools in town with approximately forty-five students enrolled in two eight-week sessions (one in summer and one in winter), received new window sash, increasing the amount of light within and

² Gilford town records.

³ Book 107/208 (1819). The deed describes the boundaries to Weeks' conveyance as "parallel to the back side of said schoolhouse." It appears that Weeks' gift expanded the schoolhouse lot to its present size of 1/5 acre. Weeks' own homestead was immediately to the west of the schoolhouse lot, separated by an early road that still forms the west boundary of the school house property.

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
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perhaps reducing interior draftiness. It may have also received a stove at that time, to replace the fireplace that would have been part of the original building.

By 1872, District No. 9 Schoolhouse was one of the few in Gilford to have only a winter session, a term of thirteen weeks. Now reduced in size to nineteen students, it had become one of the smaller of the town's fourteen schools. Throughout the 1880s, it offered two sessions with an average of ten students attending each session.⁴

In 1896, District No. 9 Schoolhouse was the only one in town to offer just a fall term (fifteen weeks). With only nine students, it had become the smallest school in Gilford. Yet, the town invested in the building by replacing the old shared benches/desks with new, individual desks and chairs for each scholar, reflecting a statewide trend away from benches. It also installed beaded-bead wainscot on the walls and provided painted blackboards. These improvements may have stemmed from legislation passed in 1885 that abolished independent neighborhood school districts and effectively made the town to standardize furnishings and appointments.⁵

In 1919, the state passed major legislation that greatly impacted local schools. Spurred in large part by declining rural populations as towns lost residents to cities, the legislation aimed to equalize educational opportunities between richer and poorer communities. It established a state board of education and combined school districts into regional unions supervised by a superintendent. Gilford was assigned to the Tilton union, together with Tilton, Northfield, and Belmont. The law created statewide educational standards, including a minimum school year of thirty-six weeks, defined what constituted a suitable

⁴ Gilford School Reports. Some of the school's drop in students is attributable to the establishment of a high school in 1887 in the village, which drew the more advanced scholars from all sections of town. The wide variances in session lengths between Gilford's schoolhouses were common before the state mandated standardized school years. In Gilford, the largest schoolhouse offered a twenty-two week session, while the sessions of four schoolhouses (and not necessarily the smallest) were as short as five weeks. Eventually some schools added fall and spring sessions. Schools tended to have a different teacher (and teacher turnover was constant) for the various session; attendance was usually highest during the winter session, as might be expected in farm communities.

⁵ The school board made a conscious effort in the mid-1890s to eliminate all of the "old-fashioned" -- and very uncomfortable -- seats (shared benches). [Gilford school reports]

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building and appurtenances, and established salaries and qualifications for teachers. The state required each town to undertake a property inventory to assess school taxes.⁶ It also stipulated that no child should walk more than two miles to reach school.

This legislation spelled impending doom for New Hampshire's one-room district schools. Only one of Gilford's eight district schoolhouses, Lily Pond School, met the state's minimum schoolhouse standards, which emphasized good lighting, ventilation and sanitary conditions. District No. 9 Schoolhouse, like most, had deficient toilets and lighting. In response, the town closed it during the fall term and transferred its students to one of the other schools within the two-mile limit. It re-opened during the winter term, because walking even two miles was much more burdensome at that time of year. However, the following September (1921), with neither a teacher nor a place for her to board, the town again closed the schoolhouse for the fall term and shifted its students to the village school, which fell within the two-mile limit for all but one pupil. That year, with thirteen students. District No. 9 Schoolhouse had one of the three lowest enrollments in town.⁷

Over the next decade, Gilford's district schools opened and closed, according to the specific demand in their neighborhoods. District No. 9 Schoolhouse never opened in 1922, but the following year it reopened due to increased numbers of children in the immediate vicinity. With an enrollment of seventeen students, it received its long awaited new outhouse.⁸ In 1928, No. 9 was one of only five schools still open at all, but its student population had dropped significantly. The local elementary population numbered 101, but only nine students attended No. 9, now by far the smallest school in town. Though the board considered closing the school the following year, for unspecified reasons it waited. It did, however, close one of the larger schools and send its students to Laconia, a decision driven by financial considerations and the expediency of merging local children into a larger school system. At this time (1931), more than half of Gilford's elementary students attended Laconia schools through a tuition arrangement.

⁶ The minimum was set at \$ 3.50 per \$ 1,000 of property; Gilford's school board recommended \$ 5.00 per \$ 1,000.

⁷ The other schools had 10, 13 (2), 16, 25, 27, and 30 students, respectively.

⁸ By the 1920s, the town began to replace the outhouses with chemical toilets, but for some reason, neither District No. 9 Schoolhouse nor the East Gilford Schoolhouse merited one.

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
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That the District No. 9 Schoolhouse remained in unsatisfactory condition is clear from the 1932 school report which called for attention to the building were it to continue in use for any considerable time. It had the town's lowest enrollment (seven pupils), but none of the district schools exceeded nineteen students. By then, the town had disposed of three more schoolhouses. It repaired three of the four remaining schoolhouses -- all but District No. 9 Schoolhouse. In his 1933 report, the district superintendent recommended that, given its small enrollment and need for major repairs, District No. 9 Schoolhouse be closed. The school board temporarily reversed its agreement and reopened it for one more year. In the fall of 1935, it closed for good, and the remaining five students were assigned to the village school. The three remaining one-room schoolhouses operated another few years until, in 1939, Gilford opened the Gilford Elementary School in a new building centrally located in the village and touted for its fireproof construction, central steam heat, running water, modern plumbing, internal ventilating system, electricity, and large windows.⁹

Historical Background

Over the years, District No. 9 Schoolhouse adopted several names, though its official name remained District No. 9 Schoolhouse. In the 1850s, it was informally known as Captain Benjamin Weeks' Schoolhouse, reflecting that family's proximity and early involvement with the school. In 1872, the school board assigned names to each school: District No. 9 was called Under the Mountain School. In 1884 that name was dropped in favor of Weeks School.¹⁰

After the schoolhouse closed in 1935, the school district sold the building in 1938 for \$ 50.00 to John C. and Ann Lyons, who used it for a ski lodge. They removed the ceiling plaster and cut an opening for a stairway, enabling them to use the attic as a sleeping area.¹¹ The Lyons family owned the property until 1963 when their daughter, Anne Louise Lyons Rafferty, sold it to William and Jean Baxter. In 1971 the current owner, George McCray purchased it with two other parties who have since relinquished their interest.¹²

⁹ Mulligan, 1995: 328. The new school was placed on a four-acre piece of the former Benjamin Rowe Farm.

¹⁰ The name "Under the Mountain" referred to the Belknap/Gunstock mountain range east of the school.

¹¹ Arthur Weeks interview; Book 233/164 (1938).

¹² Book 243/244 (1940), 436/217 (1963), 555/290 (1971), 763/348 (1978).

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Town of Gilford School Reports, 1851 - 1938.

Watson, Rev. J.P. "The History of Gilford". Originally published in *History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties, New Hampshire*, edited by D. Hamilton Hurd. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1885, pp. 731-807. Reprinted by the Gilford Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

Maps, atlases

1805 *Map of Gilmanton*.

1859 *Map of Belknap County, New Hampshire*. E.M. Woodford. Published by Smith & Peavy, Philadelphia.

1892 *Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*. Compiled by D.H. Hurd & Co., Boston.

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District No. 9 Schoolhouse
Gilford, Belknap Co., New Hampshire

Photograph and manuscript collections

Thompson-Ames Historical Society, Gilford, NH
New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH

Interviews

Arthur Weeks, Gilford native, local historian and former student at schoolhouse

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10. Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property comprises the entire parcel (Lot 071 on Gilford's tax map 228) on which the schoolhouse and outhouse are located. It is a triangular lot that is bounded on the west by a field granite wall, on the south by Hoyt Road, and on the east by the edge of a field associated with the property to the east, and a ridge that runs northwest to intersect with the stone wall, forming the northern tip of the lot.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the eligible property, shown on the accompanying sketch map, reflect the same tract of land associated with the schoolhouse since it was built in 1815.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of property: District No. 9 Schoolhouse
Town/county/state:., Gilford, Belknap County, New Hampshire
Photographer: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen
Date of photograph: October 1999
Location of negative: 25 Ridge Road, Concord, New Hampshire

Photo #1

Description of view: Looking northwest at south (facade) and east elevations of schoolhouse and outhouse (in rear).

Photo #2

Description of view: Looking northeast at south (facade) and west elevations of schoolhouse.

Photo #3

Description of view: Interior view of main room in schoolhouse, showing flared corner post, hewn beams, beaded board wainscot, and blackboard. Looking northwest.

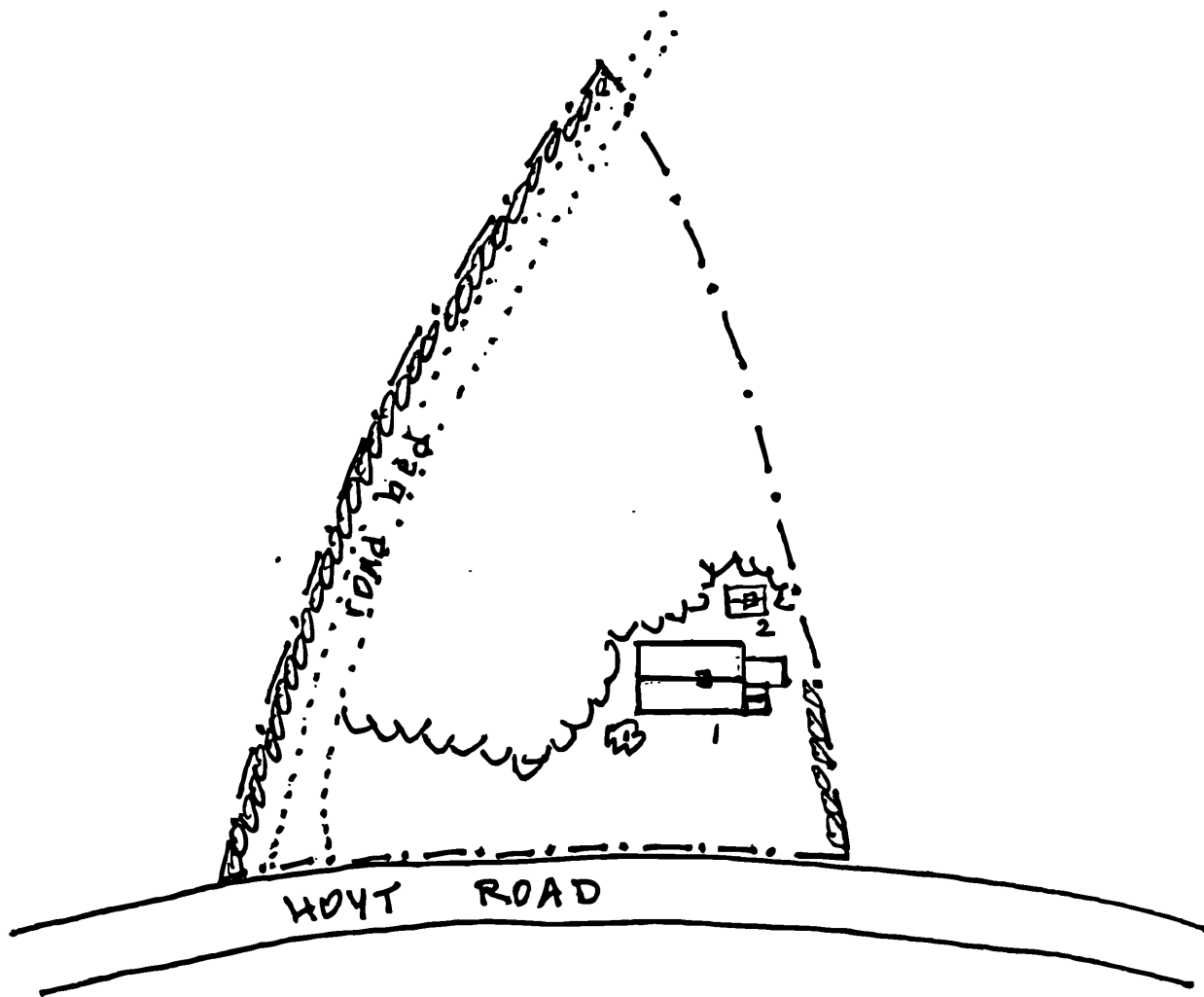
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PROPERTY SKETCH MAP
(not to scale)



— — PROPERTY BOUNDARY