

OND NO. 1024-0018
EX. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 25 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ASHLAND VILLAGE GRADED SCHOOL; ASHLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL

and/or common ASHLAND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 12 School Street not for publication

city, town Ashland vicinity of congressional district (2nd)

state N.H. code 33 county Grafton code 009

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ashland School District

street & number School Street

city, town Ashland vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grafton County Courthouse/Registry of Deeds

street & number Route 10

city, town Haverhill state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ashland Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ashland Town Offices, 10 Highland Street

city, town Ashland state New Hampshire

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 <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ashland Junior High School is a school building on a large hillside lot overlooking the village of Ashland. It is constructed of brick laid in common bond (flemish variation) on a granite foundation. The building has four floors--a utilitarian basement, two classroom floors, and another full floor (originally used as a hall) under its mansard roof. The plan is basically a rectangle, five bays wide and four bays deep, but a three bay central pavilion projects one bay from its main (south) facade. The pavilion is crowned by a square wooden belfry with concave roof, and flanked by one story open wooden porches.

The exterior is symmetrical, but rather complex, so we will first describe its typical features from the base up and then discuss each facade. The visible foundation is built of large cut granite blocks. The basement was lit by short rectangular windows (now boarded shut) beneath segmental brick arches, one in each bay. The first and second story windows are rectangular (six over six) sash windows, with wooden frames, granite sills, and segmental brick arch heads. Each window is sheltered by a segmental arch brick hood mould and placed in a recessed panel. The panels are framed by rudimentary two story brick pilasters, a wide horizontal band between the first and second stories and a brick frieze above the second story. The lower horizontal band is quite plain, distinguished only by the three projecting courses that support it. The frieze is more elaborate. It is supported by the corbeled capitals of the pilasters and a deep brick corbel table in each panel. The frieze includes two projecting brick bands ornamented by dentils, one just below the wooden box cornice, the other supporting the cornice's paired wooden scroll brackets. The mansard roof, with its flaring lower slope, is covered with asphalt shingles and is decorated only by a simple cornice between the two slopes, two large metal ventilators at the upper ridge ends, and twelve dormers. The wooden dormers all have six over six sash windows, plain side trim and cornices with dentil like ornament. (The wooden "dentils" used to decorate the building have rounded, not flat, faces.) The single window dormers have flat roofs, while the double window dormers were given a small central gable.

The main facade faces south toward School Street and the village below. Its chief feature is the projecting central pavilion. The distinctive features of the pavilion are concentrated in its central bay, which is wider than the flanking bays. (The flanking bays are typical paneled bays, while the sides of the pavilion are paneled but windowless.) As above, we will describe the central bay from its base up. Wide wooden steps with square capped newel posts and solid side walls lead up to a landing and the granite sill of the main entrance. Above the double paneled doors is a semicircular window with a matching brick hood mould. The landing and the entrance are sheltered by a large flat roofed wooden hood. The hood, with its heavy cornice, frieze and "dentils", is supported by two large elaborate scrolled brackets, made of laminated boards. The second story panel of the central bay contains a pair of windows of the same design as the other windows, but narrower and with joined hood moulds. The base of the belfry projects slightly from the lower slope of the mansard roof which covers the pavilion as well as the main block. Paneled corner pilasters flank a recessed panel of flush boarding which contains a double window with a triangular lintel. The base is topped by a wide frieze and a cornice with large "dentils". The square belfry has three louvred panels on each side. (The south louvred panels have segmental arched heads with a corresponding moulding above.) Plain corner pilasters support an entablature with a wide frieze and a cornice decorated by "dentils" and pairs of small scroll brackets. Each slope of the concave roof is broken by a small pediment with "dentils" and an ornamental diamond in the tympanum. The roof is capped by a cornice with "dentils"--a small square in plan. A wooden finial supports the lyre-shaped weathervane.

See Continuation Sheet #1-

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 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 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 1877 - 1878 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ashland Junior High School is an excellent example of Victorian school architecture, and a good example of the Second Empire Style, as used in the later 19th century public building.

Unfortunately, the early school records can no longer be found; and the published reports of Ashland's Superintending School Committee have little to say about the construction of the school. The news items published in the Plymouth and Laconia papers, although brief and sometimes inadequate, do, however, give us an outline of the building's early history.

In its annual reports, the Superintending School Committee had been complaining about the classrooms in the Ashland village school district for some time. In the spring of 1877, the committee bluntly stated, "District No. 1, with nearly one hundred and fifty scholars, has schoolrooms which would and should reflect disgrace upon any civilized and intelligent community."¹ These complaints finally had some effect, as in April of the same year, the Ashland correspondent to the Plymouth paper reported that, "A petition has recently been extensively circulated here, asking for the erection of a substantial school house at a cost not to exceed six or eight thousand dollars."² In late May, the village school district voted "\$10,000 for the construction of a new schoolhouse to replace the present uncomfortable, inconvenient, and decaying buildings now existing."³ The Lake Village Times noted "but one dissenting voice" in the vote.⁴

A five man building committee was appointed. And, on May 28, two adjoining parcels of land were purchased on the hillside overlooking the village. By late June, construction was under way. On July 26, the Laconia Democrat could report the completion of the foundation. By mid-September, the first story had been built and "and the second is now in progress".⁵ On October 27, the Grafton County Journal noted, "The brickwork on the schoolhouse is now completed, all but two chimneys. The work has been done by Howzer and Eastman of Fisherville, N.H."⁶ By mid-January, 1878, the mansard roof and belfry had been built. But, the building had run over its budget. "At a school meeting in District No. 1, February 14, it was voted to raise \$1,200 to finish the schoolhouse, which will make the total cost of the building \$11,200."⁷ The building was dedicated on Thursday, April 11, 1878, with a long ceremony of speeches, as well as songs and recitations by the school children. The following Monday, classes began in the new schoolhouse. It has been in practically continuous use as a school ever since. While the interiors have been modernized in later years, the exterior has seen only a few changes, and appears today virtually as it did in 1878.

¹"Report of the Superintending School Committee", p. 5, in Annual Report of the Town of Ashland for the year ending March 1, 1877, (Ashland, 1877).

²Grafton County Journal (Plymouth), April 23, 1877.

³Grafton County Journal, May 26, 1877.

⁴Lake Village Times, June 2, 1877.

⁵Grafton County Journal, September 15, 1877.

⁶Grafton County Journal, October 27, 1877.

⁷Laconia Democrat, February 23, 1878.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #3-

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.29

Quadrangle name Holderness, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A	1 9	2 8 7 6 6 5	4 8 4 1 4 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet #3-

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Ruell

organization Lakes Region Planning Commission date September 21, 1982

street & number Main Street telephone 279-8171 (603 area code)

city or town Meredith state New Hampshire

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 [Signature]

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date February 8, 1983

For NPS use only

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

[Signature] date 4/8/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet #3

Item numbers 9 p. 1 & 10 p. 2 ~~Page~~

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Report of the Town of Ashland for the years ending March 1, 1877 and March 1, 1878
(Ashland)

Grafton County Journal (Plymouth), April 23, May 26, June 2 & 30, September 15, October 27,
1877; January 5, 19 & 26, March 2, April 13 & 20, 1878.

Lake Village Times, June 2, October 27, 1877; February 23, April 20, 1878.

Laconia Democrat, July 26, 1877; February 23, 1878.

Doris Tatham and John R. Smith, Ashland Centennial Book (Ashland, 1968).

Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., New Hampshire Architecture (Hanover, 1979).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description & justification:

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the heavy black line on the accompanying map entitled "Ashland Village Grade School". Included in the nominated property is the Ashland Junior High School, its immediate surroundings, and the slope between the school and School Street. Excluded from the nominated property are the four 20th century buildings in the school complex and the remainder of the 26 acres owned by the Ashland School District (Ashland Tax Map #16, Block #3, Part of Lot #20).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

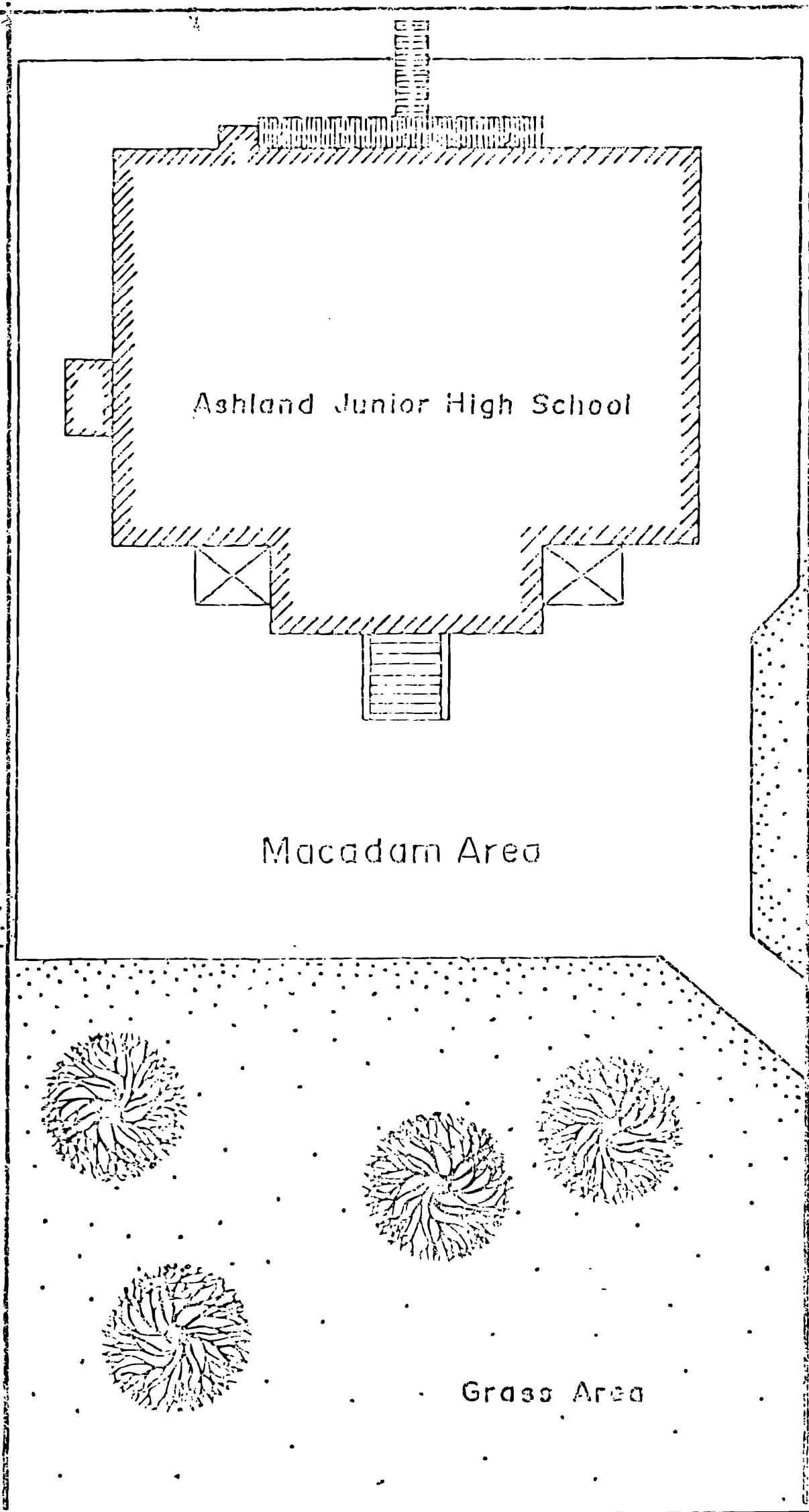
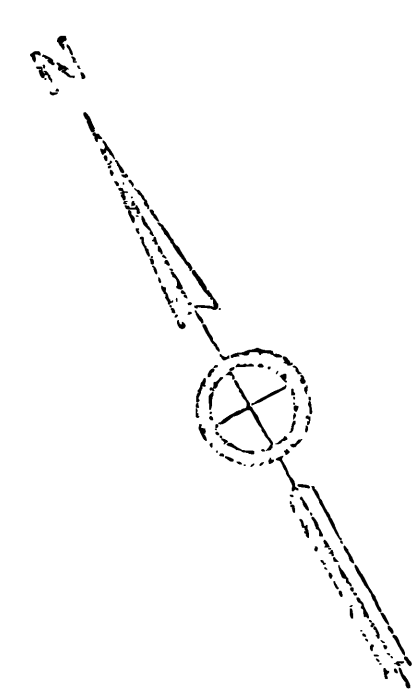
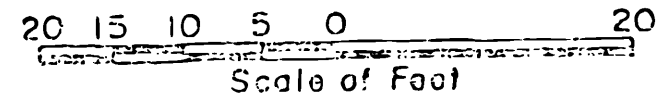
Continuation sheet #4 - ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

Item number --

Page 1

SKETCH MAP

ASHLAND VILLAGE
GRADED SCHOOL
(1878)



School Street

Prepared by:
LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION
MEREDITH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet #1 - DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page 2

The two end bays of the south facade are wider than the other bays, containing a door and a window on the first story, and two windows on the second. The paneled side doors, with segmental arch brick heads and hood moulds, are sheltered by one story wooden porches. Both porches originally had wooden steps leading up to a wooden landing, pilasters and a corner post with capitols, and a cornice with "dentils". (Some of these details are now missing. The eastern porch steps and landing have been removed and the door lowered to accomodate a concrete ramp for the handicapped.) Above each end bay is a single window dormer.

The west and east sides are virtually identical, each with four typical and equal paneled bays. The roof treatment, however, is asymmetrical. From the south to the north, it features a single window dormer, a tall chimney, and then, two double window dormers. (The upper half of the western chimney has been removed and a small gable roofed wooden shed has been built to shelter the basement steps on the western side.)

The rear (north) facade is divided into five bays, all typical paneled bays, with the exception of the somewhat wider central bay. In the brickwork of the first story of the central bay can be seen two openings now bricked up save for a single short window. These were apparently rear doors that once led to a small one story rear wing that housed the school privies. The second story panel of the central bay contains a pair of narrow windows with joined hood moulds like the pair in the corresponding second story panel of the south facade. Here the dormers are symmetrically arranged, with single window dormers flanking two double window dormers. (Later additions to the rear facade include a large tall exterior brick chimney and two steel fire escapes, a short one for a first story classroom, and a taller one serving the second and third stories. To provide access to the fire escapes, some windows have been replaced by doors.)

The changes to the exterior have been relatively minor and have had little effect on the integrity of the building's design. But, the interiors, as might be expected in a school building in continuous use for over a century, have been greatly altered. Save for the hardwood floors and the now unused third story, much of the interior detailing now dates from the most recent modernization in 1979.

Originally, the only village school building, the Junior High School is now part of a large five building school complex. The immediate surroundings of the building are paved, but the steep slope to School Street is covered with grass and tall trees. Although somewhat obscured by their foliage in the summer, the school has a commanding hillside site and has, since its erection, been one of the most prominent buildings in the community.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet #2 - SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 2

Although the masons and the building committee were named in the news items, the architect was never mentioned. This is unfortunate, as he certainly deserves credit for his work. The success of his design can be denied only by those who dislike Victorian architecture on principle. The basic concept was a familiar one by 1877--a two story building with a mansard roof, a projecting central pavilion, and an ornamental tower. The Ashland school does not represent any advances in planning or style. The Second Empire style had been used before in New Hampshire schools, such as the 1874 Ash Street School in Manchester and the 1875 schoolhouse in Milton Mills. And, it would be used again in other schools, such as the 1886 Laconia High School. Although the workmanship is good, few of the details required more than the ordinary skills of the masons and the carpenters. What distinguishes the Ashland school is not innovation or extraordinary workmanship, but the high quality of its design. The anonymous architect succeeded through his skillful use of proportion and judicious application of ornament. Bryant Tolles, in his New Hampshire Architecture, described the Ashland school as "one of New Hampshire's finest Victorian Eclectic public school buildings".⁸ His assessment is a correct one, for the Ashland school must be ranked among the best examples of its building type and its style in the state.

⁸Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., New Hampshire Architecture (Hanover, 1979), p. 280.