

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCERS use only

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

received DEC 28 1979

date entered

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

1. Name

historic DOW ACADEMY

and/or common DOW ACADEMY

2. Location

street & number Dow Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Franconia _____ vicinity of congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Grafton code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: N/A

4. Owner of Property

name Moya Bowler

street & number c/o Sunset Hill House

city, town Sugar Hill _____ vicinity of state New Hampshire 03585

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number PO Box 208

city, town Woodsville _____ state New Hampshire 03875

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Dow Academy is a two-story Georgian Revival wooden building constructed in 1903. It is built on a brick foundation that forms a full basement with above-grade two over two sash windows.

The symmetrical seven-bay facade is noteworthy for its eclectic pedimented central bay. A staircase provides access to the recessed doorway. Flush with the facade is a semi-circular arch framing the entrance with Moorish-like tracery surrounding it. A Palladian window is directly above. Pairs of Scamozzi Ionic columns frame the center bay and support the pediment. Nine over one sash windows have projecting window caps on the first story and played lintels with large keystones on the second story. Corner pilasters support a full entablature that includes a wide frieze, dentils and modillions. The plinth extends to the sills.

The side and back elevations also have seven-bays with similar window treatment to the facade but the center bay consists of nine over one sash windows framed by Scamozzi pilasters. Pediments above the center bays are surmounted by domed bell towers.

Rising from the center of the roof is a domed cupola, surmounted by a lantern, featuring four clocks interspersed with columned louvers on an octahedral drum. The foundation of the dome consists of a rectangular base extending from the center bays of the front and rear elevations crowned with two, stepped-back, octahedral bases. A balustrade originally defined the roofline.

Presently the rear elevation of the Dow Academy is masked by an enclosed ramp that provides access to the first and second stories.

The interior has been renovated to include a two-story theatre and balcony. The first floor also includes an entrance lobby distinguished by a staircase, dressing rooms and bathrooms.

~~The property includes the former Advent Church, a one and one-half story gabled building dating from 1882 and located behind the Dow Academy. The original spire was removed in 1961.~~

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 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 1903 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Dow Academy is a significant example of the Georgian Revival period. It is distinguished by formalism, symmetry, classical detailing and the ambitious scale characteristic of this period. Surrounded by modest residences, in a primarily agrarian community, it remains as a monumental example of an optimistic period.

Dow Academy was named after Moses Arnold Dow, of Charlestown, Massachusetts, founder of the institution. The first Dow Academy, established in 1884, burned in 1902. The following year, the present structure was built. Dow Academy served Franconia as a public high school until 1958, at which time Franconia College commenced.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Franconia, Sarah Welch, 1972; The Courier Printing Company, Inc., Littleton, NH.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Franconia, NH

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A

1	9	2	8	0	5	0	0	4	9	0	0	3	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Town of Franconia Tax Records: Map 14, Lot 13.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ashton Crosby

organization Franconia Conservation Commission date _____

street & number Coal Hill Road telephone _____

city or town Franconia state New Hampshire 03580

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title Commissioner, Dept. Resources & Economic Development date 3/18/79

NH State Historic Preservation Officer

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

[Signature] date 8-31-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet \ SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

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Dow Academy/Franconia, NH (New statement of significance to be substituted for the one presently used.)

Dow Academy is significant in illustrating the strength of the classical ideal in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. The building clearly reflects the influence of the then-prevailing classicism fostered by the Ecole des Beaux Arts, presenting an imposing academic design even in the absence of modern utilities. Like most Americans of the period, the people of Franconia were comfortable with and proud of the building's classicism; despite the clear European allusions of the exterior features and the interior ornamentation, the building was described upon completion as "of the Colonial style of architecture"¹ and was thus seen by contemporaries as fitting harmoniously into its small New Hampshire community.

Among the classical principals which dictated the design of Dow Academy and which satisfied both Beaux Arts architectural ideals and local taste at the turn of the century were a strict symmetry on the principal elevations of the building; a design which achieved monumentality through the use of giant pilasters, pediments, and a dome set upon octagonal drums; and careful detailing. The latter included the use of Ionic capitals of the Scamozzi type (which had been favored in colonial New England as well), a full Ionic entablature, a Venetian or Palladian window on the second floor of the entrance bay, neo-Adamesque detailing above the main doorway (echoing similar ornamentation inside the building), and the creation of an architectural basement through placement of a high wooden plinth beneath the column and pilaster bases. The entablature of the building was originally surmounted by a balustrade which added to the monumentality of the design while screening some of the utilitarian roof elements.

This fluent use of the classical vocabulary placed Dow Academy in the mainstream of Beaux Arts-inspired American academic design at the turn of the century. The building ranks favorable in the design with similar structures (including some constructed of masonry rather than wood) in larger New Hampshire cities and even with some of the best schools of the period in the vicinity of Boston.

Dow Academy continues to be the principal focal point, really the center piece, of Franconia Village. Its scale and detailing make it the most architecturally significant structure in the village and perhaps the town.

¹ Ibid.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet #2 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Item number 10

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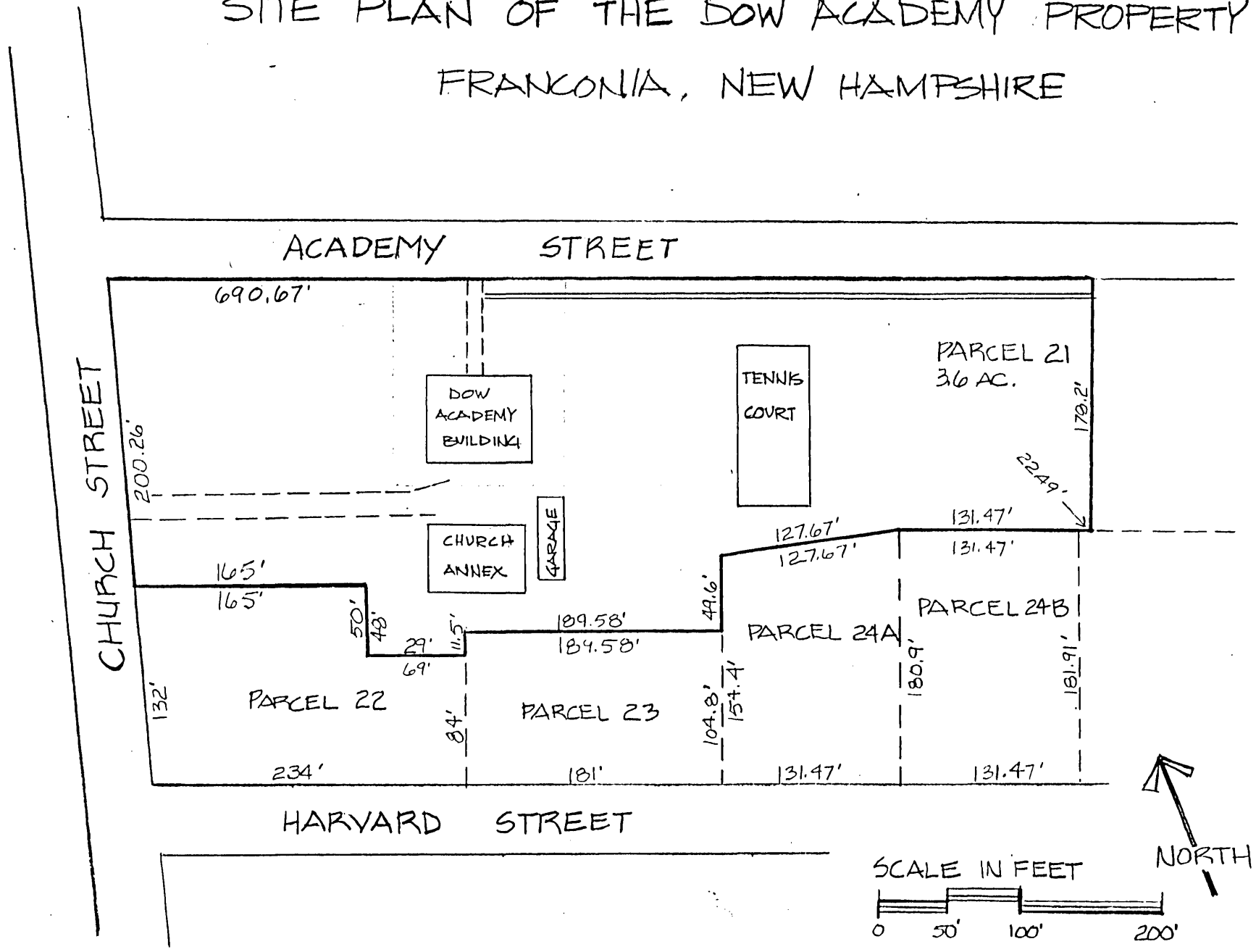
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are co-extensive with those indicated in red on the attached map. This constitutes a rectangle measuring 150' x 125'.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Although the tract of land upon which Dow Academy was constructed was originally five to six acres in extent, the integrity of this original site has been lost due to changes over the years (most notably the construction of some buildings and the loss of others). Consequently, the nominated property consists of Dow Academy and its immediate environs only.

SITE PLAN OF THE DOW ACADEMY PROPERTY FRANKONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE



PREPARED BY NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL, 1982