

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

For HCRS use only

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

received JUL 14 1980

date entered JUL 15 1980

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

**1. Name**

historic *No.* Richmond School House #6

and/or common Richmond Public Library

**2. Location** *NH 119*

street & number State Route #119 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Richmond \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Cheshire code 005

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Town of Richmond

street & number c/o Library Trustees

city, town Richmond \_\_\_ vicinity of state New Hampshire

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cheshire Registry, County Court House

street & number Court Street

city, town Richmond state New Hampshire

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Richmond School House/Richmond Town Library  
National Register Nomination

The Richmond School House was built in 1850 and is located facing a major thoroughfare near Town Cross roads. The School House is a wooden one-story building with gable roof. The main structure measures 31'6" by 24'6" and the east addition measures 22'0" by 20'6". Attached to the west elevation of the main structure is a small one room gable-roof addition with an exterior door on the north elevation. The main entrance is located on the west portion of the north elevation and consists of a six-paneled door flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted by a recently-applied pedimented entrance roof supported by brackets. Windows in the main building have two over two double-hung sash except for one window which still contains the original twelve over eight sash.

A 1974 wooden one story addition with a gable roof is located on the east elevation and contains a below-grade, fire-retardant masonry vault that houses the Richmond Town Archives. An open cantilevered porch is connected to the north elevation of the addition, provides an exterior access to the reading room and has an open-riser stair to the lower level. Windows in the addition have eight over eight double-hung sash.

Original appearance: The original building had a belfry located on the western end of the ridge and a chimney rising from the eastern end. Windows formerly had twelve over eight sash and exterior blinds. In 1962 the building was converted into the Town Library and in 1974 an addition was made to the eastern elevation. Changes from these renovations include the removal of the belfry and chimney, the replacement of original wooden shingles with asphalt shingling and metal flashing, and the addition of a pedimented roof over the main entrance. The interior has been converted to accommodate the library and changes made for this purpose includes a hung ceiling with fluorescent lighting, knotty pine wall paneling, doors, window trim, and ceiling-to-floor adjustable wood shelving, plasterboard ceilings, hardwood floors and improved toilet facilities.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Archival
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Richmond Schoolhouse is significant as an educational building that has served the people of Richmond since 1850. The building was used as a school until 1947, then in 1962 the town converted the building into a library. The Schoolhouse is actively used for educational purposes, including reading programs for children, meetings and forums. The Richmond Schoolhouse remains as an important cultural and educational center.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bassett, William, History of Richmond, NH Page Ref. 132  
 C.W. Calkins & Co., 1884, Boston  
 Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 75-18684  
 Interview: Harold Dickinson - former student, town officer, local author. December 12, 1978

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
 UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1 Acre +/-  
 Quadrangle name Keene - 15' series Quadrangle scale 1:62500

**UMT References**

A	1 8	7 2 3 0 7 5	4 7 3 7 0 2 5	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Tax Assessor's Map Plan #61075-A and R-64 Lot 8, Range 7

**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 Joseph G. Thibodeau, Chairman  
 organization Richmond Public Library Trustees date 2/14/79  
 street & number Winchester Road telephone 603-239-6076  
 city or town Richmond 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature   
 title Commissioner, Dept. of Resources and Economic Development date May 23, 1980  
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only

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

  
 Keeper of the National Register date 11/25/80

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED NOV 7 1980
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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EDUCATION: The dispersed pattern of settlement adopted by most New Hampshire towns required the construction of district schoolhouses throughout each township to serve local families. Such buildings, of which Richmond Schoolhouse No. 6 is typical, were utilized for both summer and winter sessions throughout the 1700s and 1800s. The origins of the district school system in Richmond date to 1784, when the township was divided into such jurisdictions as a result of earlier petitions from families living in various parts of the community. The district at the geographical and administrative center of town, established in 1815, was designated No. 6. The present schoolhouse in this district is the second on the site, an earlier brick building having been destroyed by fire in 1850. School districts in Richmond grew to a maximum of sixteen in 1848, after which the number of districts slowly decreased as population declined in various parts of the township. In common with most New Hampshire towns, Richmond responded to its loss of population by consolidating school districts as inhabitants deserted remote areas. This tendency resulted in the abandonment and eventual destruction or conversion of most of the sixteen small district schoolhouses that had formerly been distributed throughout the township.

Due to its central location, Schoolhouse No. 6 continued in use as a school building longer than all but one similar structure in town. The building continued its original use as a schoolhouse until 1947; the town converted it into a library in 1962. An addition in 1974 made the structure a safe and central repository for the records and archives of the town. The schoolhouse is presently used both as a library and for a variety of educational functions, accommodating reading programs for children, meetings and forums. Through its adaptation to meet changing needs, Schoolhouse No. 6 has continued since 1850 to serve an educational purpose in Richmond, remaining a focus of cultural, educational and historical activity in the town.