

Determination of Eligibility (DOE)

Inventory #: RAN0012

DOE Review Date: 9/11/2024

Date Received: 8/28/2024

Final DOE Approved: Yes

Property Name: District #1 Schoolhouse/Public Library Annex

Area:

Address: 104 Durand Road

Town: Randolph

County: Coos

Reviewed For: SR

DOE Program(s):

State Register

Determination of Eligibility:

State Register eligible, individually		Integrity: Yes		Level: Local	
Criteria:	A: Yes	B: No	C: Yes	D: No	E: No

Areas of Significance(s):

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance: 1861 to 1973

Boundary:

Tax Parcel 000R11 000011 000000

Statement of Significance:

The District #1 Schoolhouse/Public Library Annex was one of three schoolhouses in the town and the only one extant that still resembles its original design. It served the town's children as a schoolhouse until 1920 and converted to the town's seasonal library in 1932 and served this purpose until 2008. Today, it is used as the library annex. The property is significant for its role in education and civic use as a library and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. It is being nominated to the NH State Register under the Randolph State Register Multiple Property Area Form.

Comments:

Follow Up:

Notify appropriate parties.

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM:

NHDHR INVENTORY #RAN0012

NOMINATED UNDER THE RANDOLPH STATE REGISTER MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Name, Location, OwnershipHistoric name District #1 SchoolhouseStreet and number 104 Durand RoadCity or town RandolphCounty Coos CountyCurrent owner Town of Randolph**Function or Use**Current use(s) library annexHistoric use(s) school**Architectural Information**Style Greek RevivalArchitect/builder Unknown

Source _____

Construction date ca. 1860Source 1861 Walling MapAlterations, with dates new roof (2014)Moved? no yes date: _____**Exterior Features**Foundation GraniteCladding ClapboardRoof material MetalChimney material N/A (removed ca.2014)Chimney location Rear wallNumber of stories 1-storyEntry location Façade, off-centerWindows 6/6Replacement? no yes date: _____**Site Features**Setting Rural local roadOutbuildings N/APhoto #1 Direction: NWDate August 15, 2024Tax Map 000R11 000011 000000Acreage 0.3 acresState Plane Feet (NAD83) X:1085504.947512Y: 683806.721498**Form prepared by**Name Amy Dixon and Megan RupnikOrganization NHDHRDate of Survey August 2024

NOMINATED UNDER THE RANDOLPH STATE REGISTER MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM****Nominated under the Randolph State Register Multiple Property Area Form****Historical Background of Property:**

The Town of Randolph was incorporated in 1824. The town is heavily forested and mountainous with the southern half of the town lined by the northern slopes of the Presidential Range of the White Mountains. There are two main settlement areas of the town – Randolph Hill, which is residential with Randolph Hill Road and several other side roads diverging off of U.S. Route 2, and Randolph “Valley” defined largely by Durand Road, where the town’s civic buildings, including the town hall and the former District #1 Schoolhouse are located.

According to local history by 1884, the Town of Randolph provided district schoolhouses throughout the community for the education of the town’s children; however, the 1861 Walling map of Randolph indicates that there were three extant schoolhouses. The three, one-room schoolhouses were: Hilltop School, located on Randolph Hill Road (now converted to a residence), the West End Schoolhouse (inventoried in 2004 as RAN0001; demolished between 2009-2011), and the District #1 Schoolhouse on Durand Road, the subject property. Though indicated on the Walling map of 1861, the date plaque above the door indicates the school was built in 1888. The lot on which the library building stands was given the town for “Educational Purposes” by Alfred Carlton and a schoolhouse was built on it, according to the librarian’s report in the 1955 Town Report.

Town reports from the late-19th and early 20th centuries outline the maintenance and improvements made to the local schools. In the 1919 Town Report, the Superintendent outlined the “Sanitary Commandments of Rural Schools,” from a pamphlet by Dr. Thomas Wood and assessed Randolph’s schools against the 10 points, finding that the schools were lacking adequate heat and water sources, and the lighting for the pupils from the windows was adequate, but could be improved by tinting the walls and whitewashing the ceilings, and concluded that “Randolph school has the best playground in three towns” (Randolph Town Report, 1919). However, beginning in 1920 the town, facing a declining schoolage population and needed improvements to the school, began tuitioning its elementary and high school students to the nearby towns of Whitefield and Gorham, transporting them on the train.

The District #1 Schoolhouse was left vacant for over a decade before the local public library, which has first begun in 1893 with a request for books to the State Library Commission made by Charles E. Lowe. In 1897 the collection was moved from Lowe’s house to the Wood Farm. In the early 1900’s the collection outgrew the bookcases at the Wood Farm, and it moved to the Town Hall.

In 1932, the library moved into the District #1 Schoolhouse and operated seasonally out of the building until the Town Hall was expanded in 2008, providing a permanent and year-round opportunity for the library to operate. Since 2008, the District #1 Schoolhouse has continued to be open seasonally as the Library Annex.

Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts (see list in the Randolph State Register Multiple Property Area Form):

1001. Elementary and secondary education, 1770-present.

1002. Libraries in New Hampshire.

Additional Architectural Details/Description:

The District #1 Schoolhouse is set on the north side of Durand Road on an open lot, surround by grass, with a war memorial built of mortared stones with bronze plaques inset into the stones. The plaques honor and list the names of Randolph soldiers from the Revolutionary War up to the Persian Gulf War. The date that the memorial was installed is unknown. There is a flagpole in front of the schoolhouse and memorial.

The District #1 Schoolhouse is a single-story, gable-facing, one-room schoolhouse that rests on a granite block foundation. The walls are clad in clapboard and the roof was replaced ca. 2014 with the current metal roofing. The modest architectural details of the schoolhouse are characteristic of the vernacular Greek Revival period. The cornice returns, corner pilasters, and molded lintels above the 6-over-6 double-hung sash are all characteristic of the period and style. The transom light above the off-center door and bands of windows on the gable-facing and east-facing elevations provide ample light into the classroom interior.

The rear elevation features a shed roof addition with an entry door on the east elevation. A two-bay wide, hipped roof addition extends from the northwest corner of the building. This small room was used as the children’s reading room of the library for most of the latter half of the 20th century.

State Register Statement of Significance:

The District #1 Schoolhouse is significant for its role in education and civic use as a library in the Town of Randolph.

Bibliography and/or References:

Dorset, Andrew and Joyce McKay. West End School NH Individual Inventory Form (RAN0001). December 2003.

<https://randolphnhpubliclibrary.org/history-of-randolph-public-library-nh/> accessed 8-28-24

Randolph Town Reports, 1892-2024. University of New Hampshire, Scholars Repository accessed 8-28 and 8-29-24.

https://scholars.unh.edu/randolph_nh_reports/

Walling, H.F.

1861 *Topographical Map of Coos County*. Smith and Mason & Co.

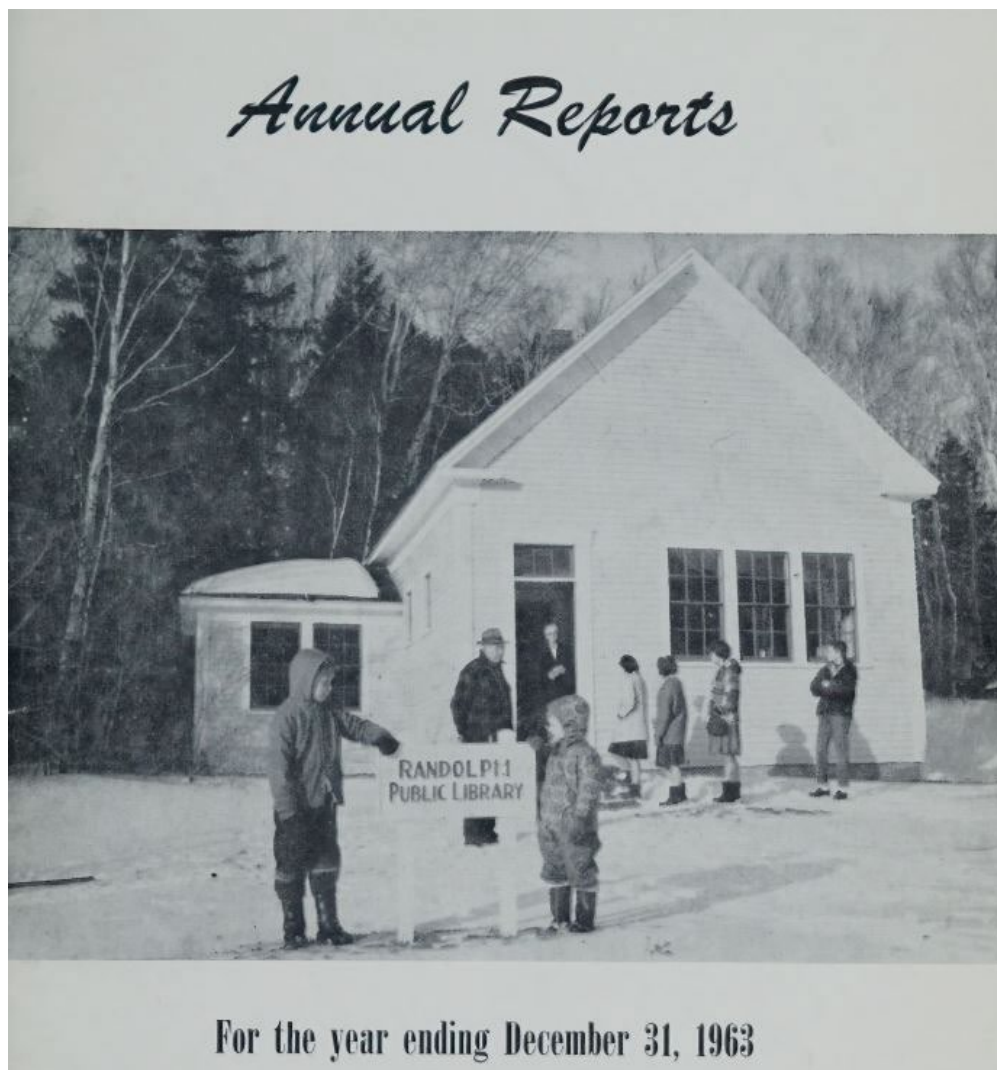


Image of District #1 Schoolhouse/Randolph Public Library from 1963 Town Report.



Photo #2 Description (with direction): District #1 Schoolhouse/Randolph Public Library Annex facing northwest.



Photo #3 Description (with direction): District #1 Schoolhouse/Randolph Public Library Annex facing southeast.



Photo # 4 Description (with direction): District #1 Schoolhouse/Randolph Public Library Annex facing northeast.