

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name GREENWICH DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 11
 other names/site number DISTRICT SCHOOL 10; CENTER FALLS SCHOOLHOUSE
 name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 4 RYAN ROAD not for publication
 city or town CENTER FALLS vicinity
 state NEW YORK code NY county WASHINGTON code 115 zip code 12834

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered
 significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
 Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
 Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____
 Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Greenwich District School No. 11
 Name of Property

Washington County, N.Y.
 County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: educational facility

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY

foundation: STONE, CONCRETE

walls: BRICK, WOOD CLAPBOARD

roof: SLATE

other: METAL, GLASS

Greenwich District School No. 11

Name of Property

Washington County, N.Y.

County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Greenwich District School No. 11 is a rural one-room educational building located in the Town of Greenwich, Washington County, New York. It consists of two sections erected during separate building campaigns; the main block was constructed in 1850 and a rear wing was added in 1927. The 1850 section was of the characteristic rural one-room school type and was erected with load-bearing brick walls, interior sawn and hewn framing, and plaster and wood finish. It was modified with the addition of the rear frame wing in 1927, which accommodated new restrooms, and at which time alterations were also made to the original construct to bring the building up to current educational standards. The school functioned continuously as an educational facility for those Greenwich town children who resided near the mill hamlet of Center Falls, alongside the Battenkill River, and it remained in service until school consolidation and centralization occurred in the town in the mid-1940s. The nominated building is an amalgam of 1850 and 1927 spatial and finish features with little in the way of subsequent alteration from that point forward; it retains a large majority of its historic finishes within and without, excepting the loss of fiber board wall and ceiling surfaces, which were installed in 1927, and the removal of a chimney which once serviced a stove within. It has recently undergone a certified rehabilitation to allow for its reuse, and it remains a good representation of a mid-nineteenth century one-room schoolhouse with subsequent 1920s modifications meant to keep it in active educational service.

Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The former Greenwich District School No. 11 is located at the intersection of Ryan Road and State Route 29 in the Center Falls area of Washington County, New York. It is situated in the Battenkill Valley of the Town of Greenwich, east of the Village of Greenwich and west of the hamlet of Battenville, the latter also located within the town. State Route 29 follows a northeasterly course from the Village of Greenwich, through the former mill hamlets of Center Falls, Battenville, Greenwich, and East Greenwich before it intersects with State Route 22 south of the Village of Salem, generally following the course of the Battenkill River. Ryan Road is one of two roads in the Center Falls vicinity that extend in a northerly direction from Route 29, the other being Ray Road, located a short distance to the west, and which continues southwards beyond Route 29, unlike Ray Road. The immediate setting is characterized by open expanses of tilled agricultural land interspersed with woodland, framed in the distance by wooded hills. An active farm is located to the immediate west, across Ryan Road, while a recently built house is located nearby to the school, to the northeast, with a driveway that communicates with both Ryan Road and Route 29. The Battenkill River flows a short distance to the south, beyond a tilled field. The setting is generally agrarian in complexion, though the recently built dwelling has encroached on the building's visual historic context. The school

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building has a corresponding .22-acre parcel and is oriented with one of its gable ends facing Ryan Road. It is entered by means of a door located on its south elevation. A drilled well, new septic tank with leach field and a driveway are recent additions, constructed in association with the recent rehabilitation.

Overview

The building consists of two distinct sections, both a single story, aligned with parallel roof ridges on a roughly east to west axis, tending northeast to southwest. The original mid-nineteenth century main block was modified in the 1920s due to deficiencies identified with state education department facilities, and only after consideration was given to the construction of a new edifice. That section is of load-bearing brick construction, gable-roofed, and was erected above a roughly 20-foot by 30-foot rectangular plan and without a fully excavated basement. Walls were laid up in common bond with lime mortar in an eight-to-one header to stretcher ratio. As for framing components, the ceiling beams were hand-hewn and the common rafters sawn; the rafter pairs were footed on the ends of the ceiling beams to form trusses, these resting on a narrow plank plate at the top of the brick wall. The interior walls and ceiling in the original section were finished with plaster-on-lath, as evidenced by lime staining on the ceiling beams and the wood nailers which the lath was affixed to. The plaster was presumably removed during the 1927 renovations, given that it was replaced with fiber board, which deteriorated during the building's long period of vacancy; the latter was removed prior to rehabilitation. Before rehabilitation, the interior face of the brick walls, the nailers for both original lath and later fiber board, along with the ceiling beams, rafters, roof boards and the original wood-shingle roof surface, were visible from within. Finished wall and ceiling surfaces were reintroduced during the rehabilitation, using drywall.

Windows in the 1850 section were hung with 12-over-8 wood sash, which were restored, excepting one that was replaced in-kind during the recent rehabilitation. During the 1920s a shed that adjoined the west elevation was removed and the entrance was shifted to its present position; the present frame wing was built at that time to accommodate new chemical toilets, along with other changes which sought to bring the building up to contemporary standards. Notwithstanding the loss of the most-recent fiber board surfaces, the building retains most all of its historic finish elements (inclusive of 1850 and 1927) including medium-width floorboards, window casings, blackboards and doors. The only other significant alteration was the loss of an original brick shelf chimney above roofline. It rose through the roof towards the rear of the brick block; it was of integral construction with the brick envelope and the lower portion remains visible inside, below ceiling level.

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Exterior

The 1840 brick section is three-bays wide on its west gable end by three-bays deep on the north flank elevation. It is generally lacking in overt stylistic features save for its straightforward wood cornices, which along with its classically pitched roof and overall austerity affiliate it with the Greek Revival style. The gable elevation that faces roughly west towards Ryan Road was the principal one, at least until the entrance that was once centered there was shifted to the adjacent flank elevation. It now has three evenly spaced window openings that have wood lintels with a brick rowlock course above and wood sills. A shallow wood frieze and boxed cornice align the two side elevations and is carried around the west elevation where it is terminated by returns; raking sections are carried up the gables on the west and opposite east elevation. Centered within the gable field is a wood plaque on which appears the following: "DISTRICT NO. 11 ERECTED IN 1850."

The north and south flank elevations are generally identical in conception, save for the relocation of the entrance from the main gable end to a new aperture adjacent to the southeast corner on the south elevation, which added an additional bay to the original three-bay design. The window openings match the description of those on the façade, excepting the omission of the brick rowlock course. The roof is covered with slate shingles, applied over an earlier wood-shingle surface, with metal snow guards near the eaves. As for the 1927 entrance, it is shielded by a wood gable-roofed hood, which is supported by angled wood brackets that flank the door opening. Rehabilitation work included the reconstruction of the hood using the original materials as well as replacement material and slate shingles. The door is of a glazed-and-paneled wood type consisting of three vertical recessed panels with a six-light window with wide muntins above. It is approached by a flight of poured concrete steps to one side of which is a metal pipe handrail. As for the rear elevation, it is largely screened by the 1927 addition. Rehabilitation work included selective repointing in addition to work on the west elevation, as a portion of the masonry wall was deconstructed and rebuilt, using the original brick.

The addition extends from the east gable elevation of the brick block and is two-bays wide on its gable end by one bay deep on the north and south side elevations. It abuts most, but not all, of the brick section's rear wall, and its roof ridge is a few feet lower. It has a poured concrete foundation, a light-wood frame finished with wood clapboard and corresponding corner boards, and a simple frieze and boxed cornices that take their design cues from the earlier construct. As with the main block, its roof is laid with slate shingles. The addition has an unfinished attic that is only accessible from the outside. A window that previously divided the rooms in the addition was repurposed and installed in that attic bay; the original access door was also re-installed but affixed in a permanently open position to allow for the sash's new position.

Eleven of the building's 13 windows were repaired and reglazed as part of the rehabilitation efforts. Two new

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period-appropriate windows were used in the addition. One historic sash was sourced locally for a window in the brick section.

Interior

Prior to rehabilitation, the interior consisted of the open volume of the classroom and the addition, the latter which was originally framed to accommodate two bathrooms with chemical toilets, two hallways, and two closets. The rehabilitation reframed the addition to accommodate a bedroom and a bathroom, features required to sustain the building's reinvention as overnight accommodations set in a historic educational space.

Wall and ceiling surfaces in the main block are now fitted with drywall. Physical evidence indicates that the area from floor to windowsill level was originally fitted with wood beadboard wainscot, a common period treatment, which was also removed to install the fiber board; however, some of that material was reused as nailers for the board, as observed prior to rehabilitation. The floor is laid with medium-width softwood boards aligned parallel to the building's longer side elevations. Situated against the north wall are two slate blackboards with wood surrounds and bracketed shelves; another pair of blackboards are center against the rear wall, below the flue where the stove pipe was vented. The doors leading into the rear wing from the classroom are of a five-paneled type which, along with the wood casings, are representative of the 1920s rehab. These casings, also employed for the windows, have unmolded sides and a molded crown.

Interior alterations made during the rehabilitation consist of the installation of insulation and drywall, electrical and plumbing service, and the introduction of kitchen features. By placing the new bedroom and bathroom in the 1927 addition, the original open classroom space was largely preserved, excepting for the introduction of a small island with sink and a cooking range situated against the rear wall, these constituting the kitchen area. The chalkboards, window trim and crown molding were retained and reinstalled in the brick section, where new wood flooring of the same type and style was milled to repair a hole in the floor. As the addition had two different flooring levels new joists were installed to allow space for plumbing and to create a single floor level.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance1850 - ca. 1944

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1850 when the building was erected and extends to ca. 1944 when the building ceased operating as a school and was closed.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Greenwich District School No. 11, located in the Center Falls area of Washington County, New York, is an architecturally and historically significant resource that chronicles the town's former district school system. Located immediately outside of Center Falls, one of a series of mill hamlets which developed alongside the Battenkill River during the nineteenth century, the building was erected in 1850 and was significantly updated in 1927. It continued to function as an educational building into the 1940s, by which time the various district systems in the county's towns were consolidated and the rural one-room schools closed. The former school is a characteristic example of the one-room rural school type, built on straightforward terms and lacking any significant pretense to architectural style, outside of features which affiliate it in modest terms with the Greek Revival style. It is an amalgam of the original mid-nineteenth-century construct and the 1927 rehabilitation effort which was meant to address what were then deemed deficiencies in its design; it survives in large measure with its principal exterior and interior character-defining features intact, following a recent certified rehabilitation. Greenwich District School No. 11 is being nominated to the NRHP in association with Criterion A, in the area of Education, as a salient reminder of Greenwich's former district school system. It is additionally being nominated in association with Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as an example of the rural one-room schoolhouse type as built in rural Washington County in the mid-nineteenth century, and in this instance as an example of brick masonry construction. It is being nominated at the local significance level.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Historic Context

The Town of Greenwich, within which the hamlet of Center Falls is located, includes within its present bounds portions of the Campbell, Cuyler, Kettlehuyn and Saratoga land patents, all granted by the English crown prior to the American Revolution; Center Falls was contained within the bounds of the latter. Greenwich was once part of the Town of Argyle and was not formed as an independent town entity until the first years of the nineteenth century. The first recorded permanent European-American settler in the Greenwich area of Washington County was a man named Rodgers—described somewhat colorfully by the historian Elisa Thurston as “a sort of desperado”—who is credited with the erection of a dwelling on the Battenkill River flats, just above the mouth of Whittaker Brook and a few miles north of the present-day hamlet of Battenville, ca. 1763-64. However, Rodgers tenancy there was fleeting, as he was shortly thereafter evicted from those lands as a squatter by the settlers who arrived to improve that land in association with the Argyle Patent, among them Alexander McNaughton, Archibald Livingston, Duncan Campbell and Roger Reed.¹ Settlement of the lands in this area of Washington County began to unfold in the immediate pre-Revolutionary War period, with agriculture forming the preeminent pursuit, as the

¹ Elisha P. Thurston, *History of the Town of Greenwich* (Salem, New York: H.D. Morris, Book and Job Printer, 1876); the Thurston material is the similar to that published in Crisfield Johnson's subsequent 1878 *History of Washington County* (Philadelphia: Everts & Ensign, 1878).

region boasted an abundance of quality farm lands. The onset of the American Revolution, which witnessed British Gen. John Burgoyne's southward march down the Lake Champlain-Hudson River corridor and Lieut. Col. Friedrich Baum's related and desperate reconnaissance into the Cambridge area in 1777, culminating in the Battle of Bennington, brought military strife directly into the region. With the conclusion of hostilities in 1783, settlement could commence in earnest.

Greenwich was formed as its own town in 1803. It is bounded on the north by the towns of Fort Edward and Argyle; on the east by the towns of Salem and Jackson; on the south by the towns of Jackson and Easton; and to the west by the Hudson River and beyond that Saratoga County. The Battenkill River, around which the hamlet of Center Falls developed, was along with the area's fertile farmlands a primary impetus for settlement, as its swift-moving waters provide ideal for the hydraulic powered mills that became the primary nineteenth century industry in this area. The Village of Greenwich, the central point within the town, developed significantly in the first years of the new century. It was at that time known as Whipple City, having been named for Job Whipple, who along with William Mowry—formerly employed in Samuel Slater's textile mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island—established a highly successful cotton spinning mill there in the first years of the new century. The village was subsequently incorporated as Union Village in 1809 and again renamed in 1867, when it became Greenwich—the name the post office had already long maintained. The mill established by Whipple was the crux of the local economy and it soon inspired the erection of similar enterprises along other stretches of the swift-flowing Battenkill, including a woolen mill erected in Battenville ca. 1815.

Like Battenville and East Greenwich, located further upstream on the Battenkill, Center Falls was among those places where waterpower was successfully harnessed in earnest for manufacturing interests in the nineteenth century. The first settlers at that place, Smith Barber and Nathan Rodgers, arrived there after the Revolution, about 1790. Sawmills were established there at an early date, as was a grist mill, the latter subsequently supplanted by a flax mill and later yet expanded as part of a paper mill.² Center Falls was additionally the location of a woolen mill established by the suffragist Susan B. Anthony's father, Daniel Anthony. The Anthony family resided in nearby Battenville, where Daniel Anthony oversaw a woolen mill the failure of which in the mid-1830s bankrupted the family; they relocated briefly to Center Falls, residing in a former tavern, where Anthony had hoped to recoup his fortunes, but failing to do so the family began their westward pilgrimage out of eastern New York. That building was later expanded to function as a cotton factory, which like any number of Center Falls factories was destroyed by conflagration.³ Center Falls lacked the density that characterized the other local mill hamlets along the Battenkill; as noted by Crisfield Johnson in his 1878 county history, "A few mechanic-shops are the only things to distinguish the place from a farming settlement." By that time Center Falls's various mills had fallen silent: "The magnificent

² Johnson, *Washington County*, 352.

³ Johnson, *Washington County*, 352.

power is at present entirely unemployed.”⁴ That condition was probably in some measure the result of the Panic of 1873, which initiated a depression which continued into the later part of the decade.

Greenwich’s citizens accepted the provisions of New York State’s school law of 1812—which called for the establishment of a system of common school districts—and thereby agreed to raise the monies required to match that donated by the state from its Common School Fund. Prior to this time, school activities lacked a formal overarching structure, and thus the creation of a district system represented a significant advance in the town’s educational interests. The 1853 map of Washington County produced by Morris Levey indicated the position of the town’s various district schools, though they were not identified by district number; at that time the nearest schools were two located a few miles to the north and one which served Battenville, though it was situated on the Town of Jackson side of the Battenkill. In 1866 the Center Falls schoolhouse was designated as District School No. 10; however, the plaque mounted on the school which indicates the building’s 1850 construction date also identifies it as School No. 11, indicating that the school districts within the town had been reconfigured during the period. Such changes were not uncommon; in the Town of Hebron, Washington County, the school established originally as Munson Hollow District School No. 17 in 1816 was later identified as No. 16, No. 12, and by 1939 No. 2.⁵ Sporadic references are found in nineteenth and twentieth century area newspapers which identify particular teachers who served terms as teachers at the Center Falls school.⁶ Images of the school dating to the 1910s show some of the then students and two of the school’s sometime teachers, Eva Lincoln McCrea and Ella Tucker Quinn.⁷

The building’s latter-day history is fairly well chronicled and is particularly interesting as it relates to heightened standards of school design in New York as the twentieth century progressed, and the 1927 rehabilitation serves well to illuminate the increasing involvement of state governmental agencies in the affairs of local educational institutions. During the mid-1920s the school at Center Falls came under increasing scrutiny from the State Education Department, which had come to view it as deficient in a number of regards. In July 1926 the district trustee, Henry Cameron, conducted a meeting of the district’s voters for “the purpose of considering the question of erecting a new school building.” This meeting was the result of the following circumstance: “The present

⁴ Johnson, *Washington County*, 352.

⁵ See Hebron District School No. 16, Hebron, Washington County, New York, National Register of Historic Places Nomination (2011).

⁶ One such account indicated that “Miss Helen Maxwell has been engaged to teach the Center Falls school next term.” East Greenwich news items, *Salem Press*, 13 May 1937.

⁷ These two images were published in the *Greenwich Journal*, “They went to school in Center Falls,” 26 September 1974, and were loaned by Vera Bradley, who was a student at the school and who appears in both photographs.

building has for some years been a subject of criticism by inspectors of the state education department, and it is believed that some action to improve the building will be necessary.”⁸

The present schoolhouse, like many others in rural districts, was built some sixty or more years ago, and while it has been repaired from time to time, hasn't been much changed since that time, and it doesn't conform to the standards set up by the education department. As the school serves the mill village of Center Falls, the number of pupils is considerably larger than in most school districts, and it is said that the old building is inadequate in size as well as obsolete in its design.⁹

The prevailing opinion at that time was that the building would likely need replacement, requiring the purchase of a new site. If not replaced, land would need to be acquired to expand the existing school property, as one of its identified shortcomings was the lack of sufficient outdoor playground space; “State authorities, it is said, will insist upon additional land being obtained for the school grounds or the removal of the building to an entirely new location.”¹⁰ By the end of August 1926 plans were being advanced for the construction of a new edifice to satisfy state demands:

At a special meeting of Center Falls school district held recently, it was voted to build a two-room school house on the new site. The site favored is on the south side of the road about an eighth of a mile west of the present school building. The land is owned by Mrs. Carrie Tefft and is at the western line of her farm. There was not a very large attendance at the meeting and no very serious opposition to the plan developed. On the proposition to build the school house the vote was 11 in favor and three against.

An alternate plan to build a lone room school house for the first six grades and send the seventh and eighth grades to the Greenwich school was not favored by those at the meeting. No definite amount of land to be purchased and its price was before the meeting. It is understood that the proposed site will be submitted for approval to the education meeting which will also be asked to furnish general plans for the building to be constructed. A committee consisting of Walter Robinson and Joseph Darsler was named to act with Trustee Harry Cameron in preparing further plans for the building and the land purchased.¹¹

However, no consensus was seemingly reached at that time as the issue was still under consideration the following August 1927, at which time another news item published regionally again indicated that “The state department of education found the school building at Center Falls to be inadequate for school purposes and ordered a new school built.”¹² Apparently there were some voters within the district who did not ultimately favor footing the bill for a new edifice, nor for an additional teacher, and who instead pushed for the rehabilitation of the existing 1850 school. It was that sentiment that ultimately prevailed:

At a special meeting of the voters of the Center Falls school district held last Wednesday evening it was voted to authorize the acquiring of additional land adjoining the present school grounds for playground

⁸ “Center Falls Must Build New School,” *Salem Press*, 8 July 1926.

⁹ “Center Falls Must Build New School.”

¹⁰ “Center Falls Must Build New School.”

¹¹ “To Build New School,” *The Saratogian* (Saratoga, N.Y.), 31 August 1926.

¹² Greenwich news items, *The Saratogian*, 1 August 1927.

purposes and the making of extensive repairs to the school building. The condition of the school building and the lack of adequate grounds has been the subject of criticism by the state department of education for two or three years, and last year the district acted favorably upon a proposition to erect a two-room school building on a new site. Some difficulty in obtaining a site that was considered suitable was encountered and the necessity for a two-room school was also questioned in the district, with the result that no actual steps were taken to carry out this program.

At the meeting last week the whole subject was taken up again and those present were of the opinion that the size of the school did not justify two teachers or the very considerable expense of building a new two-room school. The plan to remodel the present school and acquire additional land for school grounds was accordingly adopted. Clarence Wilcox and George McLenithan were named a committee to have charge of the improvements, which it is expected will cost several hundred dollars.

The plans for the changes in the building include tearing off of the shed now at the west end of the building and making a new entrance on the other end. This entrance will open on the new playground to be acquired east of the building. Chemical toilets will be installed, new single seats installed and other changes made in the building to make it comply with the requirements of the education department. The work is to be started at once and it is expected that it will be completed in time for the opening of the school in September.¹³

Following the completion of the renovations, which included the construction of a new wood-frame wing to accommodate the chemical toilets and the improvements made to the grounds, the building was placed back in service and it continued to operate into the mid-1940s, when it finally ceased operation due to the consolidation of the county's schools. Anecdotal accounts place the date of closure at 1944. The process of consolidation of Washington County's various schools was initiated in the later 1930s, at which time newly established districts such as Whitehall, Fort Ann and Salem moved to centralized models using federal Work Progress Administration funding to erect new educational facilities.¹⁴ Others, such as the county's third district, which comprised the towns of Greenwich and Easton, were still deliberating the merits of centralization in 1943.¹⁵ The decision to move towards consolidation was incentivized, as centralized districts received a larger share of financial aid than those which were not centralized. With the consolidation of schools in the county complete, the old one-room schoolhouses which had served local educational needs so ably became obsolescent. In 1939 the Town of Argyle began selling off its one-room schools, along with desks and other items, to the highest bidder, and the following year auctioned off the former village school.¹⁶

Architectural Analysis

Greenwich District School No. 11 is representative of a mid-nineteenth century rural one-room school that was modified in the 1920s to address deficiencies identified by state education officials. The original 1850 edifice, simple in form and straightforward in internal layout, was representative of the characteristic gable-roofed one-

¹³ "School District Votes to Make Improvements; Center Falls Voters Reconsider Plan to Build Two-Room School," *Salem Press*, 11 August 1927.

¹⁴ "Fort Ann Schools to Vote on Consolidated Districts," *Greenwich Journal and Fort Edward Advertiser*, 3 November 1937; "Cambridge, Argyle in Line for New Federal Aid Schools," *ibid*, 27 July 1938.

¹⁵ "School Meeting Hears Plan for a Centralized District," *ibid*, 15 July 1942.

room school which was at one time a prevailing building type in the rural landscape of the county and state. The type was well-established by the second quarter of the nineteenth century during which time it was popularized by Henry Barnard in his 1848 book *School Architecture, or Contributions to the Improvement of School-houses in the United States*, which built upon his pioneering work of the previous decade. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Barnard (1811-1900) was an educator who had previously studied law and served in Connecticut's state legislature, where he took an avid interest in matters of public education. Barnard later served as Rhode Island's first commissioner of education and as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin. Elements of Barnard's *School Architecture* had already been disseminated by the early 1840s and addressed subjects such as the overall design of schoolhouses, their interior layout, appropriate furnishings, and overall setting. The plan of the Center Falls school was characteristic of the rural one-room educational building of the nineteenth century, consisting as it did of a single-volume school room, although in this instance lacking an entrance vestibule, a common feature of many schools of the type whether original or added subsequently. A wood-burning stove, the pipe conveyed across the room from front to back to provide additional radiant heat, provided heat in the winter months; although the stove and upper portion of the chimney has been removed, the lower portion of the chimney which received the stove pipe remains centered against the rear interior wall. Natural lighting was provided for by windows along the north, south and west walls. The building's isolated location was meant to remove it from the immediate environs of the hamlet, where mill operations were clustered and which could form a distraction to students. The interior was simply finished originally, with plaster on lath walls above bead-board wainscot, a plaster on lath ceiling and medium-width floor boards.

The Center Falls building as erected in 1850 lacked any significant pretense to architectural style, outside of simplified moldings used to finish the frieze and cornice. It is nevertheless conspicuous by virtue of its brick construction, which was used for at least two other Greenwich district schools in this immediate area dating to the same general period, and which thus may represent a local mandate. Most of the school buildings in Washington County from the mid-1830s onward into the 1850s employed simplified Greek Revival-style features, the relative simplicity of which comported well with these building's largely utilitarian conception and the desire to keep associated construction costs low.

The 1927 modifications, which centered on bathroom upgrades, other interior modifications, and increased playground space and ready access to it, are representative of the sweeping changes which had occurred in school design in New York from the time the building was erected in 1850. School architecture had become increasingly specialized by the 1910s, as concerns relative to proper ventilation and lighting were codified either through legislation or the standardization of best practices. From the late nineteenth century to 1900, educators and

¹⁶“Argyle Village School Will Go to High Bidder,” *Greenwich Journal*, 10 April 1940.

architects who specialized in school design increasingly focused on matters of sanitation, hygiene, and proper means of ventilation.¹⁷ Ventilation and natural lighting emerged as preeminent concerns, and many older rural schoolhouses were modified with the addition of banks of closely spaced windows; among those is the nearby Battenville schoolhouse in the Town of Jackson, a ca. 1820s edifice which was modified to receive additional lighting by means of a window bank. Given all of the other modifications rendered, it is interesting to note that the original window scheme of the Center Falls school was largely left in place, although the abandonment of the original front entrance allowed for a new third window on that elevation. It is not known why the plaster and wainscot was removed and replaced with fiber board, though that work was clearly an aspect of the 1927 rehabilitation campaign.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Greenwich Journal and Fort Edward Advertiser*. "Fort Ann Schools to Vote on Consolidated Districts." November 3, 1937
- Greenwich Journal and Fort Edward Advertiser*. "Cambridge, Argyle in Line for New Federal Aid Schools." July 27, 1938.
- Greenwich Journal*. "Argyle Village School Will Go to High Bidder" April 10, 1940.
- Greenwich Journal and Fort Edward Advertiser*. "School Meeting Hears Plan for a Centralized District." July 15, 1942.
- Johnson, Crisfield. *History of Washington County*. Philadelphia: Everts & Ensign, 1878
- Salem Press*. "Center Falls Must Build New School." July 8, 1926.
- Salem Press*. "School District Votes to Make Improvements; Center Falls Voters Reconsider Plan to Build Two-Room School" August, 11 1927.
- Salem Press*. East Greenwich news items. May 13, 1937.
- The Saratogian*. Greenwich news items. August 1, 1927
- The Saratogian*. "To Build New School." August 31, 1926.
- Thurston, Elisha P. *History of the Town of Greenwich*. Salem, New York: H.D. Morris, Book and Job Printer, 1876
- Warren, Susanne R. *The Schools of New York State Development of the School as a Building Type* [Context Study]. Albany, NY: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, 1990, 192.

¹⁷Susanne R. Warren, "The School of 1910," *The Schools of New York State Development of the School as a Building Type* [Context Study], (Albany, NY: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, 1990), 192.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
 Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.21
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>626156</u>	<u>4773147</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with a scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the parcel historically associated with the St. Regis Presbyterian Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger and Daniel Bagrow
 organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date August 2020
 street & number PO Box 189 telephone (518) 268-2160
 city or town Waterford State NY zip code 12188
 e-mail william.krattinger@parks.ny.gov; dan.bagrow@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

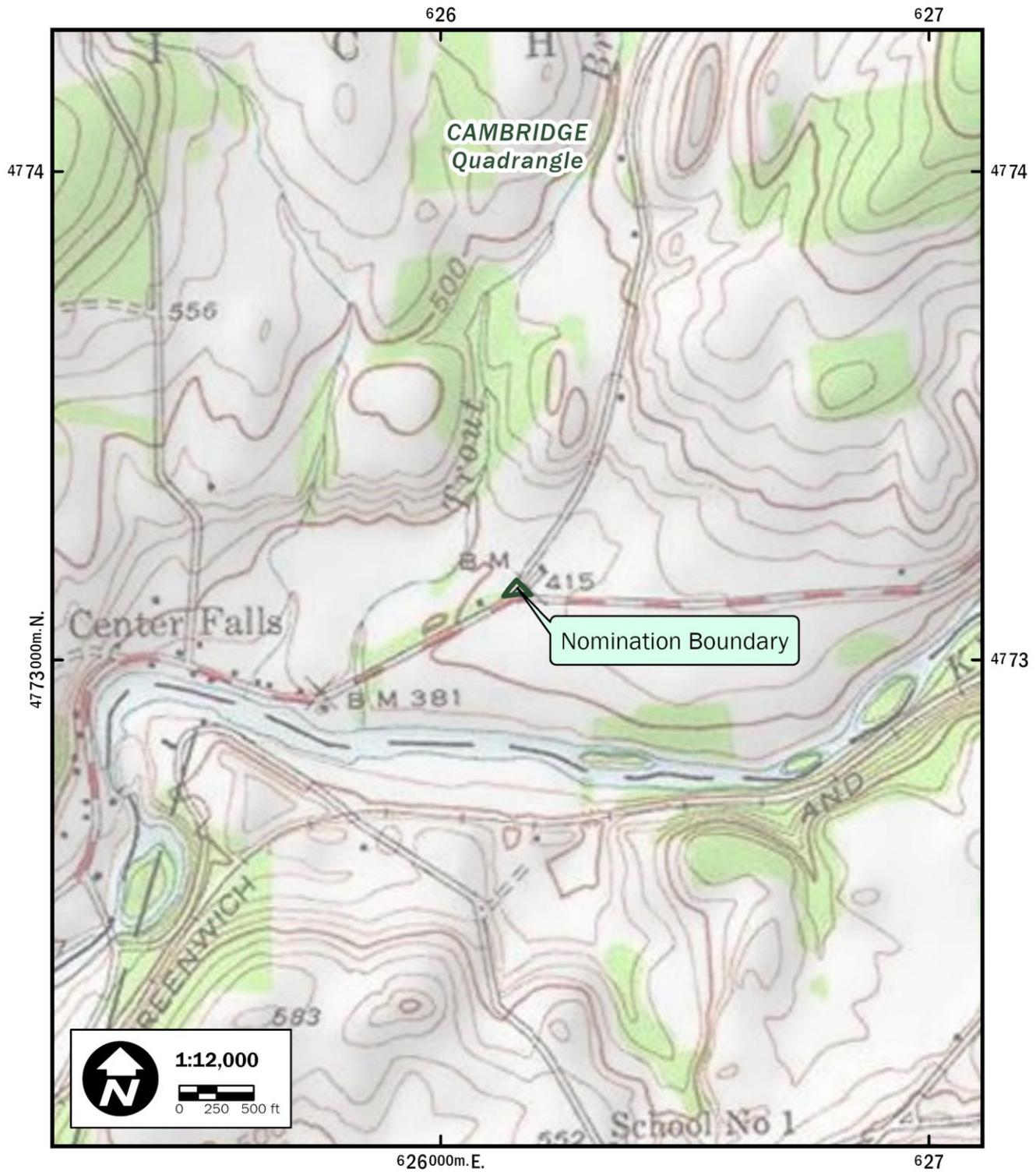
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

DRAFT

Greenwich District School No. 11
Town of Greenwich, Washington County, New York

4 Ryan Road
Center Falls, NY 12834



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

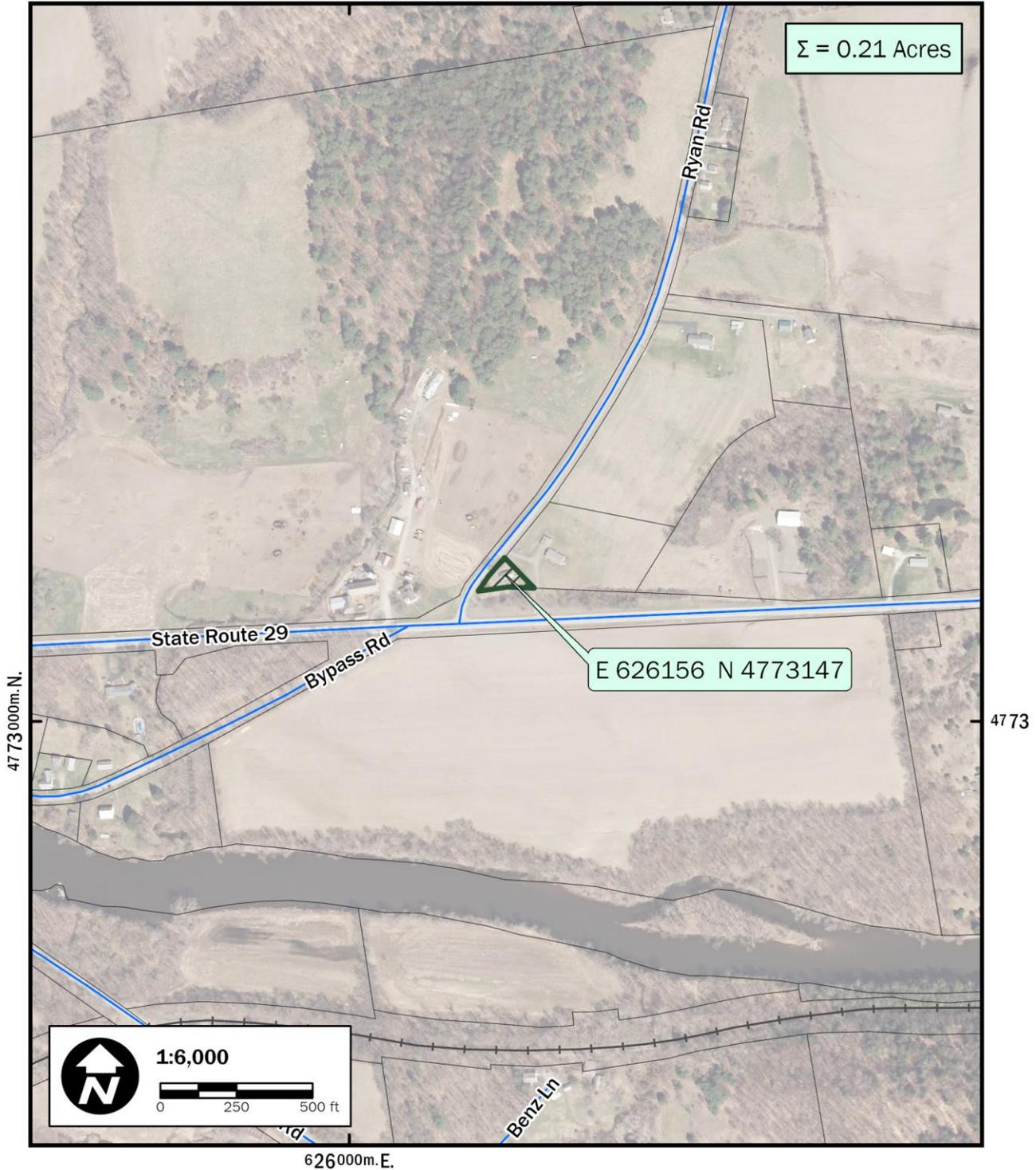
 Nomination Boundary



Greenwich District School No. 11
Town of Greenwich, Washington County, New York

4 Ryan Road
Center Falls, NY 12834

626



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

 Nomination Boundary



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Greenwich District School No. 11
Town of Greenwich, Washington County, New York

4 Ryan Road
Center Falls, NY 12834



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

 Nomination Boundary



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Greenwich District school No. 11

City or Vicinity: Center Falls

County: Washington County

State: NY

Name of Photographer: Jill Tefft

Date of Photographs: As noted

Location of Original Digital Files: Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Peebles Island State Park, Waterford, NY

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0001

Façade, camera facing north

Date: June 5, 2020

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0002

Façade, camera facing northwest

Date: March 22, 2020

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0003

Façade, entrance detail, camera facing north

Date: March 22, 2020

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0004

North and east elevations, camera facing southwest

Date: March 22, 2020

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0005

Interior, camera facing north

Date: February 25, 2020

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0006

Interior, camera facing northwest

Date: July 24, 2020

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0007

Interior, camera facing east

Date: July 24, 2020

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0008

Interior, camera facing south

Date: March 25, 2020

NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0009

Interior, camera facing east

Date: March 25, 2020

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

DRAFT



NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0001
Façade, camera facing north
Date: June 5, 2020



NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0002
Façade, camera facing northwest
Date: March 22, 2020



NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0003
Façade, entrance detail, camera facing north
Date: March 22, 2020



NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0004
North and east elevations, camera facing southwest
Date: March 22, 2020



NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0005
Interior, camera facing north
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NY_Washington County_Greenwich District School No. 11_0006
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