

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chemung District School No. 10

other name/site number Lowman School

2. Location

street & number Old NY 17 at Lowman Rd not for publication

city or town Lowman vicinity

state New York code NY county Chemung code 015 zip code 14861

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ruth A. Purpont DSHPD 3/25/08
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 5-21-08
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- public-local
- private
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

- district
- building(s)
- site
- structure
- object

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

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

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ school

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood
roof asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Chemung District School No. 10
Chemung County, New York.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

The Chemung District School No. 10, more commonly known as the Lowman School, is located on a half-acre lot in the hamlet of Lowman, Town of Chemung, in southeastern Chemung County, New York. The property is situated on the southwest corner of County Route 60, the original alignment of NY 17 in the area, and Lowman Road. Landscaping of the level lot consists of scattered mature trees and a concrete walk that runs between the entrance and County Route 60.

The building is a five- by four-bay one-story Colonial Revival style frame building on a low foundation of concrete block; the building is surmounted by a modified hipped roof with louvered peak vents above the end shed slopes. Fenestration is regular, with large two-over-two double-hung sash windows. An entrance pavilion on the north (principal) elevation features double doors with large six-pane windows. The building is embellished with corner pilasters, a heavy entablature, and a round-arched transom and a louvered oculus above the entrance.



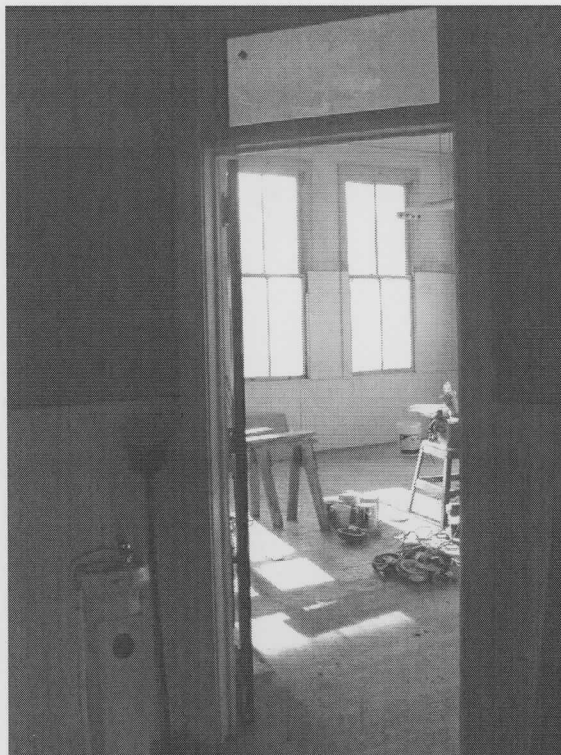
The principal floor of the interior is divided symmetrically into four rooms and an entrance/stair hall that provides access to the four rooms and the basement. The entrance opens onto a small landing of the stairs with a flight up to the principal floor and a flight down to the basement. The four rooms consist of two large classrooms on the south side of the building and narrow cloak rooms that run across the north side of the building. The classrooms open from the irregularly octagonal upper landing of the entrance stairs; also accessed from this landing are a small utility closet and a small lavatory. All the interior spaces are simply

Chemung District School No. 10
Chemung County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 7 Page 2

finished with plaster walls, plain wood door and window surrounds and a wainscot of narrow beadboard.



Finishes include plaster walls, beadboard wainscoting and paneled doors. The semi-finished basement space houses the furnace and other mechanical systems of the building.

8. 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.

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

EDUCATION _____

Period of Significance

1898 _____

Significant Dates

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Welliver Construction Co. _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Chemung District School No. 10
County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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The Chemung District School No. 10 (Lowman Schoolhouse) is architecturally and historically significant as a largely intact example of a substantial rural district school of the late nineteenth century. The building reflects the prevalent thinking of the period regarding school planning as well as the prosperity of this small agricultural community. The building was the first school commission of a prominent regional contracting firm that traces its history to the mid-nineteenth century.

The first school in Lowman was established during the early years of settlement in the first years of the nineteenth century. One of the early schoolmasters was Dr. Hovey Everett who was recruited and hired by hamlet founder Jacob Lowman; Everett would later become Lowman's son-in-law and a prominent member of the community in his own right.¹

According to a 1938 history of Lowman and the Lowman family, "[t]his section came to its greatest prosperity and splendor in the forties and fifties of the last century."² By the 1850s, the Lowman area and the entire region had long since been transformed from the wilderness of the 1790s into a prosperous hamlet in the center of a productive farming region of river-flat and upland farms. The opening of the Erie Railroad through the Chemung Valley in the early 1850s spurred this prosperity by enlarging the available markets beyond those that were easily reachable by river, New York's canal system and highways. The opening of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad through the area in 1882, running closer to Lowman than the earlier Erie alignment, provided additional freight service for shipment of local produce and ready access to additional markets not directly served by the Erie, further enhancing the prosperity of the local economy.

In the mid-1890s, it was decided to replace the hamlet's schoolhouse, which was located at the same intersection as the present building, possibly north and/or east of it and closer to the roads.³ The land was donated by Ward and Julia (Lowman) Saunders with the stipulation that when it was no longer used as a school, that the property and building would revert back to the family. The contractor for the building was the Welliver Construction Co. of Ridgebury, Pennsylvania, founded in 1898 by Wilmont H. "W.H." Welliver. Constructed in 1898, the school was the first commission of the new company.⁴

While not unknown as early as the 1850s, the two-room school prototype became much more common in rural areas in the two decades following the Civil War due to the influence of ongoing research and publishing on the subject of education. Books such as Charles Dwyer's *The Economy of Church, Parsonage and Schoolhouse Architecture*

¹ Everett's home was listed in the National Register in 200x; as of this writing, the National Register designation of the Jacob Lowman house is pending.

² Lowman, Seymour, *The Lowmans in Chemung County*, Elmira, N.Y.: Seymour Lowman., 1938 Page 32

³ Communication from Jason Knapp (of the Lowman family), January 2008.

⁴ www.welliver-mcguire.com

Chemung District School No. 10
County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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adapted to Small Societies and Rural School Districts (1856), Amos J. Bicknell's *Bicknell's School Houses and School Architecture* (1878), James Johonnot's *Country School Houses: Containing Elevations, Plans and Specifications* (1866) and Samuel Eveleth's *Schoolhouse Architecture* (1870) had wide circulation. In addition to providing generalized plans, including the two-room type of facility, these publications reinforced many of the evolving theories of education of the period and the recommended attributes a modern school should possess.

While many plan books did not specify uses for all of the rooms in a given plan, two-room (and larger) elementary schools of the period provided space to meet a variety needs occasioned by local circumstance, evolving educational theory and/or mandates from state officials. These needs for space beyond that provided in the old single-room model included space for the addition of students from a neighboring absorbed school district, provision of "academic courses" in response to New York State's union free school district law of 1853, a differentiated play room that came into vogue after the Civil War, or subdivision of the district's students into smaller age- and educational-level cohorts. For most of the school's history, one of the rooms served primarily as a space for play and activities. In the early 1950s, sixth graders were added to the existing grades 1-5 program; beginning in 1955, two rooms were used for upper and lower classes. During this period, students continued their elementary education in nearby Wellsburg before going to high school in Waverly, NY. In 1957 the school district was integrated into the Elmira City School System and students went from Lowman to Booth School and Elmira Free Academy.

The District 10 School combines a general plan that had been common for three decades with elements of its construction in the late 1890s. The choice of Colonial Revival style embellishment reflects the growing interest in early American history in this period in general; in the case of Lowman, it may also have been a badge of the community's pride in being located on the site of the only Revolutionary War battle in the region. Among the building's modern amenities were plumbed indoor restrooms and central heating.

The building is currently undergoing restoration to serve as a museum and interpretive center, focusing on the history of the Battle of Newtown and Lowman, resuming and continuing its community role as a place for education.

Chemung District School No. 10
Chemung County, New York

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Section number 9 Page 1

Lowman, Seymour, *The Lowmans in Chemung County*, Elmira, N.Y: Seymour Lowman.,
1938.

Communication from Jason Knapp, descendent of Jacob Lowman and life-long resident of
Lowman, January 2008.

www.welliver-mcguire.com

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.5

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 357950 4654390
Zone Easting Northing

2 18
Zone Easting Northing

3 18
Zone Easting Northing

4 18
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert T. Englert, Historic Preservation Program Analyst
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation date February 2008
street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188-0189

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and **white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name/title Susan J. Saunders
street & number 621 Lowman Rd telephone _____
city or town Lowman state NY zip code 14861

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Chemung County, New York

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 11 Page 1

Research assistance:

Dr. Earl Robinson
1594 County Rte 60
Lowman, N.Y. 14861

Jason Knapp
1826 County Rte 60
Lowman, NY 14861

Berniece Haskell
266 Rotary Rd
Chemung, NY 14825

Suzi Stevens
851 Roberts Hollow Rd
Lowman, NY 14861

Duane Sprague
2533 South Broadway
Wellsburg, NY 14894

Suzanne M. Murphy
Erin Town Historian
53 Fairview Rd.
Erin, NY 14838

Chemung District School No. 10
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number **Photos** Page 1

Photographs

Photographer: Robert Englert
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Date: November 2007

Tiff Files: CD-R of .tiff files on file at
National Park Service
Washington, DC

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

NY_ChemungCo_ChemungDistSch10_

1. Exterior, View to SE
2. Interior, Vestibule, View to SE
3. Interior, hall and west classroom, View to SW
4. Interior, east classroom from hall, View to SE
5. Interior detail, typical door and hardware.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Chemung District School No. 10

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Chemung

DATE RECEIVED: 4/09/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/28/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/13/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/23/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000449

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-21-08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/13/08
**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____
TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



CHEMUNG DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 1

CHEMUNG CO., NY

1 of 5



CHEMUNG DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 1

CHEMUNG CO., NY

2 of 5



CHEMUNG DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 1

CHEMUNG CO., NY

3 of 5



CHEMUNG DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 1

CHEMUNG CO., NY

4 of 5



CHEMUNG DISTRICT SCHOOL No. 1

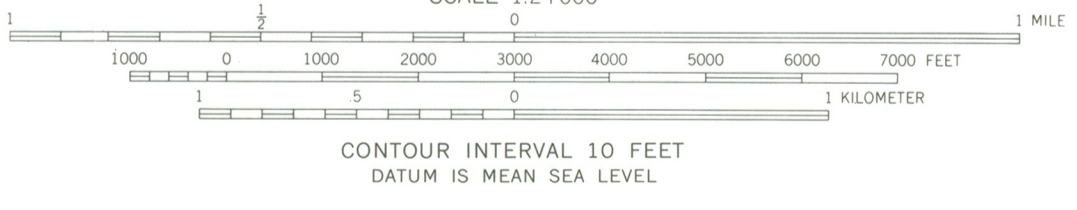
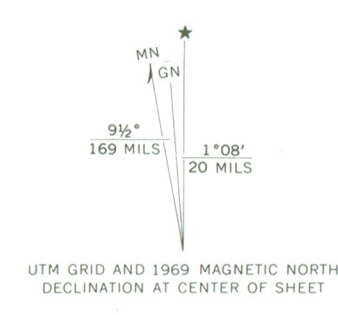
CHEMUNG Co., NY

5 of 5



CHEMUNG DISTRICT
SCHOOL No. 10
LOWMAN, CHEMUNG
CO., NY
WELLSBURG N/PA
QUAD
ZONE 18
357950 4654390

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with New York Department
of Transportation
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942, 1944, and 1948. Field checked 1954. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, central
zone, and Pennsylvania coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WELLSBURG, N. Y. - PA.
SW/4 WAVERLY 15' QUADRANGLE
N4200-W7637.5/7.5
1969
AMS 5668 II SW-SERIES V821