

March 1875	
Work done across for the School house	
2000 ft of boards laid	08-15-0
to painting 2 days	00-10-0
to carting and going after the boards	02-00-0
10000 of boards nails	05-00-0
to 1000 scapers most thirty feet long and	
timber for the porch and carting	05-10-0
to 32 bushels of lime at 16¢ a bushel	02-2-8
To Carting 2 nd time and buying	0-18-0
To 2 Empty Rds a put of lime in	0-6-0
To 200 of Rumble nails 1/2, 200 of 2 nd nails	0-5-5
To 8 days work my self & negro at 9¢ a day	0-12-0
To getting North Stones	0-5-0
To Carting of Stones to land and water	0-18-0
To 200 of Brick for 9 Over	0-10-0
To making of Over and Digging of foundation	0-0-0
and Carting of Bricks	0-12-7
To Cash Account of Exp. drawing of	23-12-7
To 100 of Boards	0-16-2-7
Balance Due to me	
March 9 th 1875 Errors Excepted	
J. W. Adams Larson	
This is a copy written and is correct as to the the 1 st of 1 st on 1875 of the free book of the town.	

IT HAD AN OVEN MADE OF 200 BRICKS. IT HAD A STONE HEARTH. ADAM LAWTON AND A "NEGRO" WORKED FOR 8 DAYS ON THE BUILDING. IT WAS COMPLETED IN MARCH 1725. IT IS LISTED AS 24/25 BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE OVER IN THE CALENDAR. THERE WAS A PORCH. LOTS OF LIME WAS USED IN THE BUILDING. IT TOOK 2 DAYS TO PAINT. SOME OF THE BOARDS WERE AS LONG AS 30 FEET.

As one of the few public buildings in town, it was also used for many purposes including town meetings, church services and sheltering needy families. Town records show that the uncompleted building was used for a Town Meeting in 1723 - two years before it opened as a school.

PREPARED FOR THE
PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BY G. SCHMIDT

A photograph of a small, single-story red wooden building with a gabled roof and a chimney. The building has two white-framed windows and an open doorway. It is surrounded by green grass and a large, dense green bush in the foreground.

1725 - 2025

Portsmouth,

Rhode Island





“FOR THE BETTER ENCOURAGEMENT OF BRINGING UP AND EDUCATING CHILDREN IN LITTERAL (I.E FACTUAL) LEARNING.” THESE WERE THE WORDS OF WILLIAM SANFORD IN 1776 WHEN HE DONATED A PLOT OF LAND OFF UNION STREET FOR A SCHOOL SERVING SOUTH PORTSMOUTH. WITH A PLOT TO BUILD ON, THE MEMBERS OF THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN MEETING DECIDED TO BUILD TWO SCHOOLS “HAVING CONSIDERED HOW EXCELLENT AN ORNAMENT LEARNING IS TO MANKIND.”

NEWPORT AND PROVIDENCE HAD SCHOOLS, BUT THEY WERE ASSOCIATED WITH A CHURCH OR MEETING HOUSE. PORTSMOUTH RESIDENTS WERE VOTING FOR A SCHOOL THAT WOULD EDUCATE CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION - A PUBLIC SCHOOL. IN ITS FIRST YEARS THE STUDENTS AT SOUTHERMOST SCHOOL WOULD ONLY BE BOYS AND THEIR TEACHERS ONLY men.

THE SOUTHERMOST SCHOOL WAS MOVED UP AND DOWN UNION STREET



Dripps Map 1870

FIRST LOCATION: ON UNION STREET TO THE WEST OF MIDDLE ROAD.

SECOND LOCATION: AROUND 1800 IT WAS MOVED CLOSE TO WEST MAIN ROAD. IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT THE ENTRYWAY WAS ADDED TO THE SCHOOL

THIRD LOCATION: BY 1863 THE SCHOOL WAS NO LONGER NEEDED. IT WAS REPLACED BY THE GIBBS SCHOOL. THE SCHOOLHOUSE WENT TO AUCTION AND WENT TO THE ALMY LAKESIDE FARM WITH TWO TEAMS OF OXEN PULLING IT DOWN UNION STREET. IT WAS USED AS A TACK HOUSE ON THE FARM.

PRESENT LOCATION: IN 1952 THE HALL FAMILY, THE OWNERS OF THE LAKESIDE FARM, DONATED THE SOUTHERMOST SCHOOL TO THE PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. TODAY IT IS LOCATED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE SOCIETY AND HAS BEEN RESTORED THROUGH THE YEARS.

LIST OF RULES FOUND IN SOUTHERMOST SCHOOL CIRCA 1863

- Boys and girls playing together – 1 lash
- Fighting at School – 5 lashes
- Quarreling at school – 3 lashes
- Climbing for every foot over 3ft up a tree – 1 lash
- Telling tales out of school – 8 lashes
- Giving each other ill names – 3 lashes
- Misbehaving to girls – 10 lashes
- Leaving school without leave of the teacher – 4 lashes
- Wearing long fingernails – 2 lashes
- Boys going to the girls' play place – 3 lashes
- Girls going to the boys' play place – 2 lashes
- For every word you miss on your heart lessons without a good excuse – 1 lash
- For not saying yes or no sir or yes or no marm – 2 lashes
- Telling lies – 7 lashes
- Swearing at school – 9 lashes.