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The sign on Nottingham Historical Society's Building

A Sign for the Nottingham Historical Society's Building
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On Monday, March 28, 2022 a town worker hung the Nottingham Historical Society's (NHS) sign on the Van Dame Schoolhouse and Nottingham Historical Society Museum at 139 Stage Road. Here is the sign's back story. Although the NHS has occupied that building since around the turn of the 21st Century, it did not have any designation on it. The lack of a sign would occasionally result in Nottingham residents entering the building to pay their taxes when the NHS was open on Thursdays from 9 to 11 PM. This year, NHS decided to get a sign. Linda Smith of Spectrum of Northwood helped in the creative process. Town administration input assisted with suggestions that the new sign use the same font and structure of current Nottingham building. These efforts culminated in the delivery of the sign on the morning of Thursday, February 10, 2022, at [Rhoda Capron's](#) sendoff event. Now the sign is in place.



The Van Dame Schoolhouse and Nottingham Historical Society Museum

Here is the back story on the building itself. It was built as a school in 1849 by friends of Bartholomew Van Dame and was located across from the current Nottingham Library. Van Dame taught high school there. The school was deeded to the town of Nottingham and became the School District Number Thirteen, the Center School, in 1871. It then changed from a high school to a grammar school. In 1953, the Center School was physically moved adjacent to the new elementary school. That elementary school would later become the Town Hall. There it was used as an auditorium and a place for public meetings. In 1962, a passageway was built to connect it to the elementary school. With that connection it served as a classroom and later the art room.

The following year 1963 the Center School was detached from the elementary school. However, the building's moving days were not over. It was moved again to its present location. This second move was because the Police Department was to be constructed as an extension of the now Town Hall. The NHS, which was formed in 1972, moved in around the building in the late 1990's or early 2000's. Although for years, Nottingham residents have called it the Dame School, the NHS renamed it officially as the Van Dame Schoolhouse after Bartholomew Van Dame. The quill weathervane on top of its steeple and the quill on top of the sign, represents education and learning.