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RECEIVED APR 16 1978

DATE ENTERED

SEP 20 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Enosburg Opera House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

31 Depot Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Enosburg Falls

VICINITY OF

Vermont

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Enosburg

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Enosburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Enosburg

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Enosburg Opera House is a large frame building set among undistinguished smaller buildings and structures of various ages which do not constitute an historic district. The main (south) facade of the building is three large bays in width, with an attached stair tower. This tower, like the rest of the building, is sheathed in narrow clapboards for most of its height. It rises approximately 3-1/2 stories and is a highly visible village landmark.

The tower is visually divided into four elements. It rests on a high shiplap basement over an uncoursed ashlar foundation, as does the rest of the building. Separated from this by a slightly projecting stringcourse is the lower principal section which is the same height as the body of the main mass. This section contains, on each of the three visible facades, a double-hung Queen Anne window in a plain board surround, and a larger rectangular window above it, also in the Queen Anne mode and in a similar surround. This section is separated from the one above it by a band of flush vertical boards, which aligns with the frieze line of the main mass of the building. Above this is a slightly flared band of shingles.

The next section begins above this band and is completely plain except for a large blind oculus just below center. This may have been intended for a clock. This section of the tower terminates in a simplified entablature consisting of a plain board architrave, a course of dentils and a box cornice.

The tower is capped by a sharply pitched pyramidal slate roof, with a small pointed finial. Each face of the roof contains a large round-arch roof dormer, infilled with plywood.

The principal mass of the building also rests on a high shiplap basement over the uncoursed ashlar foundation. The principal entry is in the center of the facade, and, being at grade, breaks the foundation and the basement. It is deeply recessed, creating a feeling of massiveness by implying very thick walls, contrary to the usual "thin" feeling in buildings of this period. To the left of the entry is a plain basement window.

The string course is at the level of the main floor of the Opera House, and those parts above it are treated more decoratively. On the piano nobile directly above the entrance is a tall double 2/2 window with stained panes in a diamond pattern. The two windows are joined by a heavy wooden mullion, which also divides their respective transoms. To the left of this window, directly above the basement window, is a similar 2/2 stained glass window, also with a stained glass transom.

The righthand bay of the facade is identical to the left, but projects slightly from the main block. This bay, by projecting, balances the tower and its fenestration completes the symmetry of the recessed main block. This projection terminates in a pedimented gable. The main block is terminated by a simple box cornice over a plain board frieze.

Centered on the facade above the windows is a narrow wooden sign painted black with gold lettering which reads OPERA HOUSE. Above this is a smaller sign reading 1892.

The roof of the building is slate, in a modified hip configuration with a small gable at the peak.

The four-bay side facades are nearly identical. They are lit by basement windows below tall stained glass windows in a fenestration identical to the flanking bays in the main facade. The right (east) facade also includes a door to the main floor between the second and third bays, which is reached by a flight of stairs.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The rear (north) facade is clapboarded and is totally blank with the exception of two basement windows. The cornerboards at the rear corners support small cornice returns.

Towards the rear of the building is a small cross gable, containing two quarter-round windows.

The principal space of the main floor is a large hall, seating 600, with a stage at the rear (north) end. The room retains its original tongue and groove wainscoting and its original movable folding seating. The basement is used for ticket sales, offices, dressing rooms, storage, and mechanical systems.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Enosburg Opera House was built in 1892 as an act of benevolence by the B. J. Kendall Company. This company was founded in 1879 by Dr. B. J. Kendall, a local pharmacist. He discovered, by an unknown means, a remedy which was "peculiarly beneficial when applied to horses affected with the infirmity commonly called a 'spavin'."¹ The remedy was marketed as "Kendall's Spavin Cure" and eventually made Kendall and his partners wealthy. Kendall later wrote a book (Dr. Kendall's Treatise on the Horse) which was widely distributed. The company also branched out into "Dr. Flint's Condition Powders" and a preparation known as "anti-aploplectine."

The company was generous to the town, and contributed to civic improvements in the latter part of the 19th century. The Opera House was one manifestation of this generosity. Built in 1892, it was turned over to the town two years later. It served several purposes. First, prior to its construction there was no town hall, which is important to the traditional New England town meeting form of government. The company used it for its own medicine shows, as well as traveling shows, medical and otherwise. Among the performers who appeared here is John Philip Sousa.

The building, unaltered except for routine maintenance and modern facilities, retains its original functions. It is used for town meetings in March of each year and hosts traveling musicians and locally produced theater. It continues to be a viable public hall and the center of the town's community life.

While its architecture could not be considered outstanding, it is impressive for a village the size of Enosburg Falls, as well as a highly visible symbol of the Town's ties to the Kendall Company. (Several other company buildings exist, although not in the neighborhood of the Opera House.) It is an important building in the village, both visually and historically, as shown by the vigor with which its preservation is being pursued by the community.

¹ Lewis C. Aldrich, History of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties (Syracuse, D. Mason and Co., 1891), p. 441.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Supplement to The Enosburg Standard August 1901.

Aldrich, Lewis C. History of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. Syracuse: D. Mason and Co., 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	6,7,3	5,0,0	4,9	7,4	9,2,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Co-extensive with the boundaries of the Enosburg Opera House, owned by the Town of Enosburg.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles H. Ashton

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

February 6, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont 05602

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Pomeroy

TITLE

Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4/3/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. B. Rettig

DATE

9/20/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

Sept 18, 1978

ATTEST:

William L. Borch

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER