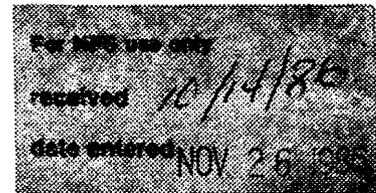


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GENERAL ROBINSON HALL HOUSE (#6)

Section 7. Description

6,A,B,C General Robinson Hall House

Similar in Federal style to the Isaac Munson House (#1-9), the General Robinson Hall house was erected for its namesake during the same c.1830 period. The house relates to the Munson family through the marriage of Hall to Sarah, the eldest daughter of Isaac Munson. From its recessed site somewhat above the west side of the highway, the house overlooks the Vermont Railway track paralleling the other side of the highway and the Otter Creek beyond. The house's position relative to the railroad reflects the leading role played by General Hall in the promotion and development of that line (originally the Western Vermont Railroad) during the 1840s and 1850s.

A small barn stands southwest of the Hall house at the edge of its rear grounds. Large blocks of rubble marble lie scattered in the immediate vicinity of the barn, indicating the presence of a small quarry a short distance westward along the base of the forested hillside. The quarry was opened in 1855 but abandoned around the turn of the century. A roadway south of the house leading to the quarry has been converted to the house's driveway in place of the original one near the south elevation.

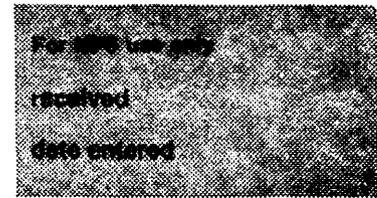
Informally landscaped grounds extend from the house northward along the highway, protected by a low wall of marble rubble. The grounds surround the stone foundation of an earlier house and tavern built for Hall's father, Deacon Mosley Hall. That building appeared similar to the contemporary Hulett House (#5), having a 2 1/2 story, wood-framed and clapboarded, gable-roofed main block oriented parallel to the road; its symmetrical five-bay east eaves facade had a sidelighted central entrance flanked by bays of 12/12 sash on the first story while the smaller second story windows were 12/8s. Although the Deacon's house was dismantled c.1910, two related outbuildings survive, a small shed to the north and a medium sized barn across the road.

6. Hall House; c.1830

The 2 1/2 story, marble-trimmed, brick main block of the Hall House stands oriented with its gable roof perpendicular to the highway. Its foundation comprises coursed and dressed marble ashlar on the main (east) facade, rock-faced ashlar on the south elevation, and rubble on the north elevation. The brick bond differs also by elevation; the east gable facade and the south

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eaves elevation (next to the original driveway) are laid up in Flemish bond while the less closely viewed north elevation is irregular American bond. The rear (west) gable differs also in materials, being mostly wood-framed and clapboarded. Both the north and south slopes of the roof display three narrow (one-two-course) longitudinal bands of green slate within the predominantly bluish color. One interior chimney emerges from the center of the ridge while an end chimney surmounts the west gable.

The three-bay, pedimented east gable facade presents to the highway a left entrance approached by a series of marble steps. The semielliptical-arched opening contains a louvered fan above the doorway. A similar fan appears inset on the brick tympanum of the pediment. The window openings (like those on the three-bay north and south eaves elevations) have marble sills and, on the first story, splayed marble lintels; the second-story openings abut the molded cornice. The windows are fitted with 12/12 sash.

The rear (west) gable elevation of the main block constitutes a transition to the attached series of three wood-framed wings. The brick masonry turns the southwest corner and continues one bay to meet the intersecting south wall of the first 1 1/2 story wing. Above the wing's slate roof, the west gable of the main block is wood-framed and clapboarded. The gable is lighted by two 6/6 sash.

The first wing is sheathed with asbestos shingles. A transomed entrance occupies the right bay of its four-bay south eaves elevation. The window openings contain varied sash. An exterior chimney has been added to the opposite elevation.

The 1 story, clapboarded, gable-roofed (covered with standing-seam metal) middle wing also has a right-bay entrance on the south eaves elevation next to two fixed windows. The opposite (north) elevation contains two 8/8 sash.

The rearmost 1 story, clapboarded, gable-roofed shed has a central entrance on its south eaves elevation.

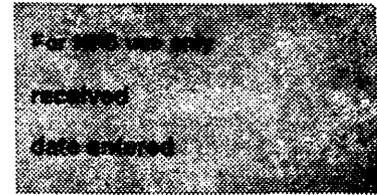
A. Barn; c.1850

The small wood-framed, vertical-boarded barn standing southwest of the house carries a gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. Double-leaf sliding doors enter its north eaves front.

B. Shed; c.1850

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Related to the demolished Deacon Mosley Hall House, a small wood-framed, gabled-roofed (with standing-seam metal sheathing) shed stands northwest of the house's foundation. Its severely weathered clapboards are partly missing, revealing the horizontal flush boards beneath. A south gable projection surmounts a loft door above the central entrance.

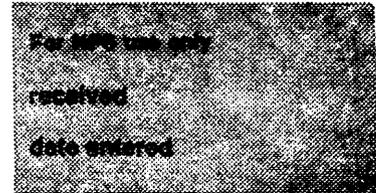
C. Barn; c.1830

Standing closely parallel to the east side of the highway opposite the house foundation, a wood-framed gable-roofed barn of the English type has been given 20th century sheathing of horizontal half-lapped flush boards and, on the roof, standing-seam metal. The north end of the roof, is collapsing. The original central wagon entrance on the west eaves front has been modified with a metal door. A wood sliding door enters the west end of both the north and south gable elevations. An unused small stable with wood stanchions occupies the roughly finished basement.

A smaller-scale ell with older vertical-board sheathing projects from the rear (east) elevation of the barn's main block. An unusually large twelve-light glazed panel has been added to the ell's north eaves elevation for an unknown purpose.

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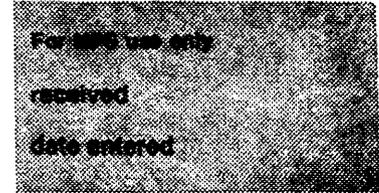
General Robinson Hall House (#6)

Section 8. Statement of Significance

The Robinson Hall House is the only house outside of the Rural Otter Creek Valley Historic District associated with the Munson family, the well-to-do farmers and entrepreneurs who built the valley's imposing series of Federal and Greek Revival farmhouses. General Robinson Hall married Sarah, Isaac Munson's eldest daughter. The brick house's well-preserved late Federal sidehall form and fine period detailing are almost identical to the house Isaac Munson had built for himself in 1830 (#1-9). Both are the earliest remaining of the Munson related manses. The complex also retains a 19th century barn indicative of its agricultural past and the debris from a 19th century marble quarry located on the premises.

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General Robinson Hall House (#6)

Section 10. Geographic Data

Acreage: approximately 5 acres

Quadrangle name: Wallingford 15 minute series, scale - 1:62500

UTM Reference: 18/662700/4810275

Verbal boundary description: The boundary of the General Robinson Hall House begins at Point A, the intersection of the present north property line of the General Robinson Hall House and the northern extension of a line 20' west of and parallel to the east wall of the Hall Barn (#6C). It thence proceeds in a southerly direction along said extension, said line, and a southerly extension of said line to Point B, the intersection of said extension and the eastern extension of a line 20' south of and parallel to the south wall of the Hall Barn (#6C). It thence proceeds in a westerly direction along said extension, said line, and a westerly extension of said line, crossing U.S. Route 7 and continuing to Point C, the intersection of said extension and the western edge of the right of way of U.S. Route 7. The boundary thence proceeds in a southerly direction along said edge to Point D, the intersection of said edge and the eastern extension of a line 20' south of and parallel to the south wall of Hall Barn (#6A). It thence proceeds in a westerly direction along said extension, said line and a western extension of said line to Point E, the intersection of said extension, and the southern extension of a line 20' west of and parallel to the west wall of the Hall Barn (#6A). It thence proceeds in a northerly direction along said extension, said line, and a northern extension of said line to Point F, the intersection of said extension and the present north property line of the General Robinson Hall House. The boundary thence proceeds in an easterly direction along said property line, crossing U.S. Route 7 and continuing to Point A, the point of beginning.

Boundary justification: The boundary includes the General Robinson Hall House, its outbuildings, and the foundation of the Mosley Hall Tavern. A modern ranch house is excluded to the north. A wooded hillside borders the complex on the west while fields and new growth pasture are to the south and east.