

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont	
COUNTY: Orleans	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 9 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Brownington Village Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Junction of Hinman Road and Brownington Center Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Brownington

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Orleans CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Brownington STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Town Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
(No street number)

CITY OR TOWN: Brownington STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

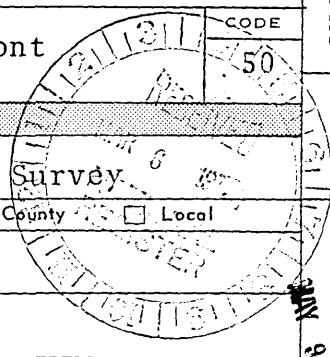
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Vermont Division of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pavilion Building

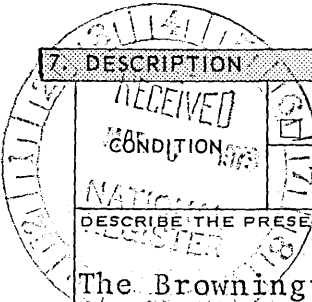
CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50



STATE: Vermont
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

* The Old Stone House is operated as a museum and is open to the public during specified hours.



7. DESCRIPTION

RECEIVED CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brownington Village Historic District is located at the intersection of the Hinman Road, the main north-south route through Brownington Village, and the road east to Brownington Center. The district extends along Hinman Road from the intersection north 864 feet to the north boundary of the Prospect Hill property; south from the intersection approximately 812 feet to the intersection of Hinman Road and Town Road #17; and 692 feet east from Hinman Road along the Brownington Center Road to the east boundary of the Brownington Historical Society property. The district boundaries shall coincide with the present rear property lines of all properties fronting on these roads for the prescribed distances.

Brownington is one of the early settlements of Orleans County. It is sited characteristically on the high uplands. The township was chartered on October 2, 1780 and the village proper developed along the Timothy Hinman Road which was cut between Greensboro, Vermont and Stanstead, Quebec in 1791.

The village became an important stop on the stage route and served until 1816 as a halfshire town with Craftsbury for Orleans County. In 1823, it also became the seat of the county grammar school. This institution flourished in the mid-19th century and grew to exercise considerable influence on the region both north and south of the international border.

The spine of Brownington is still the Timothy Hinman Road which is now used principally for carrying local traffic between Barton and Derby Line. The village is formed by a series of generously spaced 1½ to 2½ story wood buildings, which, with few exceptions date from the first half of the 19th century. The village of Brownington terminates to the north in the former village common where the road from Brownington Center joins the Hinman Road. The historic district is centered around Brownington Common.

The pivotal structure of the district is the Congregational Church, erected in 1841, which is located on the west side of the Hinman Road facing the intersection with the Brownington Center Road. The structure is a prototypical northern New England wood frame vernacular Greek Revival style church. The front elevation has two deeply recessed entrances above which are set a block of three windows flanked by louvered shutters. The windows are surmounted by a fully pedimented gable end. The greater part of the structure's fabric is original with the exception of the spire which is a later addition.

The Samuel Read Hall House is located diagonally across from the church near the northeast corner of the intersection. This

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Number all entries)

7. structure has a hip roof, paired multi - paned windows, plain corner boards and central front entrance with elaborate carved wooden entranceway and delicate fanlight. Its design is reminiscent of Connecticut Valley architecture of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. With a construction date of 1831, the structure is an excellent example of architectural stylistic survival in northern Vermont.

Northwest of the Samuel Read Hall house, the district includes Prospect Hill. This promontory is an unusual natural phenomenon and a valuable scenic resource because it affords a 360 degree panoramic view of northern Vermont and parts of New Hampshire and Canada.

East of the church on the south side of the maple lined ³ Brownington Center Road is the Cyrus Eaton House, a small, one story vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse. The building is rectangular with its long side to the road. It is five bays wide with a gable roof and extremely prominent pilastered corners. Stylistically, it epitomizes the "Classic Cottage", and is very contemporary for its date of construction, 1834. It makes a fascinating architectural contrast to the retardatare Samuel Read Hall House built only three years earlier.

A short distance east of the Eaton House, on the same side of the road, is the structure commonly referred to as the Old Stone ⁴ House (1836). This unusual and imposing structure warrants describing in some detail. It is rectangular in plan and is approximately 25 feet wide by 60 feet long. Its massive walls are built of large granite blocks laid up in even courses. The east (side) elevation has five three story tiers of symmetrically arranged windows with rough cut granite lintels and small paned sashes. A wood, raised panel central door and a side door are set asymmetrically at the first floor level between the windows. The building has a full monitor roof sheathed with corrugated metal. Each side of the monitor is sheathed with flush horizontal boards punctuated by six small evenly spaced windows. The main (north) elevation is characterized by a central, deeply recessed front door accentuated by a massive post and lintel door frame constructed of three huge rectangular blocks of cut stone. The doorway and the first two paired windows are flanked on either side by a single window with a small paned sash. A partial cornice return extends inward from the main cornice. The monitor gable end is pedimented and also has a partial cornice return. The structure, with its massive construction, full monitor roof and paired windows, suggestive of loading bays, closely resembles southern New England textile mill architecture of the same period.

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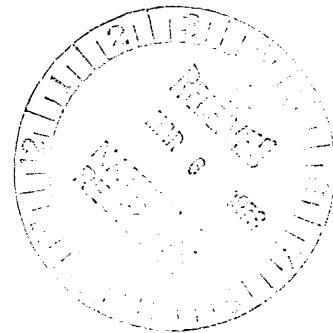
STATE	
Vermont	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

7. The interior of the Old Stone House is divided up into many small rooms exhibiting excellent woodwork, hardware and furnishings. The structure is owned by Orleans County Historical Society and contains the Society's fine collection of New England antiquities. It is operated as a museum and as the Society's library.

The Perry Farm is located across the road directly north of the Old Stone House. The farm was the home of Rev. Alexander Twilight, headmaster of the academy from 1829 to 1857. The two story rectangular farmhouse, with a gable roof and handsome Greek Revival doorway with fan and sidelights still intact, has undergone substantial alterations including asbestos siding and the introduction of a large picture window east of the front doorway. Despite these impairments to its integrity, the Perry Farmhouse is architecturally valuable to the district as a whole. The site is the only remaining working farm in the district and therefore is invaluable for keeping the village in its historical context.

Roadside amenities such as trees and stone walls remain throughout the district. The roads have not been paved.



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation		

Urban Planning
 Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Brownington Village Historic District represents the survival, in an exceptionally pure form, of the hill village typical of the first settlements in northern Vermont.

The village has retained the integrity and architectural character of an agricultural community of the early 19th century in a setting of exceptional natural beauty. The combination of farms and residences within the village and the placement of institutional buildings on a common illustrates both the agricultural nature of the region and a planning concept characteristic of New England.

The exceptional scenic qualities of the area, recognized by the State of Vermont in the establishment of Prospect Hill as a state-owned natural landmark, gives to the site additional recreational value in a cultivated and occupied countryside where an ecological balance has been achieved.

The village has historic associations with two persons. The first, Rev. Samuel Read Hall, was a man of considerable prominence in the history of American education. He founded the first normal school in America at Concord Corner, Vermont, in 1823, organized the first teacher training class, and wrote the first textbook on the subject for his student's use.

The other is Rev. Alexander Twilight, who came to Brownington in 1829 to become headmaster of the first grammar school in Orleans County. Determined to provide facilities which would be "as great as any kindred school in New England", when trustees turned down his request for funds to build a dormitory to house his many students he decided to build one himself. The result was the Old Stone House.

The village, with its church and school buildings, forms a complete unit of identifiable continuity and interrelationship. The acquisition by Orleans County Historical Society of key village structures and the local recognition of historical significance by the village has partially assured the district's survival.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gazetteer and Business Directory of Lamoille and Orleans
 Counties Vermont for 1883-4. Syracuse: Compiled and
 published by Hamilton Child, 1883.
 Hemenway, Abbey Maria ed. Vermont Historical Gazetteer
 Volume III (Rutland and Orleans Counties) Claremont,
 N.H. : Claremont Manufacturing Co. , 1887, pp. 41-43
 pp. 90-105.
 Vermont Life Magazine , Autumn 1959, pp. 58-59

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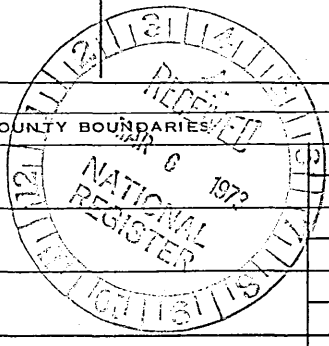
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES										
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	44°	50'	30"	72°	10'	30"									
NE	44°	50'	30"	72°	09'	55"									
SE	44°	50'	05"	72°	09'	55"									
SW	44°	50'	05"	72°	10'	30"									

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 110

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 18/723350/4968975
 18/723300/4969125

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Chester H. Liebs Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: 2/27/73

STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: William B. Pinney
 Director, Vermont Division of
 Historic Sites;
 Title: State Preservation Officer

Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/9/73

ATTEST: W. M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5 7 73

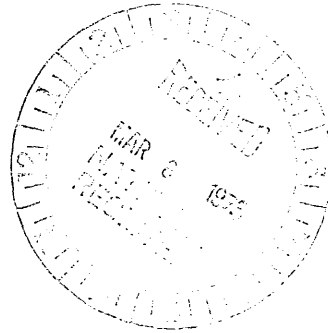
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STATE	Vermont	
COUNTY	Orleans	
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		MAY 9 1978

(Number all entries)

9. (Parts of this form were prepared and researched by Frederick C. Gjessing, Architect, National Park Service, Virgin Islands National Park.)



VERMONT DIVISION
OF HISTORIC SITES

NAME OF SITE: Brownington Village
Historic District

	0	1	2	3	4	5
NW	44	50	30	72	10	30
NE	44	50	30	72	09	55
SE	44	50	05	72	09	55
SW	44	50	05	72	10	30

TITLE OF MAP: Memphemagog, Vermont

DATE: 1953

