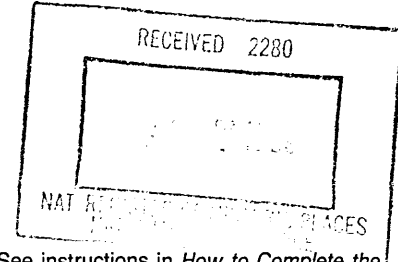


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1346



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brandon State School
other names/site number Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children, Brandon Training School

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 7 n. of Brandon village N/A not for publication
city or town Brandon N/A vicinity
state Vermont code VT county Rutland code 021 zip code 05733

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Elsa Miller, National Register Specialist September 29, 1999
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)
Edson A. Beall (Signature of the Keeper) 11/12/99 (Date of Action)

Brandon State School
Name of Property

Rutland County, VT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>7</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/school

Education/education-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/manufacturing facility

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

wood

roof slate

other brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

The Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children was founded in 1915 on the former property of Henry C. Watson's Forest Park Farm. In 1929 the school was renamed Brandon State School, which in turn was renamed the Brandon Training School in 1956. It is located atop a slight rise amidst pine and maple trees on the west side of US Route 7 just south of Arnold District Road, one mile northwest of Brandon village, Rutland County, Vermont. The property consists of approximately 18 acres and contains 7 contributing buildings dating between 1918 - 1938 that are good examples of the institutional application of the Colonial Revival style. The majority of the buildings are two-story brick structures with hipped-roofs and projecting eaves clad with green slate shingles and copper flashing. Among the distinctive original features are marble and concrete sills, entrance porches, brick lintels, lanterns, dormers, slate roofs, and interior terrazzo flooring. The district is defined as the original core buildings on either side of the main driveway at the heart of the campus; surrounding these buildings are post-WW II buildings built to expand the facility. The property retains its integrity of design, setting, location, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Brandon State School is located approximately .25 miles west of US Route 7 northwest of Brandon village, Rutland County, Vermont. Set on a rise of land in a rural setting, the district consists of approximately 18 acres of land with 7 contributing buildings located within easy walking distance of one another on either side of the main drive at the heart of the campus. The layout is rather informal and the setting rural and parklike. The four dormitories (#1, #2, #4, #7), the Service Building (#3), the Laundry Building (#5), and the Central Heating Plant (#6) date between 1918 - 1939 and are good examples of the institutional application of the Colonial Revival style. The district consists of one or two-story brick structures (non-standard bond pattern consists of one row of stretcher-header-stretcher and five or six rows of stretchers) with hipped roofs and projecting eaves, clad with green slate and copper flashing or asphalt, brick lintels, and marble or concrete sills. Among the distinctive original features are hipped-roof dormers, lanterns, wood porches, and interior terrazzo flooring. The landscaping consists of lawns and shrubs surrounding the buildings, and a green with larger trees and a play area between buildings #1, #2, and #7. The property in general is in good condition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

1. Dormitory "E" 1929

Dormitory E is a symmetrical, two-story, thirteen-by-three bay brick structure with a cruciform plan. Both the main (west) and rear (east) facades have a centrally placed, two-story, one-by-three bay hipped roof block that projects one bay from the main block of the building. The building has a concrete foundation and a hipped roof sheathed with green slate shingles and copper flashing.

Front facing concrete steps and a northern sloping concrete accessibility ramp with a metal railing lead to the centrally placed, single-story, hipped roof entrance porch on the main facade. The twelve-light wood paneled door with wire mesh glass is surrounded by a six-light transom and three-light, half-length sidelights. The porch roof is supported by two square wood posts with recessed moldings. A three-foot high plywood wall, probably a later addition, connects each post to a paneled wall pilaster. The underside of the porch roof has beadboard paneling and a square glass light fixture. On either side of the entrance portico is a simple one-over-one aluminum frame window with a marble sill and brick splayed lintel. Above the entrance porch is a partially bricked-in second story single pane window flanked at the roofline by two square flood lights (a later addition) and two one-over-one windows identical to the first floor windows. The centrally placed hipped roof dormer has exposed rafter tails, a six-light window on the left and louver vent on the right; the sidewalls are sheathed with wood clapboards.

Along the basement level (from north to south) are two four-light casement windows; a four-light casement window on each of the one bay facades of the projecting center block; one four-light fixed sash window and four eight-light fixed sash windows. Throughout the rest of the building are one-over-one aluminum sash windows (all added c.1975) with marble sills and brick splayed lintels.

The center bay of the three-bay side wall (north facade) has a metal door with a single square window and three-light transom on the first floor, and a nine-light wood paneled door with three-light transom on the second floor; the second floor door is protected by an asphalt shed roof supported by wooden braces. Five concrete steps with a metal pipe railing lead from

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

ground level on the western side to the first floor door. A metal fire escape leads from the ground level on the eastern side to the second floor door.

The east (rear) facade is identical to the west facade with a few small exceptions: the entrance porch has a five-step stair with a metal railing but no accessibility ramp; there is only one flood light on the second floor at the roofline; the two dormer windows have six panes each; and the southern-most bay at the ground level on the main body of the building contains a one-light metal fire door.

The south (side) facade is identical to the north (side) facade with a few small exceptions which reflect the building's siting on the slope of the land: ten side-oriented concrete steps lead from the ground level right to an arched concrete block landing at the first floor door; a metal fire escape continues from the first floor door to a mid-height landing in the right bay on the first floor; the fire escape pivots and continues left to the second floor door. Five steps down (from left to right) under the concrete landing is a nine-light wood paneled basement access door.

The slate-shingled roof is pierced by two interior red brick chimneys on each of the symmetrical wings. An octagonal lantern having a heavily framed six-light window in each of the eight side walls and a copper roof and ventilator marks the junction of the center block and the wings.

The interior cruciform floor plan consists of a lengthwise (north/south) corridor on both the first and second floors. Bathrooms and staff rooms are located on either side of the corridor. Each of the corridors leads to a large end room which originally served as sleeping quarters for residents. Distinctive features of the interior include a central staircase with a steel carriage adorned with three-inch cast rosettes; terrazzo flooring along the main corridors on the first and second floors; and an octagonal skylight beneath the lantern on the second floor. Metal dividers and/or partition walls have been added to all the large end rooms except the first floor northern room. Each of the second floor end rooms have open ceilings with varnished tongue-and-groove paneling and exposed steel truss braces which support the roof. A stairwell with gray slate wainscoting, wood stair treads and a wood balustrade leads to the unfinished attic on the third floor. Wood walls and a door enclose the area between the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

lantern and the second floor skylight. The building has concrete walls throughout and ceramic tiles in the bathroom. A sprinkler system was added c.1974.

2. Dormitory "C", 1920

Dormitory C is identical in massing and materials to Dormitory E, with some minor exceptions. Three concrete steps lead to the entrance porch of the main (south) facade. The single light mesh encased steel front door is surrounded by a three-pane transom and three-light sidelights. A simple square post railing with balustrade joins the supporting post and pilaster. Unlike Dormitory E, the center bay of the second floor has not been bricked over and the dormer on this facade has two side-hung windows, each with six lights. There are no basement windows on the main facade and the windows throughout the building have concrete sills.

A long single-story, gabled roof entrance way (c. 1965) with full-height lattice sidewalls projects from the center bay of the three-bay side (west) facade. A metal fire escape adjacent to the building leads from the ground level on the left (north) side to the second floor door.

Five front-facing concrete steps and an accessibility ramp (beginning on the right) lead to the two-by-three bay rear (north) entrance. The steel door has a single pane with a three-pane transom and three-light sidelights. There are no basement window openings on the main block of this facade with the exception of one louver vent in the second bay.

The ground level center bay of the right (eastern) facade has a wood paneled basement door flanked by a square window opening with louver vents on the left and a single pane square window on the right. The metal fire escape leads from the ground level on the left side to a landing at the nine-light wood paneled first floor door, and then to a second landing mid-height at the right bay on the first floor; the fire escape pivots and terminates at the nine-light, wood paneled, centrally placed second floor door which is protected by an asphalt shingled shed roof supported by steel braces. A shadow of the original Colonial Revival entrance porch is visible in the brick wall of this facade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

The roof, chimneys, and lantern are identical to Dormitory E; the chimney caps are in deteriorating condition.

The interior of Dormitory C is likewise similar in plan and materials to Dormitory E with minor exceptions: the central wood stair has an elaborate wooden balustrade; six-inch vinyl or asbestos floor tiles cover the original first floor terrazzo or wood; the first floor end rooms have four-inch red ceramic floor tiles, tongue and groove wainscoting and four-panel wood doors; the second floor end rooms have wood plank flooring and half-height wood paneling.

3. Services Building, 1923/c.1954

Once housing the kitchen, bakery, refrigeration plant, storehouse, employee dining room and employees room, the red brick Services Building consists of a one story, seven-by-five bay main hipped roof entrance block; an attached one story, seven bay wing; a two story, three-by-one bay flat-roofed wing; a one story, five bay wing; and a one-and-a-half story ell.

The main (north facing) entrance block has a concrete foundation, brick walls, and a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A centrally placed hipped roof dormer with slate sheathed sidewalls contains a pair of six-light windows. A small concrete accessibility ramp leads to the centrally placed, single bay, gable roof porch (c.1960) which is supported by two simple square posts and two larger square posts with recessed moldings. (An outline of the original Colonial Revival porch is visible on the front facade.) The single pane metal fire door is surrounded by a four-light transom and three-light sidelights. Modern two-light sliding windows (on the bottom) and a metal sheet (on the top) fill most of the window openings on this block and throughout the rest of the building. Each opening has a concrete sill and brick splayed lintel. A brick string course consisting of two projecting rows of stretchers topped by a row of headers circumscribes this block halfway between the window tops and the roofline.

A one story, seven bay, gable roof brick wing (c.1954) with a concrete foundation and asphalt shingled roof extends from the rear of the entrance block, set back one bay. The right (west) facade consists of five irregularly spaced windows and a simple square post porch under

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

which is a door and another window. The porch has a concrete foundation and shed roof. The left (east) facade of this extension is identical to the right facade for the first three bays extending from the main block. The building then steps out two bays and continues for two more bays to join the next section. This square add-in has a half gable roof with wood plank sheathing and a triangular vent.

The one-by-three bay, two-story center wing, also a later addition, has a concrete foundation, brick walls and a flat roof, atop which are a wide brick chimney and two rectangular, wood paneled, cupola-like boxes which house HVAC apparatus. The two-story arched window openings have replacement metal sash windows and wood fill; a brick string course and brick lintels adorn the top third of the wall on all facades. A simple flat roofed entrance porch with steel supporting posts protects a pair of double doors in the center bay of the side (north) facade; a left sloping metal stairway leads from the ground level to the single pane metal door in the center bay of the southern facade.

A single story gable roof brick wing, also a later addition, with a concrete foundation and asphalt shingled roof extends from the center block. The side (west) wall consists of three regularly spaced window openings, a single pane metal fire door and front-facing metal steps, and a small loading dock with side-oriented concrete steps, double doors, and a modern shed roof supported by round steel posts. The ground level of the opposite side (east) facade consists of a wood paneled double door with a flat roof porch in the first bay, followed by eight irregularly spaced two-pane sliding windows. Eleven regularly spaced windows break up the wall surface of the first floor. The rear (south) facade of this section of the building has two double-pane windows on the ground level and two windows on the first floor. The gable roof pediment, sheathed with vertical boards, has a triangular louver vent directly below the roof peak.

The attached gable roof brick ell has no openings on any of its three facades except for a basement access door on the (rear) south wall. The gable roof pediment on the side (west) facade is sheathed with vertical boards and has a triangular louver vent directly below the roof peak.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

4. Dormitory D, 1923/c.1939

Once serving as the school hospital, Dormitory D is a modified H-plan, two-and-a-half story, five-by-nine bay building. It has a concrete foundation, brick sidewalls, one-over-one aluminum frame windows (c. 1965) with concrete sills and brick splayed lintels, and a cross-hipped roof sheathed with slate shingles. The five-bay front (east) facade has a six-pane wood paneled entrance door in the fourth bay; the door is protected by a gable roof entrance porch supported by two steel posts. The window opening in the first bay of the first floor has louver vents and a large aluminum pipe vent which runs up the building and four feet past the roofline. A two-story, one-bay, clapboard sheathed wing (c. 1939) with three-over-three windows on the first and second floors extends from the left (south) side of this facade.

The nine-bay right side (north) facade is divided into three three-bay sections. A second story Colonial Revival gable roof entrance porch, accessed by a side-oriented exterior metal staircase, marks the middle bay of the first three bays. The porch is supported by two steel posts; the slate shingled porch roof is supported by two square posts with recessed moldings. A simple porch railing runs between the posts and paneled wall pilasters located on either side of the door, and between the posts and small square posts located on either side of the porch threshold; above this is a c.1970 steel railing. The nine-pane paneled door has a four-light transom and three-light sidelights. A centrally placed hipped roof dormer with a pair of two-over-two double hung windows, sidewalls sheathed with wood shingles, and exposed rafter tails punctuates the roof of this section.

The building steps back slightly for three more bays; a hipped roof ventilator with a wood shingled base and louver windows on all sides marks the center of this section at the ridgetop. The building projects out two bays and continues for three more bays. A hipped roof dormer with a pair of two-pane fixed sash windows, wood shingled sidewalls, and exposed rafter tails punctuates the roof in the center of the last three bays.

The seven bay rear (west) facade has concrete steps and a modern steel door in the fourth bay. A side-oriented metal staircase leads to a second story gable roof entrance porch and single-pane steel fire door located directly above the first floor door. The porch and porch roof are supported by steel posts. A concrete raised basement abuts the bottom of the one-over-one

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

aluminum frame windows on the first floor. The original second floor door openings in bays three and five have been bricked over; the outlines of a three-bay Colonial Revival entrance porch is visible in the surrounding brick wall.

The first six bays of the nine bay left side (south) facade are identical to those on the opposite (north) side of the building. A two-story, one-by-three bay, flat roof wing extends from the last three bays. This addition, sheathed with white clapboards, has a single-pane entrance door on the left (west) side and a three-over-three window directly above. On the first and second floors of the south side are three sets of paired two-over-three casement windows; above is a hipped roof gable identical to the one on the opposite (north) side of the building.

The interior retains the original wood doors with transoms. Several door frames are metal. Asbestos or vinyl 4" tiles have been placed over the terrazzo flooring.

5. Laundry, 1918/c.1970

This brick, one-and-a-half story, seven-by-seven bay brick structure has a concrete foundation, a centrally placed gable roof entrance porch supported by Ionic columns on the main (northern) facade, and a distinctive steeply pitched hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A four-light transom rests above the six-light wood paneled front door. Six regularly spaced six-over-six double hung windows with concrete sills, brick lintels and a brick string course break up the remainder of the wall on this facade. The roof is surmounted by a rectangular lantern with green slate-sheathed side walls, a ribbon of five small rectangular windows on the front (north) side, one small rectangular window on the sides (west and east), and one centrally placed small rectangular window on the rear (south) side flanked by louver vents on the right and left. The lantern has an asphalt shingled hipped roof. A shed roof dormer with three six-over-six double hung windows projects from the intersecting hipped roof on the rear (southern) facade.

The windows on the eastern facade are identical to those on the main facade except the top sash has been removed and replaced with plywood board.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

A flat-roofed single story ell (c.1970) extends from the west side of this building. There are no windows on the front (north) facade; seven windows identical to the front windows punctuate the west side facade; three regular spaced six-pane fixed sash windows with concrete sills adorn the projecting three bays of the rear (south) facade.

A three-by-seven bay flat roof brick wing extends from the rear (south side) of the building. A small wood platform and concrete ramp lead to a central nine-pane wood paneled door with three-light transom on the west side. A six-over-six double hung window with a concrete sill flanks each side of the door. Seven evenly spaced six-over-six double hung windows punctuate the rear (southern) facade; a similar six-over-six window and a wide overhead doorway (now covered with plywood) make up the eastern facade. Three curved dryer vents project from the roof of this section.

A small flat roof garage, also a later addition, joins the rear addition to the main block of the building on the east side. The rear (south) side of this section has a single six-pane fixed sash window; the east side, set back one bay from the main block of the building, has a six-light paneled overhead garage door.

The interior floor plan consists of one large room used for drying and smaller rooms to the rear and west side. An interior wood stair leads to a small office space above which looks into the large central room. The exterior walls are brick. The main room has a beadboard ceiling with encased beams.

6. Central Heating Plant, 1918/c.1978

This two story rectangular plan brick building has a concrete foundation and flat roof with an asphalt shingled shed roof addition (c. 1978) extending from the side (west) facade. The asymmetrical front (north) facade has a metal double door flanked on the left by a sixteen-over-sixteen round arched double hung window with a concrete sill and brick lintel and on the right by two similar windows, the nearer of which has a louver vent in the top sash. The addition has a single pane metal door and a louver vent.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

The first floor of the irregular bay side (eastern) facade of the Central Heating Plant has a large opening for a vertical plank sliding door. Situated to the left of the door is a four-over-five pane modern window. Situated to the right are a sixteen-over-sixteen window, a pair of two-over-four windows, and another sixteen-over-sixteen window; all of these are double hung sash and have concrete sills and round-arched brick lintels. The original overhead door opening, marked by a wide brick lintel, has been in-filled with new brick. The second floor contains a rectangular four-pane modern window with a brick sill and three large round-arched, single pane windows concrete sills and brick lintels.

The projecting first floor of the opposite side (west) facade has a shed roof and three round arched window openings with concrete sills and brick lintels; the outer two retain the original twelve-light sash, the center window has a louver vent and plywood infill. The second floor contains three similar window openings, a door opening in deteriorating condition, and two more similar window openings; the outer two openings have louver vents and plywood infill, the remaining openings are boarded over with plywood.

The irregular bay rear (south) facade has a large modern square window, a twelve pane window, and a small single pane square window. Extending from the second floor of this facade is a complex wood deck that partially obscures several large oil tanks and a system of pipes which pump the fuel into the heating plant. Steps lead from the second level deck to the ground level in the east corner.

7. Dormitory F, 1939

Dormitory F is similar in massing and materials to Dormitories E and C with some exceptions. Seven concrete steps lead to the nine-pane wood paneled door in the entrance porch on the main (east) facade of the building. The second floor center bay window opening has been bricked-in and has one flood light at the roofline. Seven concrete steps lead to a nine-pane wood paneled door on the left (south) side of the one-by-three bay projecting block. This additional single story entrance porch is protected by a copper sheathed hipped roof supported by square posts with recessed moldings. The basement of both this and the rear (west) facade have two-light sliding windows. The building has marble sills throughout.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

A two-story, one-by-one bay, hipped roof brick addition encloses fire stairs on the side (south and north) facades. The center bay of the left (south) end has a first floor metal fire door with a large single light and a three-light transom and a second floor one-over-one window. The center bay of the right (north) end has a first floor metal fire door with a small vertical light and three-light transom on the ground floor and a second floor one-over-one window.

The rear (west) facade has a concrete accessibility ramp with metal railings and five front facing steps which lead a single-pane metal entrance door in the entrance porch. The window opening in the center bay of the second floor remains open; the hipped roof gable has nine lights in the left window and a lover vent in the right.

Unlike Dormitory E and C, Dormitory F has no chimneys.

The original interior layout of Dormitory F has been adapted for classroom space.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1915-1949

Significant Dates

1915

1918

1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Austin, Frank Lyman

Cummings, H. P., Construction Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Vermont State Library

Brandon State School
Name of Property

Rutland County, VT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8
---	---

6	5	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	5	2	5	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

1	8
---	---

6	5	2	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	5	2	3	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

2

1	8
---	---

6	5	2	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	5	2	5	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	8
---	---

6	5	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	5	2	3	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret B. Campbell, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date June 1999

street & number PO Box 82 telephone (802) 985-5473

city or town Shelburne state VT zip code 05482

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

The Brandon State School, established in 1915 as the Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children and operated until 1993, is significant for showing how the State of Vermont cared for its mentally handicapped residents during the early and mid-20th century. The school was Vermont's first state supported residential school that offered a supervised, temporary home for as many as 600 people ranging in ages from 5 to 45 as well as education and instruction in technical and home-based industries. The Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children, renamed in 1929 the Brandon State School to remove the unscientific and stigmatizing term "feeble minded," was again renamed in 1956 as the Brandon Training School. The Brandon State School is significant under Criterion A as a representation of Vermont's concern for social welfare in the Progressive era. Based largely on the administration's work with the resident population, the care of mentally retarded individuals shifted from segregation and isolation to training and integration. During the period from the establishment of the school in 1915 to the mid-1930s, the seeds were planted for a statewide vision for the care and societal role of mentally retarded individuals. The school campus, built on a historic farm, is also significant under Criterion C. The campus is picturesque with its winding main driveway and buildings placed in an irregular fashion as suits its rural Vermont setting. The buildings are good examples of Colonial Revival architecture and its institutional application and the work and influence of prominent Burlington, Vermont, architect Frank Lyman Austin.

Brandon State School is the preferred historic name for the property. The school was named the Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children when it was established in 1915. The name was changed in 1929 to the Brandon State School because it was felt the term "feeble minded" was not scientific and stigmatized both the school and its students. In 1956 the name was changed to the Brandon Training School. During the historic period, 1915 to 1949, the name "Brandon State School" had longest usage.

National reforms of the late 19th century encouraged social responsibility for the care of dependents of "feeble mind," as distinct from paupers or delinquents who formerly had been grouped together in local almshouses. Such reform instigated the 1872 legislative appropriation of \$2,000 to care for Vermont's feeble-minded children at the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth in Boston. Individual Vermont towns filed annual reports with the state documenting the numbers and situations of young people with mental retardation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

Motivated in part by the annual town reports, the Vermont legislature passed "An Act to Provide for the Care, Training and Education of Feeble-Minded Children" in 1912, appropriating \$25,000 to the cause. A legislative committee was appointed in 1912 to consider the possibility of establishing a school for training and care of the mentally deficient. Later that year, Forest Park Farm in Brandon was purchased from the Henry Watson estate. The farm included 300 acres, two houses, and a set of barns.

In 1915 State School for Feeble-Minded Children opened in Brandon with 42 patients. In the early years of the school, the prevailing belief that "a better social order will exist in generations to come" (Biennial Report 1922) if mentally retarded individuals were segregated from communities. T. J. Allen, Superintendent, writes in the 1920 Biennial Report:

Every community in this State has its feeble-minded, thus contributing to that great mass of mental defectives that is now and for years has been reproducing its kind, thus adding to the list of paupers, criminals, diseased and dependents, a burden upon society that is becoming stupendous. . . . To deal effectively with this problem is a work that must be done with as great dispatch as possible. Reproduction must be checked by segregation; and, incidentally, there will be removed from the public schools the defective pupils who create such a barrier to the development of the minds of normal children, upon whose minds and future activities, human progress will be largely dependent. Therefore, only one conclusion can be reached, this institution must increase its accommodations with rapidity, if it is to be of the greatest service.

A 1917 legislative appropriation of \$50,000 was granted for the erection of a dormitory, service building, and heating plant for the "very large increase of inmates at that place in the near future," but building was postponed due to labor, transportation, and materials shortages resulting from World War I. The Laundry Building (#5) and Central Heating Plant (#6) were completed in 1918. A girls dormitory, Dormitory C (#2), "a model structure, well adapted for its purposes," was completed in 1921. By that year, an institutional plan detailed the exact site for future dormitories, a hospital, a school gymnasium, a service building, and an administration building, as well as plans for the roads and grounds.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

Another large dormitory was completed in 1923 (Dormitory D, #4). This dormitory was used as an infirmary for "the most helpless [boys] and will have a separate section for the treatment of the sick. The basement will be devoted in part to clinical work, and will have surgical, dental, drug and examination rooms." (Biennial Report 1922) Also completed that year was the Services Building (#3). This building included the dining room for all employees, kitchen, bakery, refrigeration plant and store house. It centralized all cooking, storage, and services and was designed to be large enough to serve all anticipated expansion of the plant. The superintendent noted in the 1924 Biennial Report, "with the addition of [the Services Building and Dormitory D] the school has a modern and well arranged plant capable of expansion to meet future needs." Later he remarked that the Services Building "is a model of its kind and makes for ease and economy of administration. In fact the entire plant is modern and well arranged..." (Biennial Report 1926). Both buildings were built by the H. P. Cummings Construction Company.

Once segregated from society and placed at the school, the primary objective of the staff was the care and training of the residents.

Education includes academic, moral and manual training. The capacity for the advancement that defectives possess is quite marked under the proper system; and certainly, every child has the inherent right to receive such training as is necessary for all potential development. It is desirable to lay particular emphasis upon the matter of manual and industrial training. The feeble-minded have difficulty in dealing with the abstract, but manual and industrial training afford a wealth of concrete details which are easily grasped and appropriated to useful ends. . . (Biennial Report 1920.)

Accordingly, boys were given training in farm and garden work and girls were taught domestic duties such as kitchen work, laundry, and sewing. By 1922 a manual training department had been developed which included programs in dressmaking, mending, darning, mat making, brush making, weaving, rug making, embroidery, canning, and industrial training. The programs were important not only for skills instruction but also for self-sufficiency and cost-saving results.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

The school and likewise state attitudes towards the care of mentally retarded people began to shift in 1924 following the publication of paper entitled "Certain Statistics Relative to the Admissions to the Vermont State School for Feeble-Minded." The paper examined the family histories and other information of those admitted to the school. The results of this study—and other national tests and studies in public schools, clinics, institutions and in the army—revealed that not all cases of mental retardation were hereditary, as had previously been thought, but rather the result of disease or accidents early in life that caused damage to the central nervous system. In addition to these revelations on the nature of mental retardation, newly applied intelligence tests revealed there were far more people who were mentally retarded than previously thought.

This new perspective resulted in some significant changes at the school. T. J. Allen, the school superintendent, stated in 1924:

There was a time when sterilization or life-long segregation was the slogan. It is now realized how ill-founded and ill adapted such a method must be. The emphasis today is on the educational phase of the problem and the keynote of the program. . . is that many sub-normal children who are protected from evil influences during childhood, trained and educated according to their capacities, made industrially efficient and given good habits, become harmless, and oftentimes useful and self-supporting adults and give no further trouble. They can thus adapt themselves to community life. In other words, many of this class can be salvaged.

This realization coupled with the recognition that it was literally impossible and prohibitively expensive to institutionalize all of Vermont's mentally retarded people shifted the perspective from an institutional issue to a statewide issue. The need for a statewide plan was emphasized repeatedly. Urged to be included in such a program were identification and registration of mentally retarded individuals, supervision of individuals within their communities, instruction of individuals in special classes in the public schools, and a clear plan for the school as a "training school" rather than as an asylum.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

This shift in attitude and understanding effected several important changes. First was the 1925 legislative appropriation of \$5,000 annually for the establishment of a girl's "colony" in Rutland where higher functioning girls could live with minimum care in a more normal setting. Its success was noted: "The girls have been to a certain extent salvaged, they have returned to a modified and supervised community life and have been made largely self-supporting." (Biennial Report 1926). A boys colony, equally as successful, was established in 1928 on a farm south of Brandon. This kind of assisted living environment in group homes is widely used throughout most of the state today.

Second was the clear need for more dormitories, instructional buildings, and room for employees. Another girls dormitory, Dormitory E (#1) for the "younger and trainable type of girl" (Biennial Report 1930) was erected in 1929 and Dormitory F (#7) in 1939. These two buildings completed the family of Colonial Revival style structures in the central core of the campus. In the following decades, more dormitories, and administration and instructional buildings were erected surrounding the main buildings to accommodate the expanding population. By 1966 there were 675 residents and 185 participating in placement programs. The school's aim was to develop every student and patient to his fullest with the aim to prepare him or her, if possible, for a place in the community. The school offered a diversified academic and training program, ranging from elementary education to sheltered workshop activities.

Third was the need to change the name of the school. The Superintendent recognized that the "Vermont State School for the Feeble-Minded Children" was a misnomer. People of all ages were accepted and the term "feeble-minded" was determined "unscientific." The name stigmatized the pupils and the place, and it was "unbecoming and positively unkind" to call people feeble-minded. The name was changed to the Brandon State School in 1929. This name change paralleled name changes happening in other states. The school's name was again changed to the Brandon Training School in 1956.

Finally, the school's outpatient clinic was expanded and the school began to develop a relationship with other medical facilities. During the biennial term ending in 1922 the school performed 62 outpatient examinations in an effort to enlarge its service and bring the school "more intimately in contact with conditions in general." (Biennial Report 1922) By 1932, over

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

125 extra-institutional examinations were performed. The superintendent conducted clinics for classes in genetics through the University of Vermont and a class in criminology through Middlebury College. As a part of their training, medical students from the College of Medicine studied and observed students at Brandon. The superintendent also lectured in nervous and mental diseases and mental hygiene for nurses' training classes at the Rutland and Mary Fletcher Hospitals. A mental retardation clinic was formally established in 1958 in partnership with the Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington, providing diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

In more recent years, significant changes to the Brandon Training School were made as a result of 1968-1970s Intermediate Care Facility/Mental Retardation legislation, which provided federal funding to institutions complying with a strict set of standards. Specific programming requirements were put into effect such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical care, expanded academic education, and adult service programs. Housing requirements specified the importance of privacy and the employee/student ratio was increased. As a result, many modification were made to the original building interiors including dividing the large dormitory rooms into smaller units. Gradually the school began decentralizing its population into small group homes located in towns throughout the state. In short, the Brandon Training School underwent a complete restructuring of the program that had operated for 50 years. The school closed permanently in 1993 to allow mainstreaming of the students in a more traditional educational system.

The Brandon State School is significant in its illustration of how Vermont cared for individuals with mental retardation in the 20th century—an approach that covered the spectrum from segregation and isolation to education and integration. Even though the Brandon Training School has closed its doors, the social and program developments during the period from 1915 until the 1930s were significant in how they shaped future policy for the care and training of individuals with mental retardation.

The buildings at the Brandon State School are also significant architecturally as a good example of the institutional application of Colonial Revival style. Secondary schools, colleges, and other institutions used this style to bring a sense of class, order, and unity

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

to complexes of newly erected buildings in the first part of the 20th century. Examples in Vermont include the Waterbury State Hospital in Waterbury (listed in the National Register on 4/17/1978 as part of the Waterbury Village Historic District), Officer's Row at Fort Ethan Allen in Winooski/Essex (listed in the National Register on 9/14/1995 as part of the Fort Ethan Allen Historic District), and the Waterman Building (listed in the National Register on 4/14/1975 as part of the University Green Historic District) and other less prominent buildings on the University of Vermont campus.

The Brandon State School is significant as a specifically laid out campus. The buildings, which are symmetrical and Colonial Revival in style, are placed not in a rigid orderly way but rather in a picturesque manner along the somewhat winding driveway. This placement recognizes and complements the school's rural setting and the property's previous use as a farm.

The Brandon State School is also important as a representation of the work and influence of prominent Burlington, Vermont, architect Frank Lyman Austin. It can be documented that Austin was involved in the design of Dormitory E (#1) in 1929 and based on his work around the state most likely was influential in the design and/or construction of the earlier and later buildings on the campus. Austin's other significant institutional architectural work was the State of Vermont Reform School or Vermont Industrial School (1909), also known as the Weeks School, in Vergennes. He was also responsible for numerous other civic buildings, schools, churches and homes in Burlington, Middlebury, Springfield, and St. Albans, Vermont.

Since the closing of the school in 1993 the State of Vermont has been selling the individual buildings and land parcels. The buildings are being rehabilitated for new residential and business purposes.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

Abercrombie, E.B. "In Stall and Pasture. Forest Farm Park, Vermont." *Outing Magazine*.
April 1897.

Ainsworth, Lillian M. "Vermont's Feeble-Minded Problem: A Report to T.C. Dale,
Commissioner, Department of Public Welfare." January 1, 1941.

*Biennial Report of the Director of State Institutions of the State of Vermont for the Term
Ending June 30, 1918.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1918.

*Biennial Report of the Director of State Institutions of the State of Vermont for the Term
Ending June 30, 1920.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1920.

*Biennial Report of the Director of State Institutions of the State of Vermont for the Term
Ending June 30, 1922.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1922.

*Biennial Report of the Director of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Vermont
for the Term Ending June 30, 1924.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1924.

*Biennial Report of the Director of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Vermont
for the Year Ending June 30, 1926.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1926.

*Biennial Report of the Director of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Vermont
for the Two Years Ending June 30, 1928.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1928.

*Biennial Report of the Director of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Vermont
for the Two Years Ending June 30, 1930.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1930.

*Biennial Report of the Director of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Vermont
for the Two Years Ending June 30, 1932.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1932.

Brandon Selectmen, ed. *A History of the Town - 1761-1961.* Brandon, Vt., 1962.

Carlisle, Lilian Baker. "Mental Retardation in Vermont: A Chronology of Changing
Attitudes." Vermont Mental Retardation Planning Project, Pavilion Hotel,
Montpelier, Vermont. December 1, 1965.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2 Vermont State School for Feeble Minded Children
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

Crawford, David J. "Facilities Study: Brandon Training School, Brandon, Vermont."
Prepared for State of Vermont Agency of Administration, Division of State Buildings.
1980.

Godfrey, A.H. "Pastoral Pursuits." *Outing Magazine*, date n.a.

Kirby, Debra and David Read Barker, ed. *Historical Photographs of Brandon and
Forestdale, Vermont.*

*Report of the Vermont State School for Feeble-Mimded Children for the Period Ending
September 30, 1916.* Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1916.

State of Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey # 1102-61, "Brandon State School,"
October 1983.

State-Owned Farms Study Committee. "Report of the Legislative Committee To Study Act
R-49 of 1969." Montpelier, Vermont: Legislative Committee of the State of Vermont,
November 1969.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. *The Historic Architecture of Rutland County.*
Montpelier, Vt.: 1988.

_____. *The Historic Architecture of Addison County.* Montpelier, Vt.: 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Brandon State School is shown as the solid line with lettered points on the accompanying map, with a scale of 1" = 200', entitled "The Brandon Training School, Brandon, Vermont Act 250 Permit Application."

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the green at the core of the campus and the seven pre-World War II buildings that are the original buildings and were built specifically for use by the Brandon State School.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

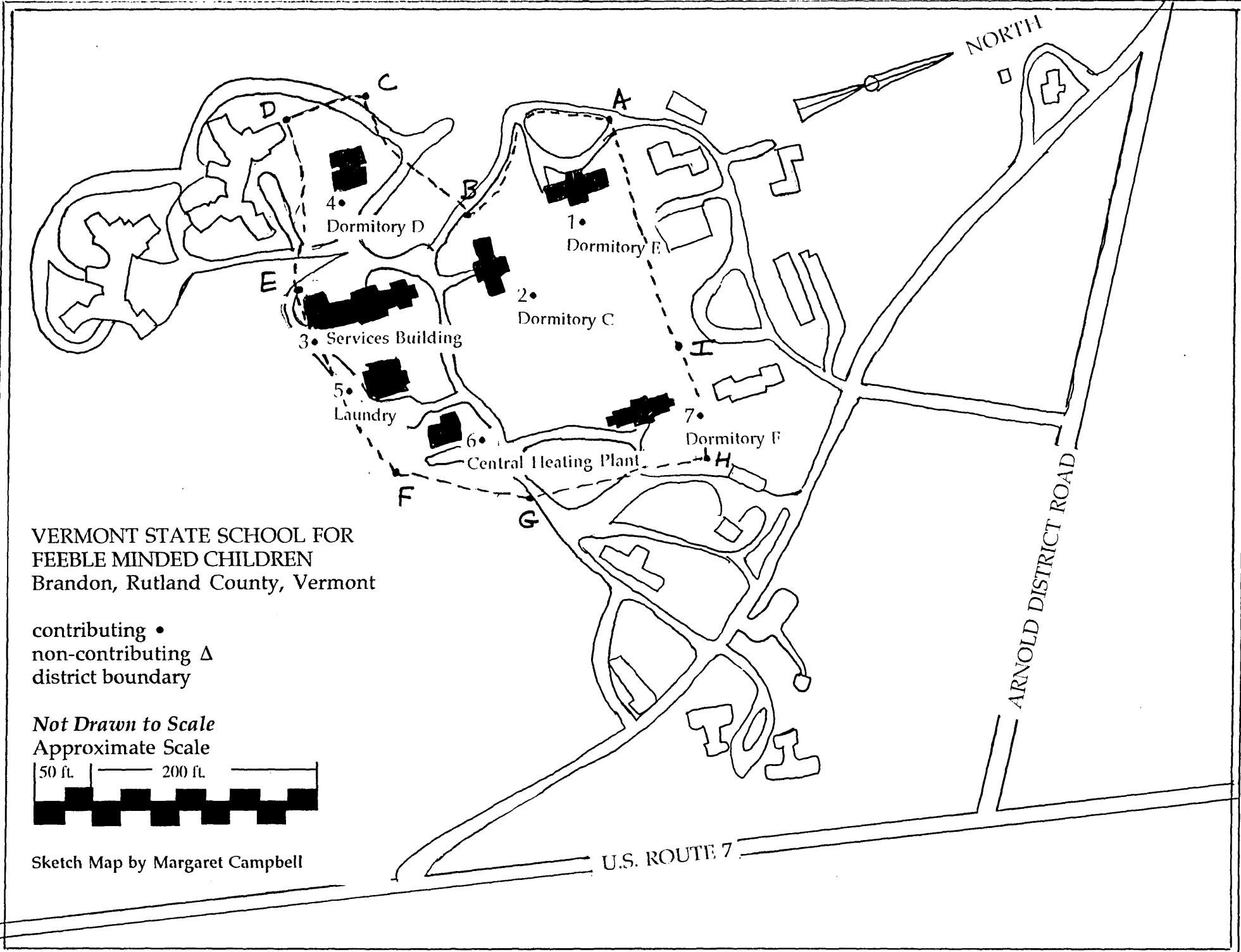
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 1

Brandon State School
Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

Property Owners

- 1, 2, 4. State of Vermont
c/o Ron Tofani
Agency of Administration
Division of State Buildings
2 Governor Aiken Ave., Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-5801
(802) 828-5801
- 3, 5, 6. McKernan Group
PO Box 310
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-8500
7. Park Village Apartments LP
c/o Holmberg Properties
1233 Shelburne Road
South Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 658-5333



VERMONT STATE SCHOOL FOR
 FEEBLE MINDED CHILDREN
 Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont

contributing •
 non-contributing Δ
 district boundary

Not Drawn to Scale
 Approximate Scale
 50 ft. 200 ft.

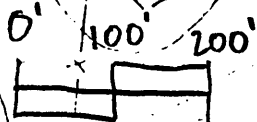
Sketch Map by Margaret Campbell

VERMONT STATE SCHOOL FOR
FEEBLE MINDED CHILDREN

Brandon, Rutland Co., VT

Act 250 Permit Application Map

CEL "B"



C

D

B

E

G

H

F

