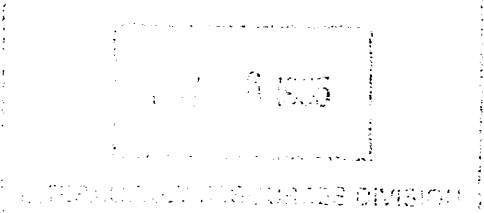


1428

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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 Brigham Academy

other names/site number Bakersfield Middle School

2. Location

street & number VT Route 108 and Academy Road not for publication

city or town Bakersfield vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Franklin code 011 zip code 05441

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 Gilbertson, National Register Specialist November 1, 1995
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

Date of Action

12.13.95

Entered in the
National Register

Brigham Academy
Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont
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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

Educational Resources of Vermont,

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof slate

other wood

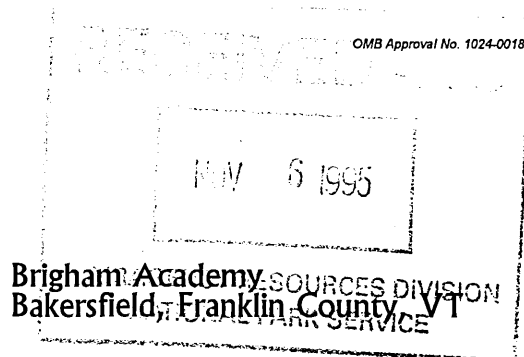
Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



Brigham Academy, a French Second Empire style school constructed in two sections-- in 1878 and 1901, faces the principal street through the village of Bakersfield, Franklin County. It is set back on a large lawn distinguished by a grove of mature maple trees. The two story, rectangular, brick building features a prominent three-and-one-half story engaged clock tower with a mansard roof at the center of the eleven bay symmetrical facade of the main block. Twin two story, projecting entrance pavilions further distinguish the corners of the two story, hip-roofed facade. The interior has many original features, including an auditorium and 1901 gymnasium with a running track on a balcony. The building retains its integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

The school is 114 feet long and 44 feet wide, with four bays on the north end and two bays on the south end. A two story ell projects from the west side slightly south of center. The southern half of the building extending from the central tower hold large public spaces on the first and second floor, while the northern half (a 1901 addition) contains a gymnasium on the basement and first floor and classrooms on the second floor. Four classrooms are located in the ell--two on each floor. The ell is a square, four by four bays, with a gable roof.

The brick is laid in common bond. The windows are all double-hung 4/4 sash with flat wooden lintels, with the exception of the four basement windows (two each on the east and south sides), which are fixed 4-pane sash. The raised foundation is rusticated stone with recent concrete reinforcement on the northeast side of the main facade. The cornice has a full entablature with an undecorated frieze. The roof on the main block is mostly slate with some replacement asphalt and the tower is roofed with slates.

The front tower has a single window on the second floor and a clock face on the third floor on the east and north face and a window on the south face. The fourth floor has an octagonal mansard-roof on a square base, with four louvered pedimented windows topped by a finial.

The three main entrances have double doors with rectangular glass panels, narrow transom lights, and are reached by five concrete stairs. There is also an entrance at ground level in the ell. A slender chimney protrudes from the building at the north corner where the main block meets the ell.

In 1970 a two story stair tower and a one story rectangular brick addition with

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Brigham Academy
Bakersfield, Franklin County, VT

Section number 7 Page 2

bathrooms was added to the rear. As a result four windows were lost on the rear of the first floor of the original block and two windows on the second floor.

The interior spaces and the site itself are remarkably intact. The full 15 foot high ceilings remain. There is wainscoting and original wood floors throughout the building. The study hall and auditorium remain virtually intact. The first floor study hall, reached through the main entrance, features floor-to-ceiling cast iron columns with Corinthian capitals. The auditorium, directly above on the second floor, is distinguished by elaborate plaster ceiling medallions. Both rooms have distinctive arched statuary niches on the west walls.

The 1901 gymnasium's playing floor is located in the basement of the north side addition. The circular balcony has a wood running track with a cast iron railing. Although steel I-beams were added to the ceiling in the mid 1960s to help support the roof, the gymnasium retains its original character and design. The two stair halls also have wainscoting, as well as a decorated oak newel post and curved balustrade.

The school and its campus is unquestionably the most prominent site in town. The school's deep setback from the street, beyond rows of mature maple streets, contributes to the site's importance as an intact 19th century environment.

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.)

- [x] 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.
[x] 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)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1878 - 1945

Significant Dates

1878

1901

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sweat, Ira

Goff, A. H.

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:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Brigham Academy
Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .7

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	673800	4961400
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

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 Amy Worden
organization University of Vermont
Graduate Program, Historic Preservation date May 8, 1990; revised 7/95
street & number Wheeler House telephone (802) 656-3180
city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

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 Bakersfield Town School District
street & number c/o. Town Clerk telephone (802) 827-6611
city or town Bakersfield state Vermont zip code 05441

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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Brigham Academy
Bakersfield, Franklin County, VT

Section number 8 Page 1

Brigham Academy, in Bakersfield, Vermont, is an excellent example of a post-Civil War large scale school in the state. Architect-designed and built in the French Second Empire style, the academy is important as a monumental public building, which by virtue of its size and reputation turned a small village into an educational center for nearly a century. As an academic high school, it drew students from all over the northeast region and related service needs stimulated the economy of the town. Brigham Academy is being nominated to the National Register under the multiple property submission, Educational Resources of Vermont, and clearly meets the registration requirements for the school property type.

When Brigham Academy opened in Bakersfield in 1878, it was heralded by the dedication ceremony's keynote speaker as the "beginning of the educational millennium in Vermont." In a sense it was, ushering in a new era of school construction on a size, quality, and scale rarely seen in the rural state. At a time when most Vermont schools had many grades in a single classroom, Brigham Academy was one of about sixty schools in Vermont in the 19th century to accommodate the high school grades specifically.

Originally 87 feet long with an imposing four story clock tower, the school had large public spaces, including an auditorium and study hall, unusual features for schools in Vermont at the time. The 1901 addition doubled the school's classroom space and included a modern science laboratory. In the basement and first floor of the addition was a gymnasium, which had the finest athletic equipment available and put the academy on the cutting edge of the turn-of-the-century fitness boom.

The school's founder was a Vermont native who left his hometown of Bakersfield at age 19 and never returned. But Peter Bent Brigham, born into one of the town's founding families in 1807, believed in securing an education for future generations of Bakersfield children. Brigham, who made his fortune in Boston as a restaurateur and real estate developer, died in 1877 and left the town \$30,000 for "educational purposes." The town immediately began construction of the \$7,100 school building and set up the school's endowment with the remaining funds. Brigham, also a philanthropist with an interest in health care for the poor, gave \$1.3 million for the construction of Brigham Hospital for Indigents (now known as Brigham and Women's Hospital) in Boston. The town's educational patron was commemorated at Brigham Academy with two marble busts, which were placed in special niches in the auditorium and study hall and remained there while the school was in operation.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Brigham Academy
Bakersfield, Franklin County, VT

Section number 8 Page 2

Bakersfield hired Richford, Vermont, architects Ira Sweat and A. H. Goff, to build the academy, which was formally dedicated on August 14, 1879. The architects specified that the academy be constructed with the finest materials available, including hard-fired bricks, cast iron, and slate. Brigham Academy kept pace with changing times, installing steam heat and fire apparatus in 1888 and indoor toilets in 1900. The curriculum was designed to bridge the gap between the district or elementary school and college, offering classes in classical languages, music, art, and science. The academy's goal was to prepare students for higher education rather than vocational trades. This emphasis helped attract students from neighboring towns and states, who boarded in nearby homes.

After having stimulated the town's educational and economic environment for nearly a century, the school closed for major repairs and remodelling in 1966. As part of the roof repair, the two end towers and the cornice arches that held the large stone plaques with the school's name were removed. When the school reopened in 1968, it had been turned over to the town for use as a public school and became Bakersfield Middle School. In 1973 a two story stair tower to provide a better fire escape route and a small brick addition with bathrooms were built on the building's west side.

The school closed in 1986 when a new elementary/middle school facility opened just north of the academy. Although the school has been vacant since and there was approval to demolish it if marketing efforts to sell the building for a new use failed after five years, Brigham Academy still stands on its original campus and still evokes its educational importance. In 1995 the building received a state historic preservation grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Plans are in progress to use the building as a school again.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Brigham Academy
Bakersfield, Franklin County, VT

Section number 9, 10 Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Exercises and Addresses at the Opening of Brigham Academy, Bakersfield, VT.
Andover, Mass.: Warren Draper, 1880.

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey, Bakersfield. On file at Vermont Division
for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vt.

Wells, Elsie. *Bakersfield, Vermont: The Way It Was and The Way It Is.* Canaan, N.H.:
Phoenix Publishing Co., 1976.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the northwest corner of Vermont
Route 108 and Academy Road, proceed north 140' to the fenceline along the north
property line. Then proceed west 220' to the tow of oak trees on the rear property line,
and then south at a right angle 140' to Academy Road, then east along the curblineline of
Academy Road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the school building and the front yard
and maple grove that have historically been a part of Brigham Academy. This parcel
retains its historic integrity. The boundary excludes that portion of the original school
property directly north of the Academy, as it is the site of the school built in 1986.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Brigham Academy, Bakersfield
Franklin Co., VT

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PHOTOGRAPHS

This information is the same for all photographs:

Brigham Academy
Bakersfield, Vermont

Credit: Amy Worden

Date: May 1990

Negative filed at the Vermont Division for Historic
Preservation.

Photograph 1

Description: View looking north, south and east side of
school.

Photograph 2

Description: View looking east, west side of school with
classroom ell.

Photograph 3

Description: Interior view looking north, gymnasium.

Photograph 4

Description: Interior view looking north study hall.

Photograph 5

Description: Interior detail of cast iron columns, first
floor study hall.