

2655

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only **RECEIVED**

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received  
date entered **AUG 19 1988**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

**1. Name**

historic Waits River Schoolhouse (District #10 Schoolhouse)

and or common Waits River Schoolhouse (District #10 Schoolhouse)

**2. Location**

street & number Northeast side of Route 25, .1 mile north of Waits River not for publication

city, town Topsham Town  vicinity of Waits River Village

state Vermont code 50 county Orange code 017

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Gregory Wylie

street & number RFD 1, Box 17

city, town W. Topsham, Topsham Town vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Vermont

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Topsham Town Clerk

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town W. Topsham state Vermont

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Waits River Schoolhouse, built in 1914, is a 2-story, 3 x 3 bay, vernacular structure incorporating elements of Colonial Revival styling. This schoolhouse/grange hall was built as a replacement for an earlier school building located on the same site and destroyed by fire in 1913. The 1914 school incorporates a series of alterations required by state legislation on minimum standards for school buildings. (Throughout the following description, these historic alterations and their dates will be clarified.) The 2-story structure is a rectangular block with a hipped roof. A central, 2-story pavilion projects from the front elevation with a 1-story, single bay entry porch. The structure rests on a poured concrete foundation capped by three rows of concrete block, creating a full basement. A single, rear wall, concrete block chimney penetrates the hipped roof. The exterior walls are sheathed in clapboard and the roofs are covered with standing seam sheet metal. The exterior trim, with simple capitals consistent throughout, includes a wooden water table; narrow plain corner boards; plain frieze and molded, boxed cornice. The pavilion and entry porch feature narrow cornice returns which, along with the banks of windows on the southeast elevation, are the most notable detailing on the structure. The porch, with square posts, clapboard apron and molded cornice returns, is assymmetrically located to shelter the single leaf entry door. The interior of the schoolhouse -in contrast with the plain exterior-contains a great deal of elaborate mass-produced/machine made ornament.

The Waits River Schoolhouse is located on the northeast side of Route 25, .1 mile northwest of Waits River Village (Topsham Town, Orange County, Vermont) in an open, rural setting. The structure is situated on a sloping, half-acre lot fully enclosed by low fencing. The lot is the original schoolhouse lot deeded for such use in 1888. The land immediately surrounding the lot is rolling farmland and pasture. The schoolhouse is set back approximately 100 feet from Route 25 and the front elevation overlooks the Waits River beyond the roadway.

The village of Waits River is a small riverside community whose initial settlement was a direct result of the availability of water power. It was one of three major villages in Topsham Town at the time Abby M. Hemenway described the village in the Vermont Gazateer. She reported that Waits River contained "1 store, 1 tavern, 1 saw and grist mill; also a Union meetinghouse built in 1859, and occupied mostly by the Methodists and Universalists." At that time there was also a post office in Waits River. The scattered structures that remain along Route 25 are survivors of a 1952 fire that destroyed the majority of the village's historic structures.

The windows of the schoolhouse are generally paired or single 2/2 sash with lightly molded cornice caps. The upper story of the southeast elevation features a bank of seven 2/2 sash windows, added in 1954, while the lower story of the same elevation features a bank of three oversized 12/12 sash windows, added in 1931. All second story windows abut the eaves. The added bank of windows on the first floor has plain surrounds and a drip mold. The original symmetry of the fenestration on the front elevation was broken in 1954 by the removal of three windows whos outlines still provide an indication of their original location. Also in that year, one of an upper story window was removed on the northwest elevation and a single sash window from an original grouping of three was probably removed on the first story of the same elevation. Two-over-two sash are also used to light the stairhall within the pavilion. Paired, single-pane windows light the attic in the peak of the pavilion. (The removal of the specific windows mentioned above did not necessitate the alterations of any surrounding features and it is proposed by the current owner that many of them be replaced.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

---

The pavilion entry provides the only access to the first floor. Previous to 1953, a second door on the southeast elevation (located beside the banked windows) provided access to a five foot wide hallway. According to a local source, the hallway was used for wood storage and the entry was primarily a service door to this area. It is probable that when the classroom was expanded into the hallway area in 1953, the doorway was closed over. Entry into the basement, which once contained a cafeteria, is through exterior, double leaf doors on the front elevation. The heavy doors feature four panes of glass over two vertical wooden panels. A second story door on the rear elevation opens onto a small porch and steep wooden stairs (badly deteriorated).

In contrast with the relatively plain, vernacular appeal of the exterior, the interior contains a great deal of elaborate mass-produced/machine-made ornament. This can be seen primarily in the use of pressed metal cladding and wooden wainscotting throughout the classroom, hallway, stairs and upstairs meeting room. This use of pressed metal and the variety of patterns utilized in the bathrooms, hallway, stairs and upper-story Grange Hall, provide an exciting collection and presentation of decorative pressed metal cladding. The beige painted metal surfaces contrast visually with the stained wooden wainscotting throughout. This vertical tongue and groove wainscotting measures approximately 4' high and retains its original finish. Window and door openings have plain surrounds and repeat the stained treatment of the wainscotting. The hardwood floor remains intact providing evidence of former desk placement.

Upon entry into the stairhall in the pavilion, one has access to the main classroom, a small closet under the stairs and the main stairway leading up to the Grange Hall. The main classroom measures 29'2" x 29'6". It dominates the southeast end of the structure and is adjoined by two bathrooms and a smaller room measuring 10'9" x 10'4". This smaller room once served as a "library room" and provides the only interior access to the basement via an interior stairwell. The large classroom contains not only the massive 12/12 sash windows, which measure 15'6" wide by 8'4" high, but also a fine display of pressed metal on the walls, cornices and ceiling. The two bathrooms remain subdivided from the classroom as in 1931. The more northerly of the two has undergone alteration, but the other retains its wainscotting, metal cladding and evidence for utility placement. The library room is now empty. An impermanent wall marks the stairwell to the basement and was presumably built in 1953 when the stairs were moved to this location.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   2  

---

The second story of the schoolhouse was built specifically to house the Riverside Chapter of the Patrons of Husbandry Grange. This floor, like the first, is basically one large room. The ceiling height, 3" lower than the first floor measures 10'9". The hipped roof is revealed on the interior, creating short angled walls near the ceiling. As on the first floor, wainscotting and pressed metal sheath the walls. The majority of the ceiling is now covered by acoustic tile. When this room became a classroom in 1954, a bank of seven 2/2 sash windows was added across the southeast end of the room, aligned directly above the banked windows of the first floor. Blackboards were also added. The stage which had been installed by the Grange was cut down and moved to the west end of the room and has since been removed. Evidence for its original location remains on the wooden plank floor. One closet, the stairway and a landing to the attic fill the pavilion. The stairway and entry hall again repeat the use of pressed metal and wainscotting. The bell that formerly hung in the attic is of cast iron. It has a diameter of 21" and with its stand weighs nearly 200 pounds. It remains in the possession of the current owner.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1914 **Builder/Architect** J. W. Zwicker, builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Waits River Schoolhouse (Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey 0912-45) is a vernacular, early twentieth century combination school and grange building which has sustained a series of well-documented historic alterations in response to standards set by the Vermont State Board of Education. Used as a school from 1914-1972, and as a grange hall from 1914-1953, the building reflects both educational and social institutions in the small, agricultural and manufacturing village of Waits River, Vermont. The chronology of alterations to the school describes the rural interpretation and implementation of the state's public school standardization process. The building is distinguished architecturally by a multi-story, hipped roof form typical of twentieth century school buildings, by Colonial Revival style detailing, and by elaborate interior pressed metal cladding added in 1931.

A title trace reveals the history of this property as a school lot. In 1888, Sarah Burroughs sold the half-acre lot, formerly a part of her homestead, to the Topsham School District (Book 22, p. 275) for \$10.

The schoolhouse was built in 1914 to replace the previous District 10 schoolhouse that had burned on this site in 1913. Minutes from the Topsham Town Meeting in march of 1914 reveal an immediate concern for rebuilding the school, suggesting that it be completed by November 1, 1914. A motion made to keep the costs under \$1500 was rescinded and replaced with an approved figure of \$2000. By June of that same year, construction of the school was scheduled to begin with hopes that "every effort should be made to make it a model for future plans and civic pride." The contract went to J. W. Zwicker, an East Cornith carpenter, for \$1885. Furnishings for the "hall" cost \$81.50, making the cost of the completed project \$1966.50.

The schoolhouse was used continuously through the growth of Topsham Town and the standardization of schools until 1972, when a new union elementary school was built approximately one mile away. In October of 1973 the school was sold to a private owner, who lived there for a very short time and made very few changes to the structure. It then stood vacant until 1985 when the current owner purchased the property. There is now an interest in maintaining the school's integrity while adapting it to use as a shop and living space.

In 1914, school reports reveal that consideration had been given to the need for better lighting, ventilation, heating, drinking water, outhouses and grounds in area schools. Despite these far-sighted attempts to make the Waits River School "a model for the future," the school was not initially built to the state's standard levels. Eight years later, growing concern is reflected in the school superintendent's annual report for 1922 that the town schools be brought to these levels through the use of state aid.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .5 acres (150 square feet)

Quadrangle name W. Topsham

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UTM References**

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	D	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The original 1/2-acre "schoolhouse lot" as conveyed to the current owner in Book 44, p. 467.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

N/A

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Trish Bensinger/Architectural Historian

organization

date August 1986

street & number P.O. Box 431

telephone (802) 496-5659

city or town Waitsfield

state Vermont

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

  national X state   local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Trish Bensinger*

title Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

date 08/15/88

**For NPS use only**

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

date 9-27-88

*Beth L. Swartz*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

---

The State Board of Education is trying to bring the rural schools of Vermont to a higher standard; official score cards have been issued and the Board has agreed to aid towns not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars in any one year in bringing up the school to a score of seventy-five; this state aid must be duplicated by the town. The Waits River and the West Topsham schools could be standardized with the least expense. I recommend that an attempt be made to standardize one of these schools during the coming year and the other the following year be brought to the same standard.

Although Waits River Schoolhouse was presumably near standard levels in 1922, it was not until fifteen years later (twenty-three years after its construction) that the standard plate was awarded to the school at a P.T.A. meeting in Spring, 1937.

The growing concern for addressing these issues was possibly a response to a number of interrelated factors. In 1904, the State Board of Health had set standards for better sanitation, ventilation and lighting of public schools. Many older schools were "revamped" to create a better learning environment through the addition of windows, heaters and newer outhouses. In 1911, Fletcher B. Dresslar, reviewed in his book, American Schoolhouses, all aspects of school architecture from their plans, room functions and lighting to the ventilation and toilets. It featured photographs and drawings and as a publication of the Government Printing Office, it reached a wide audience. In 1912, Vermont Legislature formed a commission to study the education responsibilities of the State. The report of their findings was prepared by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Perhaps in response to these factors, the school superintendent's annual reports became far more elaborate, critical and progressive than they had been throughout the late nineteenth century.

The years from 1922 through 1928 were financially difficult for the school. Like many towns in this period, Topsham had very little money. In 1924, State Aid was cut. Little activity is recorded aside from the wartime planting of victory gardens in the schoolyard and the school superintendent's concern for instilling civic pride in students through the care and maintenance given to the school.

A ventilating heater was added to the school in 1929, but in 1930 the toilets were still deficient and there was a need for a playground. In 1931, full attention was finally given to the Waits River Schoolhouse. From this point on, the alterations to the school are well documented and provide a concise narrative for the structure as it stands today.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

---

In addition to the completion of the West Topsham project, an extensive remodeling job was done at the Waits River School during 1931. This included enlarging the room, installation of chemical toilets, correction of lighting and redecorating the interior. Provision for proper playground facilities, together with some minor items of the equipment will bring this school up to the standard rating.

The costs of "supplies", "sundries" and "repairs" for this project totalled \$1086.71. The specific tabulation of costs reveal that it was in this year that the schoolroom was enlarged, the interior walls and ceiling sheathed in pressed metal and banks of 12/12 sash windows were added to the first story of the southeast elevation. (See Table 1). The International Iron and Steel Company provided the metal wall sheathing for \$38.56, while the Canton Steel Ceiling Company of Canton, Ohio provided the ceiling metal for \$22.83. The metal sheathing has been patched in areas, yet remains in excellent condition today. According to a local source, many homes and public buildings in the Waits River area once featured pressed metal sheathing. Another example of pressed metal sheathing surviving in excellent condition exists in the sanctuary of the Waits River Methodist Church (1859), located .5 miles southeast of the schoolhouse on Route 25. Like the school, the walls of the church are wainscotted to a height of approximately four feet with the remaining walls and ceiling being fully sheathed in pressed metal.

In the majority of the structures with pressed metal sheathing, the metal was removed in an effort to reduce heat loss and rid the rooms of the "busy patterns." Many people tired of the pressed tin and in 1951, the Waits River Schoolhouse nearly succumbed to the same pressures.

This past summer, the building at Waits River was painted on the outside and the classroom redecorated. Before another painting of the classroom is contemplated we should either remove the present metal covering and replace with sheet rock, or else simply cover with a new ceiling over the present sheeting. We feel the latter to be the better since it would eliminate quite a bit of heat loss that now occurs.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

---

It was during the 1931 remodelling of the school that the banks of 12/12 sash windows were added to the southeast elevation of the first floor. The windows were purchased from a company called Flint Brothers for \$215.77. Three Kaustine toilets were also purchased at the same time for a cost of \$313.60. One was specifically earmarked "for the community," presumably for use by the Grange members who used the second floor of the building as their Grange Hall and for public meetings.

Despite these changes, school reports for 1936 again reveal the elusive nature of the standard rating.

Repairs and improvements made at the Waits River School last year included new front steps and porch, painting of the building on the outside and finishing off the library room. When painting and repairing of the fence is made in the spring and a few small items have been supplied, this school should be ready for its standard plate.

The 1936 porch remains today featuring narrow cornice returns and a clapboard apron. During the mid-thirties, increasing numbers of students began to create overcrowded conditions in the schools. This was only somewhat relieved by the "epidemics of disease" prevalent in 1935. The percentage of attendance was very low and the Red Cross became involved in better health programs. More attention was paid to school attendance and parent involvement in educational programs.

The next major improvement to the building occurred in 1944 with the excavation of the basement. The neighboring West Topsham School was destroyed by fire and its students were shifted to the Waits River School. The increased school population and new problems revolving around toilet facilities, water supply and the heating system gave rise to a need for a basement under the Waits River School. School reports by the superintendent for 1948 describe the process of excavating the basement.

It was decided to install a new heating system and in order to do this part of the cellar was excavated. As this was being done it was decided at a joint meeting of school directors and Town Selectmen to jointly complete the excavation of the whole cellar space. This was done. There is now a solid cement foundation and floor topped by three layers of cement block. New flush toilets were installed in the school and also in the basement for use of community meetings.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

---

The additional space provided by having a fully excavated cellar makes the school room floor much warmer and more comfortable for the children. It is planned to enclose the furnace which will leave room for play space on stormy days, as well as space that in the future may be utilized for hot lunches or community suppers.

This late, two-part excavation of the basement explains the unusual joist arrangement exposed in the basement. The joists run the length of the school with a summer beam providing support in the middle as opposed to normal framing which would span the width of the building.

In the year following the excavation, the Community Club of Waits River organized and initiated a hot lunch program at the school, one of the first such programs in the area. The kitchen, located in the basement under the porch area, remains with cast concrete counters and dividers. Double leaf swinging doors enter the basement on the exterior of the front elevation into the cafeteria.

In 1950, Waits River and three other schools were divided by grade level to accommodate an increase in the school population and to facilitate lesson planning and teaching. Grades 1 - 4 were brought to Waits River while Grades 5 - 8 went to the rebuilt West Topsham School. A devastating fire in 1952 resulted in the loss on many historic Waits River structures. The schoolhouse survived untouched. In 1953, a partition within the first floor was removed to extend the classroom by five feet. Formerly this five foot "hallway" had served as a wood storage area with a service door leading into the schoolyard for wood loading. Blackboards, tackboards and additional lighting were added to the expanded room. Floor markings still indicate the wood storage area's original location. The metal sheathing doesn't extend into this area and the service door has been closed over.

This enlargement of the schoolroom to alleviate the overcrowded conditions proved unsuccessful. In 1953, the Riverside Chapter of the Patrons of Husbandry was asked to vacate their grange hall on the second floor in order to create an additional classroom. The following year, banks of windows were added to the southeast elevation of the second floor and several second story, single bay sash windows were closed over.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

---

In remodelling the upstairs room, windows along the front and west sides were closed in and added windows built in on north and east. Curtains were purchased and installed. The old stage was cut down in size and moved to the west side. The old partitions around the stage were eliminated. This now makes a large, usable space and is much nicer than before. We shall still plan to install different or additional lights in the near future.

In 1954, enrollment was 40 students and a second teacher was hired. The upstairs classroom was used by the third and fourth grades. The new room was "not a well lighted or adequate arrangement" but served temporarily while the new school at West Topsham was being built.

In 1960, baseboard radiation was added. A large, wood and coal burning stove remains in the schoolhouse, yet it is difficult to determine when it was installed. In 1962, a fence was added along the road edge. Aside from mention of having the fence painted in 1963 and the World War I victory gardens, there is little mention made for schoolyard landscaping.

No less important or significant than the building's use as a schoolhouse, is its function as a Grange Hall. The second story of the structure was built specifically for use as a hall for the Riverside Chapter (#455) of the Patrons of Husbandry.

The Patrons of Husbandry Grange is a national organization founded c.1875. Originally it was oriented toward farmers with discussions centering around agricultural issues. In Waits River the grange was organized c.1910, meeting at various places in the community until the hall was built in 1914. Membership in Waits River was not limited to just the farm community and anyone over 14 years old was invited to join. They met every two weeks and meetings incorporated an opening ceremony, lecture hour, entertainment in the form of skits and songs or poems of an educational and inspirational nature followed by a closing ceremony. The stage, podium and piano were used regularly.

In addition to their regular meetings, the Grange sponsored wedding receptions and dances in the hall. A majority of the community's meetings and entertainment took place in the Grange Hall. Despite being located on the western edge of the village, the hall/schoolhouse served as a core in the community.

The Grange was asked to vacate their hall in 1953 to facilitate the increasing school population. They moved to East Orange in 1953 and again in that year to the old White Rabbit Restaurant below West Topsham.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

TABLE I

(A partial list of supplies, sundries and repairs made to the Waits River Schoolhouse in 1931; taken from the Superintendent of Schools' Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1931 for Topsham Town, VT.)

Supplies

Edward E. Babb & Co., three wall brackets	1.80
Flint Bros., windows, lumber, material	215.77
Montgomery Ward Co., 27 pieces wall board	24.09
International Iron and Steel Co., sheeting	38.56
Canton Steel Ceiling Co., metal ceiling	22.83
Reynolds & Son, pipe and fittings	1.68
H.C. McLam, door casing, lumber	19.35
C.W. Averill Co., pipe and fittings	1.49
J.L. Hammer & Co., shades, damper, chemical	39.31
E.S. Locke, school supplies, repair supplies, paint	73.16
R.M. Chalmers, door stops, curtain fixtures, and window locks	1.65
E.S. Rowland, bolts, etc.	7.62

Sundries

L.L. Worthley, freight paid and cartage	12.48
Kenneth Batten, freight paid and cartage	3.41

Repairs

Gove and Morrill, tile	5.65
Edward E. Babb & Co., three Kaustine toilets (one for community \$104.53)	313.60
Sherman Bragg, labor on repairing	121.90
R.M. Chalmers, labor on repairs and paint	163.50
E.V. Batten, labor on sewers and steps	15.36
Flint Brothers, fifty feet flooring	3.50

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 7

TABLE I

(A partial list of supplies, sundries and repairs made to the Waits River Schoolhouse in 1931; taken from the Superintendent of Schools' Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1931 for Topsham Town, VT.)

Supplies

Edward E. Babb & Co., three wall brackets	1.80
Flint Bros., windows, lumber, material	215.77
Montgomery Ward Co., 27 pieces wall board	24.09
International Iron and Steel Co., sheeting	38.56
Canton Steel Ceiling Co., metal ceiling	22.83
Reynolds & Son, pipe and fittings	1.68
H.C. McLam, door casing, lumber	19.35
C.W. Averill Co., pipe and fittings	1.49
J.L. Hammer & Co., shades, damper, chemical	39.31
E.S. Locke, school supplies, repair supplies, paint	73.16
R.M. Chalmers, door stops, curtain fixtures, and window locks	1.65
E.S. Rowland, bolts, etc.	7.62

Sundries

L.L. Worthley, freight paid and cartage	12.48
Kenneth Batten, freight paid and cartage	3.41

Repairs

Gove and Morrill, tile	5.65
Edward E. Babb & Co., three Kaustine toilets (one for community \$104.53)	313.60
Sherman Bragg, labor on repairing	121.90
R.M. Chalmers, labor on repairs and paint	163.50
E.V. Batten, labor on sewers and steps	15.36
Flint Brothers, fifty feet flooring	3.50

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   1  

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dressler, Fletcher B., American Schoolhouse, Washington Government Printing Office, 1911.

Gulliford, Andrew, America's Country Schools, Washington, D.C., The Preservation Press, 1984.

Horton, Guy B., Henry A. Stoddard and Harold J.R. Stillwell, The Grange In Vermont, St. Johnsbury, VT, Cowles Press Inc., 1926.

Town Reports of Topsham Town, VT 1984 - 1960, Annual Reports of the Officers.

Interview with Ruth Morrison, town clerk for Topsham Town; several interviews throughout April and May of 1986.

Interview with Evelyn Tillitson, West Topsham resident and patrons of Husbandry member; age 80; May 1986.

Interview with Gregory Wylie, owner of the Waits River Schoolhouse, March - August 1986.