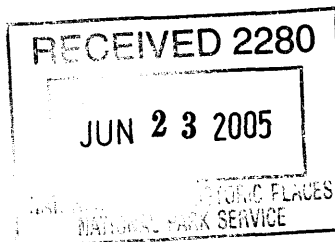


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 any 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 Butterfield House

other names/site number Grafton Public Library

2. Location

street & number 204 Main Street

not for publication n/a

city or town Grafton vicinity n/a

state Vermont code VT county Windham code 025

zip code 05146

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.)

Suzanne C Gamble, National Register Specialist 6-22-05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State or 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 or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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 Beall 8/6/05

[Signature]

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
<u>1</u>	_____
	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof asphalt
walls weatherboard
other

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

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.
X 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 a 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
- Community Planning and Development
- Industry

Period of Significance 1811-1955

Significant Dates c. 1811
c. 1869

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Butterfield, John Lewis

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder unknown

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>694511</u>	<u>4782636</u>	3 _____
2	_____	_____	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 Paula Sagerman, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date March 16, 2005

street & number 7 Winter Haven Drive telephone (802) 464-5179

city or town Wilmington state VT zip code 05363

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Grafton

street & number 117 Main Street, P.O. Box 180 telephone (802) 843-2419

city or town Grafton state VT zip code 05146

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

Description

The c. 1811-c. 1869 Butterfield House is located at 204 Main Street in the historic village of Grafton. This two and a half story wood frame Greek Revival style building is an intact and good example of a nineteenth-century residence. It was built in at least three stages between about 1811 and the late 1860s, and displays Greek Revival and Italianate features, including an unusual double-layer modillioned cornice and monumental portico. The property was the home of one of Grafton's first physicians, Dr. John Butterfield, and his son John L. Butterfield, an important local industrialist. The property remained in the Butterfield family until 1952, when it was sold to the Trustees of the Grafton Public Library. Since 1955, it has been the home of the Grafton Library. The exterior of the building retains its integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association, and there are no threats to its integrity. The interior was altered in the 1950s to accommodate the library use, but the center stairhall and many historic interior features and finishes have been preserved. The building is well-maintained by the Town of Grafton, which intends to preserve its integrity.

Setting

Grafton is a rural town (population about 600) located in north central Windham County in the upper valley of the Saxtons River, which runs east through Rockingham into the Connecticut River. Grafton village is at the confluence of the north and south branches of the Saxtons River, in the center of the town. Surrounding the village are sparsely developed rolling hills with historic farmsteads, and there is one other small remote hamlet called Houghtonville.

Grafton is the quintessential rural Vermont village. It contains a Main Street (Vermont Route 121), and at the center of the village, Main Street intersects with the Townshend Road, creating a focal point. Main Street continues east into Mechanicsville, an extension of the village that follows the Saxtons River. There are also a few side roads off of Main Street and Townshend Road that are within the village. These streets are densely settled with mostly nineteenth century wood frame buildings and very few twentieth-century structures. Most of the resources are single family homes in the Federal and Greek Revival styles, and other historic buildings include a hotel, town hall/post office, general store, two former schoolhouses, and two churches. The village appears to be eligible as a National Register of Historic Places historic district, and many of the properties also appear to be individually eligible for the National Register. There are three buildings in the village that have already been listed on the National Register, two residences (adjacent to the post office) and one church. All of the historic buildings in the village are well-

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**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

maintained and retain their historic integrity, and there are no intrusions, including utility poles and wires.

The Butterfield House (hereinafter called the house) is located at the southwest corner of Main Street and Kidder Hill Road on a one acre parcel. The building faces east and north and has a small setback from Main Street and a large setback from Kidder Hill Road. East and south of the house is a large lawn with scattered mature deciduous trees. In the northeast corner of the property is a boulder with a 1959 war memorial plaque.

Exterior

The Butterfield house consists of a 2-1/2 story main block and a 1-1/2 story rear ell. The five bay by five bay main block has a rectangular footprint oriented parallel to Main Street, and the narrow two bay by four bay ell projects off-center from the south eaves elevation of the main block. At the east elevation of the main block, there is a full-façade two-story recessed portico under a pedimented gable. The main block has a rubble stone foundation with a cut stone underpinning, and the ell has a modern concrete block foundation. Both sections have clapboard siding and asphalt shingle roofs. The main block has an overhanging open eave roof and the ell has a slight overhang and boxed cornices. At the main block, there is a centered square brick interior ridge chimney and a square brick interior chimney slightly off-center at the south roof slope. At the right end of the south elevation of the main block, there is a shallow one-bay projection with a concrete block foundation.

The most distinctive architectural feature of the house is the portico. It is three bays wide and two stories in height under the pedimented attic story of the house. It has stout paneled polygonal columns with molded bases and molded capitals, a filigree iron railing at the second story, and narrow strip wood flooring and ceilings. Each column reportedly has 185 pieces. The second floor deck has a double band of trim that serves as an entablature to the first story columns.

Another distinctive feature of the house is the layered detailing at the eaves and gables. The cornices and gable rakes are encircled with large scrolled modillions, and above this, in the soffits of the roof overhang, are large molded modillion blocks. Together, the courses of modillions provide an unusual layered appearance. Additional architectural trim of the main block includes large paneled corner pilasters (interrupted at the portico by the second story

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**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

deck), and flat-stock window and door casings with projecting molded cornices. The ell has flat-stock window casings with thin molded cornices.

Another unusual feature of the building is that it has two primary facades. Except for the portico, the north elevation depicts a symmetrical Georgian-plan house with a doorway that leads to the central hallway of the house. The portico itself gives the appearance that this elevation is also a primary entry to the house, although it has a simple doorway and no entry hall. Today, both entries are still in use.

Centered on the north elevation is an entry containing a single leaf, four panel wood door. The panels are molded in Greek Revival fashion. Slightly off-center on the east elevation, there is another four panel wood door, with simple raised panels. The north doorway is flanked by $\frac{3}{4}$ length sidelights, and the east doorway lacks ornamentation. The small bay projection has a pair of modern French doors. Directly above the east entry is a door to the second story of the portico with two lower panels and a very large four-pane upper light. At the left end of the second story of the south elevation, there is a modern fire door and an open straight-run wood staircase.

The main block has regularly-spaced two-over-two wood windows. The north elevation has five bays of windows and doors at each story, the east gable wall has five bays of windows and doors, and the west gable wall has three bays of windows, except for the first story, which does not have a central window. The gables each have a centered louvered window opening. The ell has four irregularly-spaced six-over-six wood windows in the east elevation, two regularly-spaced six-over-six windows in the south gable wall, and three regularly-spaced six-over-six windows in the west elevation. In its south gable is a twelve-over-twelve wood window.

The house is mix of architectural styles. The ell is of the vernacular Federal style, with simple boxed cornices and flat-stock trim. The main block has Greek Revival massing and both the primary elevations – the north and east elevations – are Greek Revival in appearance. The north elevation is a typical side-gable Greek Revival five-bay symmetrical façade with corner pilasters and front entry sidelights, and the east elevation is a front-gable Greek Revival facade with bold columns and a pedimented gable. The modillions encircling the cornices and gables are also of the Greek Revival style. There are some transitional Victorian era features also, typical of rural Vermont residences built during this time period. The open-eave overhanging roof is of the Italianate style, and the iron portico railing is more typical of Victorian era homes. The paneled polygonal columns, iron railing, and exaggerated cornice details are not commonly found on rural Vermont residences. However, about three houses to the east of the Butterfield house, there

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**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

is a contemporaneous house with a similar, if less adorned, portico with fluted columns and a similar second story railing.

Interior

The first story of the main block has a modified Georgian Plan that faces north. There is a center hallway that is about half the depth of the main block. Behind the hallway is a small modern bathroom that is accessed from the hallway. East of the hallway are two square rooms that are divided from each other by a large opening. West of the hallway is one front-to-back room. The rear spaces of the east and west sides are open to each other behind the bathroom, but are divided by a free-standing two-sided fireplace. The ell is one large room at the first story, and is open to the main block.

The second story also has a front-to-back room at the west side. The west room is open to the rest of the second story, and there is a half-wall between this room and the staircase. The east side has a hallway that leads from the stairway to the porch doorway. This hallway is flanked by two rooms, one in each corner of the east side of the house. The attic staircase is enclosed and is accessed from the west end of the room in the southeast corner of the second story. The attic of the ell is accessed from the bottom landing of the staircase to the attic.

The house has mix of historic and modern finishes. The entry hall and west room of the first story have modern hardwood flooring. The rest of the rooms of the first story have modern wall-to-wall carpeting. The two east rooms of the second story have original wide, random-width painted wood floors. The rest of the rooms of the second story have modern wall-to-wall carpeting. The attic of the ell has very wide (up to two feet), random-width painted pine flooring.

Most of the plaster walls and ceilings have been preserved. The plaster was replaced with sheetrock in the stairhall, ell, and west rooms of the first and second stories. The first story of the ell has an acoustical tile ceiling. The cellar and attic of the main block are unfinished, but there is an enclosed space at the west end of the attic with scratch-coat plaster walls.

Most of the original flat-stock baseboards and door and window casings have been preserved. The west room of the first story has the original heavily molded Federal style window casings. The stairhall has modern peaked door casings. The timber frame posts that project into the rooms are encased in wood.

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**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

The first story does not contain any interior doors; there is only a modern paneled wood door to the bathroom. The two preserved rooms at the east side of the second story contain four-panel wood doors with ceramic knobs. The stairhall has a natural-finish turned newel post, a natural-finish oval handrail, and slim tapered painted balusters.

The freestanding back-to-back fireplaces centered behind the stairhall/bathroom mass face the east and west rooms. They each have plain soapstone hearths, chimney backs and chimneypieces, and molded Federal-style mantels above a wide flat board. The chimney mass is otherwise encased with sheetrock. There is no fireplace associated with the ridge chimney, but the projection into the northeast corner rooms, which lines up with the chimney in the attic, appears to be a former chimney stack.

In the main block and the ell, the sawn timber frame roof structure and the original roof sheathing boards are exposed. Much of the ell roof structure and main block first floor structure has been replaced in the late twentieth century. The ell suffered a fire at some point, as there are a few scorched original rafters and roof sheathing boards.

Construction Chronology

The house was constructed in at least three stages. When John Butterfield purchased the property in 1811, there was probably a house standing on it. It is unclear if this house is now part of the extant house. It is possible that it is the ell. The timber frame rafters of the ell were cut with an "up and down" saw. It is not impossible that there was a saw mill in the area at the time, as it is certain that there was a saw mill in Grafton no later than 1817. Features that survive from the ell's construction include the twelve-over-twelve gable window, the wide board floors, and the timber frame roof structure and sheathing. The south third of the ell and the north two-thirds appear to have been constructed in two stages.

It is also possible that the earliest section of the house was a one-story structure that is now part of the west section of the house. There is a cellar only under this section of the house, which has two large stone chimney masses now located under the north-south axis of the house. One is under the extant fireplaces centered behind the stairhall, and the other is under the stairhall, directly in front of the north entry to the house. However, there are no hand-hewn timber frame members visible in the cellar, so this section was also not built before the existence of a nearby saw mill. There are several reused hand-hewn members acting as supplementary supports to the

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**Butterfield House
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first floor framing, so perhaps these were reused from the original house. The Federal-style window casings in the west room may date to this early house, as they are the only such casings in the entire house.

It is possible that in the 1810s or 1820s, Dr. Butterfield expanded this early house into a Cape Cod. This explains the center hallway plan of the main block of the house, which probably predates the c. 1869 expansion of the house. The cut stone underpinning, north door, sidelights, the wide board floors, and the center stairhall, staircase, newel post, railing and balusters may date to the 1820s.

Judging by John L. Butterfield's career, the exposed roof structure in the attic, the transitional Greek Revival and Italianate features, and the town grand lists, the house reached its current appearance in the late 1860s. The 1866 grand list values the property at \$800, and the 1870 grand list values the property at \$1,500, so it is likely that the house was enlarged between those dates. (The 1867-1869 grand lists are missing.) The roof has a timber frame structure, so the house predates the transition to balloon framing, which occurred in rural Vermont in the 1860s and 1870s. The transition from the Greek Revival style to the Italianate style also occurred during these decades. Also, Butterfield became a successful soapstone manufacturer during the 1860s.

Most of the exterior features of the main block of the house probably date to its c. 1869 expansion. Interior features that date to this time include the flat-stock architectural trim, the plaster walls and ceilings, the soapstone fireplaces (possibly with reused mantels), and the four-panel doors with ceramic knobs.

There have been a few exterior changes to the house undertaken in the twentieth century, probably when the house was converted to the library in the 1950s. The north doorway had a c. 1900 Colonial Revival flat-roofed entry porch with paired slender Tuscan columns, a bracketed molded cornice, and trellised side railings supporting side benches. The front (east) elevation of the ell had a door between the second and third windows, and a small ridge chimney lined up with this door. The bay projection at the south elevation of the main block originally had ribbon of three, two-over-two windows.

The floor plan probably originally had one room in each corner at each story, and the ell was probably not open to the main block. The floor plan was partially opened up in the 1950s to accommodate the library. This includes the opening between the east rooms of the first story, the

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**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

opening around the fireplaces, the opening between the ell and the main block, the one-room plan of the ell, and the large room on the west side of the second story.

The west side of the first story contained several rooms until recently. This included a children's room in the front, plus a hallway, a bathroom, and a small room. There was a wall between the side of the fireplace and the front hallway. In 2003, the west side of the first story of the main block was renovated. The floor framing was replaced, one large room was created, the extant bathroom was constructed, the wall between the fireplace and the hallway was removed, the walls were refinished with sheetrock, and the hardwood flooring was installed.

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Section 8 Page 1

**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

Statement of Significance

The Butterfield House is significant as an intact example of a high-style Greek Revival residence, as an important part of the growth of Grafton village, as the home of three generations of Butterfields, an important local family, and as the home of the Grafton Public Library since 1955. The house was constructed in at least three phases between about 1811 and 1869 by the Butterfields, who occupied the house until 1952. The building and its setting retain most of their historic integrity, and the ornamental portico of the house is a distinctive architectural feature of the village. The Butterfield House meets National Register Criterion A for its contribution to Grafton's and Vermont's history of community development, and culture and government, Criterion B as the home of John L. Butterfield, an important Vermont industrialist, and National Register Criterion C for its architectural merit. The building relates to the statewide themes of Historic Architecture and Patterns of Town Development, and Culture and Government. The period of significance of the Butterfield House is 1811-1955, which spans the years between the approximate construction date of the earliest section of the house and the fifty-year limit for National Register eligibility.

The Butterfield House is located on Main Street in Grafton village, which is a densely settled rural village comprised of intact nineteenth-century buildings. Grafton was first chartered in 1754 with the name Thomlinson. Like most Vermont towns chartered before the French and Indian War, the town could not fulfill the conditions of the charter, and in 1763, it was regranted to the original proprietors.

Like many of Vermont's early towns, Grafton's first settlement was on a hilltop, in this case, Middletown Hill, which is about a mile northwest of Grafton village. It has been reported that a man named Slack was the first settler, having arrived in 1768. However, the 1771 census reported that there were no inhabitants in Thomlinson. Middletown's first settlers arrived in the 1770s, but were temporary residents. The first permanent settlers arrived in 1780, and were from Connecticut and Massachusetts. The first recorded town meeting was held in 1783, although it is possible that town meetings had already been held for a few years prior to this. By 1791, the population of Grafton was 561, almost as high as today's population of about 600. By the turn of the nineteenth century, Middletown village had a meeting house, a church, stores, a cemetery, and numerous residences. Besides Middletown, additional hamlets appeared, including Houghtonville, Mechanicsville, and Cambridgeport, which lies partly in Rockingham. In 1791, an auction was held for the privilege of renaming the town. The highest bidder, Joseph Axtell,

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**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

paid five dollars and a jug of rum and selected the name Grafton, which was the name of his hometown in Massachusetts.

In the early nineteenth century, Grafton residents began to “move down the hill” into what is now Grafton village and adjacent Mechanicsville. Like many other Vermont towns, residents desired to move from hilltops into river valleys, not only because the area was open for development, but also to take advantage of the water power for mills. What is now known as Main Street/Route 121 was laid out in 1818. It follows the Saxtons River and connects Grafton with Rockingham to the east.

In the “lower village,” mills such as a grist mill, saw mill and cider mill were established by the 1820s. The cider mill was converted to a carding mill and woolen factory in the 1830s. By 1840, there were two grist mills, six saw mills and a fulling and carding mill in town. From the 1830s to the 1880s, there was also a carriage and sleigh factory, and Grafton was also known for the manufacture of fishing rods during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. Grafton’s most successful industry was soapstone. From the 1850s to the 1890s, there were two quarries in town that were operated by local citizens John L. Butterfield and Charles Smith. The soapstone was milled in Cambridgeport, worked into window sills and lintels, fireplaces, and plumbing pipes, then transported to Bellows Falls to be shipped by rail. Butterfield & Smith became the largest soapstone producer in Vermont and the second largest in the United States. By the end of the nineteenth-century, soapstone was replaced by more durable products, and the industry in general declined.

Starting in the 1810s, stores, churches, schools, and a tavern, were established in the “lower village,” and by the 1830s Grafton village and Middletown competed for the status of being the center of town. By the 1840s, Grafton village had become the established center and Middletown became a rural area comprised of farmsteads. The population of Grafton did not grow as a result of the expansion of the new village; instead, there was just a shift in where people lived. The population peaked in 1820 at 1,482, which is almost 2-1/2 times today’s population.

The 1856 McClellan map reveals that Grafton village was almost as developed as it is today, and what remained of Middletown was a handful of farmsteads, a church, and a cemetery. The 1869 Beers map shows that the Middletown church was gone and that Grafton village was fully developed. Besides the numerous residences, Grafton village had two churches, a parsonage, a cemetery, a hotel, a large schoolhouse (two smaller schoolhouses had recently been closed), a

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**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

cabinet shop, a tin shop, three stores, a carriage shop, and a blacksmith shop. The churches, stores, hotel and most of the residences remain standing today.

Early twentieth century industries in Grafton included logging and dairy farming, and the spacious Phelps Hotel attracted many visitors. By the mid twentieth century, these industries were dying out, many commercial establishments had closed, and agriculture was on a major decline. In 1940, Grafton reached its lowest population, 393, and many village buildings fell into disrepair.

In 1963, the Windham Foundation was established in Grafton by Dean Mathey of Princeton, New Jersey. Mathey's cousin Mat Hall, who had a summer home in Grafton, assisted with the operation of the foundation. The purpose of the Windham Foundation was, and still is, to revitalize Grafton and provide grants to Vermont organizations. In the 1960s and 1970s it purchased about twenty-seven buildings in the village and restored them, and acquired over 1,000 acres of land surrounding the village. Today, the Windham Foundation provides long-term leases for these buildings, and operates the Old Tavern, the Grafton Village Cheese Company, and conserves the rural acreage as a recreational area open to the public. Besides historic preservation, other community enhancements undertaken by the Windham Foundation include funding the burial of all utility lines in the village and the installation of historically appropriate street lights. Today, Grafton village is one of the most historically intact and well-maintained villages in Vermont. It appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, with very few non-contributing resources.

The Butterfield House (hereinafter called "the house") has played an important role in Grafton's history. In 1808, Leverett Tuttle of Rockingham purchased the subject property, an acre of land in what was then known as the Fourth Range of Grafton. At this point, the village was in the early stages of development and the property was located on an unnamed highway that is probably now Main Street. Tuttle built a house here (possibly the ell or the first story of the west half of the main block), and then sold the property in 1811 to Dr. John Butterfield.

Butterfield (1781-1827) came to Grafton from Rockingham in 1808, succeeding Dr. Amos Fisher. Fisher was probably the first physician in town, and had died the same year. Butterfield either replaced the first house, or added on to the first house, eventually creating what was probably a Cape Cod house with an ell. After Dr. Butterfield's death, his wife Zilpah (1790-1848) continued living in the house with their son John Lewis (1821-1892) and daughter Sophia

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(born 1826). John Lewis was born and died in the same room in the homestead, and lived there his entire life.

John L. Butterfield's first occupation was a farmer, and then he was a merchant for a short time with Henry Holmes, a churn manufacturer located just around the corner from the house. Butterfield was also a member of the state senate, and represented the town in the legislature several times. In 1850, he married Jane Smith (1830-1889) of nearby Saxtons River village. Jane's father Benjamin Smith owned a soapstone quarry near Grafton village, and operated it with his sons Benjamin Jr. and Charles. After Jane's marriage to Butterfield, he became a partner in the business with Charles Smith, and the business was renamed Butterfield & Smith. (Jane was also related by marriage to Fabius Bancroft, who built the post office across the street about 1855.) Another quarry in town, near its southern border with Athens, was leased by Butterfield & Smith from 1861 until Butterfield's death in 1892 (Smith had died in 1885).

As mentioned above, by the 1860s, soapstone was Grafton's largest industry, and Butterfield & Smith were the most successful producers of soapstone in Vermont and one of the two most successful in the United States. Butterfield's success enabled him to enlarge and update his home in the late 1860s, into the house that has been preserved to this day. His financial success is also measured in the 1870 United States census, which lists him as owning \$13,000 in real estate, the highest value of real estate in Grafton this year. This property included land near the quarry, the former schoolhouse across the street, and the house. Butterfield later purchased the noteworthy Davis property across Main Street, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

John L. and Jane Butterfield did not have any children. In 1849, John's sister Sophia married James Duncan of Boston, which is where they chose to live. Their son John Butterfield Duncan (1867-1948), also known as J.B., inherited most of the John L. Butterfield estate in 1893, probably while living in or near Boston. This included the homestead, the Masonic Hall across the street (now known as the old fire house), and seventeen acres of land near the quarry. Duncan is not listed in the United States census in 1900, but in 1910 he is listed as living in Grafton with his sister. He never married, and did not work, according to the 1910 and 1920 censuses. After his death, the house was inherited by his niece Eleanor. She sold it in 1952 to the Trustees of the Grafton Public Library.

The Grafton Library Society was incorporated in 1858 as a private institution. The purpose of the society was to establish a library and reading room, and to become a member one had to

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purchase a share of stock for three dollars. The first library room was in the first story of the Town Hall building, which was constructed by John Barrett in 1816 as a store. After Barrett's death in 1857, the property was sold to the town as a Town Hall. (It has been the Town Hall ever since.) In 1874, the library society's stock was conveyed to the Town of Grafton, which established a public library. In 1882, a new library was established in the basement of the Town Hall. There have only been seven librarians since 1882. The longest term was Lura Phelps Park, who served from 1892 to 1940.

By the 1940s, there was a great demand for an expanded library facility, and the trustees began considering other sites in the village. Local icon Lucy Daniels expressed an interest in funding the construction or purchase of a separate library building. Lucy Joslyn Cutler Daniels (1858-1949), also known as "Miss Lou," lived in the former brick schoolhouse at the west end of Main Street. She graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, then from Portia Law School, and was active in funding local education causes. She supported women's suffrage, and in 1911 refused to pay her property taxes because Grafton's representative to the State Legislature voted against the Women's Suffrage Bill. She also picketed at the White House for the cause.

At the time of Daniels' death, a site for the library had not been agreed on. Three years later, in 1952, the library trustees chose the Butterfield House, and the Daniels estate donated almost \$70,000 toward the purchase and renovation of the building and the relocation of the library. The interior of the house was renovated, and the library opened to the public in July 1955. In 1959, a War Memorial plaque was installed on the lawn.

The Butterfield House is an important architectural feature of Grafton village. The location near the Main Street Bridge, and the monumental appearance of the recessed portico behind a large lawn, establish the house as a focal point on Main Street. This type of porch is an uncommon feature on rural Vermont homes, although there are four other residences in Grafton village with two-story recessed front porticos. Of the four, the Butterfield House has the most monumental portico, with unique polygonal columns and an ornamental iron railing that was probably manufactured outside of Vermont. Another unusual feature is the double-layered modillioned cornice, with two types of modillions, which encircles the eaves and gable rakes. The house is also unique in that it appears to be a two-story, Georgian Plan, Greek Revival house with an added portico, but the roof structure as seen in the attic reveals that the second story and portico were built at the same time. The portico and architectural details depict the building's transition from a farmhouse into a house owned by wealthy family. Other important architectural features, which depict the time period the house was constructed, include the Federal-style north doorway

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that probably dates to the original one-story house, and the c. 1869 features such as the Greek Revival massing, pedimented gables and corner pilasters, the Italianate open-eave overhanging roof, and the iron filigree railing.

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**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

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Roberta Martin, Grafton Librarian, February 22, 2005

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Boundary Description

The rectangular boundary of the Butterfield House property follows the perimeter property lines of Grafton Tax Parcel 008121. This parcel is identified on the "Village" map of the Grafton Tax Parcel maps.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the original and current legal property boundary of the Butterfield House. This boundary is sufficient to convey the historic significance of the Butterfield House.

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Section Photograph Labels

**Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Butterfield House
Grafton, Windham County, Vermont
Photos by Paula Sagerman
October 2004
Electronic images on CD filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

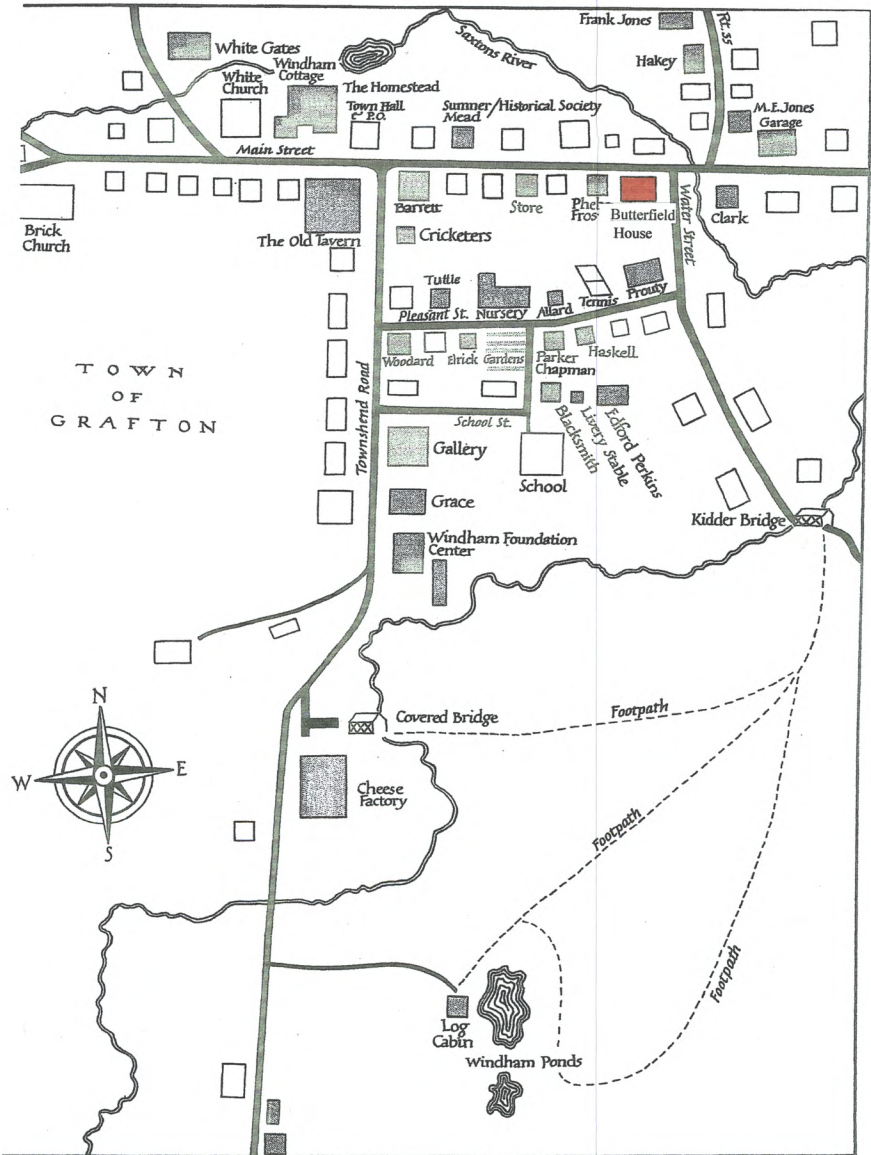
Photograph #1
Facing west on Main Street; house is on left

Photograph #2
Facing northwest toward house

Photograph #3
Facing southeast towards house

Photograph #4
Facing west toward portico detail

Photograph #5
Facing north in stairhall



Map by the Windham Foundation



Butterfield House, n.d.



Butterfield House
Probably in 2nd quarter of 20th century