

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont
COUNTY: Windsor
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 17 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Stone Village Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Stone houses at Chester Depot

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: both side of VT 103  
For boundary description see Section 7

CITY OR TOWN: Chester

STATE: Vermont

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District

Rep. Richard Mallary

COUNTY: Windsor

CODE: 50

CODE: 027

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Vermont

CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER: (No street number.)

CITY OR TOWN: Chester

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Vermont Division of Historic Sites

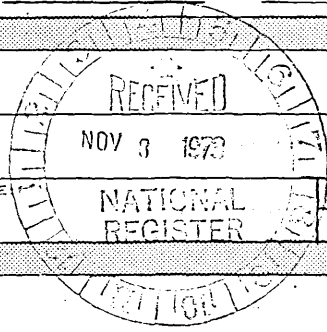
STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Vermont

COUNTY: Windsor

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\* Public spaces are unrestricted.

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Boundary Description

The Stone Village Historic District begins at the bridge conveying Vermont Highway 103 over the Williams River. The boundary proceeds from that point in a northeasterly direction 3/10 of a mile toward the summit of Mt. Flamstead, thence proceeds at right angles in a northwesterly direction for a distance of 6/10 of a mile. The boundary then proceeds at right angles in a southwesterly direction 8/10 of a mile to the summit of the ridge west of the Williams River. The boundary then proceeds along the ridge southeasterly a distance of 6/10 of a mile, and thence at right angles in a northeasterly direction to the point of beginning.

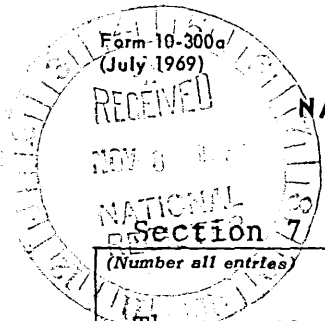
"Snecked Ashlar"

"Snecked ashlar" describes a certain type of rubblestone siding used to finish buildings constructed of fieldstone or brick. The siding material is gneiss which occurs in large layers four to six inches thick. Geologic pressure has gradually forced the gneiss strata to the surface, where it occurs in nearly vertical layers. The gneiss is removed in slabs and is arranged on the exterior walls in courses or in random pattern. The slabs are secured with lime mortar reinforced with moss or horsehair. The gneiss slabs are "snecked", or secured, with pieces of mica schist as interfill to produce a stable wall facing.

Brief Physical Description

The southern approach to the stone village, on Vermont Route 103, is marked by a concrete bridge over the Williams River. The road then turns in a northwesterly direction and parallels the Williams River valley. The stone village is set in the river valley. The alluvial plain of the Williams River opens to the west of the community and provides an expansive view to the opposite bluff about a quarter-mile away. The base of Mt. Flamstead comes very near the rear of structures on the east side of the highway, and provides a striking backdrop to the village. The southern end of the stone village commences immediately beyond a meadow to the north of the bridge and traverses Route 103 for 6/10 of a mile. The two-lane, blacktopped road is lined with numerous shade trees, including several elms which appear to be contemporary with the structures. The buildings of the village exhibit a uniformity of scale and massing which contributes to the cohesiveness of the village unit. Most buildings are one-and-one-half or two stories in height and are positioned relatively close to one another and to the road.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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There are seventeen principal buildings in the stone village, oriented linearly along the road. All structures are in an excellent state of repair. The predominant domestic architectural style may be described as "Greek Revivalized" cape cod executed in stone. Proceeding north on Highway 103, there are eight buildings on the west side of the road and ten on the east. Residences (1)\*, (3), (5), (10), and (14) through (17) are one-and-one-half story examples related to a "Greek Revivalized" cape cod style, having high pitch gable roof oriented perpendicularly to the road. Appendages in all cases include a kitchen addition to the rear and usually a barn or garage appended in ell or continuous fashion to the rear of the kitchen. Entrance is provided in an end bay on the ground floor of the front elevation with a secondary access on a side elevation. Greek Revival details usually include fenestration or cornice treatment. Of this category, all but sites (1), (10), and (14) are sided in "snecked ashlar"; others are clapboard sided frame buildings. Residence (10) is a particularly illustrative example of a continuous structure, having three linear appendages of various dimensions. Residences (2) and (11) are also Greek Revivalized houses related to the cape cod style, but are two-and-one-half story buildings with the main elevation aligned perpendicularly to the road. The main entrance is centered in the ground floor of the main elevation. Residence (11) is sided in "snecked ashlar".

Residence (4), (12) and (18) are two story, five-bay, "I" houses having a variety of appended projections to the rear. Each has a high pitch gable roof oriented parallel to the main elevation, and major access is provided in the central bay of the ground floor. A Federal character is given to these houses especially in fenestration and cornice treatment. Houses (4) and (12) are sided in "snecked ashlar", (4) being the residence constructed by Dr. Edson. House (18) has clapboard sided front and rear facades with end gables of brick. Residence (9) is a one-and-one-half story version of the "I" house with a gable roof paralleling the main facade, and a large pediment projecting from the center of the roofline. A single-story porch appears on the main and north elevations.

Major non-domestic buildings include the Unitarian Church (6), schoolhouse (13) and the tavern (8) with adjacent barn (7). The church is a one-and-one-half story, rectangular plan structure with square steeple tower appended near the front of the high pitch gable roof. A ballustrade and minarets surmount the tower. A classical moulded wood cornice and frieze with partial cornice return appears on the end gable of the front elevation. The church is sided in "snecked ashlar" on all elevations. Fenestration on the main elevation includes a centrally-placed doorway

\* numbers key to site plan map

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topped by a rectangular stained-glass window. Two larger rectangular stained-glass windows are placed to either side of the main entrance.

The school is a single-story, rectangular plan building with main facade oriented perpendicularly to the road. The end gables formed by the high pitch gable roof are clapboard sided, and "snecked ashlar" siding appears only on the level of the first floor. A bell cupola appears over the west (road side) end gable. Fenestration includes a series of six abutted rectangular sash windows in the north, west, and south facades. Main access is contained near the rear of the north facade.

The tavern is an elongated, rectangular-plan, Federal style, two-story, clapboard sided frame structure surmounted by a medium pitch gable roof. The roof over the northern two bays is oriented in temple fashion. The building appears to have been constructed in three distinct segments. The northern portion, surmounted by the temple roof, is two-bay width with centrally positioned doorway. The middle segment is five-bay width with centrally positioned doorway, having Federal style fanlight and sidelights. The southern portion is also of five-bay width with three end bays on the ground floor given to garage space.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Structures date from first half of the

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stone Village Historic District at Chester Depot, Vermont is significant as an unusual concentration of stone buildings faced with gneiss slabs in "snecked ashlar" pattern. It is the only predominantly "snecked ashlar" village complex in Vermont. The technique of "snecked ashlar", derived from the Scottish highlands, is rare in a national context but is found on about fifty structures in south-central Windsor County, Vermont. Residences, churches, schoolhouses and factories were known to have existed.

The stone village at Chester Depot originated in 1834 with the construction of a residence for Dr. Ptolmey Edson. Dr. Edson was a member of the building committee for the "snecked ashlar" schoolhouse and the Unitarian Church, and, therefore, it may be assumed that he established the precedent for the formation of the "snecked ashlar" village. The stone masons for many of the buildings were two Scottish brothers, Alison and Wiley Clark, who had come to Vermont in 1832 to assist in the construction of a large stone factory at Chester. Other Scottish masons were also known to have worked in the Chester area. They came especially from the Aberdeen area where "snecked ashlar" is also found. The presence of Scottish masons gives credibility to the Scottish origin of the "snecked ashlar" buildings of Vermont.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See attached)

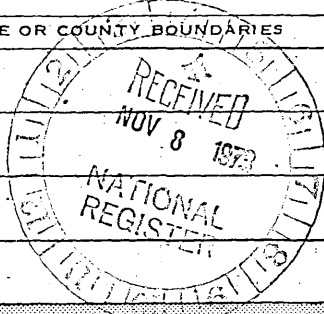
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	43° 16' 40"	72° 35' 55"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	43° 16' 40"	72° 35' 15"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	43° 16' 12"	72° 35' 15"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	43° 16' 12"	72° 35' 55"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.00

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Stephen Raiche, Historic Sites Surveyor**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **10/16/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Pavilion Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montpelier** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name William B. Pimney

Title Director of Historic Sites  
State Historic Preservation  
Officer Date 11/5/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AB [Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/17/74

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]  
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 5-17-74

NW 18/695380/4793 830  
 4794 200  
 CD  
 NE 18/695800/4793 830  
 SE 18/695250/4793 300  
 SW 18/694850/4793 700  
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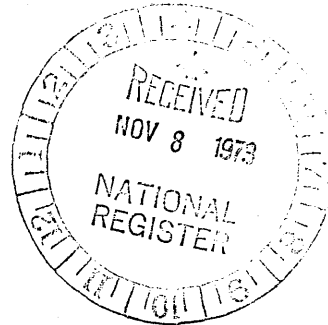
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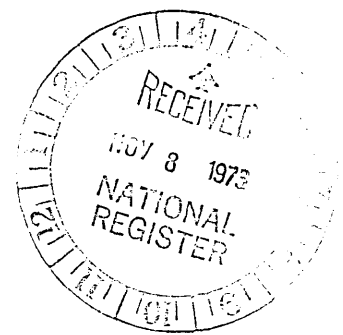
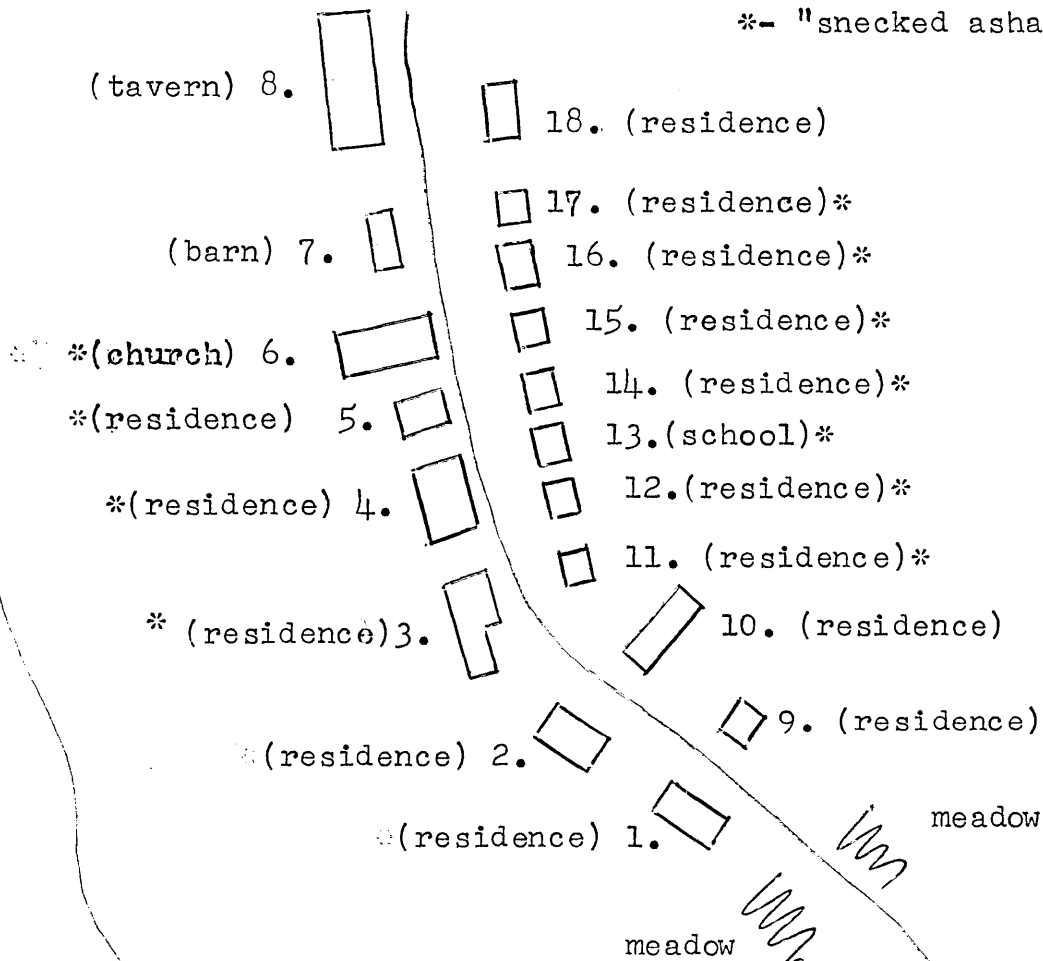


Stone Village Historic Depot

Chester Depot, Vermont

Showing relative location of buildings

\*- "snecked ashlar" construction



Williams River

Vermont Route 103