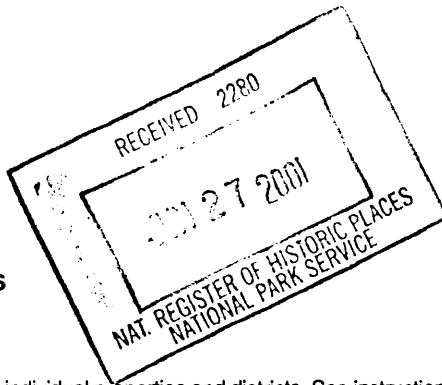


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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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 by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name District Number Four School

other names/site number Village School; Little School

2. Location

street & number 116 North Craftsbury Road a not for publication

city or town Craftsbury a vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Orleans code 019 zip code 05826

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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

June 13, 2001
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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8-2-01

District Number Four School
Name of Property

Orleans County, Vermont
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | buildings |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | Total |

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

Educational Resources of Vermont

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter Categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other STONE: Granite

Narrative Description

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

**District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont**

Summary Paragraph

District Number Four School is located at the north end of Craftsbury Village on the east side of North Craftsbury Road in Craftsbury, Vermont. The c. 1859 one and one-half story, Greek Revival style, clapboarded two-room schoolhouse has a gable roof, center chimney, poured concrete foundation and an open belfry with a bell on its west end. Greek Revival style features include paneled pilasters, a full entablature under the roofline on the eaves facades, a triangular fan with radiating louvers and a wood paneled primary entrance door with four-pane sidelights on the south, eaves facade. The building retains its c. 1927 large banks of twelve-over-twelve, double hung wood sash windows that were installed in the gable ends to comply with the State Board of Health standards for the ventilation and lighting of public schools. On the interior the schoolhouse has beaded-board ceilings, horizontal board painted wood walls, hardwood floors and four-panel wood doors. District Number Four School was converted into a residence in 1982 and retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Statement of Description

The c. 1859 District Number Four School is located on a hill at the north end of Craftsbury Village on the east side of North Craftsbury Road approximately 1-2 miles south of Craftsbury Common in Craftsbury, Vermont. Across the road is Craftsbury Elementary School and to the south is a four acre open field. A small, c. 1970 one and one-half story wood frame house overlooks the schoolhouse from its position on a hill to the northeast.

The one and one-half story, Greek Revival style, clapboarded, rectangular plan, two-room schoolhouse has a gable roof, center chimney and a poured concrete foundation. Layers of asphalt roofing cover a wood shingle roof that the schoolhouse retained into the early twentieth century. Greek Revival style features include paneled corner pilasters, cornice returns, a full entablature under

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

District Number Four School **Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont**

the roofline on the eaves facades that wraps around to the gable facades terminating over the pilasters, and a triangular fan with radiating louvers found on the street-facing, west façade.

The primary entrance is located in the center of the south, eaves façade and consists of a four-panel wood door that has modern hardware and a modern knocker with four-pane sidelights. This entrance is sheltered by a pedimented porch that contains chamfered posts, a flush board ceiling, beaded-board side panels and brackets in the shape of a squat "m". The porch decking, steps and handrail are non-historic replacements. Although the porch dates from a later period, it is historic and can be seen in an undated early twentieth century photograph of Craftsbury Village that includes the spire of the Old Methodist Church, which burned in 1925. To the right of the porch is a modern, two-pane casement window that was added c. 1982 when the schoolhouse was converted into a private residence. To the left of the porch are four granite blocks that are the only remnants of what may have been an entirely granite block foundation.

The west façade faces North Craftsbury Road and contains an off-center bank of four, large, twelve-over-twelve, wood sash double-hung windows that were installed c. 1927 to comply with the State Board of Health standards for the ventilation and lighting of public schools. These windows replaced the original single, six-over-six windows that were found on all facades. This façade also contains a triangular fan with radiating louvers in the gable and a "Standard School" sign found over the pilaster by the southwest corner of the building, which dates to the same period as the bank of windows. An open belfry with a bell is found over this end of the schoolhouse. The belfry contains square posts and brackets that are identical to those seen on the entrance porch. It also has scrolled brackets found three to a side under its roofline, a hipped asphalt roof and a crowning wood finial. A late nineteenth century photograph of Craftsbury Village reveals a crenelated belfry found in this location however, an early twentieth century photograph (pre-1925) shows the current belfry located in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont

center of the roof. The belfry was probably moved back to its position over the west end of the schoolhouse when the chimney was installed. The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation emphasized that the belfry, while of a later period and style than the main building, is a significant feature of the school.

The east façade contains a bank of windows identical to those found on the west façade. This façade also has a nine-over-six window in the gable and two, small single-pane windows on the basement level for the boys' and girls' bathrooms. An exterior basement door that lacks hardware is found to the left of the windows.

The north façade contains a four-panel wood door that was installed in 1947 and a c. 1982 stained wood deck. To the right of the door is the only remaining original six-over-six window. To the left of the door on the basement level are two, six-pane, single sash windows.

In front of the schoolhouse entrance is c. 1970 metal playground equipment that consists of swings, a merry-go-round, and a jungle-gym. The contiguous four acre field south of the schoolhouse was purchased in 1986 and is now part of the schoolhouse property. Deed research reveals that this four acre property was never historically associated with the schoolhouse.

Interior

Facing the main entrance on the interior of the schoolhouse is a bathroom that was installed c. 1982 when the building became privately owned. The bathroom has a linoleum floor, horizontal wood board north, east and west walls, a gypsum wallboard south wall, a beaded-board ceiling and a four-panel wood door with modern hardware. A basement stairway with wood treads and risers is found at the north end of the bathroom and a trap door in the ceiling accesses the attic. This bathroom occupies and adheres to the space of the former cloakroom with only the wallboard south wall added during residential occupancy.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

**District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont**

To the right of the primary entrance is one of the two classrooms. This room measures approximately 27 feet by 23½ feet and has not been partitioned. It has 2 inch wide clear-finish hardwood floors, 3-4 inch wide horizontal wood board walls, and a beaded-board ceiling on its west side and a flush board ceiling on its east side. Two, four-panel doors with flat-stock trim are found at each end of the west wall. The door on the right has a metal latch and the door on the left has a historic metal doorknob. Kitchen equipment was installed along the south wall when the schoolhouse was converted into a residence and a combination overhead light/ceiling fan was also introduced at this time. Paint is peeling off the walls of this room.

The classroom found to the left of the primary entrance was partitioned c. 1982 with an east-west gypsum wallboard wall. The north room on this side of the schoolhouse measures approximately 21½ feet by 15 feet and the south room measures approximately 21½ feet by 12 feet. These rooms have beaded-board ceilings and the same flooring, walls and doors with flat-stock trim as the other classroom. The door to the north room has a metal latch and the door to the south room has modern hardware. Closets with sliding wood composition doors were installed c. 1982 in the southeast corner of each room. These rooms also contain the same combination overhead light/ceiling fan that is found in the other room.

Another basement stairway with wood treads and risers is found inside the back entrance. The boys' and girls' bathrooms are found at the east end of the basement. Under the west end of the schoolhouse is a crawl space. The basement is unfinished and has concrete floors and a furnace. A Sanborn Company Insurance Map indicates that the schoolhouse was heated by a furnace and had electric lighting by 1935.

District Number Four School
Name of Property

Orleans County, Vermont
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1858 - 1950

Significant Dates

c. 1859

c. 1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

District Number Four School Orleans County, Vermont
Name of Property County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM references

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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| 1 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

2

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|------|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

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 Michael T. McQuillen, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date February 5, 2000
street & number 2121 E. Capitol Drive, #108 telephone (802) 425-2135
city or town Shorewood state Wisconsin zip code 53211

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Dr. Eleanor Nicolai McQuillen
street & number P.O. Box 118 telephone (802) 472-5129
city or town Greensboro state Vermont zip code 05841

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont

Summary Paragraph

District Number Four School is significant under criterion A for its long history as a school. The two-room schoolhouse was built c. 1859 to serve the growing population of Craftsbury Village and reflects an era when the majority of Vermont's schoolchildren were taught in one or two-room schoolhouses that dotted the rural landscape. District Number Four School retains its twelve-over-twelve banks of windows and "Standard School" plate installed during the early twentieth century healthful school movement. Used continuously as a school until 1980, the building was sold and converted into a private residence in 1982. District Number Four School is also significant under criterion C as a good example of the Greek Revival style, which was the most popular nineteenth century architectural style in Vermont. Elements of this style employed in the schoolhouse include paneled corner pilasters, a full entablature under the roofline on the eaves facades and a triangular fan with radiating louvers found in the gable end facing the street. The school is a contributing building in the Craftsbury Village Historic District listed on the Vermont State Register of Historic Places and is being nominated under the "Educational Resources of Vermont" Multiple Property Documentation form as it meets the registration requirements for the property type school.

Statement of Significance

The land comprising the town of Craftsbury, Vermont was granted in 1781 by the Republic of Vermont to families living in or near Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Seeking to escape the recession following the American Revolution and the general unrest following Shay's Rebellion these settlers arrived in Craftsbury in 1791, the same year Vermont was admitted to the Union.

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Section number 8 Page 2

District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont

Originally named Minden, the town honored one of its earliest pioneers and civic leaders, Colonel Ebenezer Crafts, by changing its name to Craftsbury in 1791. Colonel Crafts was a farmer, lawyer and colonel in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. He helped build the road to the town and clear the first homestead lots in the years 1788-89 before the town was permanently settled. When Craftsbury was officially organized in March, 1792 the first town meeting was held in Ebenezer Crafts' house and he served as moderator.

Craftsbury's earliest population center developed on a hilltop location around a formal common in the center of the township that is now referred to as Craftsbury Common. By the mid-nineteenth century the town's population center had shifted 1-2 miles south to Craftsbury Village in response to the proximity of the district's main road and availability of natural resources such as the Black River. Through the nineteenth century Craftsbury Village became the economic center of town with the establishment of saw mills, woolen mills, grist mills, stores, a marble shop, tannery and a hotel. The village also became the civic and social center of town with the construction of churches, a post office, town hall and the c. 1859 two-room District Number Four Schoolhouse.

The establishment of schools was pursued by the earliest residents of the State of Vermont and Town of Craftsbury. The 1777 constitution of the Republic of Vermont was the first of its kind to include a provision for education by mandating the establishment of a school or schools in each town. The original settlers of Craftsbury recognized the benefits of an education and many were college graduates including Ebenezer Crafts who graduated from Yale in 1759 and his son, Samuel who graduated from Harvard in 1790. In 1797, the residents of Craftsbury voted to raise 25 bushels of wheat for the support of a school and the town was later divided into two school districts. As the population of Craftsbury increased, reaching 1151 in 1840 and 1413 in 1860, the number of its school districts totaled fourteen. School District Number Four was created to serve the growing population of Craftsbury Village. Two deeds record the sale of land for the establishment of a school across the road from the Methodist Church in

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont

Craftsbury Village. On October 12, 1858, Wilber F. Hoyt sold a small parcel of land to School District Number Four for \$20.00 and on May 22, 1868, Nelson Rand sold a similarly small parcel of land to School District Number Four for \$10.00.¹ Another deed dated April 24, 1858 records the survey that Craftsbury selectmen made of Wilber Hoyt's land for the purpose of building a school.² Although town records do not indicate the construction date of the schoolhouse, it does appear on an 1859 H. F. Walling map of Craftsbury Village and therefore was probably built around the time the land was acquired from Wilber F. Hoyt. As a clapboarded, timber frame schoolhouse, it is a good representative example of the type of local school building built in Vermont during this period.

The earliest source of information concerning School District Number Four is an 1887 Superintendents of Schools Report, which follows in its entirety:

"District No. 4 has supported three terms of school of eleven weeks each during the year. The summer term was taught by Miss Frank Babbitt of Greensboro. Miss Babbitt has taught school many years and certainly does not lack experience. She did not, however, give the best of satisfaction here. The older scholars learned well; but the younger scholars were too much confined and too much was required of them. Teachers ought to know that small children cannot bear long confinement on hard seats; but must change position often, be permitted to play out of doors every little while [sic]. In the best city schools the little ones are only kept at school 1 & ½ hours in the forenoon and the same time in the afternoon. This is done to promote the health of the children. The last two terms were taught by Miss Dovisa Kinney, one of the best teachers in the county. Fortunate is that district that secures her services. Both terms were highly successful. The thorough [sic] of drill the children get in her schools is of great value. It would be profitable for many of our teachers to attend Miss Kinneys [sic] school one term to learn her methods of teaching. It would help them more than a term at a normal school. Number of scholars, summer term: 24, winter term: 31, fall term: 36."

¹ Town of Craftsbury Land Records Book 9, Page 291 and Book 12, Page 11, respectively.

² Town of Craftsbury Land Records Book 9, Page 222. Craftsbury selectmen Adam White, Nelson Rand and John Patterson surveyed the property that Wilber Hoyt sold to School District Number Four on October 12, 1858 and appraised its value at \$27.00.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont

This report is instructive of the early organization of schools and their typical problems. From 1782-1892 Vermont towns were divided into autonomous school districts. This system shaped the physical appearance of Vermont's landscape with one or two-room schoolhouses serving most districts throughout the state. In 1892 however, legislation was passed that replaced district authority with town authority. It was now the responsibility of each town to administer its schools.³ The 1887 Superintendents' Report is also concerned with the quality of teaching. This issue had been addressed since the early nineteenth century when Vermont academies included teacher training classes in their curriculum and the legislature made its first attempts to license and certify Vermont's teachers. By the mid-nineteenth century state normal schools were created to ensure the proper training of teachers and county superintendents were charged with inspecting all the schools under their supervision. While these efforts improved the quality of teaching the turnover rate of teachers continued to be a problem into the twentieth century. The two-room District Number Four School had a total of nine different teachers between the years 1906-11.⁴ A 1908 School Superintendent Report published in the Craftsbury Town Report laments the "loss of time and inefficiency" resulting from hiring a teacher for a single term and suggests "that in the future teachers be engaged only on written contract for the full year."

Craftsbury Town Reports reveal a great deal about the physical structure, changes and expenses of the District Number Four School. In 1908, a new wood shingle roof was installed on the school for \$92.22. That same year the town of Craftsbury had 212 students in eleven schools expending \$17.62 per student. By 1913 the town educated 161 students at the cost of \$31.36 per student and the

³ This law would lead to the consolidation of school districts as towns would cite the prohibitive cost of maintaining numerous school buildings. A 1905 School Superintendent Report favors the consolidation movement suggesting "we should sell all our schoolhouses which we know will never be occupied again."

⁴ An exception to this trend was a woman named Rose B. Smith who taught at the Craftsbury Village District Number Four School as early as 1906 and continued teaching there into the late 1920s.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont

School Superintendent suggests consolidating and distributing the school population among four schools (including the District Number Four School) although he “does not know whether the town is ready for this advanced step.” The 1913 Town Report also marks the first time the collective physical condition of Craftsbury’s schools is addressed with the observation that all schools need better heating, ventilation and lighting in order to make them more healthful and comfortable for students and teachers.⁵ The statewide movement for more healthful schools began in 1904 when the State Board of Health began to set standards for the physical condition of schools.⁶ This movement was further aided by a 1925 act of the Legislature authorizing state aid to improve and standardize the condition of rural schools. At the time the condition of schools was rated using a scoring system. Those schools that passed the State of Vermont standards were given a “standard” rating and those that far exceeded the standards were given a “superior” rating. District Number Four School was “standardized” between the years 1925-27. Almost all of its individual six-over-six windows were removed and replaced with large banks of twelve-over-twelve windows installed in each gable end. Other improvements included the installation of a chimney and the replacement of the wood stoves with a furnace. The 1927 Town Report indicates a total cost of repairs of \$1266.16 to the District Number Four School – \$250.00 of which was funded by the State. A “standard” rating could also be taken away due to infrastructure problems or lack of maintenance. The 1951 Town Report states that “the Village & Branch schools have regained their rating as “standard” schools. Repairs in the past several years have brought them up to the rating necessary.” Towns took pride in the rating as indicated in the 1936 Town Report, which states that the Mill Village School has regained its “standard” rating and the Superintendent “doubts if any

⁵ Prior to this time town reports refer to all schools in Craftsbury by their district number. By the early twentieth century however, they begin to refer to the schools by their location in town (i.e. District Number Four School is referred to as the “Craftsbury Village School” or simply the “Village School”).

⁶ Vermont’s efforts were part of a larger, national movement as evidenced in the 1918 publication of *Healthful Schools; How to Build, Equip, and Maintain Them* by May Ayers, which devotes entire chapters to subjects such as toilets, water supply, lighting, and cleaning.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 8 Page 6

**District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont**

town in the county has a finer set of school buildings as relates to the exterior appearance than has Craftsbury." The District Number Four School still displays its "Standard School" plate on its west (street-facing) façade.

By 1936 there were 148 Craftsbury children educated in a total of seven one or two-room schools. Of this total, 44 attended the District Number Four School at the cost of \$61.56 per pupil. By 1946 the enrollment in Craftsbury's elementary schools had dropped to 106 students. This drop in enrollment is reflective of the general decline in Craftsbury's population, which would not be reversed until 1960. Craftsbury's population in 1980 was approximately equal to its population of 605 residents in 1820. The decline in population was one of the factors that lead to the consolidation of Craftsbury's elementary schools.⁷ In the early 1960's the town purchased the Methodist Church in Craftsbury Village and remodeled it to serve as the town elementary school.

Built across the street from each other on the hill overlooking Craftsbury Village, the Methodist Church and District Number Four School had a long-standing relationship. The Methodist Church was constructed in 1854 and a church history describes it hosting Christmas exercises for the schoolchildren due to the closure of the District Number Four School for the holiday. The original church building burned in 1925 and was rebuilt the following year. In 1963 Craftsbury's Methodist and Congregational churches united and thereafter used the established Congregational Church building at Craftsbury Common for their congregation. This allowed the town to use the Methodist Church as an elementary school for the older schoolchildren and, due to its close proximity, District Number Four School became the school for the younger schoolchildren.⁸ This system would

⁷ A 1908 Superintendent's Report offers an early school consolidation plan citing that "conditions demand one central graded school to which all pupils shall be conveyed in barges constructed for the purpose, under the care of competent drivers, who shall be made responsible for the attendance of the scholars committed to their care as truant officers."

⁸ This also marks the period that the District Number Four School, or Village School, began to be referred to as the Little School probably due to its newfound proximity across the street from the larger elementary school.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

**District Number Four School
Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont**

remain in effect until 1980 when all Craftsbury elementary schoolchildren were taught in the elementary school and the District Number Four School was closed. The two-room schoolhouse was sold to private owners in 1982 after serving as a school for 121 years.

Craftsbury's District Number Four School is also significant as a good example of the Greek Revival style. The Greek Revival style was the most popular nineteenth century architectural style in Vermont and was so widely used throughout the United States it came to be known as The National Style. Based on the orderly architectural forms of ancient Greece, the Greek Revival style was appropriate for a new republic that drew inspiration from Greece as the first democracy. Characterized by such features as columns, pilasters, pediments and entablatures, the popularity of the style also spread due to the handbooks of Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever, which demonstrated that its bold, yet inexpensively executed details, could be seen from a distance. The most significant period of growth for Craftsbury Village corresponded with the popularity of the Greek Revival style and the Village's Greek Revival style buildings, including the District Number Four School, Craftsbury Inn and many residences, testify to its history and development.

The Greek Revival style was especially appropriate to employ in schoolhouse architecture. In his book first published in 1838, *School Architecture; or Contributions to the Improvement of School-houses in the United States*, Henry Barnard proposed that dignified school buildings would inspire students to learn.

"The style of the [schoolhouse] exterior should exhibit good, architectural proportion, and be calculated to inspire children and the community generally with respect for the object to which it is devoted... every school-house should be a temple, consecrated in prayer to the physical, intellectual, and moral culture of every child in the community..."⁹

⁹ Henry Barnard, *School Architecture; or Contributions to the Improvement of School-houses in the United States* (New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., 1849 [Third Edition]), 41.

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Barnard included numerous illustrations of Greek Revival style schoolhouses in his book, many of which have central pediments and entrances framed with columns or pilasters.

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District Number Four School **Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary begins at point A, which is on the easterly right of way of North Craftsbury Road at a point where a line that is 35 feet from and parallel to the south (front) façade of the building intersects with the road, thence proceeds easterly along said parallel line approximately 135 feet to point B, the right angle formed by said parallel line and another line found 20 feet from and parallel to the east façade of the building, thence proceeds northerly along said line approximately 85 feet to point C, the right angle formed by said line and another line found 20 feet from and parallel to the north (rear) façade of the building, thence proceeds westerly along said line approximately 125 feet to point D, the intersection of said line with the easterly right of way of North Craftsbury Road, thence proceeds southerly along the easterly right of way of North Craftsbury Road to the point of origin.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The Town of Craftsbury is not zoned and has not been surveyed. For the current boundary descriptions of District Number Four School refer to Craftsbury Land Records found in the Craftsbury Town Clerk's Office Book 9, Page 291 dated October 12, 1858 and Book 12, Page 11 dated May 22, 1868. The land within the boundary is the primary area associated with the school's historical use and is sufficient to convey its significance.