

PH0358401

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 27 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Round School House

AND/OR COMMON

Round School House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Grassy Brook Road

CITY, TOWN

Brookline

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Vermont

STATE

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Windham

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Brookline

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brookline

VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Town Clerk of Brookline

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brookline

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1970

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Round School House stands on a very limited roadside site of less than a quarter acre. It is sited only about ten feet from the road curb. The unique one-story structure is composed of a round brick drum laid in Flemish bond, twenty-feet in diameter and capped by a conical roof. There is a small brick extension on the south elevation which serves as an entranceway. Extending further south is a wood shed which was added in 1910.

The school house structure has a stone foundation, with several stones measuring over three and half-feet in length. There are five 2/2 sash windows evenly spaced in the wall. Several inches below the eaves is an iron hoop rod which surrounds the building, presumably holding the top together, as is common in silo construction. The cornice level is laid with stretchers and shows traces of white paint indicating a painted cornice band once decorated the wall.

The roof structure is wood and consists of rafters leading to a centered king post, which projects several feet from the roof as a finial. The roof is clad with sheathing boards and wooden shingles. Originally a chimney ran through the center of the roof and the rafters were braced on it.

The interior is a single room. Originally it contained sixty oak benches and desks arranged in a circular position facing a teacher's desk, at the door. In 1910 it was renovated, and the present hardwood floor, tongue, and groove wainscoting and ceiling, windows, and side chimney were installed.

Generally the school house is in very good condition, showing no brick deterioration and a sound shingle clad roof. The interior was recently upgraded for the Bicentennial celebration, and is in excellent condition.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1822

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: John "Thunderbolt" Wilson

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Round School House is the oldest brick school house standing in Windham County. It is singularly unique for its circular, silo shape, rather than the traditional rectangular, gabled roof format.

The Round School House was built in 1822 to replace a log school house situated a little to the south of it. The plan for its erection was made by Dr. John Wilson. Wilson, known as "Thunderbolt", was reputed to have been a highway-man who came from Scotland to escape punishment. Supposedly he settled in Newfane as a teacher and doctor. Local legend asserts that Wilson designed the school house round so that he could see from any position, all possible intruders.

The structure functioned as a school until 1929, when a new school was built which conformed to state codes. At this time the Round School House was turned over to the town for use as a Town Hall. In 1938 it was wired for electricity.

Its use by the town and very good physical condition attest to the positive local attitudes towards this small building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hemenway, Abbe Vermont Historical Gazetteer, Vol. V, - the Towns of Windham County. Brandon, Vt., 1891. p.383.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1/4 acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	6,9,5	1,7,5	4,7,6,5	7,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: B. Clark Schoettle, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation DATE: April 22, 1977

STREET & NUMBER: Pavilion Building TELEPHONE: (802)-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:  
 NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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

William B. Pinney  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *William B. Pinney* DATE 4/22/77

TITLE: Director, State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert B. Rettig* DATE 11/23/77  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Charles Albright* DATE 11.17.77  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER