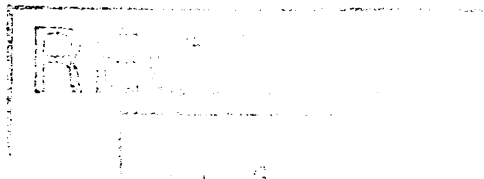


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 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 No. 2 School

other names/site number Georgia Stone School

2. Location

street & number 2442 Polly Hubbard Road  Not for publication

city or town Georgia  Vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Franklin code 011 zip code 05478

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.)

Ewa Gilbertson National Register Specialist December 29, 1999  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

State of 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 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

2/4/00  
Date of Action

District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Franklin County, VT  
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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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)

Recreation and Culture/ museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

roof asphalt

other wood

**Narrative Description**

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

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont

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Located on the north side of Polly Hubbard Road,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile east of St. Albans Bay in the Town of Georgia, the District No. 2 School, now the Wood's Edge Environmental Education Center, is a 1-story, vernacular Greek Revival-style stone school building with a substantial wood-framed ell on its east side. The building operated as the District No. 2 School from 1843 to 1959, when the Town's school districts were combined at the c.1959 elementary school on U.S. Route 7. The building has seen only two significant interventions since its construction in 1843. The first, in 1931, was the construction of an ell on the east side of the original building, and the removal of the east original stone wall to permit full access. The second, taking place through 1997 and 1998, was the substantial rehabilitation of the building consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The stone section of the exterior exhibits solid, unembellished massing and its historic window openings have double hung wood sash windows. The clapboarded ell is windowless across the front façade allowing for a twenty-foot blackboard inside. Its east and north facades retain their historic 1931 window openings containing banks of  $\frac{8}{8}$  and  $\frac{2}{2}$  double hung wood sash respectively. Sited well away from the nearest building and overlooking meadows back-dropped by densely forested hills, the school retains its historic setting. This fact, together with minimal changes to the building since its 1931 enlargement and a historically sensitive rehabilitation in 1997 and 1998, have allowed the old school to retain the integrity of its historic location, design, workmanship, materials, setting and association.

### Exterior

The rectangular plan, two-by-two bay, 1-story, gable front stone section has a six-in-twelve sloped gable roof supported by pole rafters and covered in asphalt shingles. The shallow overhang supports a slim wooden box cornice with returns. The building's only entrance is centered on the south (street) stone façade, comprising a wood door with six true-divided-lights over two horizontally-oriented raised panels. Open wood brackets support a gabled, asphalt shingle-covered door hood with flat stock face and recessed pediment. One wood plank front step rises to a planked platform that is hinged to permit access to the 1843 solid stone entry threshold underneath. Two two-over-two, double hung, wood sash windows flank the entrance. Pairs of similar windows with jamb pins are evenly spaced on the west and north stone facades. All have cleated vertical beadboard shutters with contemporary flat hinges.

Exterior walls are constructed from locally quarried dolomite limestone and extend approximately three feet below grade to bedrock, in generally random range ashlar, quarry-faced construction, with random vertical, horizontal and face bedding evident. Where stones do not fit closely, the spaces are filled with smaller stones and stone chips, a technique known as galleting

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont

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and closely associated with masons trained in Scotland. As with most of the stone buildings in the area, more attention was paid to the fit and finish of the walls visible from the road, with the rear, north wall containing the highest proportion of rubble stone. Accordingly, alternating courses of larger and smaller roughly cut stones comprise the lower half of the street façade. Less formal coursing is evident on the upper half of this wall. Larger stones are used to form the lowest quarters of the west and north facades: smaller stones comprise the remainder of these walls with some visible attempt at coursing. Larger, rectangular stones comprise and strengthen the corners of the building with their longer lengths alternating along each adjoining wall, tying the building together. Solid, irregular, quarry-bedded lintels surmount the window openings, while the jambs and sills are formed through breaks in the random range ashlar wall construction. Rough profile silica lime mortar binds the masonry construction revealing the exterior edges of all but the smallest stones.

The 1931 clapboarded ell addition rests on a concrete foundation. It has an asphalt shingle-covered gable roof supported by wooden trusses that is perpendicular to and intersects the gable roof of the original stone building. A square brick chimney rises through the ell roof at the point where a short hip descends from its ridge to meet the ridge of the stone block, placing the chimney base roughly below the center of the original building.

Most of the east stone wall was removed in 1931 to join the main block and ell, and create space for a large classroom, a wood shed, and bathrooms. Approximately one foot of stone wall is exposed outside the north and south intersections of the original stone walls and 1931 stick frame walls. The south façade of the addition is windowless, allowing for the placement of a twenty-foot blackboard on the interior wall. The east, gable façade is largely consumed by a large bank of four, eight-over-eight double hung sash abutting the north end of the wall. A bank of four, two-over-two wood sash windows are tucked under the eaves of the rear, north façade. All the windows are trimmed on the exterior with four-inch flat stock pine: a slightly wider board trims the clapboard below the eaves, below the starter course, and at the corners.

### Interior

The interior of the building retains its 1931 configuration when the ell was added onto the east side of the original stone building. The east two-thirds of the existing building comprises a single large classroom. The west one-third houses the wood shed (now the research room), a small entrance foyer, and two separate hallways accessing the bathroom. Floors are hardwood tongue-

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont

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in-groove maple strip flooring throughout.

The sheet-rocked classroom is lit overhead by a combination of four historic but recently installed opaque china globes suspended by chains, and thirteen recessed contemporary fixtures. A newly installed concealed, hinged ceiling hatch held in place by a system of counterweights and pulleys can be lowered to reveal a cross-section of the original 1843 roof, including its pole rafter supports and wood shingle covering. The classroom walls are skirted with shellacked vertical beadboard wainscoting capped by a flat moulding with upper and lower beads separated by deep groove. Baseboards are flat stock with a bevelled top edge. All original trim in the classroom is dark stained and shellacked eastern fir. Let approximately sixteen inches down into the wainscoting, a twenty-foot by four-foot, ¼ inch thick, slate blackboard in four foot sections dominates the south wall. To the west of the blackboard, a single two-over two window has square casing within its well, and is trimmed with narrow, flat stock pine and a bull-nosed sill. Also let into the wainscoting is a bank of four, eight-over eight windows consuming most of the east classroom wall with wider, five inch trim and a similar protruding sill. A bank of four, two-over-two windows with similar trim light the room from high on the east side of the north wall. A contemporary gas-fired soapstone stove is centered on the west wall with two framed doorways on either side trimmed in dark-stained, five inch, flat stock fir.

The 'door' opening to the immediate north of the stove houses bookshelves the depth of the wall. The extreme north doorway leads to the research room (old wood shed) whose outside walls and ceiling are covered in beadboard and two interior walls are sheetrocked. Plank sills and beadboard sides line deep window wells housing two-over-two windows – one in each of the north and west stone walls. The 1931 partition wall separating the classroom from the rest of the building intersects the north wall window exposing part of the window in the research room and the classroom.

Doorways to the south of the stove lead west down L-shaped hallways meeting at the entrance to the powder room (originally separate boys and girls bathrooms), that is accessed by two cleated beadboard doors with transoms. The extreme south hallway runs along the south outside wall, passing through the small entrance foyer. Outside walls in the hallways are horizontal beadboard, raked near the top of the west wall to follow the roofline down to the eaves. Inside walls, including the entrance foyer and bathroom, have wainscoting matching the classroom with sheetrock on the upper wall. Smaller versions of the historic suspended china globe lamps are newly installed in the foyer and hallways.

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.
[ ] 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 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)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1843 - 1950

Significant Dates

1843

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Weightman, Adam and John

Roberts, Alonzo

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:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal agency
[ ] Local government
[ ] University
[ ] Other

Name of repository:

District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Franklin County, VERMONT  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	6 4 5 9 0 0	4 9 5 7 3 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 D. Scott Newman

organization CRM Consultants date August 24, 1999

street & number PO Box 224 telephone (802) 928-3727

city or town Isle La Motte state VT zip code 05463

### 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 Rodolph and Elizabeth Vallee

street & number RR #3, Box 321A telephone (802) 527-7198

city or town St. Albans state VT zip code 05478

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont

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The District No.2 School, a one-story, gable-roofed, solid masonry school built in 1843 with a 1931 wood-framed ell, is an excellent representative example of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular Greek Revival style, rural Vermont school architecture adapted for continued use into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Its setting, along a hilly rural road east of St. Albans Bay remains open land, testifying to the building's historic service to a sparsely populated rural community. The building is significant for the retention of most of its historic features dating from 1843 and 1931, when it was expanded. The exposed stone walls appear virtually as constructed with unaltered historic window and door openings. The clapboard ell also retains its historic window openings. While the windowsills are original fabric, the entrance door and sash were custom fabricated in 1998 to match the historic door and windows. Historic interior spaces, features, and finishes remain largely intact, including window and door trim, beadboard wall surfaces, and wainscoting. The building is significant also for reflecting trends in education in Vermont during this time period. The building exemplifies early patterns of education in Vermont, where in 1782, towns were required to establish school districts and organize schooling. Georgia, like other rural communities, divided itself into districts and financed the construction, through grand list and property taxes, of small, affordable schools to serve their widely dispersed communities. The District No. 2 School provided educational services to the community continuously from 1843 to 1959. This school is being nominated under the multiple property submission "Educational Resources of Vermont." It clearly meets the registration requirements for the property type school.

Permanent settlers began arriving in Georgia in 1785. One of their first tasks was to arrange facilities for educating their children. Regulations that clearly affected the construction and circumstances of the first schools included the enactment of the Vermont District School System in 1782. This left the responsibility for providing educational facilities to the residents in the individual districts. With a small, scattered population of limited means, residents of District No 2 had to be resourceful in meeting their obligations. L. C. Aldrich, in his History of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties wrote that in Georgia, early schools "were held in any vacant room which could be obtained for the purpose, a vacant store belonging to Capt. N.B. Torrey at the 'north end' being the first . . ." This placed the first school in the district roughly ¾ of a mile west of the stone school.

According to Town records, serious discussions related to construction of a school in District No. 2 began in 1839. That year and in 1840, residents voted to levy taxes on the residents to defray the expense of building a school. The following year residents voted to build a school with wood walls at a location close to the lake. In 1843, the vote to build out of wood was rescinded



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

District No. 2 School  
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in favor of stone, but with the population scattered in the hills above the bay as well as down along the waters edge, the question of a suitable location for the school remained unsettled. Finally, Town selectmen were charged with making the decision and the stakes were set at the present location. Three Georgia residents, Adam Weightman, John Weightman, and Alonzo Roberts contracted with the Town to build the school. Using stone from the Red Rock Quarry located a few miles from the building site on Mill River Road in the Town of Georgia, the three men completed construction of the one-room school in 1843.

Like other district schools constructed in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the District No. 2 School was to a certain extent an architectural product of State law. The enactment of the District School System in 1782 placing responsibilities for school funding in the hands of District No. 2 residents, manifested in the simple, unembellished and thus more affordable design of the school. The District No. 2 School, in contrast to other stone buildings erected in the area around the same time was built with quarry faced stone, with an increased use of galleting, without solid jambs or lintels for the window openings, and without decorative chiselling. The use of considerable rubble stone in the walls, saving the larger flat stones for the street façade, was also likely have reduced costs. Despite the irregular sizes and shapes of the individual stones, the construction evidences considerable attention to deriving their most orderly placement.

School District records refer to periodic repairs and improvements to the building as funds became available. In 1855, cleated blinds (shutters) were installed. In 1872, District residents voted to build a wood shed and privy beside the school. The following year, a free-standing, twelve-foot by fifteen-foot shed with a double roof and enclosed privy was built to the east of the building. A vote to "repair the plaster" indicated that this material originally covered the inside of the cold stone walls.

Despite improvements to the comfort of this and other rural Vermont schools, the State Board of Health set revised standards for sanitation, ventilation and lighting at the turn of this century. The painted beadboard evident on the perimeter walls of the District No. 2 School was probably installed shortly thereafter to meet these standards. The construction of the ell in 1931 came shortly after the State made funds available in 1925 to improve and standardize rural schools. Through a combination of these and locally raised funds, the District was able to hire Albert Hurlbut of Georgia to build the addition and improve the school, adding the large banks of windows and separate boys and girls bathrooms, and thus achieving a standardized rating. The cost was \$ 2,119.13. In the 1931 Town

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont

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Report, County Superintendent of Schools, Homer H. Hunt wrote the following:

The outstanding achievement in the matter of improvement of school property is the 'standardization' of the building in the Stone school district. The work is so excellent that the school was awarded the first Proctor prize for rural improvement in Franklin County. The prize is \$ 100.00. The donors stipulate that the money shall be spent for further improvements of the school. The job of remodeling a stone structure presents difficulties; the work done on this building has been especially commended by the Department of Education. I hope that many citizens will visit this school and early become familiar with the improvements.

Among the improvements was a twenty-foot long blackboard along the south wall, which, for appropriate lighting requirements, required the adjacent window to be boarded up. For pupils seated facing the blackboard, the large bank of eight-over-eight windows provided light over their left shoulders as prescribed for enforced right-handed writing. The building was wired for electric lights in the 1940s.

In 1959, sixteen Georgia district schools were consolidated into one central elementary school. Ownership of the school and surrounding 61 acres of open land reverted to Donald Dewart who then lived in the building during fair weather months in the early 1960s. The building was subsequently abandoned and suffered substantially from vandalism and water penetration including structural problems and the loss of all historic sash and the entrance door. After purchasing the property in December 1996, adjacent landowners Rod and Elizabeth Vallee carefully restored the property for use as a private environmental educational center, adhering the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation throughout the process. Based on photographic and physical evidence, craftsmen hired by the Vallees custom made doors and sash virtually identical to the originals. The ell foundation was replaced, the west wall of the main block was rebuilt, the twenty foot blackboard was replaced, and deteriorated and missing siding and interior millwork were replaced in kind. The building now serves as a repository for artifacts and documents related to the history of the school, and as a venue for nature education presentations. It also serves as a visitor's center for groups invited to trek interpretative nature trails meandering through the surrounding 390 acres of protected meadows and forest. Another Georgia district school (District No. 8 school) was listed in the National Register on October 30, 1998.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 1

District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Aldrich, Lewis Cass. History of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. Syracuse, N.Y.: D. Mason & Co., 1891

Bush, George G. History of Education in Vermont. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1900.

Stone, Mason S. History of Education, State of Vermont. Montpelier, Vt.: Capital City Press, 1936.

**Primary Sources and Interviews**

Documents, correspondence, and photographs relating to the District No. 2 School, Georgia, Vt., 1843 - 1948. Collection of the Georgia Historical Society, Georgia, Vt.

Documents, correspondence, and photographs relating to the District No. 2 School, Georgia, Vt., 1843 - 1948, Collection of the Georgia Town Records, Georgia, Vt.

Interviews: Elizabeth Vallee

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of the District No. 2 School are the rectangle defined by the frontage of approximately 200 feet extending 100 feet east and 100 west from the center of the District No. 2 School (entrance door of the original building) along Polly Hubbard Road, and, approximately 200 feet extending north.

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of this rectangular shaped parcel of land includes the District No. 2 School, and surrounding approximate one-acre of land historically associated with the District No. 2 School. This area is sufficient to convey the historic significance of the property.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos Page 1 \_\_\_\_\_ District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont

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### Photograph Identification

The following information is the same for all photographs:

District No. 2 School  
Georgia, Franklin County, Vermont  
Credit: Scott Newman  
Date: July 1999  
Negative on file at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

#### Photo 1

View looking NE of school exterior (front and side view)

#### Photo 2

View looking NW of school exterior (1931 addition and side of original school)

#### Photo 3

View looking SW of school exterior (front of original section and 1931 addition)

#### Photo 4

View looking NE of main classroom, 1931 section