

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Vermont</b>
COUNTY: <b>Addison</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUL 3, 1973</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Ripton Community House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Ripton Congregational Church**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route 125 (no street number)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ripton**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50** COUNTY: **Addison** CODE: **001**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

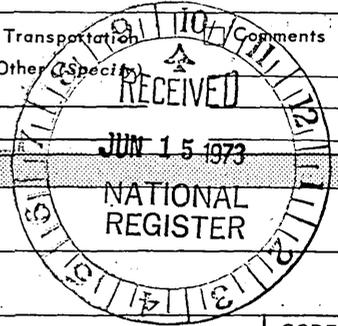
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Town of Ripton**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route 125 (no street number)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ripton**

STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route 125 (no street number)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ripton**

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: **Addison**

ENTRY NUMBER: **1013**

DATE: **JUL 3, 1973**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

\* Open to the public during specified hours.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ripton is a small mountain village located in the highlands of Addison County in west central Vermont. The village is oriented along a section of Route 125 which forms an arc .4 of a mile long between two bridges, each crossing the Middlebury River.

At the center of the arc, at the east side of the highway are a group of three structures; the Community House, Village School and the Methodist Church. The most prominent of these structures is the Community House, built in 1864 and executed in a variation of the Greek Revival style.

The Community House is a large one story structure, approximately 40 feet wide by 50 feet deep resting on a stone block foundation reinforced with poured concrete. The building is sheathed with narrow clapboards, and has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles surmounted by a two tiered tower with louvered openings capped by a finial and weathervane.

The main (south) elevation is divided by four pilasters. The two center pilasters frame the recessed entrance portal. The portal ceiling is supported by two hollow wood fluted doric columns. One story rectangular entrances are located at each side of the portal. The elevation is surmounted by a massive moulded wood pediment conforming to the gable end.

Four large rectangular windows with 12 over 12 triple hung sash are set in each side of the structure.

The main meeting room was divided into two levels and adapted for community purposes in the late 1920's.



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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)

1864

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

Brief History

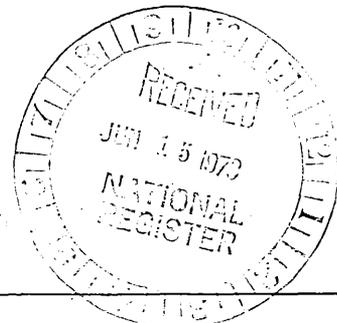
That part of the land on the Chipman estate where the present Ripton Community House now stands was deeded by Silvester Fisher in 1864 to the Congregational Society with the proviso that a house of worship costing not less than \$2000 must be erected within two years. The church was built and maintained by the Congregational Society until 1920 when it was deeded to the Troy Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to be used for 'religious, social and educational purposes.' This restriction was removed in 1928. About this time the land and building was deeded to the Ripton Community Club which made renovations and used the facilities for club meetings, social events, community dinners, square dancing for the young people, etc., until 1964 when the club was dissolved. At this time, the property was turned over to the town and has since been used for town meetings, community gatherings and suppers, Christmas entertainments for the school children, wedding receptions, etc., until condemned for such use in 1973.

It is hoped that through town funds matched with federal assistance, the exterior of the structure can be stabilized.

Significance

The Ripton Community House is the architectural nucleus of a typical Vermont mountain village. It is an excellent example of "Greek Revival Survival", and symbolizes the changes in the religious and social structure of the community over the period of a century. The building will soon be undergoing exterior stabilization and interior modernization in order to continue its service to the community.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brief history prepared from Town records by Mrs. Leonard S. Inscip, Ripton, Vermont and is on file with the Vermont Division of Historic Sites.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

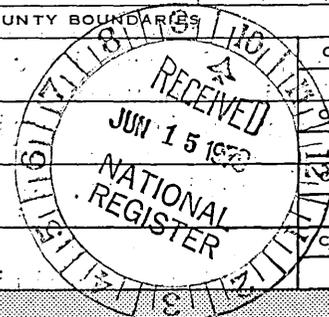
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 58' 30"	73° 02' 14"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
8/057420  
4870770  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Chester H. Liebs, Supervisor**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **June 11, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Pavilion Building**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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. Purney

Title: Director of Historic Sites  
State Historic Preservation  
Officer

Date: June 8, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/3/73

ATTEST:

W. Smith  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 25 73