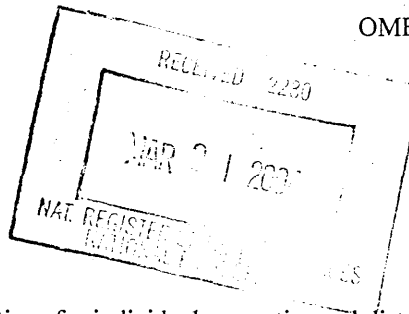


746

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 any 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 J.R. Darling Store

other names/site number Groton General Store / White's Store / VT State Register # 0304-21

2. Location

street & number 284 Scott Highway

not for publication N/A

city or town Groton vicinity N/A

state Vermont code VT county Caledonia code 005

zip code 05046

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Muzanne C. Jamelo, National Register Specialist 3-31-04
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

J. R. Darling Store

Caledonia County, Vermont

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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

Edson H. Beall

other (explain): _____

ja

Signature of Keeper

5/12/04

Date of Action

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE</u>	Sub: <u>department store</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>warehouse</u>
<u>OTHER</u>	<u>wagon shed</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE</u>	Sub: <u>department store</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>warehouse</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>WORK IN PROGRESS</u>	<u>general store</u>
<u>WORK IN PROGRESS</u>	<u>specialty store</u>
<u>WORK IN PROGRESS</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MIXED: Victorian
Colonial Revival
20th century commercial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite
roof METAL: Steel
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
other BRICK

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

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)

- 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 a 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)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY AND PLANNING DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE

Period of Significance 1895-1953

Significant Dates c. 1895
1899
c. 1914

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Darling, Jonathan R.
Eastman, Seth

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Carpenter, George
Hayes, Fred E., ell extension, 1899

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

J. R. Darling Store

Caledonia County, Vermont

___ 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: Town Clerk, Groton, Vermont, University of Vermont, Vermont History Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.82 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	724120	4899077	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	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 Tiffany Mitzman and Rebecca Williams

organization University of Vermont date September 1, 2003

street & number 133 South Prospect telephone 802-656-4006

city or town Burlington state VT zip code 05405

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.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

J. R. Darling Store

Caledonia County, Vermont

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Gilman Housing Trust, Inc., c/o Edwin Stretch

street & number P. O. Box 405 telephone 802-334-1541

city or town Newport state VT zip code 05602

=====
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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Narrative Description

The J.R. Darling Store, built circa 1895 and located on the north side of Vermont Route 302 in the town of Groton, Vermont, is a large, two-story, gable front, L-plan, mixed-use building with vernacular Victorian decorative influences. Currently housing the Groton General Store as well as two second floor apartments and a storage area, the structure is located along the west and north sides of a large lot. The large three-by-four bay main block of the structure has a small one-story gable roofed ell with a secondary entrance at the midpoint of the east façade, and a large two-story gable roofed rear ell that extends to the east from the back of the store. A gravel parking area fronting the ell includes remnants of former gas pumps, and a large hill rises at the rear of the property. The J.R. Darling Store retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The J.R. Darling Store was erected circa 1895 by Jonathan R. Darling, a prominent local businessman, on the original lot of the "Mac" McLane Marshall's Tavern. Originally the structure included the main store block and a small portion of the rear ell. This rear ell was extended to the east in 1899. The small one-story entrance ell on the main block was added prior to 1914, although historically, a covered entrance has always been located at this position. Large store front windows and a hip-roofed second story porch were installed on the gable end of the main block around this time as well. A one-story gable-roofed addition on the east end of the rear ell, was added sometime after 1914, most likely in the 1920's, and was probably originally used as a horse shed. Currently used as a garage, it was the final addition to the building.

The foundation of the J.R. Darling Store building is mainly granite slab and rubble stone, except under the circa 1914 store front and garage/shed addition, which are concrete. The

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Narrative Description (continued)

exterior is clad in white wood clapboards, except for the second story of the east façade of the main block, which has vinyl siding. Simply molded cornices and cornice returns decorate the second level of the structure, and there is a matching molded wood string course which differentiates the two levels. All windows are two-over-two sash except for the circa 1914 store front windows on the gable end of the main block, and the windows on the second story east façade of the main block, which are replacement one-over-one sash. Most windows also have modern, triple track storm windows on the exterior. Window surrounds have flat stock lintels and sills. The roof is standing seam metal, and has one chimney that penetrates the roof of the main block, on the ridgeline at about the midpoint. Two additional chimneys penetrate the roof of the ell, one in the original ell section and one in the 1899 addition.

The main portion of the J.R. Darling Store is a three-by-four bay, gable front block facing the road. The main, southerly façade is comprised of the circa 1914 store front, made up of large plate glass windows flanking a recessed door. Four wood stairs lead up to this door, which is paneled with a large pane of glass at the upper half, and three glass panels below, comprised of a long, horizontal window midway down the door and two vertical panels below. The second story of the south façade has two, two-over-two windows with cornice caps, and clapboard siding. A door located to the east of these windows accesses a second story hip-roofed porch which sits above the store front portion below. This porch boasts elaborate turned posts, possibly reflecting the type of posts that were being produced at the successful turning works that was once located just south of the main street on the Wells River. Historic photos show that this second story porch was originally located on the first level, in front of the main store entry, and was moved up a level when the new store front was installed. A fire in 1980 destroyed the second level of the main block, but this porch, and the west wall of the second level, were spared. The roof of the main block, which was once the same pitch

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Narrative Description (continued)

as that of the ell, was destroyed, and replaced with a shallow pitched gable roof.

Moving to the east, the two story main block has wood clapboards on the main level, and vinyl siding simulating clapboards on the second level, which was destroyed in the 1980 fire. Two-over-two sash windows are located on the lower level, with replacement one-over-one along the new, second level wall. At the midpoint of this façade there is a small, one-story, two-by-two bay, gable-roofed ell which includes a secondary entrance to the store portion of the building on its south elevation. Windows in this portion are two-over-two sash, and the door is a new replacement. Granite steps leading to this secondary entrance are engraved with the words "Groton General".

At the rear of the main block, a larger, two and one-half story, six-by-two bay ell extends to the east. Originally, the ell at the rear of the building consisted of only two bays, and there is some indication, based on anecdotal information in a book of local history called *Mr. Glover's Groton*, that it is the oldest portion of the building as a whole. In 1899, the ell was expanded with the extension of the granite retaining wall at the rear and the two and one half-story addition. A vertical board, the corner board of the original ell, still marks the point at which the addition was attached. The ell has two-over-two sash windows and wood clapboards. Five doors are located along the lower level façade, all of differing stock and style. A simple standing seam metal hipped-roofed door hood with outrigger supports covers the two easternmost doors. The doors themselves, from west to east, consist of a flat stock wood door with cut plexiglass window, a four paneled wood door with large single upper light, a central horizontal panel and two vertical panels below, a large four paneled wood door, and two matching wood doors under the hood which include a large upper light and three horizontal panels below. The roof of the ell is standing seam metal, and the pitch is steeper than that of the main block, reflecting the original pitch of the main block before the fire in 1980. Two chimneys

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

**J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont**

Narrative Description (continued)

penetrate the roof, one inset from the east end of the original portion of the ell, and another centered along the ridge of the 1899 extension. A small, one-story, standing seam metal, gable roofed garage addition extends to the east from the gable end of the ell. Currently, the garage has a modern, paneled, overhead door and separate entrance doorway, but originally, from historic photos, it had a larger, open doorway, possibly acting as a shed. The gable end of this ell includes the gable end of the garage addition, and three, two-over-two windows, two at the second level, and one at the attic level. Simple cornice returns extend from the cornice line.

Due to the rise of the hill at the rear of the property, the second story of the ell, or northerly façade, is at grade. A metal, standing seam, shed-roof porch extends along the four west end bays, and covers a centrally located rear entrance door. This porch is open at its east end, with square posts as supports, but is enclosed at the west, creating a small shed. The lintels and sills of the two-over-two windows on this façade are simpler in design than those on the rest of the building, a common occurrence at the rear of a building. The west facing gable end of the ell includes three windows, two at the second level, one in the attic level.

The north facing visible gable end of the main block includes one window opening on the second floor, which has been closed over with plywood. At the rear of the main block, a one-story standing seam metal shed roofed portion fills the area between the main block and ell, and includes one window on the west façade, and one window along its northern façade. The two story main block has two-over-two windows and wood clapboard siding. Two windows on the lower level have been infilled, with faint ghost lines apparent in the clapboarding. Located midway along this façade is a covered entry stair with a standing seam metal roof that accesses the second floor main block apartment. The stairs lead to a five paneled entrance door to the apartment, the upper two vertical panels of which are glass. Many changes have

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Section 7 Page 5

J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Narrative Description (continued)

occurred to the structure of the main block at this level, due to the fire in 1980, but it is clear from photos that this west façade wall survived. Whether or not this door is original or moved to this location is unclear.

The interior of the J.R. Darling Store has been divided into two distinct areas, commercial space on the first floor of the main block and ell, and residential units on the second level. The General Store area itself, located on the first level of the main block, is distinguished by its open floor plan and traditional storefront windows. Interior features include a tongue and groove ceiling, which, despite a fire on the second floor in 1980, is remarkably intact. Horizontal board wall paneling also appears original. Areas of the original first level floor can be found along the perimeter walls, and in the front window bays, but the majority of the flooring here is replacement due to water damage after the fire. Three cast iron posts run along the center of the store, from front to back, dating from the original construction. Additional wooden posts with diagonal braces are found near the rear of the store, which originally may have defined a "back room" or non-public space. The small entrance ell has original wood flooring and ceiling, with more recent wood wall paneling. An excavated basement is located under the main portion of the store, and is constructed of large granite slab walls and heavy, circular sawn posts and beams. There is a large, old, wood burning furnace, a coal shed, and a concrete cistern located here as well.

A storage area in the lower level of the ell supports the commercial use of the building. This ell includes a large granite slab retaining wall that forms the rear wall of the ell on the first story, and abuts the hill. The older portion, which may have been moved onto the site and possibly dates prior to the construction of the main block, is framed with large square posts and beams which create an open interior. Fiberglass insulation installed along the ceiling and exterior walls obscures the underlying structure of this area. The under side of a stairway leading from the exterior to the second floor apartment above is

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National Park Service**

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Section 7 Page 6

**J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont**

Narrative Description (continued)

visible in this portion of the ell. Handwriting on the back of one of the stair treads reads "Fred E. Hayes built Oct. 1899 Groton", the date the ell was extended from this point east. A door opening leads into the remaining portion of the ell. The dividing wall between the older portion of the ell and 1899 addition still has the original exterior clapboards, which mark the extent of the original ell. The 1899 portion of the ell, like the earlier section, has large wood posts and beams, a large granite slab retaining wall to the north, and ceiling and external wall features obscured by fiberglass insulation. Flooring here is wood, and likely original. The easternmost end of the ell was blocked off by plywood walls when bathroom facilities, accessed from the two exterior doors sheltered by the braced hood, were moved into this section of the ell.

The residential portion of the building, located on the second floor of both the main block and the ell, has been divided into two apartments. One apartment is located on the second level of the main block above the store and is accessed by the exterior entry stair on the west façade. A fire here in 1980 caused extensive damage to this area, and all interior historic material in the upper portion of the main block was lost, except for the west facing wall, the north and south gable end walls, and the second story porch. Repairs conducted in this area left these portions intact, but altered the interior configuration and roof pitch. Original windows were retained along the west wall and south gable end wall, but replacement windows were used along the east wall.

A second apartment is located on the second level of the ell. The apartment is accessed two ways, first through the centrally located door and stair on the front elevation of the ell, and secondly from a porch door located at grade (due to the hill) at the rear of the building. Originally built as a tenement in 1899, there are very few distinguishing features in the interconnected rooms. The staircase which accesses the apartment from the first level of the ell includes beadboard wall paneling with a molded

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

**J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont**

Narrative Description (continued)

cap. This motif continues into the apartment area that surrounds this stairway. A set of four-panel double doors from the living room to an adjacent room is distinctive, although one of the doors is currently missing from the hinges.

The area surrounding the J.R. Darling Store consists of a wooded hill that rises to the rear of the property, and a large gravel parking and service area which fronts the structure to the road. Two gas pumps and a metal signpost are located roughly in the center of this yard. Sidewalk and granite curbing front the yard along the road.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

**J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont**

Statement of Significance

The J.R. Darling Store has a long commercial history in the village of Groton, Vermont. From the property's humble beginnings as the site of a local tailor, it evolved into a successful general store, the last one to operate in the village. Already on the Vermont State Register as a contributing building in the Groton Village Historic District (VT-0304-21), the J.R. Darling Store is eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its connection with the development of the village, especially its commercial development (Criterion A), its architectural significance, with its traditional general store façade (Criterion C), and its association with former owners, the Hon. J. R. Darling, and Seth Eastman, a local Civil War hero (Criterion B).

Historical background and significance:

The J.R. Darling Store, located in Groton, Vermont, is part of a parcel of land originally granted to John Fay, a Revolutionary War soldier. The earliest known structure here begins the commercial history of the site. One of Groton's first residents, John Hogins, a tailor, had his home and shop in a log house here. Eventually the land passed to David Vance, who built and operated a tavern, which included a one-story eaves front portion and rear hall. In 1853, this property passed to "Mac" McLane Marshall, who took over the commercial enterprise of the tavern. The structure operated as a tavern and inn until circa 1877. In 1877, the tavern portion of the building was removed and relocated to the adjoining property. This same year, Jonathan R. Darling purchased the property, including the remaining "hall" portion of the tavern, located on the site. Town meetings had been held in this hall since 1861, and continued in this space, although removed from its tavern, until 1881 (Glover, pg. 227). Circa 1884, Mr. Darling began plans for the construction of a new General Store on this site.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

The population around Groton enjoyed a surge in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The arrival of the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad in 1873 allowed the village to boom with its significant lumber production, the recreational activities located at nearby Groton Pond and Ricker Pond, and the rise of granite production. As the population increased, more goods and services were needed by both the local townspeople and travelers. It was because of these factors that Jonathan R. Darling decided to open a third general store in a town which already boasted two, as well as separate establishments for a meat market, milliner, and gentleman's clothier.

Jonathan R. Darling was a vital member of the community, filling the role of town clerk for thirty-eight years, the longest tenure of any person in town record. He was both a State Representative and State Senator, and also held an elected position of Assistant Judge of Caledonia County. Along with his political involvement, Mr. Darling had several business ventures, including a lumber mill, a steam mill, and a granite works. Mr. Darling was heavily involved in the growth of Groton, having purchased and developed many properties, including the adjacent Alice Lord Goodine property, and at least three other known properties. His tenure at the store was short lived, less than ten years, but the building continued to be referenced by his name long after.

The store passed to Seth Eastman, Jonathan Darling's son-in-law, in 1901. Seth Eastman was a doctor and local Civil War hero. Mr. Eastman enlisted in 1861 when he was seventeen and became a member of the Vermont Volunteers. He was wounded in 1862, and while lying for three days on the battlefield, witnessed the advance of Lee's army. He was captured by the advancing Confederate forces, and spent three months in prison. He was paroled, and was able to eventually rejoin his regiment (Hill, pg. 333). After his service, he entered medical school and became a prominent local doctor. He married J. R. Darling's daughter, Evalona, in 1875. In his later years, he recounted his tale of life in the Union Army, calling it *The Civil War*, As

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

Recollected by an Ordinary Soldier. It is now published and sold by the Groton Historical Society. Little is known about Eastman's running of the store, but he passed the property on to his son, Bernard, in 1916. Bernard continued to run a successful store, but was stricken with appendicitis in 1921 and died suddenly. The store was purchased by G. C. Whitehill, barber and town undertaker, and John. K. White, a local farmer, and they began business under the new name of Whitehill and White in 1921. In 1924, Mr. Whitehill moved to Bellows Falls, selling his portion of the business to his partner. Mr. White took up the business under his own name, and ran the store until his retirement in 1941. Mr. White passed the business on to his son, Philip, and the White family continued to run the store until 1974. Subsequent owners retained the commercial aspect of the General Store, and it continued to do business until 2003.

The architecture of the J.R. Darling Store is significant both for its contribution to local building history and the streetscape, and for its typical general store features. Constructed circa 1895, the building was originally comprised of a gable-front main block and small rear ell. There is some evidence that this older portion of the ell was originally the "hall" of the "Mac" McLane Marshall Tavern, left behind after the Tavern itself was moved to the adjacent property and converted into a dwelling. In *Mister Glover's Groton*, Glover comments that "the north end [of the Tavern] containing the hall remained unchanged for many years. In 1895 J. R. Darling remodeled it and made a long addition towards the street" (pg. 107). It is likely that this ell portion was moved to the rear of the existing property, and the main store block built perpendicular to it, extending toward the road. In 1899, Mr. Darling hired George Carpenter to build the large, two and one half-story, four-by-two bay addition to this original ell, giving the building its current configuration (*The Groton Times*, September, 22, 1899, vol. 3, no. 39). There is also evidence of this addition located underneath the staircase which accesses the second level apartment from the exterior. Viewed from the storage area below, "Fred E. Hayes built Oct. 1899 Groton" is

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Continuation Sheet

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J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

written in pencil on the rear of one of the stair treads. Originally, this ell addition housed stables and storage in the lower level, and a tenement above. The first occupant of the new tenement was J. Shanman, a local merchant who ran the gentlemen's clothier, and moved into the apartment in November, 1899 (*The Groton Times*, Vol. III, No. 45). Since this addition was constructed, the building has undergone relatively little change, except for a small one-story entrance ell at the midpoint of the east façade of the main block, and the introduction of store front windows on the gable of the main block, both added prior to 1914. The addition of a horse shed (now garage) at the east gable end of the ell most likely occurred in the 1920's.

The type of storefront seen at the J.R. Darling Store is repeated in other buildings in town, and throughout the region, reflecting a time of commerce in Vermont when general stores served as both a social gathering spot and commercial store. Historic photos of Groton show several of the businesses with the large plate glass store front windows flanking recessed doors, with full width porches located above. The feature is repeated most clearly today in the adjacent property, the Alice Lord Goodine House. Jane Beck, in her book The General Store in Vermont: An Oral History, describes the elements of the traditional general store in Vermont.

The traditional country store was usually located at a prominent crossroad or in the center of town. The building itself was distinctive...it was usually a rectangular building built on a dry stone foundation...the entrance to the store was usually at one end with the only windows on either side of it; again the traditional store front. (pg. 4)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 12

**J.R. Darling Store
Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont**

Statement of Significance (continued)

This passage clearly describes the "type" that encompasses the J.R. Darling Store, and was often repeated around the state. Under Criterion C, the architecture of the J.R. Darling Store stands not only as a record of development in Groton, but as the typical type of general store found throughout the state.

The J.R. Darling Store stands today as the longest continuously operating commercial building in the village of Groton, Vermont, contributing to the development of the village and the streetscape, according to Criterion A. Built by J. R. Darling circa 1895, associated with his prominent family, as well as Seth Eastman, local doctor and Civil War hero, the Store has the involvement of two locally and regionally important men, under Criterion B. When first constructed, the J.R. Darling Store was one of three general stores in the village. Two of these stores have since closed, but the Groton General Store continued to serve in its original capacity until 2003. It is anticipated that after rehabilitation, the J.R. Darling Store will be able to resume its historic function in this space.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Groton Tax Parcel #VC302-012.L000

Being the "so called store and house property, consisting of lot and land with large wooden building thereon, occupied in part by the John K. White store, and being the residence and homeplace of the widow of John K. White." (Book 26, pg. 269, 1974)

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Groton General Store, also known as the White Store, the J.R. Darling Store, "Mac" McLane Marshall's Tavern, and David Vance Stand.