

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

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 SHEDD, JOSIAH & LYDIA FARMSTEAD

other names/site number CRISMAN, RONALD & JO ANNE HOME

2. Location

street & number 1721 BAYLEY-HAZEN ROAD  
N/A

not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town PEACHAM vicinity N/A  
state VERMONT code VT. county CALEDONIA code 005  
zip 05862  
code \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

Suzanne C. Jamelle National Register Specialist 2-1-05  
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

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
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*John D. Swage* 3-17-05

*JSW*

Signature of Keeper

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	
4	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
5	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

N/A

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

Agricultural Resources of Vermont

NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TEMPLATE

File: NRNOM.FRM

(Volume 3/June 1995)

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\* NOTICE! \*

\*\*\*\*\*

- \* Use your own favorite word processor to add the following \*
- \* standard header on all but the first page of this form. \*
- \* Insert the property name, county and state, and use a \*
- \* running page number. \*
- \* \*
- \* \*

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
 (Property Name) SHEDD, JOSIAH & LYDIA FARMSTEAD  
 (County and State) CALEDONIA, VERMONT (Page #)

- \* Use the following alternative header when documenting \*
- \* properties within multiple property listings. \*
- \*
- \*

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form	
(Property Name)	
(County and State)	
(Name of Multiple Property Listing	(Page #)

- \* \*
- \* \*
- \* \*
- \* \*

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- \* The complete text from sections 3 (if applicable), 7, 8, and \*
- \* the bibliography from section 9 should be printed on continuation \*
- \* sheets. Use the header shown on the sample continuation \*
- \* sheet at the end of this file, filling in the property \*
- \* name and section number, and using a running page number. \*

\*\*\*\*\*

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

<input type="checkbox"/>	entered in the National Register.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	See continuation sheet.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	determined eligible for the National Register.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	See continuation sheet.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	removed from the National Register	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	other (explain): _____	_____
		_____
		_____
		_____
		_____
		_____
		_____
	Signature of Keeper	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	
4	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
1	_____	objects
6	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

N/A

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

Agricultural Resources of Vermont

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>SINGLE DWELLING</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		<u>AGRICULTURAL FIELD</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>		<u>ANIMAL FACILITY</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from Instructions)

Cat:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	SUB:	<u>SINGLE DWELLING</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

	<u>GREEK REVIVAL</u>
	_____
	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
	_____
foundation	<u>GRANITE</u>
roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
walls	<u>WEATHERBOARD</u>
	_____
other	<u>WOOD</u>
	_____
	_____

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.
- 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  
 AGRICULTURE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance                c. 1816 - 1955            
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates                      c. late 1830's            
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation      \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder                  UNKNOWN            
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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: Town of Peacham Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 25.6

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	724715	4914311	C	18	725106
B	18	724949	4914445	D	18	724982

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 Ronald E. W. Crisman

Organization Present owner date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 1721 Bayley-Hazen Rd. P.O. Box 158 telephone 802-592-3572

city or town Peacham state Vt. zip code 05862

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)

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Property Owner: Ronald E. W. Crisman & Jo Anne E. Crisman

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

name Ronald Crisman

street & number 1721 Bayley-Hazen Rd. telephone 802-592-3572

P.O. Box 158

city or town Peacham state Vt. zip code 05862

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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.



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Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont

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The Josiah and Lydia Shedd farmstead consisted of Greek revival style dwelling house (late 1830s), two early Bank Barns with a connecting building, a spring and milk house and a corncrib. The actual physical aspects of the buildings have retained most of their original construction details. The present owners have made some small internal renovations to accommodate modern sanitary and utility requirements, but the basic materials and details are intact. The house and related structures, set in an intact surrounding landscape comprising 25.6 acres, retain their workmanship, setting, location, feeling and associations.

The Farmstead meets the seven areas of historic integrity by being located on a historic road in a rural Vermont town with extensive ties to the development of the northeastern portion of the state. The land and buildings are representative of the early agricultural development period with classic architectural design of the residence and the early bank barns. The buildings were constructed with native lumber and materials and reflect the early development of local skilled craftsmen and artisans. The location of the buildings was carefully planned to conserve farm labor and to recognize the importance of the long winter cold weather and snow conditions. Josiah and Lydia Shedd created the Shedd farmstead on a rolling and rocky plot of land straddling the historic Bayley-Hazen road to the north of the village of Peacham Corner. The village lies one mile south of the farmstead and is and has been historically the cultural center for the town of Peacham.

The Shedd farmstead buildings are composed of a 2 ½ story, Greek Revival style, Georgian plan main block with, a 1 ½ story wing on the west side. The frame structure has a weatherboard exterior and asphalt panel covered gable roofs with a dormer on the wing roof. The foundation and basement walls are granite with the 2 chimneys being constructed of brick and tile. The front pedimented doorway has full-length sidelights while the rear wing door is of plain design. There is a granite porch located at the rear door. The interior of the house has plastered walls, and plain pine flooring, door and window trim. The window trim is more elaborate in the former living room that is now used as a library. The third floor of the main block is a ballroom with side benches on both exterior walls. The house is in good condition with minor changes to accommodate sanitary requirements. The area surrounding the house has been landscaped with stonewalls, walks, cultivated lawns, a pond and herb gardens lying westerly and to the rear of the house. There are two contributing early bank barns and a springhouse and a corncrib (noncontributing due to alterations).

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and an unusual carbide gas generator that supplied acetylene gas for lighting in the house and the barns

**.1. House c. 1838, (Contributing)**

**Exterior**

The house consists of a c. late 1830's Greek Revival two and one-half story, gable roof, five (front) by three (side), bay Georgian plan, approximately 38 foot 6 inches (front) by 28 foot 6 inches (side) main block. A one and one half story gable roof wing with a dormer was constructed concurrently with the main block. The length of the wing is approximately 52 feet (side), and 24 feet 6 inches (gable end) extending from the west end of the main block and is set back 4 feet from the front of the main block. There is a porch approximately 27 foot 6 inches long and 4 feet wide providing access to the wing portion of the house. The porch has a dressed granite foundation and is floored with granite slabs approximately 6 inches thickness. The steps to the porch are blocks of granite. There is a two step brick front entrance to the center hall. Both the rear and front access facilities are replacements for the original crude and deteriorating wooden porch and entrance steps. The porch has three Victorian turned posts, which replaced the original three posts sets consisting of two each 2 x 2 inch vertical supports. The posts are connected with a graceful arch and simple moldings.

The foundation is loose laid fieldstone and split boulders without mortar. The exposed upper foundation is split and dressed granite slabs with mortared joints. There are 4 window openings in the foundation with 12 X 32 inch 4 pane windows with storm and screen covers. The windows are located on the front and back facades. The cellar in the main block was insulated with a stub wall of soft-fired brick and mortar with an air space between the granite and the brick. The cellar is approximately 56 feet by 27 feet 6 inches with a 7-foot clearance under the unfinished ceiling. Access to the cellar is by a stairway from the hall adjacent to the original kitchen (now used as a family room). There is no external access to the cellar area. The original floor of the basement was ledge and soil without drainage. A concrete floor was part of the restoration of the house in the 1960's. The basement has a 12 foot deep stone lined dug well that has standing water at some times during the year. The restored cellar has also been equipped with drain tile and a sump pump to remove the water from the floor at high ground water times. There is no cellar under the west 34 feet of the wing as the dressed granite facings and loose stone foundation in this area are at grade level.

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The first floor joists are 2 ½ X 7 inch planks and floored with two layers of random width 1-inch boards. The joints are open and not treated with filler. All of the lumber in the framing is rough sawn and finished only on exposed surfaces. The cellar center beam was a 7 inch high and x 9 inch hand hued beam supported by granite posts that had deteriorated to the point that it was necessary to partner the beam with two 6 x 10 beams and level with steel adjustment posts.

The main block and wing are constructed on 8 Inch high x 10 inch wide sills with ballooned framed 3 inch x 5-inch vertical studs on uneven centers. The entire house is sheathed with random width 1-inch boards fastened horizontally with hand cut and machine cut iron nails. The roof rafters are 4 X 6 inch rough sawn timbers on random centers of approximately 27 inches. The roof sheathing is spaced 1-inch random width boards. There is no ridgepole. The original cedar shingle roof was replaced in the 1940's with sheet metal roofing and again roofed in the 1980's with corrugated fiberglass and asphalt panels. There were originally two main block chimneys located in Bedroom B-5 and in the dining room. They were supported on platforms affixed to the wall studs approximately 5 feet above the finished floor and did not have a foundation extending through to the cellar. The masonry structures were one brick thick with no linings. They were extended through the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and ceiling and continued through the ballroom on the third floor through the roof. A large kitchen range in the wing and wood stoves in the main block supplied the original heating system. There were no original fireplaces in the main block. The chimney in the wing faced the west side and was larger in size. It was used for a large open fire pit to heat a large iron kettle. Presently there are two chimneys, one serving the new fireplace in the living room and the oil-fired hot water boiler in the cellar and a large fireplace in the family room with an opening of 6-foot width by 5-foot high. This chimney also provides for an iron box stove on the second floor. There is a third prefabricated chimney in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor workshop area of the wing. It provides for the wood-burning stove in the shop. The siding is the original radial cut and split spruce clapboards with 4 inches to the weather. A small number of clapboards along the bottom of the siding have been replaced due to wear and tear from the weather. There is no water board and the clapboards are based at the top of the dressed foundation.

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The windows are regularly spaced across the facade. The double hung 6 over 6 windows are all located in their original positions with two window sash having been replaced with exact copies in the dining room. There is also a modification to the kitchen window to allow for a counter inside. The replacement window has a 41-inch upper window with 6-pane trim and a solid wooden panel 25 inches high in the lower area. The width and trim of that window remains the same. The exterior window surrounds are composed of a 2 inch sill 45 ½ wide, 5 ½ inch plain pilasters and a first floor 8 inch wide header 45 ½ inches wide with a 1 inch fillet molding, a 2 inch covetto molding and topped by 1 ½ inch molding. The first floor windows are approximately 6 foot 7 inches tall and 3 foot 9 ½ inches wide.

The second floor windows have the same width dimensions as the first floor with a 6-inch header making the overall height 6 foot 5 inches. The top of the moldings of the second floor windows meet the cornice trim and become part of the lower fillet molding of the entablature. The 3 third floor windows are the same width and trim as the first and second floor windows but with a 4 inch header making the overall height of the window 6 foot 3 inches. All windows, except the single window on the west façade of the wing are equipped with the original exterior louvered shutters. The single window of the west façade has 5 inch plain wood trim with a 2-inch sill. Metal storm sash windows were installed on all windows during the 1960 restoration.

The main block side corner plain pilasters 12 inches wide are supported by 9 ½ x 13-inch rectangular base. The pilasters are topped with a Doric capital composed of a 1 x 1 inch fillet molding, a 2 ½ inch frieze topped by a 1 ½ inch molding, a 2 inch covetto molding with a 1 ½ inch top molding that is part of the lower architrave molding. The Doric cornice at the eaves has a 9 inch flat fascia board above the architrave with a 2 ½ inch fillet molding supporting a ¾ inch molding and topped by a 4 inch cyma recta. The cornice returns on both the easterly and the westerly sides are approximately 3 foot long.

The front entrance is a classical revival pedimented doorway with two full-length sidelights of 5 10 x 14 inch glass panes. The surround is approximately 9 feet 4 inches tall as measured from the brick step to the top of the pediment. It is 7 feet 3 ½ inches wide at the base. Rectangular bases 11 ½ inches high by 10 inches wide support the outside pilasters that are 7 feet 10 inches tall and 10 inches wide. There are 2 equally spaced 1-½ inch wide flutes from the base to the top of the pilaster. The top of the columns are covered by a cornice composed of a 1

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inch fillet molding, a 4 inch fascia and a 2 ½ inch molding with small cyma reversa and a ½ inch slot. The inside pilasters between the side lights and the door frame are 3 ½ inches wide with a molded wave pattern and are topped with a plain 4 inch high. header. The door is a four panel door with the top panels being 11 ½ inches by 41 inches. The lower panels are 11 ½ inches wide and high. The door hardware is composed of three pin and socket hinges and a massive iron lock mounted on the internal side of the door. The lock has an iron key 9 inches long. A plain cornice supports the pediment with 20 dentils on each slope. The pitch of the pediment is 1 to 7. There is a bell ringer fitting on the left door pilaster that is connected to a bell on the internal left side trim. The bell is mounted on a coiled spiral spring and is activated by a transfer arm. The 2 front door steps are hard fired red brick on a concrete core. They are 1960's replacements for the earlier decayed wooden steps.

The first floor of the wing was used as a kitchen with storage and laundry areas. There was a large open fire pit in the laundry area that would provide a facility to heat a large iron kettle or pot. It is presently used as part of the utility and storage areas. A two-car garage is accommodated on the first floor in the area once occupied by the carriage shed. There is an unfinished workshop on the second floor. The front of the wing includes the porch with 2 doors, the kitchen door with 2 upper raised panels (10 x 45 inch) and a pictured framed panel (16 x 26 ¾ inch) in place of the original 2 lower panels. The second door has been sealed and was used as access to the storage and kettle chimney area. It has the same dimensions as the kitchen door without the lower panel replacement. The three front façade windows are 6 over 6 double-hung sashes 32 inch wide and 34 inches high. The trim on the windows includes a 2-inch sill 43 inches wide, two verticals 5 ½ wide and a 6-inch header 43 inches long. The two overhead garage doors are 8 foot wide and 7 feet in height. The original garage doors were side swing doors and provided access to what was used as a wood floored carriage shed. The rear (North) facade of the wing has two windows of the same dimensions as the first floor main block windows. One of these is the ½ bathroom window and the other one is the utility room window that has 2 over 2 replacement sash probably installed around the late 1890's. The exterior door to the cellar hall is a 4 panel 34 x 80 inch with two round windows cut into the top panels. It has a granite block for a step. A rolling door is located approximately 70 feet 9 inches from the eastern side of the house. It is 56 ½ inches wide and 85 inches high. It is the access door to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the wing and the hallway

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leading to the indoor comfort station located at the west end of the wing. That facility is a wall paneled indoor outhouse with the capacity to be used by three people at a time. It is an appendage to the west facade 48 inches from the wing and 67 inches wide. The roof is asphalt shingles on an approximate slope of 35 degrees. There is a small side window facing the front of the wing with dimensions of 21 inches wide x 26 inches high it is trimmed with plain 4-inch sides and header and a 2-inch sill. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window of the west facade of the wing is a 2 over 2 with a height of 72 inches and a width of 44 inches. The side pilasters of the wing are 9 inches in width and extend from the top of the foundation to the cornice. The cornice and trim of the wing are the same as the main block without the Doric capitals.

**Interior:**

Reference is made to the three accompanying room design plats. Plat A represents the interior as originally designed and built in the 1830's and Plat B provides the present configuration. Plat C provides the comparison of the changes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor ballroom.

During the restoration of the interior in the 1960's, many changes to room layouts and utilities were required to improve the safety and utility of the space. The long unoccupied period of more than ten years had many negative effects on the walls, floors, ceilings and masonry of the house. The dirt floor of the cellar as a result of frequent periods of standing water fostered the decay of the wood beams and joists requiring extensive replacement of floor joists and beams. The center of the house sagged as much as 6 inches and required a long period of gradual lifting of the center beams. All of the chimney masonry had to be removed and replaced with fireproof materials. The electricity and water and sanitary facilities were totally replaced and a 200 ampere buried service entry was installed. The original "cow hair" plaster is supported by random split 3/8-inch rough sawn lath. The average lath board is approximately 10 to 12 inches in width and was saved wherever possible. All woodwork and hardware were restored to the best possible condition without changing the look and character of the rooms. Two-panel wainscoting was installed in the living room, the library (former living room) and the dining room. The two rooms labeled B5 and B6 on the original design were made into a single living room by removing the 2-door closet that separated them. The long inside wall of the living room was finished with floor to ceiling raised paneling matching the wainscoting. A new fireplace

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was installed and faced with bricks salvaged from the cellar insulation brickwork. The former bedroom labeled B7 was made into a kitchen and the old kitchen was converted into a family room with a large fireplace. The small room to the north of the old kitchen became the downstairs ½ bath. There were 8 doors opening into the old kitchen – two were removed with one of them being placed into the bathroom area to access the cellar hallway. One of the raised panel doors is a half door covering a small cupboard that extends out over the cellar stairway.

The second floor changes included the addition of two new bathrooms, one at the north end of the center hall formerly used as closet space and the other in the wing on the north wall. A vanity sink was installed in bedroom B3. The open area accessed from B1 bedroom became a dressing room, large walk in closet and the bathroom. The open space beyond the dressing room was made into an office and storage area. The westerly last 24 feet of the open area was converted into a workshop. A wood burning stove with a separate prefabricated chimney heats the workshop area.

The third floor ballroom was retained with replacement of the chimney and the refinishing of the floors and walls. A folding stairway was installed in the ceiling to provide access to the attic above the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Bookshelves and a glass-topped counter were installed near the entranceway to the ballroom. The ceiling of the second floor was lowered to 7 ½ feet to allow the placement of insulation. Loose insulation was blown into all of exterior walls and the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor joist area. An additional 12 inches of insulation was placed over the ballroom ceiling.

**General:**

The interior partitions of the house are thin, as the 2 x 4 inch studs are placed with the large 4-inch dimension perpendicular to the room. The floors are random width boards with a sanded, stained and sealed finish. The floors have no joint fillers, half lapped or tongue and grooved joints. The woodwork of the interior is plain board trim without moldings, beading and elaborate finishing. The doors are surrounded with 5-inch verticals and the headers are 6 inches in width. The windows have 1"x 6 ½" trim. The baseboards are 1" X 8" inch board with no base shoe or beading. The one exception is the library (formerly the living room) The extensive use of molding and finish woodwork provide a gracious window treatment. The design of the window picture frame moldings is composed of 6" verticals with a dropped header expanded 1 3/4 inches over the verticals and 22

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½ inches from the top of the header The window trim moldings have molded elements that are used on the 4 windows and the two doors. The doors are mostly 4 raised panel doors with white or brown porcelain door hardware. The original hinges are pin and socket design. Some of the earlier 2<sup>nd</sup> floor doors have hand planed surfaces with wooden (walnut) door handles. These doors have mortised and tenon joints and are pegged at the corners. There are two doors with feather painted graining; one in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor bathroom, the other is the access door to the ballroom.

The center hall provides access to the first floor library, living and dining rooms and the stairway to the second floor. The original maple banister with a single turned newel post at the base and a teardrop baluster for each tread is in excellent condition and is consistent with the early revival designs. The stairway has a closed stringer on the wall side with an outside open stringer. The 38 inch wide stairway has 10-inch wide treads and 8-inch risers. There are 13 treads and 14 risers. The banister has a 180-degree turn at the top of the stairs and continues around the stairwell opening with a 90-degree turn until it ties into doorframe of bedroom # 1.

The family room (former kitchen) had the most damage to the walls and floors. Wide pine boards with a half lap and bead ranging up to 24 inches wide were installed from floor to ceiling. The inside of the exterior door was sheathed with the same pine boards. The 1-1/2Inch X 33 ¾ inch long hinges are replacements hand forged strap and pin that were found in the 1805 Peacham general store building. 4 x 6 inch hewed beams were placed on the ceiling at 4 foot intervals with 10 x 10 hewed beams on the both outside and the centerline of the ceiling. A large fireplace with an opening of 6-foot width and 5-foot height has a hewed beam lintel supporting the brickwork. A 3-raised panel over mantle provides a finished wall surface.

**Early Bank Barns**

There are 2 early bank barns placed at right angles to each other that were connected by a single story "L" shaped structure. This connecting building was used as an access corridor between the barns and as a calf pen. This structure is not in existence due to collapse resulting from water and weather damage. The dry laid stone foundation remains. The barns appear to have been constructed



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shortly after the construction of the house. The metal hardware has a design and quality standard consistent with the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. They are both constructed with the same dimensions of 41 feet by 41 feet. The post and beam and stone foundation structures are based on a 3 bay floor plan with a 12-foot center section for access to the animal pens and hay storage. The two side areas are approximately 14 feet wide. One side of each main floor has stanchions for cows and covered floor openings to facilitate the movement of manure to the pits on the lower level. The posts and beams are a mixture of 8 x 8 and 9 x 9 inch timbers. Most of the framing timbers and joists are rough-hewn and some have the bark intact. The exterior walls are vertical unfinished 1" lumber of varying widths. Both barns have 3 small single pane windows providing light and air to the area where the animals were kept. Access to the lower levels were open and without any doors or covers. The lower level has a dirt floor and the upper floors have random width 1-inch floors.

**2. Barn A** (contributing) is located 32 feet from the northwest corner of the house. The barn has a square wood sheathed silo in the southwest corner of the structure that is 12 ½ feet long on the center aisle and 14 ½ feet wide. It extends from a concrete floor at the lower level up to and through the roof. There is a small single window dormer on the roof that could provide access to the top of the silo. There appears to be no mechanism or fixture for providing movement of materials into the silo from this window. An access door into the silo is located on the aisle side at the 2nd floor level. The large entrance barn door that is located on the east side is composed of two rolling sections to cover the 12-½ foot door opening. It is crowned with a transom type window with 19 small glass panes. The ground level has been graded up to provide a direct access to the door. There is a small door on the right side of the east front that provides access to the area used for storing and using hay and feed. A 9-inch window was cut into the upper side of the east face to provide access for birds. There are three window openings in the south side and three on the north side. None of these windows openings have sash or glass. The roof was originally wood shingle but now has corrugated iron panels.

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**3. Barn B** (contributing) is located 29 feet southwesterly from barn A and has similar construction, fenestration and materials. The access to the 3<sup>rd</sup> level and hay storage area is by a ramp and bridge on the north side of the barn. There is a small door located on the eastern side of the north face to provide access for the animals. The three windows located on the east side and the two on the west side of the barn are similar to those of Barn A. There is a window opening and door on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of the south side with no apparent way to reach the ground from the door. Roofing and other barn materials are the same as barn A.

The two barns are in very poor condition and they are in desperate need of emergency repairs.

**4. The Corn Crib** (noncontributing) structure was on the edge of collapse with the stone foundation having been pushed in by frost and the floor completely ruined by the weather. The 15-½ foot by 16 ½ foot structure has been completely rebuilt as a guest or recreation facility. It has a gas fireplace, running water and a bay window that was salvaged from an old Peacham house. The building exterior appearance has been retained using the original rustic barn board siding and trim.

**5. The Spring and Milk house** (contributing) is located 29 ½ feet to the west of the west side of the house wing. The 12-½ foot by 16-½ foot gable roofed, novelty sided; structure is of early 20<sup>th</sup> century design and construction. There are windows on the south, west and north sides of the building and a door on the east side. The concrete floor and cast water tubs have been removed and the floor replaced with new concrete. The building is in good condition and presently has a composition corrugated roof.

**6. Carbide Gas generator** (contributing)

An unusual carbide gas generator (was installed approximately 50 feet from the north side of the house and adjacent to the corncrib structure. The system is composed of a metal cylinder with tight fitting cover. The location of the device is in a natural spring area with standing water up to 6 inches from the top. There are pipes and valves and other mechanical parts to dispense the calcium carbide into the water as needed. A 1/2-inch black iron pipe carried the acetylene gas into the house and the barn for fueling gas light fixtures (not a good idea in a

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barn full of inflammable materials). The system was installed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and is a rare example of early attempt to provide lighting without the use of oil lamps.

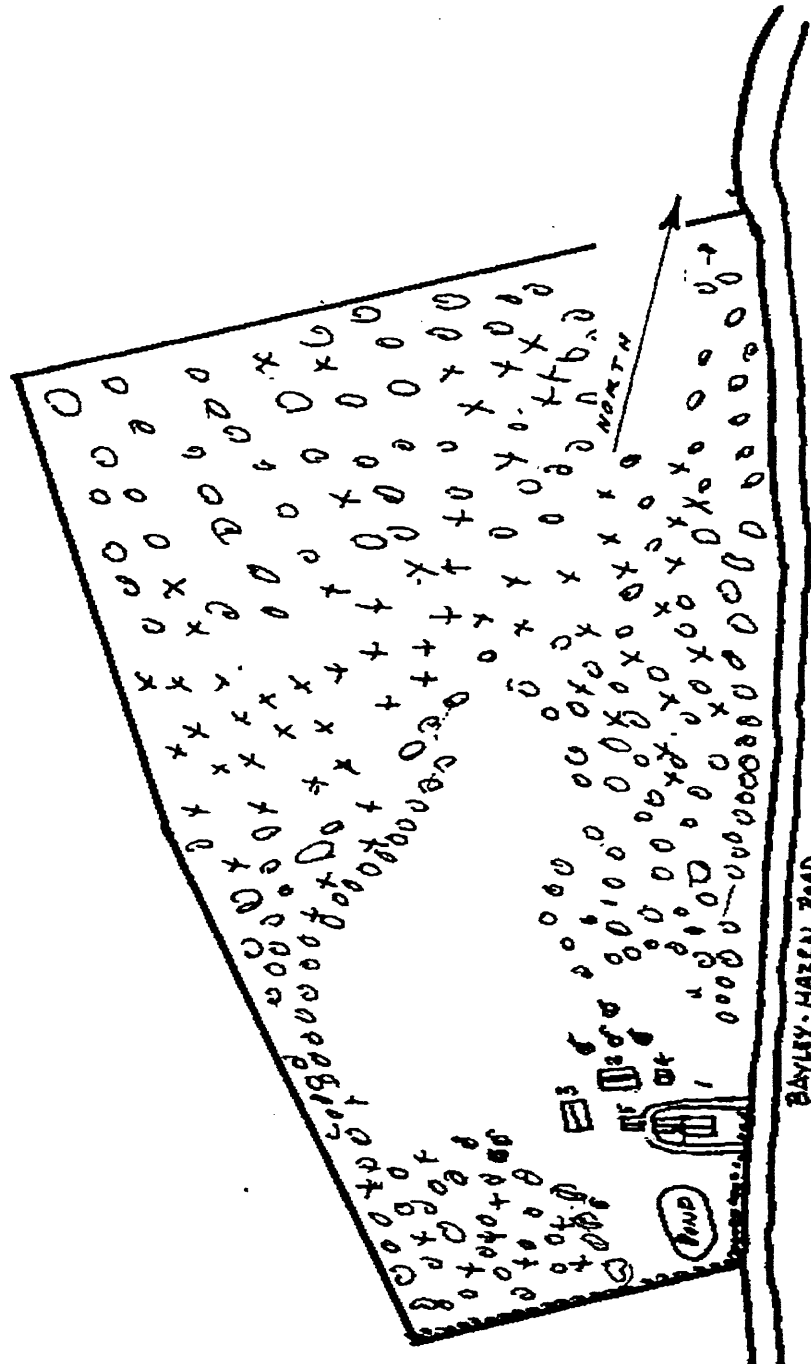
**Landscape** (contributing) The property of the Shedd Farmstead was originally approximately 100 acres with approximately 75 acres lying easterly of the Bayley Hazen Road and the remaining 25.6 acres lying westerly of the Bayley Hazen Road. This nomination includes only the 25.6 acres lying westerly of the BH Road. The land is typical of Vermont hill farms with thin rocky soil and numerous outcroppings of stone ledge. The steep hillsides were difficult to till and the farm products were mainly confined to the raising of cattle and sheep, the production of hay and grain for the animals, the harvesting of wood, and allied products such as maple syrup. The northwesterly portion of the farmstead land has a steep embankment with a spring and bog suitable for wintering deer and moose, but not for farm operations. The farm buildings and a small pond are located on the southeast portion of the land with stonewalls separating the land from the BH road. (see attached sketch for details). The open fields to the north are now wooded with native maple, cherry, birch and poplar and soil-bank planted pine, spruce and fir trees. The farm water supply was a surface spring lying on the east side of the BH road approximately 800 feet to the north of the residence. The original water line was a ½ inch lead pipe. Recent drought conditions have required a well to be driven 50 feet from the house to provide safe and clean potable water. There is an abundance of wild life on the property with deer, moose, bear, wild turkey and other animals.

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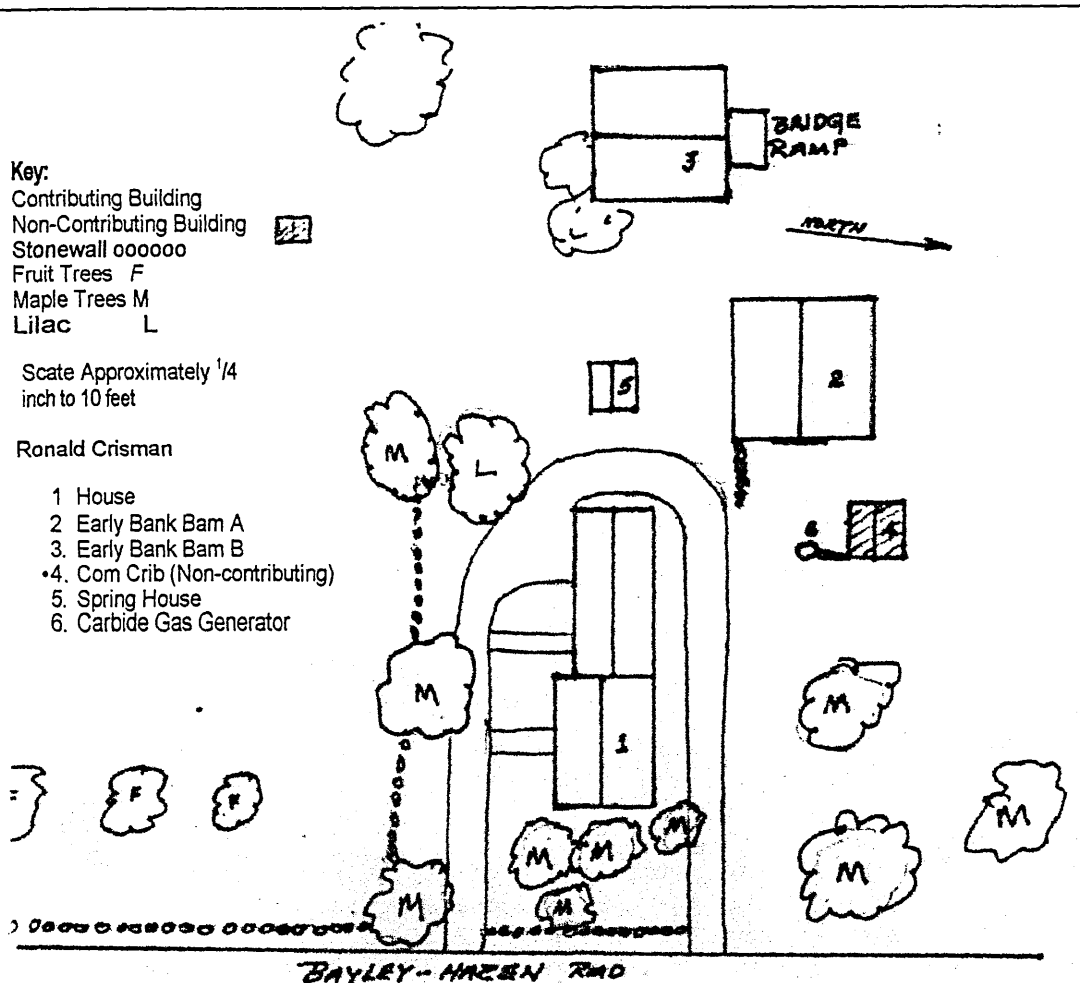


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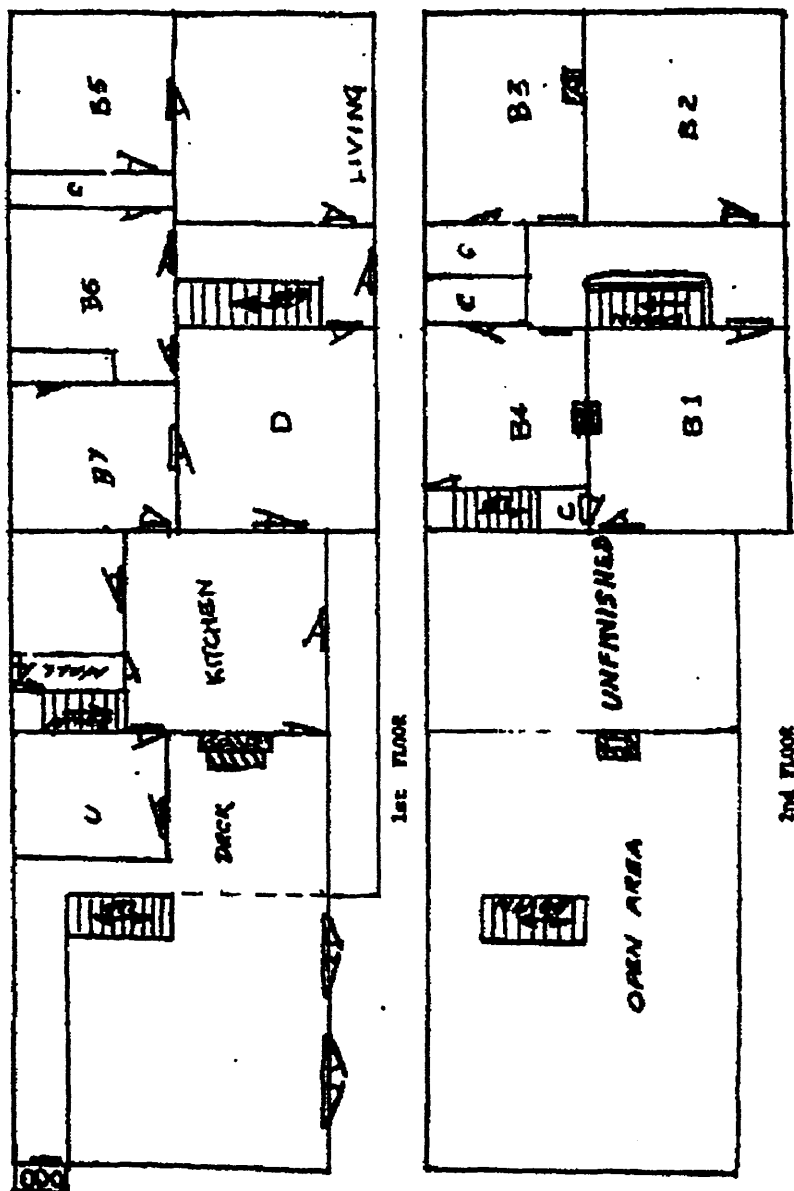
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**ORIGINAL DESIGN OF THE HOUSE**



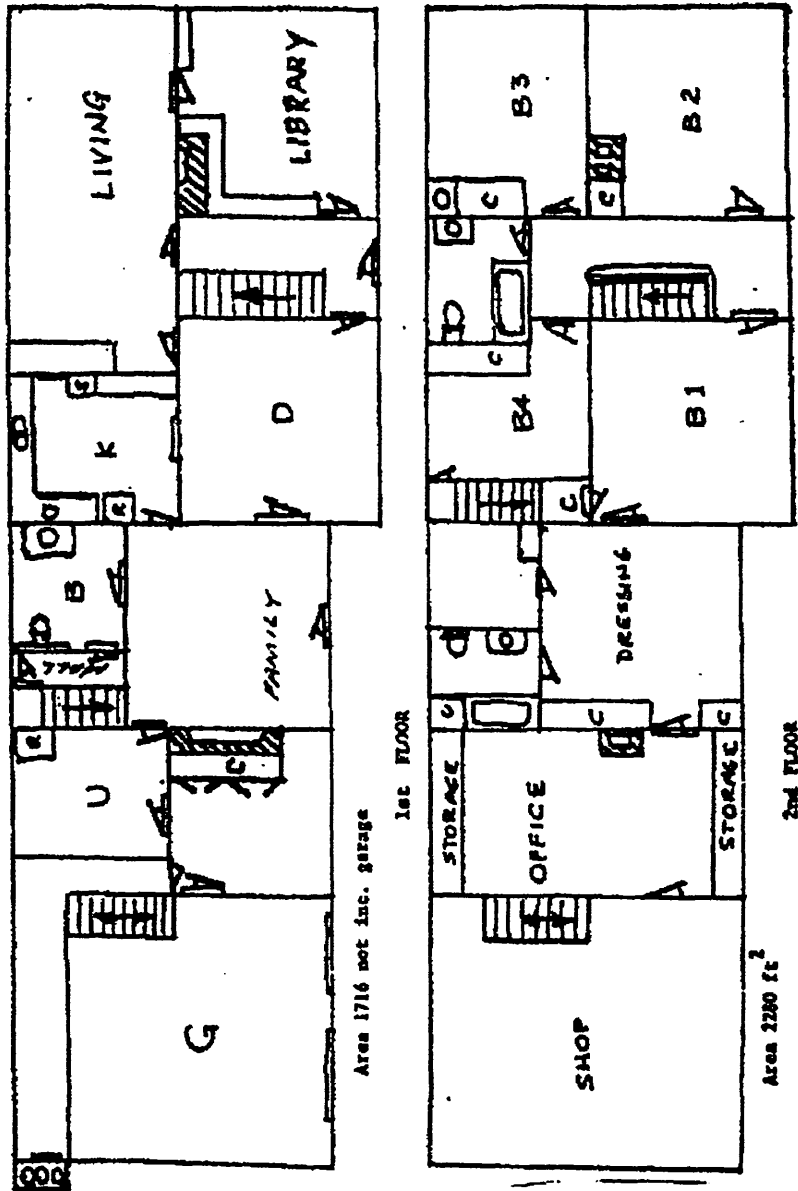
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PRESENT DESIGN OF HOUSE

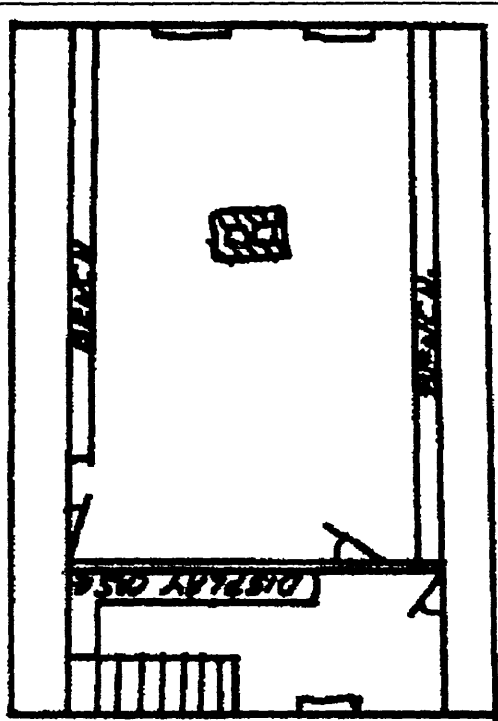


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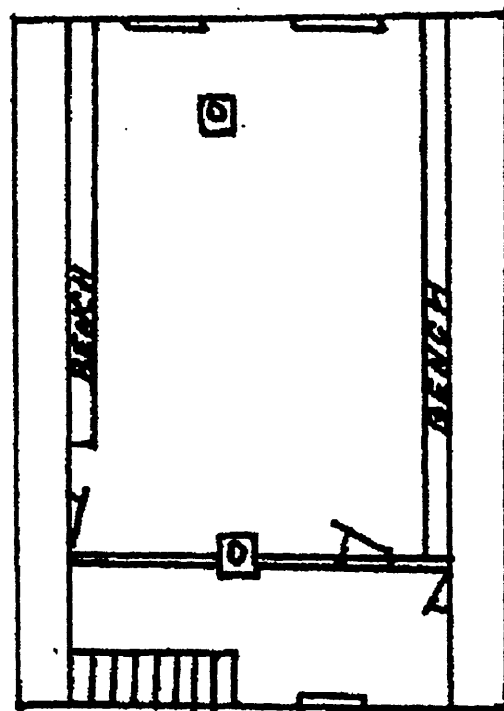
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Present Third Floor Ballroom



Original Third Floor Ballroom



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**THE JOSIAH & LYDIA SHEDD FARMSTEAD**



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**JOSIAH AND LYDIA SHEDD FARMSTEAD**

The Josiah and Lydia Shedd Farmstead in Peacham Vermont is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the Criterion A for its contribution to the broad patterns of Vermont history. The house and farm buildings were built by Josiah and Lydia Shedd who were active leaders and benefactors in the Peacham and were noted for their participation in the governance of the town, the state and community social services. The farmstead was created on land that the Shedd had purchased in 1816 and was to be the home of their only child, Jane Eastman Shedd, upon her marriage. Her tragic death in Ohio just one year after her marriage required the farm to be operated by a succession of tenants. The ownership of the farmstead passed through many subsequent owners who either operated the farm or rented the facilities and land to tenants. The attached listing of the ownership of the farmstead (Section 8 Page 9 & 10) reflects this mixture of owner farmer and ownership with tenant farming operations. The early farming activity evolved from near subsistent levels to a balanced productive level with a variety of farm products. The farm is listed under the Agricultural Resources of Vermont Multiple Documentation Form (MPDF) and meets the Registration Requirements for the Farmstead Property Type. The farm products, methods and operations were typical for a successful farm until changing sanitation standards forced the cessation of operation in 1955. The Josiah and Lydia Shedd Farmstead also qualifies for statewide significance under National Registration Criterion C for being an excellent example of the Greek Revival style of dwelling house architecture in Vermont with its Georgian plan main block with elaborate entrance surrounds and cornice details and its well preserved exterior with the retention of original materials and details.

Josiah and Lydia Shedd created the Shedd farmstead on a rolling and rocky plot of land straddling the historic Bayley-Hazen road. The village of Peacham Corner lies one mile south of the farm and is the cultural center for the town of Peacham. The town is located in the Southwestern portion of Caledonia County and is bounded on the north by Danville, the east by Barnet, the south by Groton, on the west by Marshfield and on the northwest by Cabot. The settlement of the

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town commenced in 1776 and was facilitated by the development and construction of the Bayley-Hazen road (B-H Rd.) started in 1776. This road was authorized by General Washington as a means to open an invasion path to the Canadian border but was terminated some distance from the border due to the potential use of the road by the British and their Indian allies to attack the New England colonies. This became an unpleasant reality when 8 British officers and 500 Indians invaded the town. A number of townsmen were captured and taken to Canada. Most were released or exchanged, but one young man was taken to England and held for a number of years. He continued his education there on funds supplied by Benjamin Franklin.

The original grants of land that were to become the town of Peacham were made to a group of proprietors who purchased title to the land from the Governor of New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth. Due to the unsettled conditions of the region resulting from the Revolutionary war and the apprehension of potential settlers due to the frontier and Indian unrest, the pace of settlement was slow. Other impediments to growth were the relative isolation of the town and poor access to water based transportation corridors. The first settlers practiced subsistence farming to provide for the needs of their families.

The first owner and grantee of the property was Seth Smith who was allocated the plot from portions of Lot 62 of the Square and lot 2 of the Range in the second proprietors draft on August 23, 1783. The farmstead was composed of approximately 25 acres lying west of the B-H Rd. and approximately 75 acres east of the road. The date is uncertain when the land was first cleared and used for agricultural purposes. There are no records available to record the early farming activities and production on the farmstead prior to the Shedd's ownership.

Josiah Shedd, born in Rindge New Hampshire on November 1 1781, was the son of Abel and Ruth (Haskell) Shedd. At the age of 26 he became a member of the town of Peacham in 1807. He attended Dartmouth College (1823) where he received the medical training that he was to practice for almost his entire life in Peacham. He was an inspiration to many young men to enter the field of medicine and he provided supervision and advice to 7 medical graduates prior to their opening a practice. His marriage on March 1, 1812 to Lydia Chamberlin

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(Daughter of William Chamberlin, a Militia General of the Revolutionary War, and his wife Jane Eastman) brought together two of the most energetic and productive families of early Peacham. The Shedd primary residence is located in the center of Peacham Village and is a part of the Peacham Historic District which is listed in the National Register.

Their one child, Jane Eastman Shedd, was born July 14, 1816. Her forthcoming marriage on November 2, 1841 to Noah Worcester was probably the motivating factor for the Shedds to build the house and farm buildings on the property that they had owned since November 11, 1816. The Shedds in the middle to late 1830's constructed the Shedd Farm house and buildings as a home for the young couple. The newly married couple moved to Cincinnati, Ohio to enable Doctor Worcester to complete his medical training. Tragedy struck just 9 ½ months after her marriage when Jane Shedd died in Ohio on September 25, 1842.

The many public and private management roles of Dr. Shedd included service as a member in the Vermont Constitutional Convention, the Vermont legislature and almost all of the town offices. For many years he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Caledonia County Grammar School during which time the school had it's establishment and growth. The town had a rapid early growth rate and by 1830's became the town with the largest population in Caledonia County. The community had the choice of being the site of the county school or the county seat of government. The town chose the school. Doctor Shedd continued his medical practice and public service until his death by reason of apoplexy September 4, 1851. His wife Lydia carried on their charitable work until her death December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

The Shedds were generous patrons of the church and the other social organizations. They served in many roles as leaders and major contributors to organizations and civil movements such as the abolition of slavery and the American colonization movement for the freed black slaves. They made gifts and grants to build an endowment for the Peacham Academy school and provided land and funds to move the church building from the top of the hill to the town center.

There were a number of subsequent owners of the property, some operating the farm and others buying the property for investment return. (See attached for a chronological listing of the owners) The farm ceased to be an operating dairy

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farm in 1955 when the health and sanitation rules governing farm premises and buildings were made more stringent.

The Agricultural Census of 1830 only provides information of the town's farming activities on an aggregate basis and thus no detailed information on the Shedd farmstead is available. It should be noted that the town's total farm production was about average in most categories of animal, grains, hay, forest products and other commodity yields in comparison with the other towns in Caledonia County.

The 1850 Agricultural Census for Caledonia County and the town of Peacham provides a more detailed set of information and there is a close similarity of information collected in 1850 with that of the 1870 Agricultural census. A comparison chart showing the two periods reflects a similarity with the same general practices of farming that was to continue thru the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The listed owners of the property in 1850 were John and Lucinda Eastman and Joseph and Almira Eastman. The Agriculture census listed Thomas Eastman, the father of John and Lucinda, as the operator or manager of the farm. Thomas Eastman was born in Concord New Hampshire on May 21, 1789. In 1814 he married Lucy Cushing who was born in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts about 1791. Thomas died in Peacham on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1870. Lucy also died in Peacham on the same date.

Van Ness Darius Moulton was the owner of the farmstead during the 1870 census and maintained a type of farm operation that had not changed much since the earlier census. He was born on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1824 in the town of Concord, Vermont. He died in the town of Lunenburg on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1912. He married Adeline C. Cutting. The Moulton family moved to Peacham in 1861. Van Ness enlisted from Barnet on September 3, 1864 and served in Company D, First Vermont Cavalry until June of the following year. The following table describes the farming operations and products for these two landowners.

Type of Animal or Products & other information	Thomas Eastman 1850	Van Ness Moulton 1870
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Acres of Improved Land	130	110
Unimproved Land	30	20
Cash Value of Farm (\$)	2,755	5,000
Value of Implements & Machinery	250	1,100
Horses	5	2
Milch Cows	10	6
Working Oxen	4	2
Sheep	12	6
Swine	1	1
Value of Live stock (\$)	744	1,125
Wheat (Bushels)	50	260
Indian Corn (Bushels)	75	20
Oats (Bushels)	25	100
Barley (Bushels)	0	70
Wool (Pounds)	35	270
Peas & Beans (Bushels)	3	1
Irish Potatoes (Bushels)	100	700
Orchard Products (\$)	60	60
Butter (Pounds)	1,250	1,300

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Cheese (Pounds)	100	0
Hay (Tons)	50	
Value of animals slaughtered (\$)	106	675

No mention was made of the following crops or products that might be a part of a Vermont farm operation:

Rye, rice, tobacco, cotton, wine, market garden produce, Seeds, hops, maple sugar, beeswax and honey,

There is a continuing reference to the Warden family of Barnet as owners of the farmstead through purchase, foreclosure and inheritance by probate action. The first reference was in 1915 when Alex Warden acquired the farmstead by warrantee deed from Frank Schmaling and wife. The farm had been leased to Everett B. McLellan who was born in Martland, Nova Scotia on August 16, 1874. He died on July 30, 1838 in St. Johnsbury Vermont. He is listed as a plumber in the town history. Warden later sold the farmstead to McLellan on July 12, 1915. The Wardens reacquired the farmstead by mortgage foreclosure on August 18, 1923.

An article appeared in the North Star Monthly February 1999 edition about the early experiences of Stella Davison. She was born in 1905 in the town of Danville, New Hampshire and at age of 8 moved to the Shedd farmstead with her mother who was hired as a house keeper and surrogate mother for McLellan's four children after the death of his wife. It was generally accepted that McLellan would rather work as a plumber than as a farmer. The operation of the farm became the work of his children, Stella and her mother. The farm supported a small herd of milking cows, five horses and a Jersey bull that had been broken and trained as a light draft ox. The article was accompanied by two pictures taken in 1912 that describe the farmstead very much as it appears today.

The Wardens continued to own the farm with tenant operations until the title passed to Leo and Vera Fellows on November 24, 1952. The change in the state health and sanitation rules and regulations in 1955 spelled the death knell for the small relatively inefficient farms that could not afford the necessary capital

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improvements required. The farmstead ownership passed to Richard and Nancy Hooker, a University of Chicago professor and his wife, who placed the farmstead in the soil bank program and planted a large crop of pine, spruce and fir trees thus ending all other farming operations.

The Shedd Farmstead residence also qualifies for listing under the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for being an excellent example of a Greek revival style of architecture in Vermont embodied by its well designed two-story Georgian plan with elaborate front entrance and cornice details. The external features of the house have been preserved with little change except for the addition of storm windows and doors to conserve energy. The Farmstead buildings are located on 25.6 acres lying westerly of the Bayley-Hazen Road. The remaining approximately 75 acres of the original farm land lying easterly of the Bayley Hazen Road is not a part of this application.



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<u>OWNER</u>	<u>BOOK</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Ronald and JoAnne Crisman	28	263	WD	9/17/ 1964
Richard and Nancy Hooker	28	16	WD	2/ 5/ 1958
Leo and Vera Fellows	26	175	WD	11/24/ 1952
Roy Warden	"A"	302-3	Probate	11/20/ 1941
Alex D. Warden	22	247	WD	1/12/ 1924
Roy Warden	22	246	WD	1/12/ 1924
Ritchie & Warden	23	246	Foreclosure	8/18/ 1923
Everett B. McLellan	22	7	WD	7/12/ 1915
Alex Warden	20	295	WD	3/30/ 1915
Frank J. Schmaling & Wife	20	61	WD	4/ 2/ 1907
William Butson	19	9	WD	5/12/ 1894
Van Ness D. & Adeline Moulton	14	131	WD	5/31/ 1865
Ira W. & Lorinda S. Winter	12	283	WD	11/27/ 1856
Hiram Richardson	11	124	WD	3/24/ 1851
John & Lucinda Eastman Joseph & Almira Eastman	10	466	WD	3/26/ 1849

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<b>Josiah Shedd</b>	6	252	WD	11/11/ 1816
<b>Joseph Gregory</b>	6	248	WD	11/ 9/ 1816
<b>John Mattocks</b>	Acquisition date Uncertain			
<b>Benoni Thayer</b>	Acquisition date Uncertain			
<b>Seth Smith</b>	Acquired land in the second proprietor's draft on August 23, 1783			

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## INTERVIEWS

Brown, Mary Elizabeth. Long term resident of Peacham. Various dates and times of discussions.

Miller, Eloise. Long term resident of Peacham. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century history of farming and farm life in Peacham., Various dates and times.

Quimby, Lorna. Retired Town Clerk, President of the Peacham Historical Society. Various dates and time of discussions.

Robinson, Philo. Life long resident of Peacham and adjoining property owner. Various discussions concerning farm operations and social life of the residents of the Shedd farmstead.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Boundaries of the Josiah & Lydia Shedd Farmstead are recorded in Book 28, Page 263, and Dated September 17, 1964 in the Town of Peacham Town Clerks Office. The property is a Polygon whose vertices are the following UTM points beginning at the Northwest point of the polygon:

A (18/724715/4914311), B (18/724949/4914445), C (18/725106/4913835),  
D (18/7249982/4913749).

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary of this roughly rectangular shaped parcel of land includes all of the buildings and surrounding open fields and woodlands historically associated with the Josiah & Lydia Shedd Farmstead lying westerly of the Bayley-Hazen Road and that maintains historical integrity of the propert.