

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 District 6 School House

other names/site number District 12 School House

2. Location

street & number 73 Cemetery Circle
not for publication n/a
city or town Lyndon vicinity n/a
state Vermont code VT county Caledonia code 005
zip code 05849

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne C. Jamilo National Register Specialist 12-20-05
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): _____

Elson H. Beall 2/1/06

[Signature]

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	
1		buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1		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.)
Educational Resources of Vermont

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	Sub: <u>Museum</u>
<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>Meeting hall</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
roof METAL
walls Weatherboard

other BRICK
WOOD

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

EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance c. 1857-1900

Significant Dates 1857
1900

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Nichols, Hiram (contractor)
Hubbard, Charles
Bullock, Chandler
Harriman, Luther
Adams, Charles

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

SEE CONTINUATIONS 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 1/8 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>737368</u>	<u>4936076</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____		_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deborah Noble, Principal
Organization Deborah Noble Associates date 9/ 2005
street & number PO Box 106 telephone (802) 695-2507
city or town Concord state VT zip code 05824

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name Town of Lyndon
street & number PO Box 167, 119 Park Ave. telephone (802)626-5785
city or town Lyndonville state VT zip code 05851

=====
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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 7 Page 1

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

DESCRIPTION**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The one story, 2 X 5 bay, wood frame District 6 School House (1857) in Lyndon, Caledonia County, Vermont, features period 6/6 sash as well as having twin entrances in the gable front façade articulated with vernacular Greek Revival style detail including corner pilasters and gable returns. The walls are finished with clapboards, the replacement foundation is concrete, the roof is sheet metal and the exterior rear chimney is brick. The former school is situated on approximately one-eighth of an acre just east of the cemetery, Lyndon Institute (1867-69), an early 20th century garage and the former hearse house (1874) as well as north of the Town House (1809) in Lyndon Center. The original setting historically included the Union (Universalist) Church (built before 1849, later used as a paint shop and Moulton Training Stable, burned 1938) just to the east. The building served the students of Lyndon Center from its construction in 1857 until 1900, when they moved to a new school nearby. The old school building was sold to the Fire District and apparently used as a firehouse, later serving as a cemetery storage garage. It was recently rehabilitated by the Lyndon Historical Society in 2002-2004 and currently functions as a period museum of school history and meeting room while retaining original integrity of location, design, setting, overall materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The 27 foot by 37 foot frame building rests on a concrete foundation which replaces a deteriorated fieldstone foundation that had been patched on the west with concrete block. The sheet metal roof replaces a painted sheet metal roof on what was originally a wood shingle clad surface. The façade is finished with clapboard siding articulated with a plain watertable, corner pilasters, and eaves with a wide frieze, molded cornice and cornice returns. The rear brick interior chimney stack was rebuilt in the recent renovations. A 2004 wheelchair ramp/porch with simple balustrade and old brick floor provides access to the twin entrances with four-panel doors in plain trim on the south front façade. The façade was recently restored to its original appearance after the conversion in the 20th century to a fire station/cemetery garage added a central overhead garage door. Five windows with 6/6 sash each with a single vertical board shutter and plain trim light the west and east sides of the building. Shutters were largely reconstructed from originals. A plaque centered on the gable front reads: "District No. 6 Schoolhouse, Lyndon Center, 1857-1900" and a commemorative bronze plaque detailing the history and renovation is situated to the west (left) of the west front entrance. An historic 20th century photograph shows a flag pole on the south ridge front of the gable roof, now no longer evident.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 7 Page 2

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

DESCRIPTION (cont)

The building is framed with a mixture of timber framing and standard framing from the same construction period of 1857. The sills are heavy timber and the original floor system rotted away under a plank floor laid for garage traffic. The remains of the floors were completely removed and replaced with new floor joists, plywood subflooring and pine saddle-lapped boards with countersunk screws concealed by pegs. A teaching platform was added to the south end of the classroom. The framing of the walls consists of 2"x4", 4"x4", and 4"x6" studs forming a 4' thick wall. The original plaster with five layers of wallpaper were replaced over existing lath with sheetrock and painted. The original wide horizontal board wainscoting was refurbished and insulation added. The original ceiling system consists of 2"x9"x28' high quality lumber, spaced 18" on center and spanning a remarkable 25 feet without hangers or supports. The rafters are 2"x6" lumber which is set on a small plate on top of the ceiling joist ends. The classroom has been fitted with a series of historic period furnishings and artifacts, including school desks, maps, slate chalk boards, headmaster's desk, globe, sconces and textbooks.

Although a one – room garage used for cemetery storage when the renovations began, the shadow marks of the original entrance vestibule of the school were used to rebuild that section of wall with twin entrances having replacement period 4-panel doors providing access to the classroom. A series of replacement period iron garment hooks are mounted on a plain chair rail in the rebuilt vestibule, where there is also a trap door to the attic and 19th century glass fronted display cases.



FIGURE 1: sample of third layer of wallpaper removed from interior during renovations of 2003 - 2004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 7 Page 3

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

DESCRIPTION (cont)

The recent rehabilitation of the District 6 School House replaced only the most deteriorated materials, using the remaining materials and structural clues as the historical basis for the work. The exterior of the building retains the majority of materials existing at the time of the renovation, and the interior replacement of the plaster and floor with new materials and reconstruction of vestibule is done in a sensitive manner which adds to the integrity of the building in terms of feeling and association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 8 Page 1

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lyndon Center District 6 School House (1857), Caledonia County, Vermont, is significant in architecture under Criterion C as a good representative of the small, one room district school with Greek Revival style details typical of rural areas of the state in the mid-1900's. It is also significant in the context of education under Criterion A as a good example of district school architecture that was designed to house a style of public education no longer in practice. Very few of these once prolific buildings remain in Vermont with original integrity and context intact as well as with construction details available. It is being nominated under the educational resources MPDF and it meets the Registration Requirements for schools.

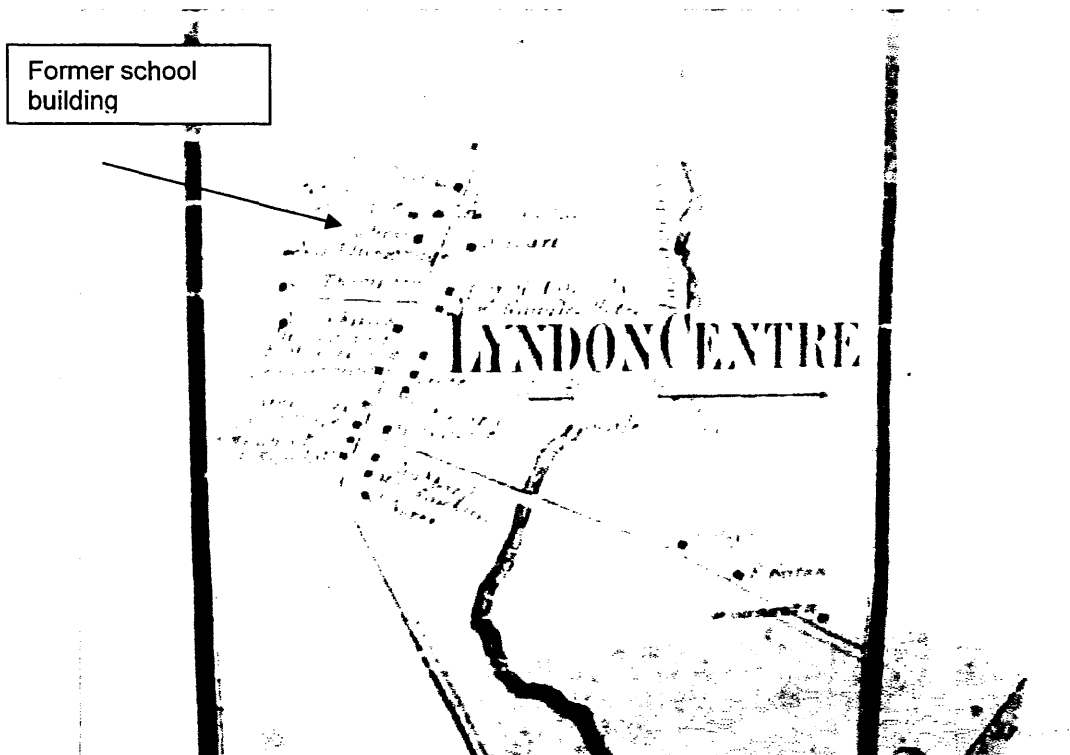


FIGURE 1: Wallings Map of 1858 showing earlier school in Lyndon Centre situated SOUTH of Town House and Union Church – present 1857 District 6 School House is location NORTH of the Town House

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 8 Page 2

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont)

The rugged mountainous terrain of Vermont and lack of reliable, reasonably swift transportation early necessitated the concentration of schools in pockets of rural population largely determined by geography. The isolation of each settlement led to the organization of churches in some, as well as specialized mill industries and commercial ventures that served nearby settlers. This settlement pattern resulting from the natural features of the land resulted in the first Vermont school law of 1782, which established the district school system statewide and gave town trustees the power to hire and remove schoolmasters. In 1787 state law authorized the town meeting to create as many districts as were necessary to provide an education to all of the children in the community. The separate districts in Lyndon were each charged with deciding all affairs for their district school until action at an 1802 town meeting provided for a school trustee to be elected from each district to join the selectmen in superintending all the various schools in the town as a group (Shores, 211). The district school system remained in place until the town meeting of 1893 approved the uniting of the town public schools into the Lyndon Town School District under authority of state legislation of 1892 (Shores, 218). In 1900 shortly after this abandonment of the district school system, the District 6 School House was discontinued for use as a school. A larger, 2-1/2 story Lyndon Center graded school was built on the south side of College Hill Road in 1900 to accommodate the new graded system of education that had developed.

With students of all ages and abilities grouped in a single classroom, public educational techniques and curricula were significantly different than those of today, where students are separated by age, grade, and often by ability. The district schools were required to operate at least two months of the year in order to receive state financial aid, increasing to three months of mandatory education after the Civil War. School terms were usually held during seasons during which the students were not required to help with family work. If the school terms were held in the winter (most usual), the teacher was usually a male and if in the fall or summer, the teacher was usually a woman (Shores, 211). Each family was obligated to provide a half cord of firewood or the equivalent in cash per student. By the mid-1800's the cordwood contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, who was required to split and stack it in the woodshed by June of the year before the school term. The district families also shared in the boarding of the teacher, the length of time based on the number of students in the family. The teacher's board was later also sometimes put out to bid, varying at mid-century between \$.95 and \$1.75 per week, depending on the season.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 8 Page 3

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont)

Teacher salaries early in the 19th century were \$.50 per week for a woman and \$1.00 for a man, rising to \$10 and \$15 per term later in the century (Shores, 211).

The District 6 School House was known as the District 12 School House in Lyndon Center when it was built in 1857 to replace an earlier school located to the south of the Town House. The town had been divided into six school districts at a town meeting in September 1797 following the requirements of the new Vermont state legislation of 1782 and 1787 (Shores, 209). The number of districts had expanded to as many as seventeen before consolidation became possible due to improved modes of transportation later in the century.

The village of Lyndon Center developed on what was original Right #30 belonging to original proprietor William Rhodes, with the required physical settlement of the right accomplished by William Fisher. For this service, which enabled the original proprietor, who had no intention of settling in town, to continue to hold title to the land as a speculative investment, Fisher received 40 acres of Right #30 in 1794. William and Elizabeth Rhodes of Providence, RI, deeded the 336 acres of Right #30 to Job Sheldon of Providence in October 1796 for \$1000 (Lyndon Town Records, A/160). Sheldon also owned acreage in Rights #2 and #16. In 1802 Sheldon deeded 181 acres of right #30 to Phillip Goss, Jr., and by 1813, taxes on 120 acres of Right #30 were paid by Noah Goss and 134 acres by Nathaniel Jenks, indicating that these families had settled on most of the acreage of the original right.

In 1803 Job Sheldon deeded six acres north of his barn on Right #30 to the Town of Lyndon "especially for the purpose of promoting the preaching of the gospel in said town", and "for the purpose of seting [sic] and building a meeting house on, and for a burying ground, common and parade ...with allowance of a road through" (Lyndon Town Records, B/ 38). Although the Town House was deeded in 1803, construction was not started until 1809, as the land had first to be cleared, crops planted, and design plans worked out. The building proceeded slowly, presumably due to lack of funds as well as the several efforts to have a Town Hall established in other parts of town. The building was not finished until after 1817 when it was only due to the sale of pews in the church/town hall that adequate funds were available for the necessary work. This multifunctional building anchored Lyndon Center as the government center of the town and the accompanying land for a common logically also led to the construction of a school (located south of the Town House), cemetery, horse sheds, hearse house and the Universalist Church in close proximity, as well as various other

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 8 Page 4

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont)

churches, stores, taverns, hotels and post offices over the years (see Figures 1 and 3). This first school in the Center was situated south of the Town House and removed some time after the second school was built in 1857 (the Wallings map, printed in 1858, was actually apparently surveyed before the new school was built in 1857). Lyndon Institute and its residence campus developed around the common and other public buildings after initial construction began in 1868 and it opened in 1871. Founded by the Freewill Baptists of the state, the denominational school was reorganized in 1884 as non-sectarian and now serves as the town high school.

A clear picture of the erection of the second school in 1857 in what was then School District #12 on the public land around the Town House is provided by the record of a series of liens placed against Hiram M. Nichols and/or school trustees for wages and materials for its construction. Apparently, the school trustees had contracted with H.M. Nichols, a Lyndon Center resident and businessman, to construct the school north of the Town House on a lot of land 110' x 50' that had been owned by Dr. C.O. Denison (lien recorded in Lyndon Town Records K/345). At this point in time, Nichols had purchased a property with three acres west of the common c. 1850 where he lived and which he sold to Sumner S. Thompson in 1855; this is located just south of the present main building of Lyndon Institute. Nichols had also purchased what had been the general store in the village from the very start of the community and converted it into a residence before 1858, at which time liens were also placed against it for the cost of repair to "the usual place of abode" of H.M. Nichols. The Beers Map of 1875 (Figure 3) shows several properties owned by H.M. Nichols in Lyndon Center.

Judging from the liens placed against Nichols in 1857 that are noted in the Town Records, he employed Charles Hubbard, Luther Harriman, Chandler Bullock, and Charles Adams as laborers in the spring of 1857 for periods varying from 12 ½ to 51 days of labor for a total cost of \$376.00 to these individuals for labor and some materials. The suppliers of additional materials who placed liens included Rand Stone and Co., Charles Adams, Greenough Cook and Co. of Boston, Bancroft and Tute, and Homer Rice and Co. Nichols also had a lien placed on all his property by Mrs. Jane Adams, who owned the property north of the Town House on the map of 1858 (see Figure 1). Some of the liens refer to "TWO new buildings in the village of Lyndon Center situated north of the Town House and west of the Universalist Meeting House" (Lyndon Town Records, K/239, 240). Perhaps there also was a wood shed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 8 Page 5

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont)

constructed nearby at the same time. An indication of the cost of building materials for the school is provided by the lien of Moses Kimball, who planed 2,000 clapboards as well as planing and jointing 1,500 feet of spruce boards for the new schoolhouse for a total cost of \$8.88 (Lyndon Town Records, K/248).



FIGURE 2: Students and teacher of District 6 School in 1898

The original setting of the school amid other period public buildings in the Greek Revival style next to the common and cemetery is quite unique and created the appearance of a homogeneous campus that has survived to the present despite the removal of the Universalist Church previously located to the east. The District 6 School House survives as a good example of the Greek Revival style as it was interpreted in rural Vermont. The gable front orientation with the corner pilasters and the eaves with a wide frieze and gable cornice returns are all characteristic of the style. All of the public buildings in the immediate vicinity continued to evolve in style

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 8 Page 6

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont)

and use over the years. The nearby Town House was remodeled in 1859-60 and has some 20th century alterations. The Universalist Church just to the east of the school that had been built c. 1849 in the Greek Revival style when the Bemis family deeded the land was sold in 1887 and became A.W. Brockway's paint shop. When the former church was sold in 1895 to the Lyndon Building Co., it was remodeled into John Mouton's Training Stable. Two later owners, Enos Phillips and J.A. McDowell used it as a livery stable before becoming the barn of a private residence and burning in 1938. In 1874 the old horse sheds for the Town House were removed and a hearse house was built just west of the school. Also during the first quarter of the 20th century, another shed roofed garage was built to the west of the hearse house. The subject District 6 School House became a firehouse and more recently served as a cemetery shed until the recent renovations.

The sensitive rehabilitation of the District 6 School House has served to restore the original educational context of the former school, which embodies the distinctive characteristics of the one-room school serving a small number of district pupils of many ages and learning abilities from 1857 until the system was abandoned in 1898 and the school vacated in 1900.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 6 School House

Section number 9, 10 Page 1

Lyndon, Caledonia County, VT

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Caledonia County, Vermont*. New York: F.W. Beers and Co., 1875.

Child, Hamilton. *Gazetteer of Caledonia and Essex Counties, VT: 1764 – 1887*. Syracuse, NY: The Syracuse Journal Co., 1887.

Lyndon Land Records, various dates

Shores, Venila Lovina, PH.D., LITT.D. *Lyndon: Gem in the Green*. Lyndonville, VT: Town of Lyndon, 1986.

Wallings, H.F. *Map of Caledonia County, VT*. New York: Baker and Tilden, 1858.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (cont):

Verbal boundary description: the boundary is coextensive with the legal property boundary of the District 6 School in the Lyndon Town Records Book K/Page 345 of a lot of approximately 1/8 acre measuring 110 feet by 50 feet north of the Town House.

Verbal boundary justification: the nominated property includes the property in common legal ownership and is the land historically associated with the school house.