

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 15 1984

date entered

NOV 15 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Unknown

and/or common Stagecoach Inn

2. Location

street & number Intersection U.S. Route 7 & Town Highway 2 N/A not for publication

city, town Leicester N/A vicinity of

state Vermont code 50 county Addison code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Marcel LaRoque

street & number RFD

city, town Salisbury N/A vicinity of state Vermont

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Leicester Town Clerk

street & number RD 2

city, town Brandon state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Vermont
title Historic Sites & Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>January 1977</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stagecoach Inn occupies a prominent position at the intersection of U.S. Route 7 and Town Highway 2, known as the "Leicester Four Corners," in the town of Leicester, Vermont. The two and one-half story wood frame structure with a center hall floor plan was constructed circa 1830, incorporating elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Dominating the south facade is an original two story recessed porch. An ell, constructed simultaneously with the main block, projects from the rear. Original interior details remain in both the main block and the ell. A carriage barn, constructed circa 1900 stands west of the structure.

The five by two bay Stagecoach Inn measures thirty-eight feet, ten inches by twenty-six feet, two inches, and sits on a basically square five acre site on the northeast corner of the intersection, with the eave side facing Town Highway 2. The orientation and the new concrete block foundation date from the January 1977 move of the structure. The facade is covered with matched and beaded horizontal siding, while the remaining elevations of the main block and ell are all sided with clapboards. The main block and ell have gable roofs with composition shingles. The main gables are pedimented. The main entry is located in the center bay of the south facade and consists of a wide six panel door flanked by two-third length sidelights above side panels which have the same ovolo and astragal moulding found on the door. The moulded surround is symmetrical, with a series of stepped ogee curves creating an undulating pattern which terminates in floral corner blocks.

The two-story recessed porch has four unfluted Doric columns on the first story supporting four columns on the second story which are a different vernacular interpretation of the Doric order. A balustrade is joined into the second story columns, and an original curved plaster ceiling, hung from the attic joists, remains on the second story of the porch. Access to the second story of the porch is provided by a doorway in the center bay, directly above the main entrance. The moulded casings found on the main entry are repeated on this second floor doorway, although the sidelights have been omitted.

On the east elevation, a "coffin door" is located on the southeast corner. The simple door surround consists of applied pilasters supporting a plain entablature. The cornice moulding and drip cap have been removed. The gable ends are pedimented with an astragal and cove drip cap at the bottom of a wide frieze board. An unusually large ovolo and cove bed moulding joins the frieze and soffit, and a crown moulding consisting of a steeply profiled cyma recta, a fillet, and a cyma reversa underneath finish the cornice motif. Pieces of the cornice moulding on the east elevation are missing where apparently a cinder block chimney was once attached. The windows on the first floor

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of the main block which may originally have been twelve over twelve sash windows have been replaced by one over one sash windows. However, six of the twelve over eight sash windows, which had been used on the second story of the main block and the first story of the ell remain in the south (front) rooms of the second story of the main block. The windows in the gable ends were replaced by one over one sash windows. The same simple window surround with a single bead on the interior edge remains intact on all the original window units in the main block and ell. All of the first story and some of the second story windows in both the main block and the ell have been boarded up.

The one and one-half story ell on the north elevation measures thirty-nine feet, ten inches by twenty six feet, two inches, and was constructed with the main block flush with the east elevation. The original configuration of the ell was most likely five by two bays, but it is currently five by three bays. Kneewall windows with their original six light sash are placed irregularly on both the east and west elevations. The doorway on the northeast corner of the east elevation was probably added circa 1910, and is detailed only by a thin band of reeding just above the lintel board. The door on the west elevation is sheltered by a simple mid-twentieth century shed roof porch. The present gable roof may have been rebuilt using the original rafters in the early twentieth century when the gable roof dormer and shed roofed dormer on the west elevation were added.

Extant interior features in the main block and ell include a staircase, doors, door and window surrounds, a mantelpiece and stenciling. The first floor entry on the facade of the main block opens into a central stairhall. Details of the staircase include elaborately scrolled step brackets, a turned newel post based on the designs of Asher Benjamin¹ at the foot of the staircase, and three additional turned posts included in the balustrade on the second story. The cased corner posts and center hall girt posts are still extant in the front parlors (south rooms) of the main block. In the southwest corner room, the window casings are floor length with a symmetrical combination of ovolo and sharply profiled bead with six reeds in the center, and corner blocks with a raised center floral design framed by an ovolo moulding. The door surround leading to the northwest corner room is identical to this window casing popular with the Greek Revival style. The mouldings in the southeast corner room are more characteristic of the Federal style. In that parlor, the window casings sit on a simply moulded chair rail capping a wide board wainscotting. The casings are detailed with a beaded stop and

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a back band consisting of a stepped ogee and astragal moulding. The northwest and northeast corner rooms of the main block have scaled-down mouldings for the window and door casings, as well as scaled down doors. An unusual three step door casing is used in the central stairhall which is composed of a series of stepped reedings, creating a geometric pattern. Faded floral stenciling with a swag border is visible on the entire wall surface of both the first and second story of the stairhall, and the southwest corner room of the first floor where the original plaster walls have been exposed underneath deteriorated wallpaper.

The two front bed chambers on the second floor of the main block (southwest and southeast corners) have symmetrical casings composed of nine reeds framed by an ovolo and astragal moulding to either side. Corner blocks with a raised reeded center square set off by an ovolo and astragal moulding repeat the motif of the casings themselves, making for a strong geometric effect. This same geometric moulding is used as the interior casing of the door leading from the central stairhall to the second story of the porch.

The interior doors which remain on the main block have six raised panels with a small cove moulding accenting the raised portion. The stiles and rails have applied ovolo and astragal mouldings. The exterior doors repeat this detail. Most of the original door hardware has been removed, but the paint outlines indicate hand forged Suffolk exterior latches with heart shaped cusps, and Norfolk interior latches.

The ell has retained most of its original layout, and is distinguished by a formal room with Federal style details which adjoins the main block through the stairhall and southeast corner room. The most significant detail in this formal room is an original mantelpiece which has panelled pilasters with capitals extended upward through the frieze band to an attenuated cornice moulding. Although the mantelpiece is intact, the massive central chimney mass has been removed. Doors and windows have three step casings typical of the Federal period in the Champlain Valley Region: a quirked bead, intermediate ovolo, and astragal, and a back band composed of a larger ovolo and astragal. The windows in this room have an ovolo nosing on the sill with an apron beneath it.

In the two adjoining rooms on the first story of the ell, wide board wainscoting remains, as well as scaled down versions of the more formal parlor door and window mouldings. Four panel doors can be found throughout the ell which repeat the panel detail of the doors in the main block. Located at the top of the staircase in

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the ell are beaded mouldings on all the baseboards, beaded door casings, and a beaded flush panel door.

A one and one-half level carriage barn is located directly west of the main block of the Stagecoach Inn and dates from circa 1900. Entry into the structure is through the narrow vertical plank double doors in the gable end. A small hayloft door below a six light square window is located above the double doors. The gable ends are covered with clapboards, while the eave sides have board and batten siding. The gable roof is covered with tar paper.

¹Asher Benjamin, The American Builder's Companion, 1806. Plate 19.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1830 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stagecoach Inn in Leicester, Vermont is architecturally significant as an good example of an unusual adaptation of the typical vernacular center hall house type: it has a two story recessed porch framed into the main house block. In addition, well executed stylistic elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival periods remain intact on the exterior and interior, reflecting its transitional date circa 1830. Historically, the structure is important as a stop on the stage road which ran from Rutland to Vergennes, and as a focal point for the life of Leicester village.

Originally the facade faced U.S. Route 7, and the structure had virtually no setback off the highway. In December of 1976, after months of study and discussion with the State Department of Transportation which solicited comments from the State Historic Preservation Officer, a local citizens committee approved moving the structure. At that time the main block and ell were jacked as a single unit, set on dollies, and pulled one hundred feet to the east, and turned ninety degrees.² The reason for the relocation was to improve visibility at what was considered the dangerous intersection of U.S. Route 7 and Town Highway 2. Fortunately there was ample space on the lot for the relocation, and historical maps and sources indicate this as the first and only structure on the site. The massing and period details retain their integrity despite the relocation. The new setting of the Stagecoach Inn offers future inhabitants a comfortable setback from a dangerous intersection while maintaining the historical and architectural integrity of the structure on its original site.

The Stagecoach Inn is a remarkable example of a Georgian center hall plan with a two story porch framed into the main house block. Although the two story, center hall house type dominates the Federal and Greek Revival periods in the Champlain Valley Region, rarely does one find such an exquisite adapted form. Located directly on what was once a major stage road, this structure is the only example of its type between Rutland and Vergennes. Perhaps most significant is the use of both Federal and Greek Revival vocabularies in the finish detailing of the structure. This is due to its rural location and the transition from the first generation of builders who were, by 1830, reaching old age and thus reluctant to purchase tools of the emerging Greek

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.0
 Quadrangle name Brandon, VT.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A ^{New site}
 [1][8] [6][5][2][0][7][0] [4][8][5][8][5][0][0]
 Zone Easting Northing

B ^{Old site}
 [1][8] [6][5][2][0][4][0] [4][8][5][8][4][9][0]
 Zone Easting Northing

C [][] [][][][][] [][][][][][]

D [][] [][][][][] [][][][][][]

E [][] [][][][][] [][][][][][]

F [][] [][][][][] [][][][][][]

G [][] [][][][][] [][][][][][]

H [][] [][][][][] [][][][][][]

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated site is comprised of a square, 5.0 acre parcel as stated in the Town of Leicester Deed Book number 34, page 241-243. The USGS submitted shows the old site (B), and the new site (A) has been added in black ink. This parcel is sufficient to convey the original context of the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

N/A

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Townsend H. Anderson

organization Housejoiner, Ltd. date August 1, 1984

street & number RD 1 Box 860 telephone (802)244-5095

city or town Moretown state Vermont

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Eric Silbertson

title Director Vermont Division for Historic Preservation date 9/25/84

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

for Allison Byer
 Keeper of the National Register

date 11-15-84

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Revival, and the second generation of joiners who would translate the new style from copy books to wood. The recessed porch is supported by two sets of Doric columns, distinguished from each other by different bases and capitals. An unusual plaster ceiling is hung from the attic joists above the second story porch. The balustrade is framed into the supporting columns, exhibiting fine joinery technique. The mouldings and proportions of the facade entries show the influence of the Greek Revival style, while the door surround on the east elevation is a vernacular adaptation of the Federal style.

The interior is a unique sampler of fine detailing from two prominent architectural periods. Although the Greek Revival vocabulary dominates the main house, notable exceptions are the staircase with turned newel post and delicately scrolled step brackets from Asher Benjamin's American Builders' Companion, first published in 1806; the southeast parlor with wainscot and formal Federal style three step door and window casings; and the use of four and six panel doors with a distinctive raising mould and applied ovolo and astragal stile and rail moulds. Of particular note is the floral stenciling in the stairhall and southwest parlor, faded but still evident. This was the work of an itinerant artist. Remaining evidence indicates that this design was quite delicately rendered and created a remarkably sophisticated interior for such a rural house. The ell interior is rendered completely in the earlier style, distinguished by the formal parlor with a fine fireplace mantelpiece.

It is not unusual to find interiors and even exteriors restyled in the latest vocabulary. In Vermont particularly, buildings first built during the Federal Period, often were Greek Revivalized. It is quite rare to find a building which combines both vocabularies in the original construction. Such is the Stagecoach Inn. The result is visually stimulating, coherent, even spectacular. The unusual facade prepares the visitor for the delightful details within.

Although the Stagecoach Inn may have been conceived as a store, the structure was purchased by a prominent local physician, Dr. William Gile, who completed the structure, and opened it as an inn. The significant form and detailing of the structure is most likely a reflection of the wealth and influence of Dr. Gile, who also served Leicester as town clerk from 1828 - 1842, and as postmaster from 1838 - 1842. The structure saw a variety of short term owners after Dr. Gile's initial occupation. Dr. Gile returned about 1857 to his position as town clerk and postmaster, and on the H.F. Walling map of 1857, "W. Gile" is listed as the owner of the property. After Dr. Gile's death in 1859, the Derby family purchased the property, and used the structure as a store and post office at that time.

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and post office. The structure continued to be used for these purposes into the twentieth century at which time it was converted to a private dwelling. The alterations on the rear ell most likely date from this period.

The Stagecoach Inn stands today as an example of the importations of sophisticated stylistic detailing into a rural village. Furthermore, it reminds us of a time when one building was truly the focal point for Leicester village life in the nineteenth century.

²Emile Desautels, building mover. Interview by telephone July 27, 1984.

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Whitelaw, James, A correct map of the State of Vermont from actual survey. Ryegate, 1810.