



**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: Braintree School

other names/site number: District Number 8 school

2. Location

street & number: 9 Warren Switch Road not for publication n/a

city or town: Pawlet vicinity: n/a

state: Vermont code: VT county: Rutland code: 021 zip code: 05761

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 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.)

Nancy E. Bone DSHPO
Signature of certifying official

3/30/2010
Date

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official or other official and 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper *[Handwritten Signature]* Date of Action 5/3/18

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: (Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-state
 public-Federal

Number of Resources Within Property:

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings:	<u>2</u>	_____
districts:	_____	_____
sites:	_____	_____
structures:	_____	_____
objects:	_____	_____
total:	<u>2</u>	_____

Category of Property: (Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site(s)
 structure(s)
 object(s)

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: Educational Resources of Vermont
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: (Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

Category: Education Subcategory: School

Current Functions: (Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

Category: Recreation and Culture Subcategory: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification: (Enter categories from instructions)

Federal _____

other: _____

Materials: (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone _____
roof: Slate _____
walls: Brick _____

other: Wood _____

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

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.)

- 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 with the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: (Enter categories from instructions)

Education _____
Architecture _____

Period of Significance:

1852-1934 _____

Significant Person: (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a _____

Significant Dates:

1852 _____
1930 _____
1934 _____

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect / Builder:

None

Narrative Statement of Significance:

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography:

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

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 for the National Register.
- ____ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- ____ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey No. _____
- ____ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record No. _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ____ State Historic Preservation Office.
- ____ Other state agency: Vermont Agency of Transportation
- ____ Federal agency.
- ____ Local government.
- ____ University.
- ____ Other. Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 0.24 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet). ____ See continuation sheet

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1. <u>18</u>	<u>642957</u>	<u>4803073</u>	2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	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: Suzanne C. Jamele, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization: _____ Date: May 6, 2009

Street & Number: 1 High Street Telephone: (802)454-7825

City or Town: Plainfield State: VT Zip Code: 05667

12. 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)

13. Property Owner

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

Name / Title: Pawlett Historical Society

Organization: _____ Date: May 6, 2009

Street & Number: P.O. Box 113 Telephone: 802-325-2406

City or Town: Pawlet State: VT Zip Code: 05761

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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont**

Section 7 Page 1

The 1852 former District 8 Braintree School is located at 9 Warren Switch Road in West Pawlet, Vermont. It sits in a rural setting surrounded by open fields and the nearby Jones family farmstead, of which its land was a part until 1973. The one-story, gable front, Federal style school has brick walls, a slate roof, an irregular stone foundation, splayed wood lintels over the front façade bays, oval date plate over the front door, and an intact interior including original black boards. A bank of four windows was added to the building in the early 20th century. There is an associated single story, gable front woodshed/ two bay outhouse. The building served as a school for eight grades for 82 years, closing in 1934. Since 1973 the Pawlett Historical Society has owned the building and, beginning in 1976, local teachers have brought their students to the school three or four times a year to re-enact a typical 19th century school day. The building has recently been restored and is in excellent condition. It retains its integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association.

Setting

Pawlet is a rural town, population 1,394, located in the southwest corner of Rutland County. Its boundary borders on Granville, New York to the west, Wells to the north, Danby to the east and Rupert to the south. The Mettawee River runs through Pawlet from the northwest to southeast corners of town creating a broad valley. A range of mountains bisects the town from north to south with Haystack Mountain being the prominent peak. Due to topography, settlement was historically focused in a number of rural hamlets scattered about the town. An early concentration of mills, commerce, religious and civic services developed in Pawlet Village on the eastern side of the township. Later, after slate was discovered in the mid-19th century on the western side of town, West Pawlet Village grew up to serve the slate industry and its workers. Vermont Routes 30 and 133 are currently the primary roads through the town.

The Braintree School is located on the western side of the community, north of West Pawlet Village, at the intersection of Route 153 (paved) and Warren Switch Road (dirt), which leads to Granville, New York. The school sits very close to both roads and is surrounded by open fields. Several large deciduous trees stand behind the school to the west. Diagonally southeast across Route 153 stands the Jones family farmstead, a c. 1865 Italianate style, clapboard farmhouse that replaced an earlier dwelling, a carriage barn and a bank barn. The school, and the land it stands on, were owned by the Jones family until 1973 when it was donated to the Pawlett Historical Society.

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Exterior

The single story, three bay by two bay, gable front, Federal style school has a rectangular, 22' x 27' footprint oriented perpendicular to Route 153. It has an irregular stone foundation, and double wythe "rose" brick walls laid in five course American Bond. The foundation and walls have recently been repointed using traditional lime mortar. Broken and spalled bricks were replaced with matching period bricks from a brickyard in Middle Granville, NY believed to be the source of the original, unusually long, bricks. There is a slate roof with locally quarried grey/green slate and a boxed cornice that has a broad overhang and a narrow molding where it meets the plain fascia. A brick chimney rises on the north slope near the end of rear (west) end of the roof.

The front (east) three bay gable end has a central entrance flanked by six over six windows. The historic sash is covered by a heavy gauge screen window, as are all windows on the building. The door and windows have splayed wooden lintels, wood sills, and narrow surrounds with plain wood trim. Centered above the door, in the gable, in brickwork is an oval date plate in which a wooden plaque with the school name and date has been set. The front entry was bricked in, probably in 1930 when other "improvements" were made at the school, taking advantage of State Aide. At this time a new entry was added at the rear on the south eaves side. In 1975, after acquiring the building, and in preparation for the 1976 Bicentennial, the Pawlet Historical Society renovated the schoolhouse, re-opened the front entry and hung the wood door which has two long vertical recessed panels. Concrete steps were removed during the recent renovation effort and will be replaced with slate slab steps.

The north and south sides originally each had two six over six windows with single course, rectangular brick lintels, wood sills and plain wood trim. These windows remain on the north eaves side. On the south side there is an historic six over six window in the first bay. The window in the second bay was replaced by the door probably added in 1930. Sometime after the Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey was conducted in 1977, an entry stoop was added to shelter the side door. It has a purple slate, gable roof and clapboard pediment supported by two square wood posts rising from a concrete base. The six panel side door has plain trim. The door is set a bit further to the rear (west) than the window had been and a portion of the former window opening was bricked in and remains visible.

The west gable end features a bank of four two over two windows with a three course, brick, rectangular lintel spanning all four windows and plain wood trim. These windows were probably installed at the time of the 1930 "improvements" partially funded with State Aid, to comply with

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Vermont Department of Health mandates regarding lighting and ventilation.

Interior

The building contains one school room. The front door leads into a small rectangular entry foyer that is one bay wide and deep. Opposite the door is a two over two window placed so that if the front door is open sunlight will shine through the window into the classroom. This may have been added at the time of the 1930 changes, also to aid in compliance with regulations regarding improved lighting and ventilation. On either side of the foyer are doors opening into the classroom, each with five horizontal, recessed panels. Trim around the foyer doors and window is narrow and flat with a bead near the inner edge. The foyer walls, like the classroom, have horizontal, wide board wainscoting with a bead between each board and a narrow chair rail. In the foyer there are no baseboards. The ceiling, and walls above the wainscoting, are horsehair plaster applied to split lathe.

The entire school room, including the foyer, has narrow long leaf yellow pine flooring that historically was oiled several times a year. The ceiling and walls have the same wainscoting and plaster treatment as the foyer. Baseboards in the school room are wide and flat. Trim around the six over six windows on the front and side walls is narrow and molded, with deep sills. The bank of four two over two windows on the west wall has plain trim and deep sills. The two foyer doors and the exterior door at the back of the south wall have plain trim.

On the east and west walls the original wide board black boards remain on the walls between the two bays. They butt up against the window trim and wainscoting and stop about a foot from the ceiling. Composed of four wide boards painted black, they are a typical early period schoolhouse feature. After slate was discovered in West Pawlet in the mid-19th century the original painted boards were covered with slate blackboards. During the 1975 renovation the slate was removed and the original painted boards were found beneath.

An Ajax wood stove, placed in the center of the room, provided heat. A stove pipe ran from the stove to the ceiling and along it to the back (south) end of the room where it rose through the ceiling to meet the chimney. The stove remains and will be reconnected to the chimney as part of the current renovation. A wood storage area was traditionally located in the northeast corner of the school room next to the entry vestibule. Nicks on the wainscoting attest to the stacking of wood in this area. The wood was brought into the building from the associated woodshed/outhouse that remains to the west.

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**Braintree School
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Woodshed/Outhouse

This utilitarian structure originally stood very close to the northwest corner of the school. In 2008 it was moved 20 feet to the west to allow for installation of a curtain drain around the school whose north and east walls were bowing, partly due to poor drainage. The shed will remain in the new location to prevent future damage to the school.

This 10 x14 foot, single story, gable roof, vertical plank structure currently rests on cribbing and is in the process of being restored. It has a grey/purple slate roof similar to that on the door hood sheltering the entry on the south eave side of the school. This slate is probably from a quarry in nearby Rupert. There is a boxed cornice. There are no windows and the east and west walls are void of openings. Much of the original vertical plank siding was in very poor condition and was replaced during the 2008 restoration with boards from a nearby mid-19th century barn that had collapsed. Remnants of red paint remain on some of the original boards.

The woodshed occupied the southern two thirds of the building and the entrance is offset to the left on the structure's south gable end. The original vertical plank door with strap hinges was in very poor condition and is no longer in place but will be restored and re-hung. The interior of the structure is unfinished and lightly framed. There is a rough hewn vertical plank wall separating the woodshed from the privy portion of the building to the north.

The north wall of the shed has two doors centered on the façade entering into a boys' side and a girls' side of the outhouse. The doors are vertical plank with flat stock stiles and rails. There is a bracing horizontal rail two thirds of the way down each door. A single flat stock header board spans both doors and flat stock boards frame the sides of each door. Above the outer upper corner of each door is a small square cutout in the siding which provided light to each side of the outhouse. On the interior the original privy holes remain, two on one side and one on the other. A rough hewn plank wall divides the two sides of the privy.

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The 1852 Braintree School, District No.8, in Pawlet is significant as an intact example of a rural, mid-nineteenth century brick, Federal style one room schoolhouse and associated wood frame woodshed/outhouse. It served as a school until 1934 and since 1975 has been maintained by the Pawlett Historical Society as an example of a 19th and early 20th century school and hosts local educational functions. The building has local significance under National Register Criterion A for its contribution to the history of education in Pawlet and under National Register C as an intact example of a brick, Federal style, one room district schoolhouse with restored interior and associated woodshed/outhouse. The schoolhouse, although built during a period when the Greek Revival style was wildly popular in Vermont, exhibits elements of the Federal style, similar to those of the no longer extant Blossom's Corners brick schoolhouse in nearby District 9, built years earlier in 1813. The schoolhouse relates to statewide themes of Historic Architecture and Patterns of Town Development, as well as to Culture and Government. It is being nominated under the Multiple Property Listing for "Educational Resources of Vermont" and meets the registration requirements for the "School" property type.

Settlement history

Settlers first began clearing the land in Pawlet in 1762, in the anticipation of developing productive farmland. The town was chartered in 1764, the year of the first town meeting. By 1770 about a dozen families had settled in Pawlet. After the Revolutionary War the pace of settlement picked up and a village center in Pawlet began to grow around a mill and tavern at the crossroads. By 1790 the town had a population of 1,253 and in 1791 it was the second most populous town in Rutland County and had attracted a number of professionals. By 1800 the town had grown to 1,938 and 2,233 by 1810. After this early period of rapid growth however, the town experienced many decades of slow population decline.

The early farm crops, largely grains, wore out the land and harvests diminished in the 1820s to 1830s leading many citizens to emigrate westward toward Ohio. Meanwhile, in 1812 a woolen mill was built in West Pawlet (a village within the township of Pawlet), and another soon after in Pawlet Village. These mills produced wool from local sheep which were introduced the same year. Merino sheep soon arrived, spread throughout the town, and led to a new era of sheep breeding. The raising of sheep resulted in the consolidation of small farms to create expansive pastures for sheep herds; one more factor pushing people off their land and causing them to leave town. In 1820 the population had dropped to 2,155 and to 1,965 by 1830.

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The processing of wool led Pawlet to become a small industrial center by 1840 with five fulling mills, two carding machines, four woolen factories and one cotton factory. The village bustled with associated commercial activity serving its needs and those of the surrounding farming community. The population of the town had dropped to 1,748 in 1840 but by 1850, with the commercial success, had risen to 1,843.

Much of the population lived in a number of small cross roads hamlets scattered around town, many of which had associated district schoolhouses to be discussed later in this Section.

In the 1850s and 1860s local farmers began raising fewer sheep and more dairy cows, primarily using the milk for cheese produced initially on their farms and later in local cheese factories. In 1864 the first cheese factory in Vermont was established in West Pawlet by C.S. Bardwell. In 1865 another cheese factory was established in Pawlet Village by Rollin C. Wickham. Both were very successful. Sheep were still being raised in 1867 but the market was depressed. The Rutland & Washington Railroad Line opened through West Pawlet in 1851, opening markets in Boston and New York for goods including potatoes, cheese, and later slate.

In the 1850's slate was discovered in West Pawlet but wasn't exploited until after the Civil War. The number of quarries and processing plants grew in the late 1860s and 1870s and continued to thrive into the first two decades of the 20th century. At one time there were more than 100 slate quarries operating in the western part of Pawlet. The growth of the slate industry led to an influx of experienced Welsh slate workers and their families into West Pawlet. The population of Pawlet had reached a low point of 1,505 in 1870 but with the expansion of the slate industry and demand for workers in West Pawlet, the town's population grew in 1880 to 1,696, in 1890 to 1,745, and in 1910 to 1,959. The Great Depression of the 1930s and universal use of synthetic materials for roofing in the 1940s brought the slate industry to a virtual standstill, running in fits and starts through the rest of the 20th century. The town's population declined in 1930 to 1,476 and by 1940 to 1,192 and did not begin to increase again until 1980.

Quarrying and successful dairy farming continued the demand for commercial services in Pawlet Village through the early part of the 20th century. Although these industries have declined, the two village centers continue to be the focus of civic, religious, and commercial activity.

Development of Education in Pawlet

The 1764 charter of Pawlet provided for one share (250 acres) to benefit the schools and in

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1777 public schools were mandated by the constitution of the State of Vermont. This was the period of early settlement in Pawlet and by 1791 it was a large community with a number of professionals residing there. Many of Pawlet's early settlers were educated-some with college degrees and establishment of schools was an early priority. Schools were constructed as soon as there were enough students in an area. A state law passed in 1782 provided for subdivision of towns into school districts and for each district to have its own taxation and supervision. Originally 17 districts were organized in Pawlet; however by 1784 there were 14, including District #8- Braintree. The district's number indicates the order in which it had enough population for a school to be built. The population in Pawlet grew rapidly from 1,253 people in 1790 to 2,233 by 1810; thus explaining the early construction of schools in most districts.

During the early period, schools were rough, plank one room buildings with a stone chimney at one end. Early schools each had its own school board and raised its own taxes to support it. School was taught an average of 10 weeks and pay included room and board with a family who had children in the school. Until roughly 1865 families contributed cord wood (1/3 to 1 cord) for each student that attended. Men taught in the winter months and women were allowed to teach in the summer months. All of the district schoolhouses provided up to an eighth grade education.

In the 1840s to 1860s the existing one room plank schools were gradually replaced, some burned, and all but 3 or 4 were replaced with brick one room schools. These schools were constructed during a period of substantial growth in the number of schools in Vermont. From 1840-1850 three hundred new schools were constructed in the state. The number of districts in Pawlet was reduced to 11 by 1867, reflecting the drop in population, and 10 had school buildings at that date. The following list identifies the 10 district schools.

District # and School name, year built if known, material, * still standing

- 1-Jockey Street, wood frame
- 2-Cemetery Hill, *now a chapel, brick
- 3-North Pawlet*, 1847, brick
- 5-Buxton's Corners *, 1850, brick
- 6-Brimstone Corners* moved to Rt. 30 north of Dorset Village, wood frame
- 7-Nelsonville *, 1854, brick
- 8-Braintree *, 1852, brick
- 9-Blossom's Corners, 1813, brick
- 12-Spanktown, brick
- 13-West Pawlet Village*, wood frame

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Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont**Section 8 Page 4

By 1858 the district schools were in session for four months in the summer and three months in winter. Women earned \$1.50 per week, and men \$2.90. The schools had few vacations, often only a week at July 4 and Christmas. These district schools, like the earlier first generation schools, were administered and financed by each district.

Secondary education was largely available at private academies through much of the 19th century. In the early 19th century a large brick academy was constructed near Pawlet Village in which the higher grades were taught. School was usually two terms-Fall and Winter. The school burned in 1845. In 1854 the brick Methodist Church, built 1826 on Cemetery Hill in Pawlet Village, was vacated and converted to an academy which provided secondary education for a number of years. In 1869 a wood frame, two story, Italianate style academy building was erected in West Pawlet at a cost of \$4,500. In 1886 it served 74 pupils.

In 1864 a state law was passed lifting the school tax from pupils and allowing free education and in 1870 a law was passed in Vermont requiring that all children must attend school. In Pawlet in 1871 teachers were expected to teach six days a week and their pay was not to exceed \$3.50 a week for 11 months.

After 1874, throughout Vermont, town and county superintendents were appointed to inspect and report on schools. This led to efforts to improve conditions in the district schools and to improve the curriculum and the skill level of teachers. In 1880 Pawlet had a population of 1,698, was divided into eleven school districts and contained eleven common schools. They employed four male and, nineteen female teachers, at an aggregate salary of \$1,742.02. There were 350 pupils attending common school, and the entire cost of the schools for the year ending Oct 31st, was \$1,967.02. Edward I. Vail was superintendent. The district superintendent who supervised all schools in Pawlet and West Pawlet in 1896 was Helen M. Bromley.

In 1882 a state law was passed allowing towns to provide transportation to and from school at the expense of the town. By 1898 a sum not to exceed 25% of the school budget could be used to transport students who lived more than 1.5 miles from school. In Pawlet children were transported by horse or team in wagons in summer and sleighs in winter.

The state, in 1892, passed a law making towns the basic unit of control over schools- not the local districts. This led to consolidation and new school construction and the closing of poorly run schools in remote districts. Schools were also enlarged and remodeled to conform to modern

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designs. However, in many towns, including Pawlet, the old one room district schoolhouses continued to be used well into the 20th century. Given the nature of Pawlet's dispersed population, focused on a number of small cross roads hamlets, it is not surprising that grade school education remained in the scattered one room schoolhouses located in these areas.

In 1900 it became obligatory for towns with populations of 2,500 or more to maintain a public high school and in 1906 a law was passed requiring high school instruction be available to every child. This coincided with a period of growth in Pawlet resulting from the influx of quarry workers. In Pawlet Village a new wood frame, single story multi-classroom, Colonial Revival style school was built in 1911. In the same year a two story, multi-classroom, wood frame Queen Anne/Colonial Revival style school was constructed in West Pawlet. The Pawlet and West Pawlet Village Schools, serving either sides of town, offered both elementary and high school educations. Overcrowding in the two village schools in the late 1920s and early 1930s led to the need to use the high school rooms for the elementary grades, ending high school education in Pawlet. By 1933 Pawlet students attended high school in Granville, NY and traveled back and forth by train each day.

The State Board of Health, in 1904, began to set standards for sanitation, ventilation, and lighting in public schools. This led to, among other things, the installation of large banks of windows in older schoolhouses and the construction of new buildings. In Pawlet's 1921 Town Report it was noted that the previous year some effort had been made in the schools to have natural light directed over the students' left shoulder while working at their desks, as recommended by the state's standards. In 1927 the interiors of the town's one room schools were painted a light color to brighten up the spaces. State aid was available to match local funds for addressing improvements to the one room schoolhouses in order to meet the new standards and improve the quality of the educational environment. Pawlet took advantage of this program, for example renovating the Spanktown school in 1928 and Braintree in 1930. The new schools constructed in Pawlet Village and West Pawlet incorporated the new concepts regarding sanitation, ventilation and lighting in their designs.

At the time of the construction of the two village schools in 1911 there had begun to be discussion about developing a centralized plan for the Pawlet elementary grades. At this time two one room schoolhouses were closed, Jockey Street and Plains (also known as Buxton's), and their students sent to the new Pawlet Village School. It was hoped that other districts would soon follow suit. Although the various remaining one room schools remained open, their shabby nature was noted in the Superintendent of Schools report for the year ending 1926. Over the next several years improvements were made to the schools, as previously noted, and the one

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rooms schools continued to educate their neighborhood children. In 1932 the number of students attending these schools were as follows: Blossom's Corner School 14, Braintree-14, Brimstone-14, Nelsonville-10, North Pawlet-15, Spanktown-16. At the village schools Pawlet had 64 students and West Pawlet 52. In 1934 the School Superintendent, Edwin L. Bigelow recommended that the town consolidate its elementary education. With the community's declining population by 1935 the one room schools were struggling. The Nelsonville School had only operated for half a year in 1933 with 10 students and then closed. In 1934 Blossom's and Braintree only operated for half a year with 11 and 9 students respectively. Blossom's reopened in 1935 with 17 students but Braintree did not. From 1936-39 Blossom's, Spanktown, Brimstone and North Pawlet were still operating as schools and Brimstone and North Pawlet were electrified. Declining enrollment in 1940 forced the closing of the Spanktown and Brimstone schools and the transporting of those students to the Pawlet Village school. By 1941 the only one one room school still open was North Pawlet. This school had 20 students in 1950 and was closed in 1951. Many of the one room schools were sold and are now private residences. The Pawlet Historical Society owns the Braintree and North Pawlet schools.

In 1949 concern was expressed about overcrowding in the two village elementary schools and the possibility of splitting the elementary grades between the two schools. This was completed in the early 1950s with the Pawlet Village School accomodating kindergarten through grade 2 and the West Pawlet Village School grades 3-6. Students went to Granville, NY for grades 7-12 and later on had the option to be tuitioned to other area high schools.

In 1998 a new community elementary school opened and the two village schools were closed. The new school goes through grade 6 and includes students from the nearby town of Rupert. The Pawlet Village School is now the town public library and the West Pawlet School is a private residence.

History of the Braintree Schoolhouse

The former Pawlet District 8 Braintree School (hereinafter called "the school") is located at the corner of Route 153 and Warren Switch Road, north of the village of West Pawlet. It is in a little settlement known as Braintree, which was named for New Braintree, MA where its original settlers came from. Set in a rural location, it retains its nineteenth century appearance and serves as an intact example of the one room district schools that provided primary education to Pawlet's children until the middle of the 20th century.

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National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET****Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont**Section 8 Page 7

District No. 8 is one of the 14 original school districts established by the town in 1784. The district is located in the western side of the town of Pawlet, having the New York state line as its western border, the village of West Pawlet to its south, South Mountain to its east and North Pawlet and Blossom's Corners to its north. The school is on a small parcel that was historically part of the Jones Farmstead, whose houses and barns are located diagonally across Route 133 from the school. The family donated the school to the Pawlet Historical Society in 1973.

Typical of Vermont's first generation of schoolhouses, the district's first school was a rough hewn plank one room building with a chimney at the rear gable end serving a wood stove for heat. According to local reports the teacher was paid \$7.00 a month and taught 60-80 students.

The original schoolhouse burned and the existing brick school was constructed in 1852, during the 1840-60 period when a number of Pawlet's plank schools were replaced, many with brick. The Braintree School's bricks are believed to have been made at the Pepper brick factory in Middle Granville, NY, just across the state line from nearby West Pawlet. This building campaign corresponds with a growth in the number of schools throughout Vermont during this general period. This was a time when Vermont's communities had been established for a number of decades and were making civic improvements that reflected their growth and success.

The school's construction in the Federal style, during a period when the Greek Revival style was extensively used throughout the state for all manner of buildings, is curious. However, when compared to the once nearby, but no longer extant, c. 1813 District 9 schoolhouse in Blossom's Corners, similar features can be found. It may be a successful design was merely reused at the Braintree School. These features include a boxed cornice, the symmetrical 3 bay front façade, oval date plaque in brickwork in the front gable, and splayed wood lintels above the front door and flanking windows. In any event, the general design of the Braintree School is typical of the district schoolhouses built throughout the town and State in form. Common among them is the one story, gable front, 3x2 bay, rectangular, 20x25' footprint with brick stove chimney at the rear gable end. In Pawlet most district schools had a date plate or plaque above the front door and very little additional ornamentation. They were simple, utilitarian structures with very restrained stylistic references. Roofs, in this slate mining town, are largely slate shingle.

Associated with the school is a vertical board, two bay woodshed and outhouse that stood at the school's northwest corner. The woodshed fills the rear two thirds of the structure and the front third contains the two part privy. There are two entrances-one for boys and one for girls. Most one room schoolhouses had woodsheds and privies such as this one although many have been

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET****Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont**Section 8 Page 8

lost over time. Those schools that remained in educational use in the 20th century often replaced the outhouse with modern bathroom facilities. In other cases, the privies have fallen into disrepair and been removed. In the case of Braintree, the privy remained in use until the school closed in 1934 and its continued existence is an important link to the period prior to indoor plumbing.

The Braintree School has seen physical changes that reflect societal evolutions that impacted educational standards and convenience. In the Report of the Superintendent of Schools 1926-27, included in the 1927 Town Report, Edwin L. Bigelow lamented the condition of a number of Pawlet's one room schools, including Braintree. "The Blossom, Braintree, Nelsonville, and North Pawlet rural schools are much out of date, shabby, and deficient in respect to ventilation, lighting, and toilet conveniences according to modern standards." This was followed the following year with a report that all the one room schools had been painted a light color on the interior to brighten up the educational spaces. In 1930 Braintree received "improvements" funded by \$50 of town money and \$50 of State Aid, according to the 1930-31 Town Report. This probably included a bank of four 2/2 windows which was installed on the school's rear (west) gable end, a response to the 1904 Vermont Department of Health mandate requiring natural lighting and ventilation upgrades in schoolhouses. All one room schoolhouses in Vermont that were still in operation up to about 1940 were upgraded with the addition of larger windows.

It is likely these 1930 improvements also included a side door, that was added to the rear end of the south façade. At this time the original front gable end entrance was bricked in. Given the school's location at the intersection of two roads, its narrow setback, and proximity to the slate mines in West Pawlet, increasing traffic and its associated noise and dust, probably led to the need to relocate the entry to the side of the building away from the road. The original entrance has since been re-established during the Historical Society's renovation of the building in the 1970s.

Like many Vermont schools, the blackboards on the north and south interior walls were originally wide horizontal boards painted black. After slate was found in West Pawlet and became readily available in the latter half of the 19th century, the black boards were covered over with slate. During the school's renovation in the 1970's the Historical Society removed the slate and found the original boards beneath. Beaded, horizontal, wide board wainscoting, below horsehair plaster walls, and beaded window trim reflect Federal style interior treatments. Like most one room schoolhouses, heat was provided by a woodstove placed at the center of the open classroom space, with a long stovepipe that ran to the ceiling and across to the chimney at the

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National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET****Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont**Section 8 Page 9

building's western (rear) side. Firewood was brought in from the woodshed and stacked to the right of the entry vestibule. The building's original condition, including lack of electricity, central heat, running water, and plumbing, add to its significance as a highly intact example of a mid-nineteenth century schoolhouse.

Typical of many one room schoolhouses in rural Vermont, the Braintree School continued in educational use well into the 20th century. With the construction, in 1911, of the two new schools in the villages of Pawlet and West Pawlet, the Superintendent advocated for the centralization of education in town. He hoped that the residents of the Braintree district would see the benefits of the new educational facilities and send their children to the school in West Pawlet. This did not happen for quite some time. Twenty years later, in 1931, the Braintree school had 14 students with total expenses of \$890.30, in 1933 there were 9 students with total expenses of \$759.29, and in 1934 it was open for half the school year with 9 students and total expenses of \$442.92. Marion Griffith Jones was the last teacher at the Braintree School and she always arrived early to start the fire and sweep out the room. The Braintree School closed in 1934, after operating as a one room grade school for 82 years. Throughout Vermont, during this period, one room schools were closing and being consolidated as larger multi-classroom facilities were being constructed. Like the Braintree School, Pawlet's other one room schoolhouses gradually closed during the second third of the 20th century as their population decreased. The children from the rural areas attended grade school at the Pawlet Village School or the West Pawlet village school, depending on which side of town they lived on.

The Braintree School, after it was closed, was rented to the Combs family who used it for a honey house storing honey collected from their hives and preparing it for sale.

Jack and Marjorie Jones, on whose family's land the school rested, donated the Braintree School to the Pawlet Historical Society in 1973. In 1975 a group of volunteers began to restore the building and opened it to the public as part of the United States Bicentennial. At this time the front door was reopened and replaced. Since 1976 teachers from area schools have brought their classes to the school three or four times a year to participate in re-enactment of a typical mid-nineteenth century school day. Recently, the historical society sponsored and produced a community event called "Pawlet Olden Days" with the Braintree School and its grounds at the center of much of the day's activities. Classes in the school and tours of the school take place throughout the day; approximately 300 people attend the event each year.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont**

Section 9 Page 1

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

**Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont**

Boundary Description

The boundary of the Braintree School follows the perimeter lines of Pawlet Tax Parcel 0011-0009.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the historic lot associated with the school and is sufficient to convey the historic significance of the school.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photograph Labels Page 1

**Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland, County, Vermont**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont
Photos by George Bouret
April 2009
Negatives on file at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photograph #1 of 10

Facing south on Route 153; school is in center of image

Photograph #2 of 10

Facing south at intersection of Route 153 and Warren Switch Road; school is on right

Photograph #3 of 10

Facing southwest toward school

Photograph #4 of 10

Facing northeast toward school

Photograph #5 of 10

Facing southeast toward school and woodshed/outhouse

Photograph #6 of 10

Facing northeast in schoolroom

Photograph #7 of 10

Facing southwest in schoolroom

Photograph #8 of 10

Facing northeast toward woodshed entry

Photograph #9 of 10

Facing southwest toward outhouse entries

Photograph #10 of 10

Facing south into outhouse

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Negative ID Sheet Page 1

**Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland, County, Vermont**

The following information is the same for all negatives:

Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont
Photos by George Bouret
April 2009
Negatives on file at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Negative #1

Facing south on Route 153; school is in center of image

Negative #2

Facing south at intersection of Route 153 and Warren Switch Road; school is on right

Negative #3

Facing southwest toward school

Negative #4

Facing northeast toward school

Negative #5

Facing southeast toward school and woodshed/outhouse

Negative #6

Facing northeast in schoolroom

Negative #7

Facing southwest in schoolroom

Negative #8

Facing northeast toward woodshed entry

Negative #9

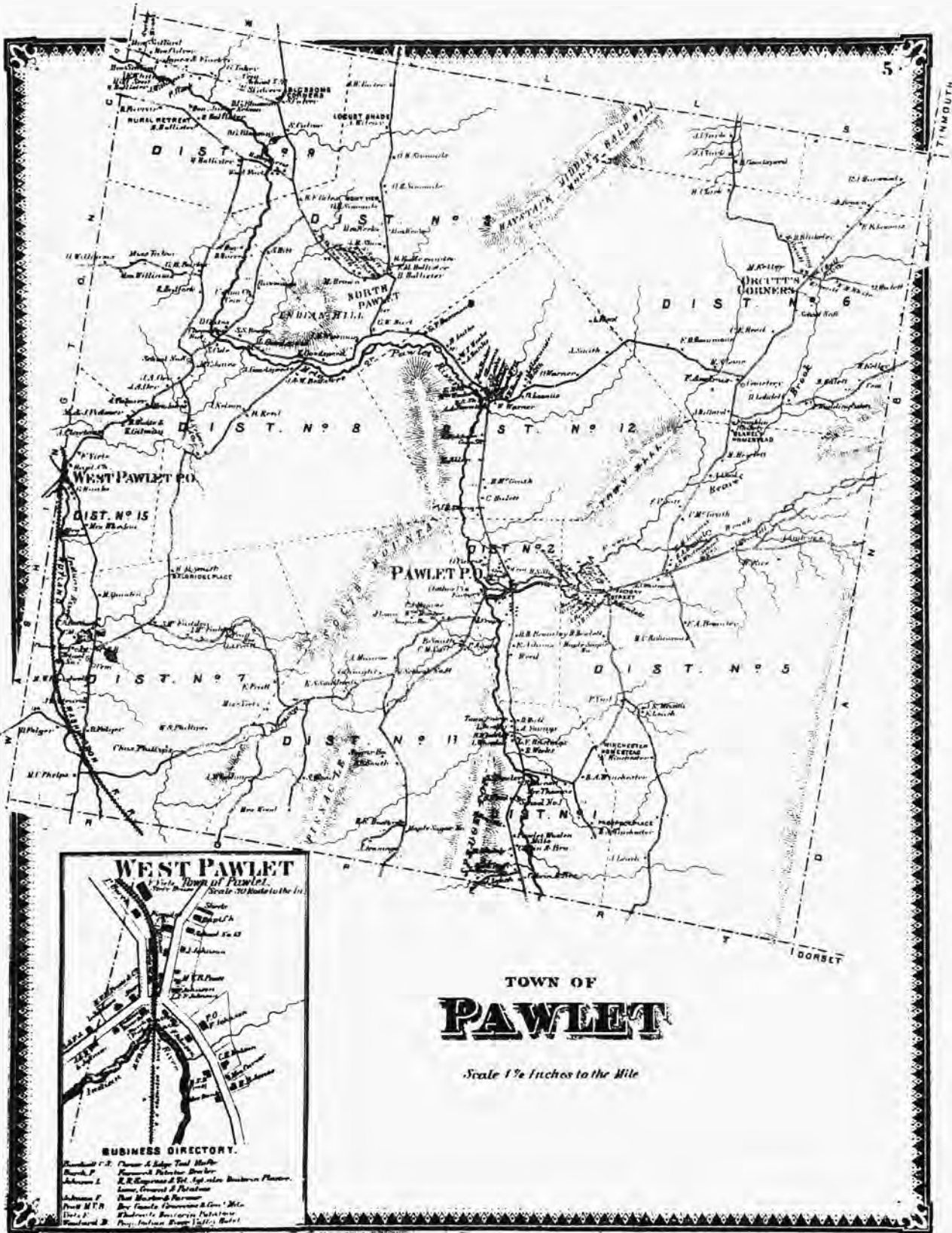
Facing southwest toward outhouse entries

Negative #10

Facing south into outhouse

Appendix 1

1869 Beers Map of Pawlet, Vermont



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Braintree School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Educational Resources of Vermont MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VERMONT, Rutland

DATE RECEIVED: 10/02/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/16/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/31/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/16/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000917

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11/13/09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER Usin Delone DISCIPLINE Historic
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 11/13/09

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Braintree School
Property Location: Pawlet, Rutland County, VT
Reference Number: 09000917
Date of Return: November 13, 2009

Reasons for Return

The Braintree School nomination is being returned for technical corrections and additional information needs as described below.

The Braintree School nomination was submitted under Criteria A and C, with areas of significance in Architecture and Education. The nomination was submitted at the state and local levels of significance with a period of significance from 1852-1934.

The nomination does not adequately address the significance of this school at the state level for the areas of significance indicated; there is no statewide architectural or educational analysis provided. The Braintree school is a typical, rural, one-room schoolhouse that served the local community of Pawlet. If you wish to defend the state-level of significance for this school, the argument needs to be made as to why this resource supports significant educational patterns (Criterion A) and design characteristics (Criterion C) within the architectural and educational contexts of schools throughout the state.

The Braintree School is also part of a Multiple Property Listing for Educational Resources of Vermont. However, the nomination doesn't identify the property type represented by the Braintree School. Please refer to the National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, pg. 66, for additional information regarding Section 8, Statement of Significance.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Braintree School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Educational Resources of Vermont MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VERMONT, Rutland

DATE RECEIVED: 4/02/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/17/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000917

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/3/10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA A-C
REVIEWER Chris Delme DISCIPLINE Historic
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 5/3/10

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland county, Vermont
Photograph #1



Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont
photograph #2



BRAINTREE School
Pawlet, Rutland county, VERMONT
photograph # 3



BRAINTREE School
PAWLET, Rutland County, VERMONT
photograph # 4



Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland county, Vermont
photograph # 5



Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont
photograph # 6



Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont
Photograph # 7



BRAINTREE School
Pawlet, Rutland County, VERMONT
photograph # 8

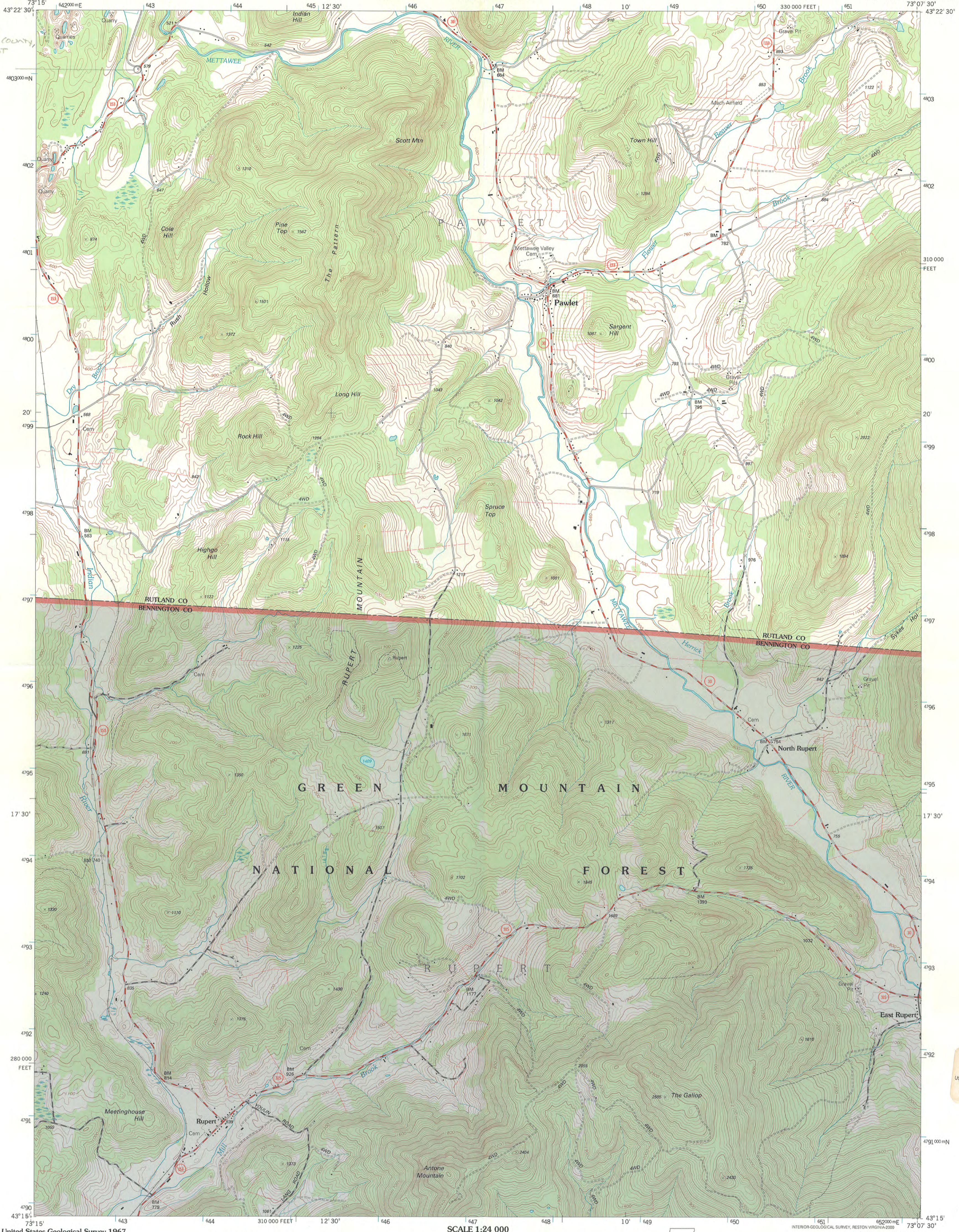


Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont
photograph # 9

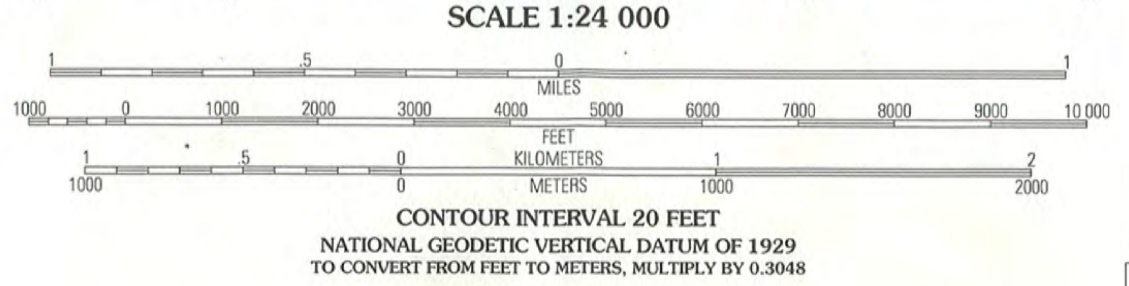
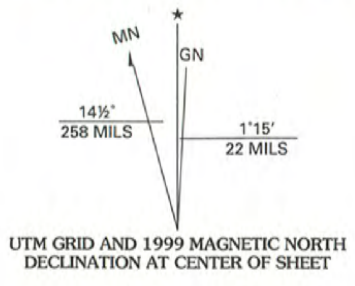


Braintree School
Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont
Photograph # 10

Brainree School
Pawlet, Rutland County,
Vermont
18-642957-
4803073



Produced by the United States Geological Survey 1967
Revision by USDA Forest Service 1995
Topography compiled 1965. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1992 and other sources. Survey control current as of 1995
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Vermont coordinate system (transverse Mercator)
Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 18
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
Non-National Forest System lands within the National Forest
Inholdings may exist in other National or State reservations
This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private lands



ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

1	2	3	1 Grandville
4	5	4 West Pawlet	2 Wells
6	7	8 Manchester	3 Middleton Springs
			5 Dorset
			6 Salem
			7 West Rupert
			8 Manchester

HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

Interstate	U.S.	State	County	National Forest, suitable for passenger cars	National Forest, suitable for high clearance vehicles	National Forest Trail	Primary highway	Secondary highway	Light-duty road	Composition: Unspecified	Paved	Gravel	Dirt	Unimproved; 4 wheel drive	Trail	Gate; Barrier
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USGS 17B 106111 PAWLET
\$ 6.25



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PAWLET, VT
1995
43073-C2-TF-024
NIMA 6370 I SW - SERIES V813

State of Vermont
Division for Historic Preservation
One National Life Drive, Floor 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-1201
www.HistoricVermont.org

[phone] 802-828-3211
[Division fax] 802-828-3206

*Agency of Commerce and
Community Development*



March 30, 2010

Lisa Deline
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Braintree School, Pawlet, Vermont

Dear Lisa:

Enclosed please find a corrected copy of the National Register nomination for the Braintree School in Pawlet, Vermont. The revisions address comments that you made in your Return sheet dated November 13, 2010.

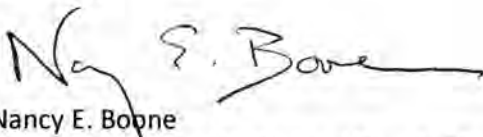
On page 2, the resource count was corrected to include the outhouse.

In Section 8, references to statewide significance have been deleted. The cover sheet of the form was also changed to reflect local significance. As stated in the Summary paragraph of Section 8, the school meets the MPDF Registration Requirements for the property type "School." References throughout Section 8 document the features of the Braintree School that are typical of one-room schools in Vermont.

Can you please list the property on the National Register as soon as possible?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Nancy E. Boone
State Architectural Historian / Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

