

1236

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 21 2005

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 Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 4201 Fort Bridgman Road

not for publication n/a

city or town Vernon vicinity n/a

state Vermont code VT county Windham code 025

zip code 05354

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Suzanne C. Jamale National Register Specialist 9-26-05
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):

Robert H. Beall 11.9.05
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
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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: Recreation and Culture Sub: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof slate

walls brick

other weatherboard

concrete

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Education
- Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance 1848-1955

Significant Dates 1848
1924
1941

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

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- 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 .41 acre

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

	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1	<u>18 707146 4734725</u>	3 _____
2	_____	4 _____
	___ See continuation sheet.	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Sagerman, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date _____

street & number 7 Winter Haven Drive telephone (802) 464-5179

city or town Wilmington state VT zip code 05363

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 Vernon

street & number Box 525, 567 Governor Hunt Road telephone (802) 254-3561

city or town Vernon state VT zip code 05354

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

Description

The 1848 former District No. 4 Schoolhouse is located at 4201 Fort Bridgman Road (Route 142) in Vernon, Vermont. It sits isolated in its well-preserved rural setting, and is a good example of an intact mid nineteenth-century rural school. This one-story, one-room, front-gable Greek Revival-style schoolhouse has brick walls, a slate roof, denticulated corbelled cornices and cornice returns, and regularly-spaced multi-pane windows. There is also a historic wood frame wing in the rear. The building served as a schoolhouse for over one hundred years, from 1848 to 1954, when the town's district schoolhouses were consolidated into a new elementary school. Since 1972, it has been a schoolhouse museum operated by Vernon Historians, the local historical society. Despite the fact that it was vacant from 1954 to 1972, the building is in very good condition and retains its nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century features. The schoolhouse retains its integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association, and there are no threats to its integrity. The building is well-maintained by the Town of Vernon and Vernon Historians, which intend to preserve its historic integrity.

Setting

Vernon is a rural town (population 2,141) located in the southeast corner of Windham County. It is bounded on the east by the Connecticut River, on the north by Brattleboro, and on the south by Northfield, Massachusetts. Route 142 runs north-south along the river and connects Brattleboro to Northfield. About five miles north of the schoolhouse there are a hydroelectric dam and Vermont Yankee, which is Vermont's only nuclear power plant. The District No. 4 Schoolhouse (hereinafter called "the schoolhouse") is located on the wide terrace that borders the river. There is only one other property in Vernon that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Advent Chapel.

The setting of the schoolhouse has been virtually unchanged since the nineteenth century. The schoolhouse is located in South Vernon, which is the most rural area of town. Just north of the schoolhouse is the intersection of Route 142 and Pond Road. South of the schoolhouse is a working historic dairy farm, and west and north of the schoolhouse are open fields and scattered homes. The village of South Vernon is a half mile south of the schoolhouse, and straddles the state line. The only change to the setting has been the loss of a historic brick home that stood at the northwest corner of Route 142 and Pond Road, which suffered a fire in the 1970s. Within a mile of the schoolhouse, there are two brick Greek Revival homes with similar corbelled cornices as the schoolhouse.

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The schoolhouse sits on a small flat lot and has about a twenty foot setback from the street. In front of the schoolhouse, there are a mature deciduous tree and a large bush. Just southwest of the building is a flagpole set into a raised bed that has retaining walls comprised of small gravestones. Next to the entryway, there is a pile of brick slag.

Exterior

The three bay by six bay Greek Revival main block of the schoolhouse has a rectangular footprint oriented perpendicular to the street, a brick foundation and walls, and a front-gable slate roof with boxed cornices. The brick walls are common bond with nine stretcher rows per header row, and there are a double row water table and a denticulated corbelled cornice with cornice returns. The brick walls have been repointed. The front (west) gable wall has three regularly-spaced large eight-over-twelve windows, and the south wall has six regularly-spaced smaller six-over-six windows. The front windows have painted stone sills and lintels, and the side windows have painted stone sills. At the north elevation are the ghost marks of the four original windows, which have been bricked up.

Projecting east from the east gable wall of the main block is a wood frame addition. It has a rectangular footprint oriented perpendicular to the street, and its side walls are set back slightly from the main block. The addition has a poured concrete foundation, clapboard siding, and an open-eave overhanging slate roof. The roofline is slightly lower than that of the main block and there is a rectangular brick chimney rising from the north roof slope, adjacent to the main block. Architectural trim is limited to flat-stock cornerboards, window and door casings, and roof cornices, fascia and gable rakes.

Near the left end of the south elevation of the addition is the entry to the schoolhouse. It has a slate shed door hood supported by large scrolled brackets with drop finials, a six-panel wood door, a concrete stoop, and a metal tube railing. Centered on the south elevation is a six-over-six window. The rear (east) gable wall has an off-center raised vertical-board door. Just left of this door is a six-over-six window. At the right end of the gable wall is a horizontal opening for an awning window, which has been boarded up. Centered in the gable is a horizontal six-pane window. At the right end of the north elevation is a pair of six-over-six windows. To the left of this, centered on the north elevation, is a pair of three-pane horizontal windows.

Greek Revival features of the building include the front-gable orientation, rectangular massing, and corbelled denticulated cornice and cornice returns. The building is in very good condition.

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

Interior

The main block contains one schoolroom. The addition has two rooms and an entry hall. The exterior entry to the building leads to the rectangular hallway, which spans the south side of the west half of the addition. North of the hallway, the rest of the west half of the addition is a kitchen and a pantry. The pantry is located in the northeast corner of the kitchen. The east half of the addition is one large room, with a two-holer water closet in the northwest corner. The schoolroom, kitchen, and rear room are all accessed from the entry hall.

The schoolroom has hardwood strip flooring, gypsum wallboard with wooden battens on the walls and ceiling, and beadboard wainscoting. There is a seam in the flooring at the rear (east) bay of the room. The battens have square corner blocks and a horizontal batten forms a picture rail encircling the room. Architectural trim includes flat-stock window and door casings and chair rails. Spanning most of the windowless north wall is a blackboard with a flat-stock casing. In the northeast corner of the room is a shallow two-tier wood cabinet with double leaf doors. In the southeast corner of the room is a shallow two-tier beadboard cabinet with single leaf doors. Spanning most of the south wall, beneath the windows, are shallow beadboard cabinets. At each end of the rear (east) wall is a natural-finish five-panel horizontal door. One leads to the kitchen, the other to the hallway. Near the northeast corner of the room, there is a freestanding, large, cylindrical, stamped metal, stove cover. It is labeled, "The Smith System." Inside the outer cylinder is the stove, which is another stamped metal cylinder. It is labeled, "No. 2000 Convection Heater, Smith System Heating Co., Minneapolis, Minn."

The hallway has hardwood strip flooring, rough horizontal board walls except for the exterior wall, which has horizontal beadboard, a beadboard ceiling, and flat-stock door casings. The kitchen has hardwood strip flooring, beadboard wainscoting, wallpapered walls, and a gypsum wallboard ceiling with wooden battens. The west wall of the kitchen is brick, as it is the east wall of the schoolroom. A brick chimney projects into the kitchen off-center on this wall. The tiny pantry has linoleum flooring, horizontal beadboard walls, and open shelving. The kitchen has flat-stock window and door casings. The doorway to the pantry has a four-panel wood door. In the southeast corner of the kitchen, there is a full-height shallow four bay cabinet with three full height doors and a pair of stacked doors. Also in the kitchen is a soapstone sink with copper hot and cold faucets and a beadboard base, and a freestanding decorative iron cooking stove labeled "Cottage Crawford."

The rear (east) half of the addition is unfinished. It has unfinished random width pine flooring, rough horizontal pine walls except for the horizontal beadboard paneling at the lower half of the

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

west wall, and an exposed roof structure. The water closet in the northwest corner is encased with horizontal wood boards and is accessed by a four-panel wood door with flat-stock casings.

Construction Chronology

The brick section of the schoolhouse was constructed in 1848. The west half of the addition, which contains the kitchen, was constructed in 1924, and the east half of the addition was constructed in 1941. A seam in the concrete foundation and different roofing slates reveal the difference between the two sections.

The schoolhouse originally had four windows on each long (north and south) elevation. It is unknown what the front (west) gable wall originally looked like, but it probably contained a central doorway, possibly flanked by six-over-six windows. (However, there are no seams in the brickwork that indicates that there was a doorway in any of the three exposed elevations.) The current window configuration and appearance dates to sometime between 1904 and 1941. The extant windows appear in a photograph that was taken between 1924 and 1941, but would not have been installed before 1904, which is when the Vermont Department of Health mandated natural lighting and ventilation upgrades in schoolhouses. It is possible that the window configuration dates to 1924, as the school report includes "brick work" in the list of upgrades to the building. It is possible that the nine six-over-six windows on the building date to 1848, and were reinstalled in new locations in 1924. The three front eight-over-twelve windows are 1990s replacements. They match the historic windows, with true-divided lights and ogee muntins.

The extant appearance of the schoolroom probably dates to 1924. This includes the flooring, wallboard, wainscoting, blackboard, cabinets and trim, but the flooring may be older than this. There is a seam in the flooring across the rear (east) bay of the schoolroom. This may indicate the location of an original feature that was later removed, a platform for the teacher's desk. The schoolroom stove dates to sometime between 1905 and the 1940s, as the Smith System Heating Company was incorporated in 1905, and made stoves for rural schools until the 1940s.

The 1924 addition probably appears the same today as it did originally. Its original use is unknown, as the 1941 upgrade to the school included a sink and stove. These fixtures probably date to the turn-of-the-century, as they were moved from a house in Brattleboro of this vintage. The 1941 addition probably appears the same as it did originally. This is when the water closet was added, and the rest of the space was probably used as a wood shed.

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

Statement of Significance

The 1848 Vernon District No. 4 Schoolhouse is significant as an intact example of a mid nineteenth-century Greek Revival one-room school. It served as a school until 1954, when the Vernon Elementary School was constructed. Since 1972, it has been the museum of Vernon Historians, the local historical society, and is open to the public. The building retains its historic integrity, and meets National Register Criterion A for its contribution to Vernon's and Vermont's history of community development and education, and meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural merit as an intact Greek Revival brick schoolhouse. The schoolhouse relates to the statewide themes of Historic Architecture and Patterns of Town Development, and 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. The period of significance of the schoolhouse is 1848-1955, which spans the years between the approximate construction date of the schoolhouse and the fifty-year limit for National Register eligibility. This period also coincides with the years that the school was open.

The former Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4 (hereinafter called "the schoolhouse") is located on Route 142 in South Vernon, which is a rural agricultural area of Vernon that has retained its nineteenth century appearance. Vernon may be the first settled area of Vermont. Due to the loss of records during an eighteenth-century fire, its early history is somewhat confusing. However, it is known that in 1672, for the first time in what is now Vermont, land was deeded to settlers of European descent. One account states that this transaction was made by Native Americans, and another account states that Massachusetts granted the town of Northfield in 1672, which at that point included some of what is now Vernon. This was a strip of land three miles wide on both sides of the Connecticut River (then called the Quoneticut River), extending from Mill Brook in Northfield, Massachusetts, to the Broad Brook in Vernon. Therefore, the first incarnation of Vernon was located in what are now Vernon, Hinsdale, New Hampshire, and Northfield, Massachusetts. This land was called Squakheag, which meant "spearing place of fish," and was a Province of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Shortly thereafter, the land was renamed Northfield. In 1736, Massachusetts granted Fall Town, which included the part of Vernon north of the 1672 grant.

The first settlers of Vernon were from Northampton and Northfield, Massachusetts. Vernon was the site of Indian raids, and two forts, Sartwell's and Bridgman's, were constructed about 1740 on land from the 1736 grant. In 1741, the town was renamed Bridgman's Fort after the latter fort. In September 1753, New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted Hinsdale,

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

Cheshire County, New Hampshire, which included what is now Vernon, and what is now Hinsdale, New Hampshire. This is the first time the town was called Hinsdale. A few days later, the river was officially deemed the boundary between what is now Vernon and Hinsdale, but both towns retained their names. In 1763, the north line of Massachusetts was altered, allotting what is now Vernon another ½ mile. This may explain why the village of South Vernon straddles the state line.

In 1802, local citizens requested Lieutenant Governor Jonathan Hunt, their representative in the state legislature, to rename the town. His wife suggested Vernon, after their friend Admiral Vernon and the name of George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. Vernon is reportedly the only town in Vermont named by a woman.

Vernon's proximity to the Connecticut River and its fertile agricultural terrace resulted in a thriving community of farmers, fishermen, and freighters. Sandstone, slate, and red and yellow ochre for paint were also locally quarried. The addition of two railroad depots further increased commerce in the late 1840s. On November 12, 1847, ground was broken in Vernon for the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad, one of the first railroads in Vermont. The first train to serve Vernon ran from Greenfield to Brattleboro, and stopped in South Vernon for the first time on January 16, 1849. The tracks ran directly behind the schoolhouse.

In 1883, the Windham County Gazetteer reported that the hamlet of South Vernon has a "depot and freight-house, hotel, grist and saw-mill, and about twelve houses. A post office (West Northfield) and a portion of the village are located just over the line, in Massachusetts." The hotel, called the South Vernon House, was constructed in 1872.

Industries of the early twentieth-century included the Vermont State Fish Hatchery, a cider mill (which Henry Ford attempted to buy and move to his "historical" village in Michigan), a saw mill, and numerous dairy farms. Vernon is also the location of an early hydroelectric power plant and associated dam, which were completed in 1909. Today, Vernon still maintains a few dairy farms, and is the location of Vermont's only nuclear power plant.

The schoolhouse has played an important role in Vernon's history. In 1807, the town established nine school districts. District No. 4 is bounded east by the river and south by the state line. The population of the town grew steadily in the first half of the nineteenth century, and it is likely that by the 1850s, eight of the nine districts had schoolhouses. The children of District No. 8, at the western boundary of the town, attended school in Guilford.

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

The schoolhouse was probably constructed during the summer of 1848. Although the District No. 4 record book is missing and was probably lost in a fire, notes on the construction of the schoolhouse were recorded in 1941 by the keeper of that book, Gincie Bruce. She states that the schoolhouse was constructed in 1848 at a cost of \$376.76, and that Hiram Doolittle was paid \$6.70. This record is probably accurate, as there is an 1854 lease in the town records between Hiram Doolittle of Vernon and School District No. 4. The lease states that Doolittle agrees to lease the property, which already has a schoolhouse standing on it, at the same rate as agreed to on August 8, 1848. This lease also notes that the school grounds were only 3 rods by 4 rods (about 50 feet by 66 feet). A March 1849 town record further confirms this construction date as the District No. 4 schoolhouse appears on a list of schools in the Vernon town records.

The schoolhouse was constructed of bricks from the Green & Dickenson brickyard, which was located on the south side of Pond Road, about 1/3 mile from the schoolhouse. This brickyard had been established in the early nineteenth century by Lorenzo Brown. At least three brick Greek Revival houses were constructed nearby, with similar corbelled denticulated cornices as the schoolhouse. They are recorded in the Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey. Two of these houses survive, and the one at the northwest corner of Route 142 and Pond Road was destroyed by fire in the 1970s (the same fire that destroyed the District No. 4 record book).

The schoolhouse was constructed during a period in Vermont history that saw a substantial increase in the number of schools. From 1840-1850, three hundred schools were constructed. All of the local schoolhouses provided up to an eighth grade education. The Town offered to provide tuition for additional education at the Northfield or Brattleboro high schools as well as the Mt. Hermon and Northfield Seminaries.

For a short period there were two schoolhouses in District No. 4. On May 4, 1848, District No. 4 was divided into two districts, and No. 10 was added. A schoolhouse was constructed on Pond Road, about one mile west of the No. 4 schoolhouse. This schoolhouse appears on the 1856 McClellan map of Vernon, but the school had disappeared by the time the town was surveyed for the 1869 Beers atlas, and District No. 4 had been returned to what was possibly its original configuration.

In 1893, the town school system was established. The schools fell under the supervision of one superintendent and a school board member from each district. In the early 1900s, the town began to provide transportation to school, first by horse drawn carriage or sleigh. About 1940, parents started driving carpools of children to school, each driver being paid for each trip.

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

The oldest surviving District No. 4 school report dates to 1861. It notes that the schoolhouse, which was called the "south school," had sixteen students during the summer, and twenty-one during the winter. Attendance grew gradually over the years, and although the town superintendent noted in 1872 that the school needed to be enlarged, this did not occur. This is probably due to the fact that the population of Vernon dropped from 821 in 1850 to 556 in 1920.

In 1924, a wood frame addition was constructed in the rear. (This addition is the west half of the extant rear wing of the building.) It is likely that the fenestration was changed and the interior of the schoolhouse was remodeled at this time. Because of the decrease in population, it is likely that these improvements were influenced by the 1904 Vermont Department of Health mandate, which required 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 on one or two sides of the building (including the south side), and the removal of windows from the north side of the building. This was to prevent multiple shadows that interfere with writing. It is not unusual that twenty years could have passed between the mandate and the upgrades. (The fenestration of the South Newfane schoolhouse was not upgraded until 1934.) The schoolhouse was also electrified in 1924.

In 1941, to further comply with the 1904 mandate, which also included provisions for sanitation upgrades, the rest of the wing was constructed with two "chemical toilets," and a kitchenette was added in the 1924 wing. The kitchen sink reportedly came from the house at the northwest corner of Oak and High Streets in Brattleboro. Up until the early twentieth century, most one-room schoolhouses had detached privies. Upgrades in the early twentieth century were limited to interior privies, not flush toilets. These improvements earned the schoolhouse the rating of "Superior," meaning it was "nearly perfect in all essentials."

Between 1920 and 1950, the population of Vernon increased from 556 to 712. In 1954, the Town of Vernon constructed a new elementary school and closed all the district schools. The 156 year-old District No. 4 schoolhouse survived the next eighteen years vacant. Since 1972, the schoolhouse has served as a museum of Vernon Historians, which is the local historical society. There is only one other surviving schoolhouse in its original location, the District No. 5 schoolhouse, which is now a private home. The District No. 2 schoolhouse was moved about a hundred yards to its extant location next to town hall, and has been extensively altered. It is now used for storage.

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
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The schoolhouse is an excellent example of a mid nineteenth-century one-room Greek Revival schoolhouse. Greek Revival features include the front-gable orientation, rectangular massing, and corbelled denticulated cornice with returns. The cornice lends a more distinguished appearance than most rural Vermont schoolhouses of its time. (Its architecture is complemented by the two nearby brick houses with similar corbelled denticulated cornices.)

It is possible that the design of the schoolhouse was based on published architectural plans such as William A. Alcott's 1832 *Essay on the Construction of Schoolhouses*, or Henry Barnard's 1838 *School Architecture*. They promoted the Greek Revival style, possibly to depict the schoolhouse as a temple of learning, and believed that well-designed schoolhouses inspired students to learn. The schoolhouse follows their designs of schools with gable-front orientations, regularly-spaced large windows to provide ample lighting, and teacher's desks placed against the rear walls, where there were no windows.

Today, the schoolhouse is a museum dedicated to the history of the schoolhouse and local history in general. All three rooms are open to the public and contain local artifacts including those pertaining to local school history. The building is still owned by the Town, and maintained by Vernon Historians. It is open to the public from May to September. This is an appropriate use for this historic building, and its ownership by the Town and operation by Vernon Historians ensures its future preservation.

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

Interviews

Pamela Cersosimo, December 2004
Barbara Moseley, January 2005
Ruth Tripp, December 2004

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

Boundary Description

The boundary of the Vernon Schoolhouse No. 4 property follows the perimeter property lines of Vernon Tax Parcel 362500. This parcel is identified on Map 3 of the Vernon Tax Parcel maps.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the historic and current legal property boundary of the Vernon Schoolhouse No. 4. This boundary is sufficient to convey the historic significance of this schoolhouse.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photograph Labels

**Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Vernon District Schoolhouse No. 4
Vernon, Windham County, Vermont
Photos by Paula Sagerman
June 2005
Electronic images on CD filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photograph #1
Facing south on Route 142; schoolhouse is on left

Photograph #2
Facing northeast toward schoolhouse

Photograph #3
Facing southwest towards schoolhouse

Photograph #4
Detail of southwest corner

Photograph #5
Facing southwest in schoolroom