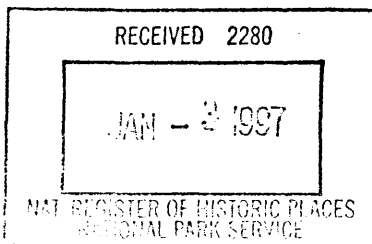


2

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 an 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 South Stone School House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number VT Route 129 N/A not for publication

city or town Isle LaMotte N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Grand Isle code 013 zip code 05463

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Eric M. Whitson, National Register Specialist December 31, 1996
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 1-31-97

South Stone School House
Name of Property

Grand Isle County, Vermont
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

Educational Resources of Vermont

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

South Stone School House
Isle LaMotte, Grand Isle County, Vermont

Located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Route 129 and Quarry Road in the town of Isle LaMotte, the South Stone School House, now the Isle LaMotte Historical Society Building, is a 1 ½ story, vernacular-style, c. 1842, one-room, solid masonry school house. The building operated as a schoolhouse for almost one hundred years, until the island's education services were consolidated at the c. 1930 school located in the center of the island. The South Stone School House is located in the southeast portion of the island on its original 1/4 acre lot, along with the non-contributing c. 1838 Duba Blacksmith shop that was moved to the site along with hundreds of shop tools in 1962. The building has seen few changes except for the addition of a large stone chimney in 1925 and the removal of a wooden entry porch. The exterior exhibits solid massing, has double hung wood sash windows, and is virtually unembellished. Neighboring farms and landscaping stand well away from the school property so that it retains much of its historic setting. This fact, and minimal changes to the schoolhouse exterior and interior, have allowed the old schoolhouse to retain the integrity of its historic location, design, workmanship, materials, setting and association.

Exterior

This rectangular plan, two-by-two bay, 1 ½ story, eaves front building has a four-in-twelve sloped gable roof supported by wood trusses, covered in asphalt shingles, with a shallow, wood box cornice and no returns. Two, six-over-six, double hung wood sash are evenly spaced on each of the north, west and south facades, with peaked lintels, and are fitted in the stone walls without exterior casings. To the right of the stone chimney, which was built onto the center of the windowless east facade, is the building's only entry.

Exterior walls extend approximately two feet below grade to bedrock, and are random range ashlar, quarry-faced construction, with random vertical, horizontal and face bedding evident. Where stones do not fit closely, the spaces are filled with smaller stones and stone chips, a technique known as galleting and closely associated with masons trained in Scotland. Larger, rectangular stones comprise and strengthen the corners with their longer lengths alternating along each adjoining wall, tying the building together. Solid, irregular, quarry-bedded lintels surmount the window openings, while the jambs and sills are formed through breaks in the random range ashlar wall construction. The building's only doorway, located on the north end of the east facade, is formed by a solid stone threshold, jambs, and lintel, the latter extending slightly beyond the ten inch wide jambs. Marks on the stone jambs and lintels indicate rough dressing with a bush hammer. A wrought iron and glass box light is installed over the entry, and the windowless door is constructed of three layers of vertical wooden planks. As with most of the stone buildings in the area, more attention was paid to the fit and finish of the walls visible from the road, with the rear, south wall containing the highest proportion of rubble stone. A wooden lean-to entry porch was removed from the east wall sometime before 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

South Stone School House
Isle LaMotte, Grand Isle County, Vermont

Three of the four facades remain virtually as constructed, while the present chimney was added to the east wall in 1925. Built to replace the wood stove which had been in the middle of the interior space with a metal pipe leading to a chimney centered at the south end, the chimney was carefully constructed with stone from the same quarry, installed following the same masonry techniques, and butt-jointed to the original stone wall.

The stone itself is in trade a black marble, although technically non-metamorphosed and referred to as Lower Ordovician Chazy Limestone. Quarried roughly a half mile from the building site at the Fisk Quarry, the stone shares many of marble's characteristics, but unlike marble, is highly fossiliferous. Close inspection of the stone walls reveal areas of tightly packed fossils, and some clear examples of fossils over three inches in diameter at the south end of the east facade.

Interior

The building's interior retains its original single open space configuration with the north, west and south interior walls having similar finishes and appearance. Common to the three walls is horizontal pine board wainscoting, with sheetrock extending upward from the simple, returned crown molding chair rail. Evenly spaced pairs of wood sash windows are recessed in deep, sheetrock lined bays with plank ledges, the edges of which are continuous with the chair rail, and form the cornices of slightly projecting built-in cabinets beneath each window. The paired, flat pine cabinet doors are hinged with wrought iron HL-style hardware. A flat pine picture rail is continuous on the three walls just below the tops of the window bays, and a 3/4 inch quarter round covers the joint of the wainscoting and the three inch wide, dark-stained, c. 1925 pine strip flooring.

The east (entry) wall interior is covered in vertical, white-painted pine planking, with the main entry at its north end, a centrally located fireplace, and a built-in cabinet at its south end. Two, flat, 28 inch, wrought iron strap hinges terminating in decorative hook designs support the 36 by 80, 2 inch thick, pine, vertical board entry door. Added c. 1925, the fireplace has a 42 inch wide by 36 inch high opening to a neo Rumford design firebox, an unpainted brick surround and flush hearth, and a simple pine mantel supported by terminal wood brackets. The flush, built-in book cabinet at the south end extends upward from the chair rail, is framed with flat pine stock scrolled to form a whimsical curvilinear outline, and is closed by a pair of 2 over 2 cabinet doors. Overhead, white composition board is recessed to expose the original hand-hewn beams which tenon into exposed wooden lintels over the east and west walls. Interior lighting is provided by two converted oil lanterns with large tin hoods suspended from ceiling beams.

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

Section 7 Page 3

South Stone School House
Isle LaMotte, Grand Isle County, Vermont

Now functioning as a museum, the building's contents are a diverse collection of artifacts, objects and documents which pertain primarily to local history. Among the collection are old photographs, maps, records, letters, and framed documents which detail significant Isle LaMotte historical events and genealogy. Some of the objects housed in the museum include historic hand looms, once belonging to noted resident, Elizabeth Fisk, and a school bench with decorative wrought iron legs and original to the building. Other artifacts include cannon shot, Native American stone implements, and examples of fossils recovered from the reefs which bore the building stone for the old schoolhouse.

Duba Blacksmith Shop (non-contributing)

The Joseph Duba Blacksmith shop, moved to the school site in 1962 and not considered contributing at this time, is a 1 ½ story, c. 1838, clapboarded wood framed building with a sheet metal covered gable roof and a wagon door entrance on the north gable end. The wood sash windows have wide trim, and lip-molded lintels. The shop interior is intact with hundreds of blacksmith tools, an interior brick chimney, and fire bellows.

South Stone School House
Name of Property

Grand Isle County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1/4 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8	6	3	0	8	3	0	4	9	6	7	6	1	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

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 Scott Newman

organization Cultural Resource Management Consultants date June 11, 1996

street & number Box 75, Shrine Road telephone (802) 928-3342

city or town Isle LaMotte state Vermont zip code 05463

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Isle LaMotte Historical Society Inc.

street & number Route 129 telephone (802) 928-3422

city or town Isle LaMotte state Vermont zip code 05463

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1843 - 1920

Significant Dates

1843

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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

South Stone School House
Isle LaMotte, Grand Isle County, Vermont

The South Stone School House, a 1 ½ story , gable-roofed schoolhouse built c. 1842, is an excellent representative example of early 19th century vernacular-style, rural Vermont, one-room school architecture in native stone construction. Located among exposed portions of an ancient reef, the schoolhouse fossil covered walls are truly part of the landscape. Built to replace a burned c. 1793 log-walled school at the same site, the South Stone School House is noteworthy for its blending of native materials and early Scottish settlers' masonry skills in a simple, but well constructed building which is still in excellent condition. The building exemplifies early patterns of education in Vermont, where in 1782, towns were required to establish school districts and organize schooling. Isle LaMotte, like other rural communities, divided itself into districts and financed the construction, through grand list and property taxes, of small, affordable schools to serve their widely dispersed communities. The Old School House is significant also for the association of its building stone with the mid-19th century rapid expansion of marble quarrying on the island, the widespread use of the stone on noteworthy buildings and bridges in the United States and Canada, and its source of the stone being part of the local geological system which includes the oldest exposed coral reef in the world. This school is being nominated under the multiple property submission, "Educational Resources of Vermont." It clearly meets the registration requirements for the property type school.

Located just below the Canadian border in Lake Champlain, Isle LaMotte is the northernmost in the chain of Champlain Islands. It is a fairly low lying, low density, rural landscape of 4,670 acres. The Island was discovered by Europeans in 1609 when Samuel de Champlain, two French companions, and sixty Native Americans sailed into the lake from Québec. Fifty-seven years later, the island was named for the Captain of the French regiment that established the first white settlement in Vermont on the island's northwest shore called Fort St. Anne.

Permanent settlers began arriving on the island in the 1760's. Although the original 1777 charter for Isle LaMotte reserved a right "for the support of an English School or Schools," little was done to implement any kind of a school, due largely to the limited number of families and the economic struggle for existence. It was not until 1793, at a town meeting, that the settlers voted to "build a school sixteen feet square" and formed a "Committee to pitch a place for a schoolhouse." Shortly thereafter, the first Isle LaMotte school was built on the site of the present South Stone School House to serve all 84 Isle LaMotte pupils between the age of 4 and 18 years. Some time before 1842, the log-walled school burned, and the town voted to build the present, larger schoolhouse, and create a second school district in the north part of the island to accommodate the growing population. At the time of the building's construction c. 1842, the island's economy was realizing increasing returns from the expanding exports from its marble (limestone) quarries and its apple orchards. As the industries grew, so too did the population. Due to the associated increase in the number of school aged children, and the location of most of the marble quarries in the south part of the island, the

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

South Stone School House
Isle LaMotte, Grand Isle County, Vermont

South Stone School House was built 50% larger than the original 16-by-16 foot log structure. Once finished, it quickly became a place for other community functions including town meetings and religious services. There is record of a funeral held there in 1849.

Like other District schools constructed in the first half of the 19th century, the South Stone School House was, to a certain extent, an architectural product of state law. Regulation which clearly influenced the construction and circumstances of the school was the enactment of the Vermont District School System in 1782. The fact that the District School system made the individual communities responsible for raising the funds for the construction of their schools is manifested in the simple, unembellished, and thus more affordable design of the building. The South Stone School House, unlike other stone buildings constructed during the same period by mason, James Ritchie, was built with predominantly quarry-faced stone, with an increased use of galleting, without solid jambs or lintels for the window openings, and without the characteristic horizontal decorative chiselling of the stone entry surround. The building was also erected on land with less than two feet of soil over bedrock, and thus unsuitable for agricultural use.

There is indirect evidence that the builder of the South Stone School House was James Ritchie, a master stone mason who emigrated to the island after apprenticing in Scotland. Ritchie is known to have built seven other buildings on the island from locally-quarried black marble including the Methodist Church, the town library, and several residences. There are evident in the construction of the school however, several departures from Ritchie's established masonry techniques. Because these differences would have resulted in a lower cost of construction, Ritchie may have used less expensive methods commensurate with the limited resources available for constructing the school.

The South Stone School House is significant also for the association of its stone type and origin with the history and development of the island. Isle LaMotte marble was widely recognized and prized for its capacity to take the polish required for fine mantels, counter tops, tiling, and columns. For example, it was shipped into Canada for use in the Bank of Montreal headquarters, and to New York City for use as a finish stone in fine homes. The marble was also widely used as a building stone outside of Isle LaMotte - in such buildings as Radio City Music Hall in New York, the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston, the State Capital Building in Boston, the Toronto Art Museum, and the South Hero Inn in Vermont. It was also used in the piers and abutments supporting the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Victoria Bridge in Montréal.

The South Stone School House was closed in 1930 when the present school, situated at the center of the island, was completed and the island's school districts consolidated. The building was bought

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

South Stone School House
Isle LaMotte, Grand Isle County, Vermont

in 1932 by the Isle LaMotte Historical Society, and has continued to serve the community and visitors as a museum, a repository for historical documents, and meeting place for Society members.

Duba Blacksmith Shop (non-contributing)

Joseph Duba Sr. came to Isle LaMotte in 1838 from Scotland, where he trained as a blacksmith under his father. Shortly after arriving, he built a blacksmith shop on Isle LaMotte's main road, Route 129, roughly three miles north of where the building is presently. Of his eight sons, six followed in his trade, one of them, Joseph Jr., in Isle LaMotte, and who moved the blacksmith shop in the late 1800's to a point halfway between its original, and present site. The move was associated with increasing industrial activity and population in the south island as the marble quarrying expanded. Joseph Jr.'s son George, a third generation Duba blacksmith, operated the shop off and on into the 1950's, when the demand for blacksmith services had declined significantly. The number of horses in Isle LaMotte had fallen from over 500 in 1900, to fewer than a dozen in 1952. George Duba bequeathed the shop and its contents to the Isle LaMotte Historical Society, and the building was moved to its present site in 1962.

The Duba Blacksmith Shop is significant for remaining virtually unchanged from its condition in the mid-1800's. Inside, there are hundreds of tools once used to make hand tools, hinges, nails, repair drawn wagons, and shoe as many as 25 horses a day. The forge and bellows are intact. Outside, the stone wheel, once a template for bending steel wagon wheels, lies in its traditional spot to the left of the entrance. It is also significant for its association with patterns of development on Isle LaMotte. Its construction, and first move south, follow the rise and decline in the use of horses and equine-operated equipment on the island. Its relocation to the site of the South Stone School House in 1962 represents an early and dedicated effort by island residents, and the Historical Society to preserve the shop. Finally, the Duba Blacksmith Shop is significant for its association with original European settlers on Isle LaMotte, the skills they brought to rural communities in Vermont, and the patterns of generational dedication to craftsmanship.

Owing to its move in 1962 to the site of the South Stone School House, the Duba Blacksmith Shop is considered non-contributing at this time. However, with the passage of time, and further research into the significance of this building and its vocation, it may be considered individually eligible at a future date.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 1

South Stone School House
Isle LaMotte, Grand Isle County, Vermont

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

South Stone School House
Isle LaMotte, Grand Isle County, Vermont

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the South Stone School House are the rectangle defined by the frontage of approximately 110 feet, extending from the center of Vt. Route 129 to the east along Quarry Road, and approximately 90 feet, extending from the center of Quarry Road to the south along Vt. Route 129.

The boundaries of the South Stone School House are recorded in Book 9, page 420 in the Town Clerks' Office, Isle LaMotte, Vermont, and read as follows: "The South Stone School House and Lot and bounded as follows: On the east and south by land owned by James Francis and Julia Gilbare: on the west and north by the center of the highway, one fourth (1/4) acre of land, more or less, of which stands a stone schoolhouse and shed."

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of this rectangular shaped parcel of land includes the South Stone School House, the non-contributing Duba Blacksmith Shop, and the surrounding quarter acre of land historically associated with the South Stone School House.