

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont
COUNTY: Orange
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 20 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Strafford Village Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

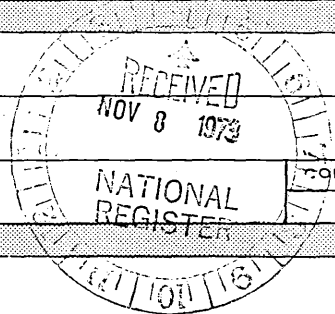
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>along both sides of Merrill Highway and Chase Brook Road</i> For boundary description see Section 7			
CITY OR TOWN: Strafford		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District Rep. Richard Mallary	
STATE Vermont	CODE 50	COUNTY: Orange	CODE 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple ownership	STATE: Vermont COUNTY: Orange
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Town Clerk's Office		
STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)		
CITY OR TOWN: Strafford	STATE: Vermont	CODE: 50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE: 08

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Strafford Village Historic District includes the village of Strafford, as centered on the village common. The district boundary begins at a point on Morrill Highway 4/10 mile south of the junction of Sharon Brook Road; thence in an easterly direction a distance of 1000 feet; thence in a northerly direction 4000 feet; thence in a westerly direction to Sharon Brook Road; thence in a southerly direction 4000 feet; thence in an easterly direction to the point of beginning.

Strafford Village is the principal community in the township of Strafford in southeastern Orange County, Vermont. Strafford Village is located in the Ompompanoosuc River Valley between two ridges which envelop the village on the east and west sides. Because of the unspoiled natural environment visible from the community, the district includes a portion of the surrounding slopes as a vital component of the historical integrity.

Strafford Village consists of approximately 30 residences, religious, and commercial buildings constructed prior to the middle of the 19th century. Greek Revival architectural styles predominate among the several residences in Strafford. The vernacular building material is wood, and frame structures are most abundant. Especially significant are the old meeting house on the green and the Unitarian Church on Morrill Highway.

The village of Strafford is a cohesive architectural unit devoid of intruding structures or stationary objects which damage the historical quality. The primary villagescape is situated along a "Y"-configuration formed by the junction of two village roads. A similarity of building scale, style, materials, spacing, and orientation to roads reinforces the unified quality and provides a readily discernible identity to the community. The meeting house, located on a rise in the village common at the major fork in the roads, is the locus of the village and forms the principal community landmark.

The meeting house was constructed in 1779 by a subscription of pews and a special town tax levy.¹ A two story frame structure with a steeple and tower projected from the center of the main facade, the Strafford meeting house was to be "65 feet in length and 50 feet in width" according to a vote of the town electors.² The meeting house is a rectangular plan, clapboard sided frame structure having a high pitch gable roof and square tower appended to the central bay of the main (south) facade. Fenestration throughout is double-hung sash type, six-over-six light except on the third level on the steeple tower at which point windows are eight-over-eight light flanked by twin side-lights. The steeple tower projects approximately ten feet above the roof peak and is topped by a two-tier hexagonal steeple with spire.

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Section 3

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Accessible to the Public

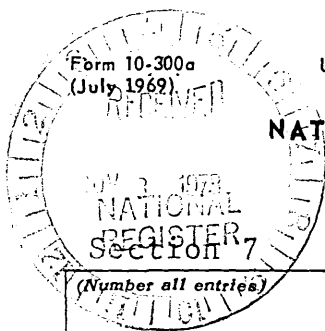
Restricted *

Public spaces are unrestricted.

Public and commercial buildings are open to the public during specified hours.

The private residences are not open to the public.





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The meeting house was the first structure to be built in the present village and was constructed in a central position within the township of Strafford, on the turnpike between Montpelier and Boston.³ The meeting house remains essentially intact, although the interior was remodeled about 1900. Other Greek Revival residences include several two story, five-bay, rectangular-plan houses, and single-story, three-bay cottages, many with continuous kitchens appended to side facades. These structures appear to have been constructed from the time of the establishment of the village to approximately 1840, and reflect the prevalent classical tastes in architecture of the day.

There are two significant exceptions to the Greek Revival character of the Strafford Village. The Justin Smith Morrill Homestead, a Gothic Revival structure built in 1841, is a National Historic Landmark administered by the State of Vermont as an historic site. A companion Gothic Revival residence stands across the road and appears to be a less opulent expression of the Morrill Homestead.

The Justin Smith Morrill Homestead is a two-story, L-Plan, Gothic Revival frame structure with a high pitch gable roof. The narrow gables with projected eaves and ornate bargeboards and the Gothic tracery framing fenestration typifies the structure as an example of the Carpenter Gothic style. The front porch and clapboard addition surrounding the north first floor window is an addition of a later date, but the additions reflect the Gothic Revival tradition of the residence. The house has customarily been painted tan-pink to simulate stucco and further reinforce the medieval character of the dwelling.

Commercial structures include a frame saw mill (machinery removed) at the south end of the village, a blacksmith shop at the north edge of the community (modified), and two store buildings near the green. One store, a former hotel, is a large frame structure. Early photographs indicate that the building, a mid-19th century transitional Victorian style, has been extensively modified and several rear continuous appendages removed.⁴ Another commercial building is a Greek Revival, brick, 2½ story building with granite window sills and lintels and a granite cut-stone commercial front.

The brick store is a relatively austere structure of common bond, having a three-bay symmetrical front facade and a medium pitch gable roof. The granite store front contains symmetrical fenestration. Windows in the commercial level are ten-over-ten double-hung sash with flanking two-over-two sidelights. Fenestration in the second and attic levels is two-over-two

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double-hung sash type, having one window in each bay on the second floor, and two equidistantly spaced windows in the attic facade. This structure appears to be intact from the period of construction, according to old views.

A clapboard sided, frame 1½ story building, currently the Office of Town Clerk, was constructed in 1883 as a town library, the gift of Justin Smith Morrill. This structure has a slate gambrel roof which is an unusual construction technique in this area.

1. Minutes of Town Meeting, October 27, 1799, Strafford Manuscripts, Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vermont.
2. Minutes of Town Meeting, December 28, 1797, Strafford Manuscripts, Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vermont.
3. Elizabeth Chandler, "Strafford", Vermont, Vol. XIII, (April 1907), p. 101.
4. Miscellaneous photographs, Strafford file, Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vermont.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Villagescape</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Strafford is significant as a well preserved early to mid-19th century New England townscape, surviving in an unspoiled historical environment. As such, Strafford is a manifestation of the village-centered agricultural society which is being displaced nationally, as well as in Vermont. The village of Strafford contains structures which housed the essential necessities of that agrarian society: schools, churches, residences and trade facilities for area farmers. Strafford is a significant entity because of the undeveloped nature of the surrounding landscape which provides a compatible background to the historical environment. As an integral part of its historic preservation plan, the State of Vermont intends to provide recognition for many of the environmentally cohesive rural village and cityscapes which survive within the state.

The town of Strafford was settled in 1768 by settlers from Connecticut under a charter issued by the Governor of New York. The first church, a Freewill Baptist, was organized in 1791 and was the first Baptist Church in Vermont. Originally, the principal village was located in the "old city" immediately north of the present community. However, with the construction of the meeting house on a major turnpike in a central location within the township, the present village assumed precedence. The discovery of copper deposits within the township during the 1830's provided employment for 200 area residents and helped perpetuate the development of the community. The mines continued to produce copper ore for smelting in Boston until this industry was eclipsed by the discovery of deposits in Michigan after 1840.

The potential for preservation in Strafford is increased by the fact that the State of Vermont owns and maintains the Homestead of Justin Smith Morrill, a U.S. Senator and sponsor of the 1862 Morrill Act for land-grant state colleges.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attached)

NW 18/710100/4160400 CD
 SE 12/711111/1131
 SW 18/710120/4859660

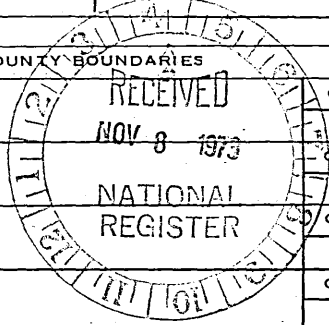
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 43° 52' 10"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 72° 23' 02"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	43° 52' 10"	72° 22' 17"				
SE	43° 51' 45"	72° 22' 17"				
SW	43° 51' 45"	72° 23' 02"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 120 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Stephen J. Raiche, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: 9/20/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National State Local

Name William B. Pinney

Title Director of Historic Sites
State Historic Preservation
Officer

Date 10/25/73

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Associate Director
 Professional Services

Date NOV 20 1973

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6/20/74

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Abbott, Collamer M., "Early Copper Smelting in Vermont" Vermont History, Vol. XXXIII, Jan. 1955, pp. 233-242.

Belanger, F. L., The Ompompanoosuc Valley, Union Village, Vt: Methodist Church Society, 1911.

Chandler, Elizabeth M. F., "Strafford" Vermont, Vol. XII, April 1907, pp. 100-106.

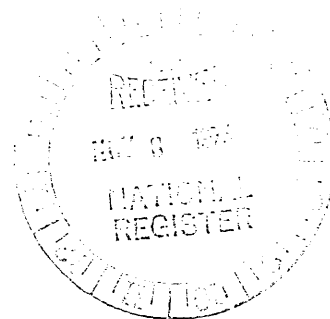
Hartshorn, Anna B., Memories, (NP, ND) Ca. 1911.

Letters and Manuscripts of the Town of Strafford in Files of Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vermont.

Mazmanian, Arthur B., Structures of Praise, Boston: Beacon Press, 1970, p. 117.

"Strafford Village Many Years Ago" Vermont, Vol. XXV, 1920, pp. 24-25.

A Walk Through Justin Morrill's Strafford, pamphlet, Strafford Historical Society, June 1973.



RESIDENCE: FRAME
2 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

BLACKSMITH SHOP
CONVERTED TO RES.

MEETING HOUSE
FRAME 2 STORY
GREEK REVIVAL

SCHOOL: FRAME
1 STORY

Tunbridge

RESIDENCE: FRAME
2 1/2 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

RESIDENCE, CONVERTED
TO STORE
2 1/2 STORY 3 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

HOTEL/STORE (MODIFIED)
2 1/2 STORY
GREEK REVIVAL

STORE: BRICK WITH
GRANITE

LIBRARY / TOWN HALL
FRAME
GAMBREL ROOF

RESIDENCE: FRAME
2 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

COTTAGE: FRAME
1 1/2 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

COTTAGE: FRAME
1 1/2 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

COTTAGE: FRAME
1 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL,
WITH GOTHICISED
PORCH

RESIDENCE: FRAME
2 1/2 STORY 3 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

COTTAGE: FRAME
2 STORY 3 BAY
CARPENTER
GOTHIC

RESIDENCE: FRAME
HOUSE / BARN
CONTINUOUS
GREEK REVIVAL

COTTAGE: FRAME
1 1/2 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

SAW MILL
FRAME
(MACHINERY
REMOVED)

COMMON

COTTAGE: FRAME
1 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

RESIDENCE: FRAME
2 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

COTTAGE: FRAME
1 1/2 STORY 3 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

RESIDENCE: FRAME
2 STORY 3 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

UNITED CHURCH
2 STORY
GREEK REVIVAL

COTTAGE: FRAME
1 STORY 5 BAY

BARN

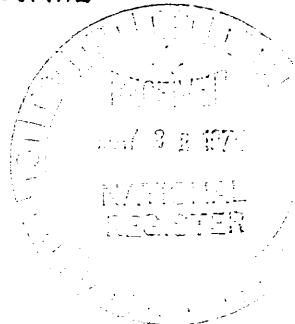
COTTAGE: FRAME
1 1/2 STORY 5 BAY
GREEK REVIVAL

LIBRARY: BRICK
"NEO-COLONIAL"
CA. 1915

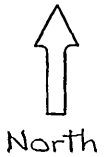
OUTBUILDING

OUTBUILDING

JUSTIN SMITH MORRILL HOMESTEAD
STATE HISTORIC SITE
GOTHIC REVIVAL



RESIDENCE: FRAME
2 STORY 3 BAY



South Stratford