



374

**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: Beaver Meadow School

other names/site number: West Norwich School, Norwich District School #3

**2. Location**

street & number: 246 Chapel Hill Road not for publication N/A

city or town: Norwich vicinity: N/A

state: Vermont code: VT county: Windsor code: 027 zip code: 05055

**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.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

4/19/2013  
Date

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]  
Signature of the Keeper

6/7/2013  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

**Number of Resources Within Property:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings:	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>
districts:	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
sites:	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
structures:	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
objects:	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
total:	<u>1</u>	<u>      </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:**       N/A      

**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:       SOCIAL       Subcategory:       meeting hall      

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** (Enter categories from instructions)

      Colonial Revival        
other:       

**Materials:** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation       concrete        
      stone        
roof:       metal        
walls:       weatherboard        
other:       wood belfry        
      brick chimney      

**Narrative Description:** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  
See continuation sheet for Section 7, pp. 1-4

---

### 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:**

1922 - 1946  
1922, 1940

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

N/A

**Significant Dates:**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect / Builder:**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet for Section 8, pp. 1-7

---

### 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:  
 Federal agency.  
 Local government.  
 University of Vermont, Special Collections.  
 Other. Name of repository: Norwich Historical Society

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

**Acreage of Property:** Roughly .5 acre

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

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1. <u>18</u>	<u>0711545E</u>	<u>4848853N</u>	2.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

**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 Lyssa Papazian, Historic Preservation Consultant; Organization: n/a Date: February 13, 2013

Street & Number: 13 Dusty Ridge Road Telephone: 802-387-2878

City or Town: Putney State: VT Zip Code: 05346

---

**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 Beaver Meadow Union Chapel Association

street & number

c/o Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse Association; Lindsay Putnam; PO Box 467 telephone (802) 649-2926 (Peter Stanzel)

city or town Norwich state VT zip code 05505

---

**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.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Beaver Meadow School  
name of property  
Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

The Beaver Meadow School is a one-story, gable roof, frame, Colonial Revival-style building that is sited about four miles from Norwich village in the hamlet of Beaver Meadow (a.k.a. West Norwich) on Chapel Hill Road in the northwestern portion of the town of Norwich. The one-room school building sits on a small plateau above the road with a steep, short driveway leading to a small gravel parking area. The rural, hamlet setting includes a cluster of homes adjacent and across the road as well as more houses and the Beaver Meadow Union chapel and cemetery nearby on Beaver Meadow Road. There are trees bordering the school property on the east and north sides. The 1922 building is remarkably well-preserved on both the exterior and interior and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The Beaver Meadow School has a three by five bay, gable front main block with a one-story shed addition across the entire west (side) elevation as well as a smaller rear shed attached to the north (rear) elevation. Its corrugated metal roof is accented by a low belfry situated on the roof ridge towards the south (front) façade. The clapboarded building has a bank of four large classroom windows on its east elevation and two large windows on the north elevation. It has plain wood trim and frieze boards and sits on a stone foundation with a concrete foundation supporting the addition on the west elevation. This simple building is distinguished stylistically by a classically-detailed entry surround, simple cornice returns, and a semi-circular gable window with radiating muntins. The main entry is centered on the front south gable façade and accessed by a flight of concrete steps with a recent wooden hand railing. The wood front door has four molded panels and a set of three lights across the top. The door surround is a very deep pediment supported by engaged Tuscan columns. The gable pediment has an entablature and the columns have a simple astragal band near the top, a plain abacus block at the top, and a plain projecting base. The doorway is flanked by two six-over-six light, residential-sized, double-hung wood sash windows. The small wood belfry has a square clapboarded base and an open section under a low, hipped asphalt shingle roof. There appears to still be a bell present.

The east elevation has the characteristic bank of large schoolhouse windows. There are four large, school-sized six-over-six light double-hung wood sash windows in a bank covering the northern 4/5 of the elevation. The fifth bay near the front façade corresponds to the entry vestibule and does not contain a window opening.

The north elevation has two large, school-sized, six-over-six light, double-hung wood sash windows on either side of a central exterior brick chimney. The chimney bisects the gable peak and breaks the cornice and has a small metal clean-out door at the base and a simple projecting brick lip at the top. A one-story shed-roofed addition for wood storage attaches to the rear elevation of the addition and makes a small rear dooryard with the main block. The rear door is

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Beaver Meadow School  
name of property  
Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

in the shed and is a simple wood, two-panel type with painted bead board as recessed panels. The shed has novelty siding and a corrugated metal roof.

The western elevation faces the road and is concealed entirely by a one-story shed-roofed addition, built in 1940, that attaches just under the main block eave. The addition has clapboard siding on the west and south elevations and three small, high, six-light fixed wood sash windows. The concrete foundation of the addition rises above grade and the partial-height crawl space within it is accessed through a small wooden plank door. Towards the rear of the addition there is also a small, framed screened opening providing ventilation for the rear crawl space. The rear elevation of the addition is almost entirely concealed by the wood shed described above, but a small section of the gable end is higher than the wood shed and appears to have only painted sheathing boards above the shed roof of the wood shed.

#### INTERIOR

The Beaver Meadow School is a one-room school building with a narrow front vestibule/cloak room that was expanded in 1940 with a set of small rooms, including a recessed stage alcove, along the western side. It is remarkably intact historically and architecturally. There are many surviving original or historic features throughout the building, including the raised 8" stage platform and square, trimmed arch, window sash, door and window casings, paneled wood doors, bead board wainscoting in the main block and horizontal bead board wall and ceiling panels in the addition, strapped press board walls and ceilings, wood flooring, and a large wood stove with an unusual stamped metal safety enclosure.

The front door opens into a small vestibule/cloak room which has an interior, five panel wood door leading into the one large classroom, and two windows on the south wall. This front vestibule has stained bead board wainscoting about 4' high with a simple, flat pine cap, and stained door and window trim. There is a long stained wood hat shelf with a shelf rod for coats under it, as well as a wood board mounted above the wainscoting on the east wall with coat hooks. The walls and high ceiling are finished with Homasote or some other type of cellulose-based fiber wall board with wood strapping over the seams. The board and strapping are painted. There are currently no blackboards on any of the walls, although a modern blackboard is stored on the stage. The historic photographs of the interior taken c. 1940 show that a large blackboard had been installed on the south (front) wall of the main classroom.

The main classroom is about 20' by 24' and has the same trim, wall and ceiling details as the vestibule. The large bank of four school-sized windows is on the east wall opposite the stage alcove and large woodstove enclosure. The 4' high bead board wainscoting on the east wall is interrupted by the tall window openings, which drop to about 2' above the floor. The south wall

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Beaver Meadow School  
name of property  
Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

of the classroom has set of book shelves and a four panel wood door into the washroom. Near this door on the western wall of the classroom is a five panel door into a former toilet (now closet) which also accesses the stage. The rest of the western side of the room is a framed square arch opening with an 8" step to the recessed stage alcove. At the northern end of the stage and sitting on the floor of the classroom is a large wood stove with a round, stamped-tin enclosure. A step up beyond the wood stove allows access to the stage behind the stove. The northern wall has a narrow five panel door to the rear wood shed and two large school-sized windows. The wood stove has a horizontal pipe that crosses near the ceiling and exits through the wall between these windows, where it connects to the exterior brick chimney on the north elevation.

The washroom area is within the original 1922 main block and has a cupboard, sink, one window and the ceiling hatch that accesses the attic space and belfry above. The walls and ceiling of this room are entirely covered with stained bead board wood paneling. A four panel door leads to the toilet in the western 1940 addition which has a vertical bead board stall enclosure and a modern chemical toilet. The former hole in the floor where the flush toilet used to be is still apparent. The walls have 4' high wainscoting and painted pressed board walls above. There is a small fixed-pane window in the stall on west wall.

The former toilet room that is now a storage closet is adjacent to the north in the 1940 western addition and is accessed through a five panel door from the main classroom. There is a similar small high fixed-pane window in this narrow space and wainscoting. A five panel door up a step provides access directly to the stage.

The stage alcove is about 18' wide and 8' deep and has the same trim, wainscoting and wall board treatment of the rest of the interior. There are two trimmed, square-arched openings – the larger is about 12' and frames the main stage opening and the smaller on the far side of the wood stove is about 5' wide and accesses the northern side area of the stage alcove. The wood floor is raised about 8" above the main classroom floor and has a small lip in the large opening while the other opening ends in more of a finished step. The northern side area of the alcove has a small high fixed pane window. There is still an old piano on the stage that may be part of the school's furniture.

The unusual jacketed woodstove enclosure was made by the company that also made the stove – the Smith System Heating Company of Minneapolis. The stove is the "New Convection Heater No. 822." It has an integral round safety enclosure made of decoratively stamped tin and is labeled "The Smith System." The stove sits on a pad made from several large stone pavers set flush into the wood floor. It has a ventilating duct at its base.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Beaver Meadow School  
name of property  
Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

---

The rear wood shed was likely built in 1940 or possibly later and has a dirt floor several steps below the main floor. It is unfinished and exhibits some rot in a few rafters. The shed had a window opening but it has been infilled with vertical boards.

The main block has only a very shallow crawl space within foundation walls made of large granite blocks, but the western 1940 addition has more of a partial to full-height crawl space with a dirt floor within the concrete walls. There is an enormous section of exposed ledge within this space upon which the earlier western granite foundation wall can still be seen.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

The 1922 Beaver Meadow School on Chapel Hill Road in Norwich, Vermont, is an example of the One-Room School property type and meets the registration requirements as stated in the *Educational Resources of Vermont* Multiple Property Documentation Form. The Beaver Meadow School is architecturally and historically significant at the state and local levels as a very good example of a one-room school built in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is not only rare as a relatively late example of a one-room schoolhouse but its level of architectural integrity – both exterior and interior - is outstanding. This is quite rare for a property type that was commonly sold as private homes, stores or offices after 1945, and as a result significantly altered to accommodate new uses. After educational use ceased in 1946, the Beaver Meadow School became a community clubhouse and is notable and significant as a one-room rural school that retains its original classroom interior. It is also architecturally significant as a very good example of the restrained Colonial Revival style that used only one or two small, stylistic elements and is typically seen in rural schools. At the Beaver Meadow School, for example, the classical door surround and cornice returns highlight an otherwise plain building.

According to the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Educational Resources in Vermont, “*few one room schoolhouses survive in their original use and fewer survive in their original condition.*” Those still in use as schools had to meet stringent code changes of the later 20<sup>th</sup> century and those that were no longer schools were often heavily altered on the interior to accommodate new uses. The Beaver Meadow School is remarkably intact, with its original exterior and interior features unchanged.

The Beaver Meadow School is representative of the one-room schoolhouses built to carry out Vermont’s progressive 1777 Constitution, which made Vermont the first state in the nation to authorize public education. Norwich responded vigorously to this challenge, and by 1781 Norwich built its first school and in 1785 divided the town into districts. The first record of Town supervision of the schools appears in 1825. By 1836 there were twenty such school districts in Norwich, with 774 students being taught in these one-room schoolhouses and a town population of 2,316. In 1855, the Doton map of Norwich shows sixteen rural schoolhouses and two village schoolhouses. The 1869 Beers map of Norwich shows eighteen numbered school districts including the village with no numbers corresponding to 15 or 16 indicating some consolidation. The Childs Gazetteer for Windsor County reported that there were 17 districts in 1882. In 1888, the two village districts (#1 and #20) were consolidated<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905, p.106.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

In 1892 the district system was largely abolished by Vermont state law, and the town system put in place. Even after the 1892 law and the construction of new consolidated, graded schools, such as the Norwich Village School in 1898, schools in outlying districts, such as Beaver Meadow, also continued to serve their areas well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1904, the State Board of Health also became involved in school regulation and set standards for sanitation, lighting, plumbing, and ventilation in schools. Large banks of windows were added to older school buildings and those constructed new after this time - such as the Root District School, also in Norwich - had banks of large windows as a distinguishing feature. The Board of Health established a school rating system based in part on the facilities.<sup>2</sup> In 1922, the year Beaver Meadow School was built, requirements of achieving "standard" rating for a schoolhouse was a score of 75 out of 100 possible points with some items mandatory. One of the mandatory criteria was having natural light coming in only from the left or left and rear of the pupils. A criteria requiring a "50%" was that the area of glazing (windows) had to equal to one fifth of the school's floor area. Other criteria included: adequate heating and ventilating such as a jacketed stove plus window ventilators or a ventilating heater, sanitary and well-appointed outhouses or toilets, and at least sixteen linear feet of blackboards. A "Superior" rating could only be achieved by attaining a score of 90 out of 100. The rating checklist went well beyond the building and facilities and included requirements for books, furniture, equipment, teachers, pupil attendance and appearance, and community factors such as salary and living conditions for the teacher.<sup>3</sup> In the early 1920s, considerably more state aid for school upgrade and new construction aided towns in "standardizing" their schools. This continued into the 1930s and 1940s with the bar rising ever higher to be eligible for the capital improvement funding. A regularly issued pamphlet by the Vermont Board of Education called "*Rural Schools of Vermont and Their Improvement*" illustrated the rating process, described recommended improvements, gave a sample score card and floor plans, and also provided examples of schools that were upgraded to "Standard" by the addition of banks of windows and other improvements. The pamphlet included extensive discussion about ventilation and heating systems and sanitary facilities. Beaver Meadow School's jacketed stove has a ventilating intake and is nearly identical to one illustrated in the 1925 and 1929 issues.

By 1936, twenty-three of the twenty-nine school buildings in the new union Orange-Windsor state school district, which included Norwich, were "standardized." The fact that the five towns of this district had twenty-nine school buildings is evidence that the rural schools were still very

<sup>2</sup> The following information is from published rating sheets and bulletins on rural schools distributed by the Vermont State Board of Education for the years 1920-1953.

<sup>3</sup> Vermont State Board of Education, "*Rural Schools of Vermont and Their Improvement*," Bulletin No. 2, 1922, Montpelier, Vt: Capital City Press, pp. 35-38.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

much in use. Though any child in Norwich could attend the village school after 1898, there were still eight one-room schoolhouses in operation in Norwich in 1935. By 1938 this had been reduced to only five and the trend would continue until 1951, when the last one-room school closed<sup>4</sup>. In 1952 a long-discussed addition was completed to the seriously over-crowded village school to accommodate all students.<sup>5</sup>

The last five one-room schools were Root, Beaver Meadow, Pompanoosac, Turnpike, and New Boston. Today only the Root and the Beaver Meadow schoolhouses – both used by community groups - remain with their original exteriors and interiors remarkably intact. The others are either private homes or were burned and lost. The Beaver Meadow schoolhouse's level of preservation is fairly rare according to the Educational Resources of Vermont MPDF.

#### History of Beaver Meadow School

Established as District #3 in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the location of the West Norwich (Later called Beaver Meadow) school changed over time. In maps from 1855 & 1869, School #3 was shown across Chapel Hill road from the present site. The school's current location on the east side of Chapel Hill Road was originally the site of an 1836 Methodist church. According to a recent article by Peter H. Brink about the Beaver Meadow and Root District schools:

*“The original [District #3] School House had opened in March 1791. It operated until 1946 with a brief hiatus in the fall of 1921 when it was being rebuilt after a summertime fire. As many as 60 children attended the school when the Meadow was an active farming community with large families.”*

School reports from 1921 (covering 1920) noted that “School houses in good condition except the Meadow schoolhouse which will need to be papered, whitened, and painted inside and need new shades for the windows another year.” At that time the District #3 or “Meadow” school was still located across Chapel Hill Road from the present site. Historic photographs of the earlier school show that its massing was similar to that of the present one as a gable-roofed, one story building which gained a small belfry over time and had a centered door on the broad, gable-front facade. In the summer of 1921 the older District 3 schoolhouse burned and was rebuilt the following year on a new site across the road. In the intervening period, school was held at a neighboring house. The new building was built just uphill of the site of the former Methodist church on ½ acre of land deeded to the town after the school was constructed as it was

<sup>4</sup> Unpublished draft chapter on education in upcoming History of Norwich, Norwich Historical Society, 2012

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

referenced in the deed in 1923 by Edith Edwards<sup>6</sup>. The present school parking lot was where the 1836 church building had been though it ceased to be used after 1884 and was gone by the time the school was built there. According to a document titled "Notes on Beaver Meadow School" and undated but signed only "J.S." in the files of the Norwich Historical Society<sup>7</sup>, the new school started to be used on January 9, 1922 with Marion Avery presiding as teacher over 15 scholars. The new Beaver Meadow School was the first rural school in Norwich to achieve a "Standard" rating from the state.

The 1924 report (covering 1923) was the first school director's report to describe the new building:

*"The Town of Norwich now has a rural school which has been improved so as to be rated as a Vermont "Standard" school. The new building at Beaver Meadow is now completely equipped after the installation of the chemical toilets and a few other changes so as to be approved by the state department. ...*

*The state gave a generous rebate for the money expended at Beaver Meadow ..."*

The state's focus on bringing schools up to a "standard" level at this time included substantial grants to build and this may have been why they built a new building in a new location instead of repairing the old one. The Vermont Department of Education further offered the incentive of a higher level of annual funding for "Standard" schools and an even higher level for "Superior" rated schools.

Shortly afterwards in 1925, the Root District school was replaced by a new building that also achieved a "Standard" rating and, according to state board of education biennial reports, was even upgraded the following year to a "Superior" school. Based on historic photographs the new Root school looked very similar to the Beaver Meadow School. The School Director's report for 1925 states:

*"Quite extensive repairs have been made on all the school buildings this year. The West Norwich [Beaver Meadow] one has some work to be done to meet state requirements which must be done to keep the standardized plate. ...*

<sup>6</sup> "A Norwich Dilemma: What Should be Done With the Old Beaver Meadow School," article by David D. Hewitt, *Gazette/Mascoma Week*, March 15, 1974; also Norwich Land Records Book 24, p18.

<sup>7</sup> Also repeated in a calendar prepared by the Norwich Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

---

*The school buildings of the town are rapidly taking their place among the best school buildings of the state. With the completion of the work on the Root School, there will be three schools in town which rank with the best.*

By 1935, the report noted that running water had “been made accessible at Beaver Meadow.” Following several years of high enrollments at Beaver Meadow, in 1940 a new addition was built onto the west elevation of the Beaver Meadow School adding a small kitchen with running water, flush toilets and a large stage alcove which may well have earned the school a “Superior” rating from the state<sup>8</sup>. The interior design of the addition is quite similar to the floor plan of the “Superior”-rated 1937 new school built in the Root District which had a recessed stage alcove and toilets off its main single classroom. Stages were features usually only found in larger, graded schools but in Norwich two one-room rural schools had this detail by 1940. In both cases, the stage alcoves could be accessed from side rooms or toilets and may have functioned as flexible space that could be partitioned off as a smaller room. There is extant evidence of former folding doors in the Root school stage though not in Beaver Meadow.

According to the reminiscences of a former teacher, Stella M. Sears who taught in Beaver Meadow from 1925 to 1941, the school served not only the pupils but also as a community center and social place starting in the 1920s with evening card parties, Parent Teacher Association meetings, and community club meetings. Enrollment ranged from about a dozen to a high of about thirty-five in the 1930s. The large “jacketed” woodstove was an original feature and was the type recommended by the State Board of Education in several of its Bulletins on improving rural schools. It was made by the Smith System Heating Company of Minneapolis and the stove inside is labeled “New Convection Heater No. 822.” The company advertised this system as a “sanitary room” heater for schools, churches, and hospitals and it features a “foul air extractor” from the floor which vented through the chimney.<sup>9</sup> The 1940 addition was built around it. A 1974 article in the “Gazette/Mascoma Week,” reports that the stove itself was replaced at some point by a neighbor though this may be an error as it appears to be original and matches the jacket which also is labeled “Smith System.”

---

<sup>8</sup> Note: Author could not confirm this. The town reports do not mention it and the 1940 State Board of Education report does not list individual schools and their ratings as reports of earlier years had done. After inquiries and research, author learned that neither the State Department of Education nor the Town of Norwich has records of annual state ratings.

<sup>9</sup> Western Architect, Volume 18: June, p.72; July (advertisement), p.XI; and August (advertisement), p.XI, 1912, also company catalogs from 1946 and 1949 show that they had grown to specialize in “Sanitary” systems for school such as drinking fountains, furnaces, and toilets (bibliographic references found online through Google Books). Today Smith System Co. is in Plano Texas and makes school furniture. In their website page on history they state: “Our early heating systems provided a cleaner and more effective source of climate control for one-room schools and helped school kids concentrate on their lessons.” (<http://smithsystem.com/about-us/history/>)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

Despite the period of strong enrollment in the 1930s culminating in the construction of the new addition to the Beaver Meadow School, the trend eventually reversed and enrollment at all the rural schools declined substantially. The phenomenon of school attendance shifting toward the village school and away from the one-room districts caused the school board to study the problem in the early 1940s and look at several options including transporting children into districts such as Root where the facilities were good but attendance was low. This was tried with little success in the Beaver Meadow district according to a school director's report. World War II also put pressure on the supply of teachers throughout the state which made maintaining schools with few pupils increasingly difficult.

The 1945 "*Preliminary Report of the Committee to Investigate the Future Needs of the School Facilities of the Town of Norwich*" listed lack of space in the village school and deteriorated physical condition of most school facilities as the main two problems. It was also noted that attendance at the rural schools had been falling over the past five years with Root recently closed due to low enrollment and the highest projected enrollment for 1946 in the rural schools was only thirteen at Pompanoosac. In fact, the two rural schools with the highest projected enrollment: Pompanoosac and New Boston (9) were also the two in the worst physical condition while the closed school (Root) was in excellent condition. The committee listed several alternatives for short term solutions: 1) force all students living near a rural school to attend that school regardless of grade and whether they had been attending the village school; to use the Root school for one or two grades from the village school and transport them to Root; to transport all Lewiston pupils to the Turnpike or Root schools; or 2) Transport 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades from village school to Hanover Junior High; to transport Lewiston pupils to Hanover regardless of grade; or 3) move the closed Root school to Lewiston or to the village; or 4) Provide another school room in Tracy Memorial Hall on the present stage. Long term plans were to study the options of reconditioning and possibly enlarging the village school with or without the continued use of the rural schools. The committee's recommendations for the short term were to transport some pupils living near the Turnpike school to it and to transport some of the village pupils to Hanover. Beaver Meadow School closed in 1946.

The school building continued to be used by the community as gathering space and a social center. Peter Brink writes:

*"In 1952, the Norwich School Board sold the School House to the [Beaver Meadow Union] Chapel Association for \$5 for use as a community center.*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

---

*In the early 1970s, neighbors began their successful effort to repair and make the School House a gathering place for the community. Today the Beaver Meadow School House Association, an incorporated nonprofit organization, cares for and coordinates community use of the School House."*

The Town/School Board still owns the land and the right to a spring of water.<sup>10</sup>

The Beaver Meadow School is a wonderfully well-preserved example of a 20<sup>th</sup> century Standardized one-room rural schoolhouse. Its interior and exterior integrity and its rural setting are rare and significant in Vermont.

---

<sup>10</sup> Norwich Land Records, Book 31, p. 379.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

---

## **Bibliography**

Beers, F. W. *Atlas of Windsor County, Vermont*. New York: 1869. Reprint. Rutland, VT: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1969.

Brink, Peter H. "Born Again: Norwich's Two Last One-Room School Houses." Article for Norwich Times, January 5, 2012

Child, Hamilton. *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windsor County, Vermont*. Syracuse, N.Y.: The Syracuse Journal Co., 1884.

Doten, Hosea. *Map of Windsor County*. Pomfret, Vermont: 1855.

Goddard, M.E. and Henry V. Partridge. *A History of Norwich, Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

Hewitt, David D. "A Norwich Dilemma: What Should Be Done With the Old Beaver Meadow School?" *Granite State Gazette and Mascoma Week*. Hanover, NH: March 15, 1974.

Norwich Historical Society – unpublished materials:

- *Beaver Meadow History*. Program for event on October 15, 2001 at Norwich Inn, Norwich, VT
- Sears, Stella M. "My Recollections of Sixteen Years at Beaver Meadow School." Dec. 6, 1964
- "Reminiscences of Beaver Meadow Fifty Years Ago." Undated and unidentified remarks made at the occasion of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Eunice and Charles Wallace.
- "Schools in Norwich." Draft manuscript for chapter in upcoming town history
- photographs, notes, calendars, maps, and records

Norwich Town Clerk's Office, various notes and documents on file, town reports and land records.

Vermont State Department of Education. *Biennial Report of the State Board of Education*. Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle Publishing Co., 1922, 1924, 1926, & 1938.

Vermont State Department of Education. "Rural Schools of Vermont and Their Improvement," a bulletin issued by the State Board of Education in 1922, 1925, and 1929.

Vermont State Department of Education. Unpublished records and "Rural School Rating Sheets" for 1922, 1925, 1929, 1935, and 1953.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

---

## **Bibliography**

Beers, F. W. *Atlas of Windsor County, Vermont*. New York: 1869. Reprint. Rutland, VT: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1969.

Brink, Peter H. "Born Again: Norwich's Two Last One-Room School Houses." Article for Norwich Times, January 5, 2012

Child, Hamilton. *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windsor County, Vermont*. Syracuse, N.Y.: The Syracuse Journal Co., 1884.

Doten, Hosea. *Map of Windsor County*. Pomfret, Vermont: 1855.

Goddard, M.E. and Henry V. Partridge. *A History of Norwich, Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

Hewitt, David D. "A Norwich Dilemma: What Should Be Done With the Old Beaver Meadow School?" *Granite State Gazette and Mascoma Week*. Hanover, NH: March 15, 1974.

Norwich Historical Society – unpublished materials:

- *Beaver Meadow History*. Program for event on October 15, 2001 at Norwich Inn, Norwich, VT
- Sears, Stella M. "My Recollections of Sixteen Years at Beaver Meadow School." Dec. 6, 1964
- "Reminiscences of Beaver Meadow Fifty Years Ago." Undated and unidentified remarks made at the occasion of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Eunice and Charles Wallace.
- "Schools in Norwich." Draft manuscript for chapter in upcoming town history
- photographs, notes, calendars, maps, and records

Norwich Town Clerk's Office, various notes and documents on file, town reports and land records.

Vermont State Department of Education. *Biennial Report of the State Board of Education*. Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle Publishing Co., 1922, 1924, 1926, & 1938.

Vermont State Department of Education. "Rural Schools of Vermont and Their Improvement," a bulletin issued by the State Board of Education in 1922, 1925, and 1929.

Vermont State Department of Education. Unpublished records and "Rural School Rating Sheets" for 1922, 1925, 1929, 1935, and 1953.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

---

Verbal Boundary Description

The Beaver Meadow School is also known as 246 Chapel Hill Road, located on the east side of Chapel Hill Road a short distance north of the intersection with Beaver Meadow Road in Norwich, Vermont. The property contains 0.50 ± acres immediately surrounding the school and is known as tax parcel # 03-52.

Boundary Justification

The present property boundary, used as the National Register boundary, is the original property boundary for the Beaver Meadow School.



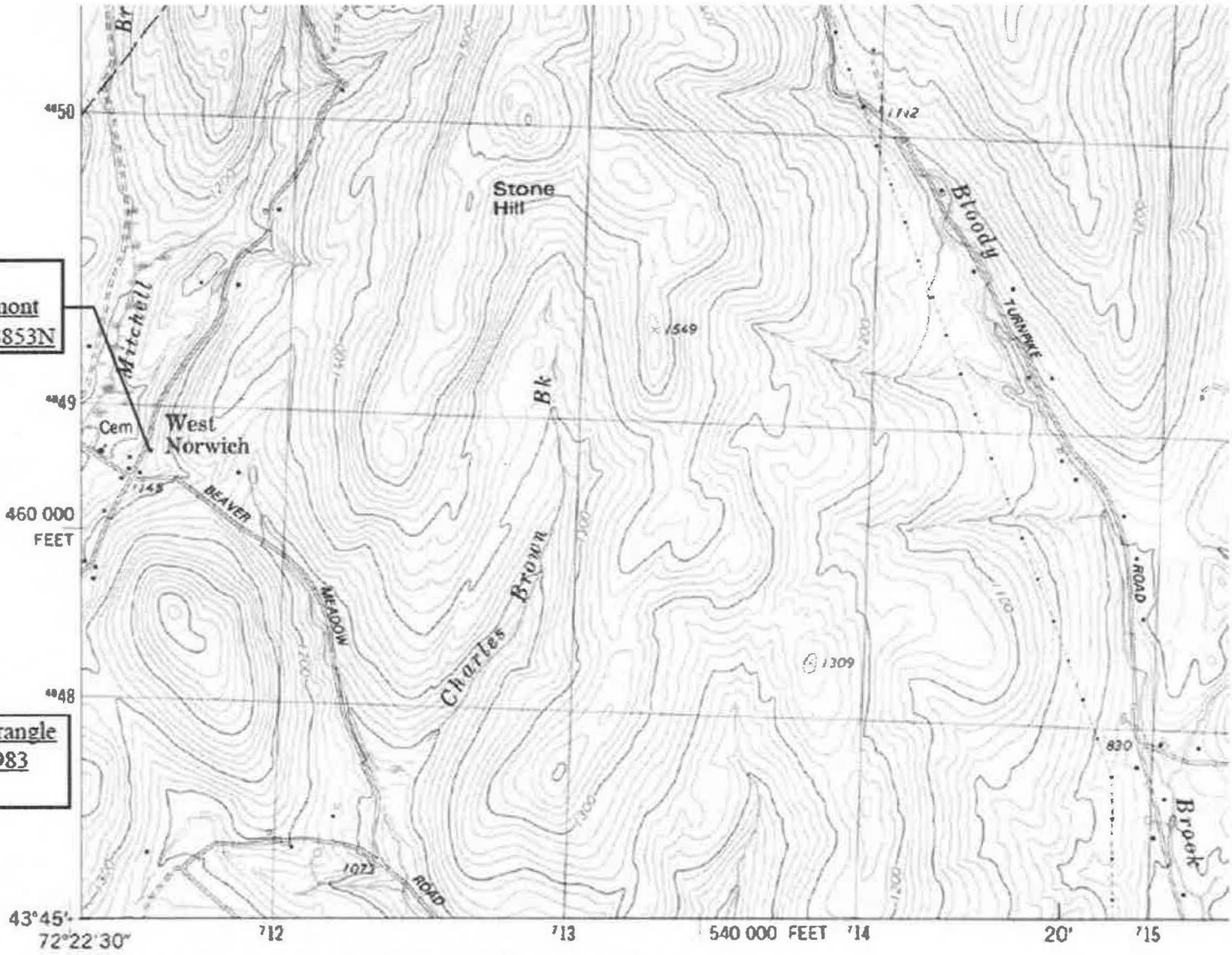
**Location Map**  
**Beaver Meadow School**  
**246 Chapel Hill Road**  
**Norwich, Windsor Co.,**  
**Vermont**

**Lat.: 43°45'50.28"N**  
**Lon.: 72°22'18.62"W**



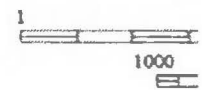
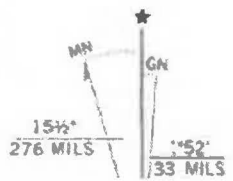
**Beaver Meadow School**  
 Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont  
 UTM: 18 0711545E 4848853N

**Detail: South Strafford Quadrangle**  
 Scale 1:24 000; date: 1981/1983



10 UECHEE1  
 8571 W NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
 taken 1973. Field checked 1975. Map edited 1981  
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Vermont coordinate  
 system, (transverse Mercator)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET  
- Photograph labels, p.1

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

### **Photograph Labels**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

**Beaver Meadow School**

**Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont**

**Digital images are on file at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation**

#### **Photograph**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Credit</b>
1 of 16	Beaver Meadow School, view looking east	c. 1940	<i>courtesy: Norwich Historical Society</i>
2 of 16	Beaver Meadow School, interior, view looking southeast	c. 1940	<i>courtesy: Norwich Historical Society</i>
3 of 16	Beaver Meadow School, interior, view looking southwest	c. 1940	<i>courtesy: Norwich Historical Society</i>
4 of 16	Beaver Meadow School, interior, view looking southwest	c. 1940	<i>courtesy: Norwich Historical Society</i>
5 of 16	Beaver Meadow School with parking lot and Chapel Hill road, view looking northeast	10/23/2012	L. Papazian
6 of 16	Beaver Meadow School, front facade (south) and west elevation, view looking northeast	10/23/2012	L. Papazian
7 of 16	Beaver Meadow School, front facade (south) and east elevation, view looking northwest	8/27/2012	L. Papazian
8 of 16	Detail of front (south) façade	10/23/2012	L. Papazian
9 of 16	Beaver Meadow School west elevation, view looking northeast	10/23/2012	L. Papazian

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET  
- Photograph labels, p.2

Beaver Meadow School  
Name of property

Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont  
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

**Photograph**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Credit</b>
10 of 16	Beaver Meadow School rear (north) elevation, view looking south	10/23/2012	L. Papazian
11 of 16	Beaver Meadow School wood shed, east elevation view looking west	8/27/2012	L. Papazian
12 of 16	Cloakroom, view looking northeast	10/23/2012	L. Papazian
13 of 16	Classroom with stage addition, view looking northwest	10/23/2012	L. Papazian
14 of 16	Classroom, view looking south	10/23/2012	L. Papazian
15 of 16	Classroom, view looking northeast	10/23/2012	L. Papazian
16 of 16	Detail of jacketed "Smith System" stove	8/27/2012	L. Papazian





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**

**Photograph #1 of 16**

Beaver Meadow School, c. 1940, view looking east

*(Courtesy Norwich Historical Society)*



**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont  
Photograph #2 of 16**

Beaver Meadow School, interior c. 1940, view looking southeast  
(Courtesy Norwich Historical Society)





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**

**Photograph #3 of 16**

Beaver Meadow School interior, c. 1940, view looking southwest

*(Courtesy Norwich Historical Society)*



**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**  
**Photograph #4 of 16**

Beaver Meadow School interior, c. 1940, view looking southwest  
(Courtesy Norwich Historical Society)





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**

**Photograph #5 of 16**

Beaver Meadow School with parking lot and Chapel Hill Road, view looking northeast





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**

**Photograph #6 of 16**

Beaver Meadow School front facade (south) and west elevation, view looking northeast





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**

**Photograph #7 of 16**

Beaver Meadow School front facade (south) and east elevation, view looking northwest





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**

**Photograph #8 of 16**

Detail of front (south) facade





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**

**Photograph #9 of 16**

Beaver Meadow School west elevation, view looking northeast





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**  
**Photograph #10 of 16**  
Beaver Meadow School rear (north) elevation, view looking south





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**  
**Photograph #11 of 16**  
Beaver Meadow School wood shed, east elevation, view looking west





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**  
**Photograph #12 of 16**  
Cloakroom, view looking northeast





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**  
**Photograph #13 of 16**  
Classroom with stage addition, view looking northwest



**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**  
**Photograph #14 of 16**  
Classroom, view looking south





**Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont**

**Photograph #15 of 16**

Classroom, view looking northeast



Beaver Meadow School, Norwich, Windsor Co., Vermont  
Photograph #16 of 16  
Detail of jacketed "Smith System" stove



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Beaver Meadow School

MULTIPLE NAME: Educational Resources of Vermont MPS

STATE & COUNTY: VERMONT, Windsor

DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/04/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/12/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000374

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: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    6/7/2013 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Meets Registration Requirements of MPS Cover*

*Excellent, intact example of 1 Room school, important as last example for a district begun in 1781. Consolidated in 1945, school has been in use as Community meeting place since.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J. Gabbert      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/

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



**State of Vermont**  
**Division for Historic Preservation**  
One National Life Drive, Floor 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-1201  
[www.HistoricVermont.org](http://www.HistoricVermont.org)

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



April 18, 2013

J. Paul Loether  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed National Register nominations for the following properties, which are being submitted under the *Educational Resources of Vermont* Multiple Property Listing:

- **Root School, Town of Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont**
- **Beaver Meadow School, Town of Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont**

These properties are being submitted under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. If you have any questions or need clarification regarding these materials, please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-828-3043 or [devin.colman@state.vt.us](mailto:devin.colman@state.vt.us).

Sincerely,  
VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. A. Colman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Devin A. Colman  
State Architectural Historian

