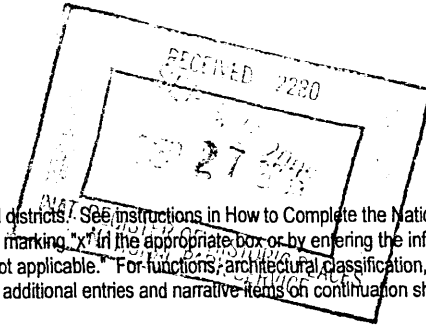


1225

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: Worcester Village School

other names/site number: The White School

2. Location

street & number 17 Calais Road not for publication N/A
city or town Worcester vicinity N/A
state Vermont code VT county Washington code 023 zip code 05682

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide X locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Supreme C. Daniel, National Register Specialist 9-26-05
Signature of certifying official Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 11-9-05

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the
National Register NA

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

Educational Resources of Vermont

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation & Culture Sub: Museum

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof fiberglass
walls weatherboard
 wood shingle
other brick

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

See continuation sheets (7-1 through 7-5)

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 within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See continuation sheets (8-1 through 8-6)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: Worcester Historical Society

=====

Acreage of Property 0.25 acre

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

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>18 695321</u>	<u>4915968</u>	<u>3</u>	
2			<u>4</u>	

_ 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 Lyssa Papazian, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date _____

street & number 13 Dusty Ridge Road telephone (802) 387-2878

city or town Putney state VT zip code 05346

=====

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) –Copies of historic photographs, maps, and documents

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

name Worcester Historical Society

street & number C/O Michelle Hill, 186 MacKenzie Drive telephone (802) 223-3312

city or town Worcester state VT zip code 05682

=====

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

The Worcester Village School, a 2 ½ story, gable front, frame, Queen Anne building, is sited facing Calais Road – one of Worcester’s main streets – a short distance east of the central village intersection with Route 12 (Worcester Village Road). The two classroom school building sits back from the road behind a large circular gravel driveway. Along the rural village streets of Route 12/ Worcester Village Road and Calais Road are several historic buildings dating primarily from the 19th century including residences, commercial properties, a Town Hall and a church. There is a historic residence immediately to the east of the school property that is partially screened by shrubbery. There are also a few modern structures notably the fire station/town offices next door to the Town Hall and the Doty Memorial School on Calais Road across from the Worcester Village School. Behind the Worcester Village School and many of the buildings to the south along the east side of Route 12 (Worcester Village Road), are very large flat fields, some used for recreation and some for agriculture. These extend south and eastward quite a distance. The openness of the Worcester Village School’s setting allows prominent views of the mountains several miles eastward as well as the village cluster along Worcester Village Road to the west. There are a cluster of trees immediately behind the school and separating it from the fields to the south. The building is unusually well-preserved and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The tall, 1892 Worcester Village School is twenty by thirty-five feet. The clapboarded building has symmetrical simple massing but is richly embellished with Queen Anne features such as its spindled front porch, corner and frieze boards, decorative scroll sawn rafter tails, decorative shingles in the gable and in a flared band around between stories, a lower band of flush board siding along the first floor level, and paired windows especially the two arch topped windows in the front gable. The building is symmetrical and has formal paired windows on the front and banks of windows on the side façades. The roof, with exposed rafter tails, has fiberglass shingles, a small open gable-roofed bell housing and a brick ridge chimney with a flared top featuring corbelling and dentils. The building rests on a mortared fieldstone foundation.

On the north, front, façade a shallow, molded horizontal cornice creates a full pediment in the gable which is covered with decorative shingles in a staggered rectangular pattern around a pair of narrow arch topped one over one windows. The windows are centered and sitting on the horizontal cornice. A plain frieze board under the horizontal cornice and plain corner boards frame the second floor area which has two paired one over one double hung windows. Directly under these windows a flared band of decorative shingles matching those in the gable extend across the entire façade and around the whole building. The hipped roof of the full width front porch intersects this band. The first floor has two front doors symmetrically arranged on either side of a pair of small, high one over one windows. The original five panel doors have plain glass transoms above. A three foot high band of beaded board wainscoting extends across the bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

of the façade and continues around the building. The vertical boards have a two inch wide repeat between the narrow bead detail and are capped with a plain, wide horizontal frieze board and a curved projecting cap molding. An historic photograph taken around the turn of the 20th century, shows that most original features are still intact with the exception of the east and west façade fenestration patterns and the porch roof.

The front porch has been somewhat modified from the original appearance seen in a c. 1895 historic photograph. The simple hipped roof has replaced a more elaborate original appearance of shallow paired gables at the front edge that corresponded to the paired entry doors. The roof is supported by three plain square posts which replaced square posts with a wider molded square base. The original spindle valance and curved brackets are the primary decorative features now as are the porch skirt boards with scroll sawn decorative cut outs. The present railings of several horizontal boards on the east and west sides of the porch are a modern replacement for the original railing of thin turned vertical balusters. However, despite these changes, the porch still conveys its Queen Anne style and does not detract from the overall historic character of the building.

The west façade has an original pair of one over one windows near the front and a bank of seven one over one windows towards the rear corresponding to the classroom within. Based on historic photographs and physical evidence, there were two original pairs of windows and another pair added between them as well as a single window added at the southern end. The fenestration of the first and second floor are vertically aligned and match. The decorative features described above continue across this façade including the scroll sawn decorative rafter ends, flat corner boards and lintels framing the sections of the façade, the flared band of decorative shingles between floors and the wainscoting below the first floor windows. Below the wainscoting, the fieldstone foundation has pairs of basement windows that align vertically with the three original pairs of windows above.

The south, rear, façade continues all the horizontal decoration of the west façade and is simpler than the front façade. The gable is clapboarded and the pediment marked only with a narrow plain frieze board. A centered bank of four small one over one windows abuts to this frieze board and are set high in the second story level. A similar band of small high windows abuts to the flared shingle band on the first floor level. There are no foundation windows on this façade.

The east façade continues all the horizontal decoration of the west and rear façades including the scroll sawn rafter ends. There are only window pairs in the first, northern, bay, vertically aligned as on the west façade. The original two other window pairs in the area corresponding to the classrooms have been removed and likely re-installed on the western façade when windows were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

added there. Two vertically aligned five panel doors (salvaged from elsewhere) are now located in the southernmost bays. Modern, covered wooden exit stairs lead from the upper door down across the area of former windows to the ground and a separate exit porch and steps leads from the first floor door. Like on the west façade, the foundation has three window pairs aligned with the original window locations. The middle pair has been infilled with concrete and is where the stairs reach the ground. This façade also has the electric and telephone wire connection at the front corner with a corresponding electric meter mounted on the wall below.

INTERIOR

The Worcester Village School is a two classroom school building with a classroom on each floor, separate front entrances for each, and front cloak rooms and vestibules that now contain bathrooms. There is a full basement and the attic is only accessible through a hatch. There are many surviving original features throughout the building including window sash, bulls-eye molding on door and window casings, four and five-panel doors, four foot high wainscoting and deeply molded chair rail, stair railings and newels, plaster walls and bead board ceilings.

The first floor has two separate vestibules in the front third and a large classroom in the rear. The first floor classroom is entered primarily through the eastern front door which leads into a vestibule that was once a single cloak room of roughly eight by twelve feet. The room has wainscoting with plaster walls above. A few feet back from the front door, a partial height modern partition creates a box within the room on the west side containing two windowless, small bathrooms with low ceilings. The wood doors have two panels. The remaining hallway has a pair of windows surrounded by bulls-eye molding on the east wall and a replacement two-panel wood door surrounded by plain molding leading into the classroom on the south wall.

The first floor classroom takes up the entire rear two thirds of the building and has two doors on the north wall leading into the two front halls and a third exterior door (added later) on the southern end of the eastern wall. The classroom has wainscoting on most of the walls and a wide wainscoted vertical chase containing the chimney mass that extends into the room between the two hall doors. Based on a historic photograph, the western wall originally had two pairs of tall, one over one windows in frames. Three additional windows have been added to make a continuous bank of seven windows which are accented with bulls-eye moldings. Although a historic photograph shows two pairs of windows on the eastern wall as well, there are no windows on it now and instead there is a single five panel door at the southern end. The close match of the added window sash and molding on the west wall suggest that the added windows were in fact salvaged from the east wall when removed to accommodate the exterior staircase. The doorway would have been added at this time but the style of door suggests that it was an original door salvaged from inside the building. The rear, south, wall has a bank of four small,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

high windows above the wainscoting in a surround accented with bulls-eye moldings. The floor is covered with plywood and may have original wood strip flooring below. The eastern wall had blackboard and now covered by "Homosote" panels. The black board may still exist beneath the covering and likely dates to the window changes. The front, north, wall has a modern blackboard now that likely replaced an original blackboard. The western door on the north wall leads to the western front vestibule and staircase to the second floor. This vestibule has wainscoting, a pair of high windows above the wainscoting on the west wall, a door to the basement at the front, a built in closet and a stair leading to door to the enclosed portion of the staircase on the eastern wall.

The staircase has been partly enclosed with modern materials including sheetrock for fire code reasons and the five panel door placed at the landing appears to have been salvaged from elsewhere in the building. The newel posts are robust square columns decorated with a large turned round finial and incised designs. Under the stair are engaged decorative pendants matching the style of the newels. After the first landing, the stair rises towards the north to a second landing. The stair turns another 90 degrees and rises several more steps to the second floor landing in the outer vestibule. The stair railing along the rise and at the landing is a curved handrail over a solid base matching the wainscoting with newels at the top of the stairs and at the return of the landing opening as well as an engaged newel on the wall where the returning railing connects. There is a plywood insert at the second floor level over the stairs providing partial enclosure to the first floor portion. The floor of the second floor vestibule is plywood and the walls are wainscoted. A pair of windows on the west wall lights the space and a modern doorway with empty narrow transom leads to a small former bathroom just south of the stairs. There is a small square framed opening in the east wall above the bathroom door into the western vestibule. A two panel replacement door on the south wall leads to the second floor classroom. On the north wall there is a pair of windows above the staircase.

The second floor classroom is the same in layout as the first floor classroom. Two two-panel doors on the north wall access the front vestibules and a third door on the south end of the west wall provide egress. A bank of seven windows along the west wall have the same detailing as those on the first and were likely salvaged and modified the same way when the window were removed from the eastern wall and the egress staircase constructed. A modern blackboard covers most of the eastern wall now over the wainscoting but the frame of the original blackboard exists above the wainscoting and may be extant under the Homosote covering. There are no other blackboards at present. The north and south walls also match those on the first floor with the bank of four small high windows in the rear and the large vertical chimney chase on the front wall flanked by two doorways. The floor is also covered in plywood. Fluorescent lights are suspended from the painted bead board ceiling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

The front western vestibule is lighted by a pair of windows with bulls-eye molding on each of the wainscoted west and north walls. Similar to the first floor west vestibule, a boxed in pair of lower ceiling bathrooms is created along the east wall with one bathroom accessed from the west vestibule and one from the east vestibule. The boxed walls have wainscoting and a crown molding and a two-panel door with empty narrow transom on this side. The floor is covered in deteriorated linoleum. The ceiling has beaded boards.

The basement is accessed through a 5-panel door in the front west vestibule. The stairs down to the basement are lighted by the pair of high windows between the school's front doors. The basement has a dirt floor and is lighted by pairs of foundation windows that corresponded with original window locations on the walls above. Some of these have been boarded up and on the east side two pairs were removed and cemented in. Presently there are three pairs on the west wall, one pair on the north end of the east wall and two individual windows under the porch on the north wall. There is a modern enclosed room around the chimney in the center of the basement containing the boiler and hot water heater. This room has a salvaged 5-panel door. The exposed joists and frame show that the building has a traditional post and beam timber frame for the larger structural elements.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

The 1892 Worcester Village School on Calais Road in Worcester, Vermont is architecturally and historically significant at the state and local levels as a very good example of a rare type of two-story, two classroom consolidated school building of the late 19th century. It is also a wonderful example of the restrained Queen Anne style used in a rural school building. According to the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Educational Resources in Vermont, the Worcester Village School, built in 1892, qualifies as a rare example of a two-story school in the two classroom category of schools, as most two classroom schools (the most common plan of multiple classroom Vermont schools in the 19th century) were either one or one and one-half stories in height, rather than two-stories. The few two-story, two classroom schools typically had one classroom per floor and an interior staircase such as is found at the Worcester Village School. This school is also somewhat unusual for its double entry, as many of the two classroom schools from this period had a single, central entry.

The Queen Anne style school is remarkably intact both inside and out, with its original Queen Anne exterior features, such as multiple types of siding including clapboards, wood shingles and beaded boards; unique windows seen in the round headed attic windows (as well as the other one-over-one windows); decorative rafter tails; beaded board soffit; molded cornice trim; brick chimney with corbelled details; and a front porch with a spindle valence. The Worcester Village School has had only one major change during its period of significance that reflects the need in early 20th century schoolhouse renovations to always maintain the amount of natural light required by law. In this case, four pairs of windows were removed from the east façade, possibly to allow for more blackboard space in the classrooms. However, six of the eight sashes were re-installed on the west façade creating a bank of windows in each classroom that was typical of many Vermont schoolhouses of the early 20th century when state-imposed light requirements were very stringent. These changes were made between 1926 and 1941 and have gained significance over time. Another exterior change was the loss of the original double gable detail on the front of the porch seen in a c.1895 photograph. These small gables in the otherwise hipped roof sheltered the twin entrances from rain and snow shedding off the roof. In the second half of the 20th century, the porch roof was modified to a simple, more standard hip design. The original posts, brackets, and spindle valances were preserved.

Significant interior features include the generally intact floor plan with one large classroom per floor; the interior stair and stair railing; vestibules at each front entry and at the top of the stairs and northeast corner on the second floor; beaded board wainscoting and ceilings in some areas; and window and door trim with corner block details. The bathrooms in the front vestibules are later additions and not highly significant.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

Construction of the Worcester Village School in 1892 dates from the year when state law was passed making towns rather than school districts the basic unit of control. During this time, many badly run district schools were shut down and the consolidation effort led to the building of many new "modern" schools, some of which also functioned as the town hall. Most of these schools were the largest ever built in a town which had up till then used the one room school model in multiple districts. After 1892, multiple classroom and also graded schools were built to consolidate and centralize students in a more modern and professionally accountable facility. The statewide trend in education policy was to promote more specialized grade-specific learning. In a small rural town like Worcester, the number of students would not have justified a fully graded school, but this two classroom school was constructed to partially separate the younger from the older students. The first floor classroom held the 1st through the 4th grades while the second floor classroom held the 5th through the 8th grades. In Worcester, high school classes were added in the early 20th century and were held for a few years around 1917 at the Town Hall. After this a union high school district accommodated these students.

The exterior and interior details of the Worcester Village School are strikingly similar to a larger graded school built in 1893 in South Royalton and designed by Montpelier architect George Guernsey. Guernsey had designed a nearly identical school in brick in Bradford in 1892 which has the interior bulls-eye moldings and bead board wainscoting and ceilings of the Worcester Village School. While these details are quite common to 1890s institutional architecture it is the similarity of exterior Queen Anne details of the frame South Royalton Graded and High School and the Worcester Village School that are worthy of note. Both schools have the same flared decorative shingle band between the first and second stories as well as a flatter band of paneling at the bottom of the first floor. The two schools both originally had paired windows with flat boards accenting the different areas of wall surface. The South Royalton school is larger and higher style with a corner tower and more typical varied Queen Anne massing but the two schools have a common overall visual effect. It is unlikely that the much smaller town of Worcester would have hired an architect, but Guernsey, who had a surprising number of 1892 and 1893 buildings to his credit, may have consulted or made some plans or details available more cheaply. Unfortunately, the original plans of the Worcester Village School have not been found. Another local example of Queen Anne style is the c.1885 remodeling of the Worcester Methodist Church on Worcester Village Road. The church has similar decorative siding and decorative rafter tails.

According to the 1981 Historic Sites and Structures Survey in Worcester, the new two classroom school replaced a one room school which once stood on the site but was moved across the road to become a residence, presently known as the Martin House on Calais Road. An 1854 deed (Vol. 5, page 139) records that the present roughly 128' by 82' lot was sold to School District

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

Number 1 by David Poor, who also sold the town land to build a meetinghouse nearby in 1846. The Walling 1858 map of Worcester shows the original District 1 school house located on the Worcester Village Road (Route 12), but by the 1873 Beers map a new school had been built on the land purchased in 1854. Two unnamed but dated newspaper clippings on file at the Town Clerk's office reported on April 6, 1892 that "At the annual meeting of district No. 1 it was voted to build a new school-house"; and on July 27, 1892 that "Mr. Gates of Barre has been contracted to build the new school-house and has it well under way."

Early class photographs from the Worcester Village School indicate that it originally accommodated 45 students with two teachers. It originally had an outhouse in the rear and the spaces now occupied by bathrooms were likely originally used for supply closets and teacher's offices. According to local residents who remember grade school spent in the building, the bathrooms were installed in the early 1950s along with the addition of the fire escape exterior stairway. The major renovation of the window re-location appears to have occurred after a c. 1926 photograph and before 1941 when a local resident started school who remembers that the east side had no windows. A reason for the removing of windows from one side may have been to have more room for blackboards which would have been limited with the original classroom fenestration. The c. 1926 historic photograph, also showing the 1912 Town Hall, shows the windows in their original configuration. It also shows the original multi-color paint scheme in medium tones typical of the Queen Anne style. All of the renovations had been completed when another resident came to school there in 1954 and the school had been painted all white. Thereafter the color was white and the school became known as "The White School."

As was common in many communities, Worcester's post war "baby boom" generation started increasingly entering the school system in the 1950s and early 1960s. In 1959, high enrollment led to the construction across the street of an additional classroom for the primary grades and some students from the 4th and 5th grades were sent to Minister Brook School. In 1965 the kindergarten also had to be moved out and was held in the Worcester Town Hall for ten years. In 1971, the seventh and eighth grades were moved to the union high school, "U32" in East Montpelier which thereafter accommodated grades seven through twelve. The Worcester Village School continued to serve its original function until 1979 when the single classroom across the street was reconstructed and enlarged to accommodate all students as the Doty Memorial School. Since then, Worcester Village School served as a day care center from 1980 until 2004. It is presently owned by the Worcester Historical Society and operated by them as a museum and headquarters.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

A Brief History of Schools in Vermont

The establishment of schools was a specific provision in the 1777 constitution of the Republic of Vermont. By the time Vermont became a state in 1791, schools at all levels of education had been established: local primary and “common” schools, regional or county academies and grammar schools for more specialized or secondary education, and the University of Vermont established by the state that year as well. The local schools were organized according to the general school law of 1782 that provided for the division of towns into school districts and a system of local supervision and taxation. The small, one-room schoolhouses were erected by the townspeople on dedicated land – often the least productive lots. All children in the district could attend but were specifically taxed. The schoolmaster or teacher had to accommodate all ages in the one room. There were no standards to adhere to so there was flexibility and tremendous variation among these district schools. Although there were provisions for siting county grammar schools, these secondary schools when established were more often private. Towns could determine their own school taxation and policies of how much education would be provided.

As part of the early 19th century general interest in the quality of education, The Society for the Improvement of the Common School was formed in 1845. The same year, a state statute required the examination of both teachers and school superintendents. By 1856, the State Board of Education was established to oversee the school system. During this same period, 1840-1860, there was a substantial increase in the number of Vermont schools opened. These included more academies and higher college enrollment. According to the statement of significance for “Educational Resources of Vermont”, written by the Division for Historic Preservation: “The rise in the number of academies in Vermont during the 1840s and early 1850s coincided with the rise of public education. Brattleboro (1841) and Windsor (1844) made the first attempts to establish graded secondary schools partially supported by public taxation. By 1860 eleven towns had public high schools.”

In 1864, the school tax was lifted from pupils and all town residents supported the schools through their taxes. In 1870, legislation was passed on compulsory school attendance. (It would not be until the end of the 19th century that secondary education was mandated and provided free to taxpaying families.) By the 1880s, educational reformers and others were very critical of the district system which included some very poorly-run and ill equipped schools and advocated more centralized control of schools. Despite efforts at public education and local advocacy by state education officials, few towns would abandon their district systems in favor of town-control. In 1892, the state finally acted with legislation that left towns no choice. That year, a school reform law was passed abolishing the district system and making the towns as a whole unit responsible for the education of all children in the town.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

Vermont was in the forefront of the development of vocational training in its schools. By 1917 when the Federal government passed an act granting aid for vocational training, Vermont was already providing this training in many of its schools. Secondary vocational education was provided by a technical school of agriculture established in Lyndonville in 1910 and by other schools that would open around the state in the next decades, sometimes in conjunction with major local industries.

The Vermont district school system was well established by 1791 and was continued until 1892. The first generations of school buildings in Vermont under the district system were small, rural, and quite simple. While somewhat grander and larger structures were erected for the emerging grammar and secondary academies, these were mostly privately funded and still fairly uncommon throughout the state. In the 1830s, books published on school design started to influence the construction of district schools. The ideas for school design dovetailed well with the Greek Revival architectural style so popular and prevalent during the same period in Vermont.

The reform movements of the late 19th century promoting graded schools coupled with the 1892 law abolishing the district system led to a great many new and renovated schools in the 1890s. There were many national and state publications that included school design advice. The move toward fewer school districts led to the construction of larger new school buildings or the need to enlarge older ones. Schools with multiple classrooms to provide a graded system based on similar ages were established and often were two or three-story buildings using a symmetrical design. Some were ornamented with a tower or belfry and with grand entries. In 1900, towns with populations of 2500 or more were required to provide a high school, and some of these were built together with the graded school such as in South Royalton resulting in a larger building. In 1906, high school had to be available to every child and so new buildings were built in larger towns and in smaller towns like Worcester additions to existing school or other accommodations were made for these students. The Worcester Town Hall served to house the high school classes until a union high school district was created with nearby towns.

By 1904, the State Board of Health also became involved 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 around this time had banks of large windows as a distinguishing feature. Alterations to schools after this time had to comply with the law and so changes that removed windows had to add them elsewhere, such as the re-located windows of the Worcester Village School. The Board of Health established a school rating system based in part on the facilities.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont

Even after the 1892 law and the construction of new consolidated schools such as the Worcester Village School, many towns including Worcester continued using their one- room district schools well into the 20th century especially when post-World War II overcrowding in schools became a problem in all communities. This is why some of these one room school houses can be found modified with banks of windows. There are Worcester residents who remember attending some of the remaining one-room district schools in the 1950s, such as the Minister Brook School which was also used for overflow 4th and 5th grade students from the Village School.

The Worcester Village School is a wonderful example of the local response to state education reform laws and represents the efforts of a small town to build a modern consolidated school with up to date architectural styling. The elegant Queen Anne building retains a high degree of integrity and is surrounded by a historic rural landscape that has not changed much in over a hundred years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont
name of multiple property listing

Bibliography

Beers, F. W. *Atlas of Washington County*. New York: 1873.

Child, Hamilton. *Gazetteer of Washington County, Vermont, 1783-1889*. edited by William Adams, Syracuse, N.Y.: The Syracuse Journal Co., 1889.

Hemenway, Abby Maria. *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*. Vol. IV, including the Charles Abbott history of Worcester, Montpelier, V.T.: Vermont Watchman and State Journal Press, 1882.

Keefe, Thomas F. *White School, Worcester, Vermont Conditions Assessment*. Unpublished report by Keefe & Wesner Architects, P.C., Middlebury and North Bennington, Vermont, April 12, 2004. (Worcester Historical Society)

Pritchett, Liz. *White School and Town Hall, Worcester, Vermont: Determination of Significance and Distinctive Features*. Unpublished letter report, September 15, 2004. (Town of Worcester)

Solomon, Nancy and T. J. Senter. *State of Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey for Worcester, Vermont including #1220-27 Worcester Village Historic District*. Unpublished documentation, 1986. (Vermont Division for Historic Preservation)

U-32 Seventh Grade Program 1984 – 1988. *Yesterday: Learning From Our Elders*. East Montpelier, V.T., unpublished report, 1988. (Worcester Town Clerk's Office)

Walling, H. F. *Map of Washington County, Vermont*, 1858.

Worcester Historical Society, *Publication I: Early History of Worcester, Vermont*. Worcester, V.T.: Worcester, VT Bicentennial, 2003.

Worcester Historical Society, *2005 Calendar*, Worcester, V.T., 2005.

Worcester Town Clerk's Office, various notes and documents on file.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Educational Resources of Vermont
name of multiple property listing

Interviews by Lyssa Papazian on May 19, 2005 (except where noted)

David Book, Worcester Historical Society

Judy Knapp, Worcester Historical Society and Doty School

Audrey Richardson, Worcester Historical Society (Interview on July 14, 2005)

Harold Richardson, School custodian

Lindy Wells, Worcester Town Clerk

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Worcester Village School
name of property
Worcester, Washington County, Vermont
Town, county and State

Education Resources of Vermont
name of multiple property listing

Verbal Boundary Description

The Worcester Village School is also known as 17 Calais Road, located on the south side of Calais Road a short distance east of Route 12/ Worcester Village Road in Worcester, Vermont. The boundary of the Worcester Village School starts at the northeast corner of the property of 17 Calais Road and proceeds west along the road's south edge 82 feet, then turns 90 degrees and proceeds south 132 feet, then turns 90 degrees and proceeds east 82 feet, then turns 90 degrees and proceeds north 128 feet to the place of beginning. The property contains 0.25 ± acres immediately surrounding the school.

Boundary Justification

The present property boundary, used as the National Register boundary, is the original property boundary for the Worcester Village School.

NPS Form 10-900a OMB
No.1024-0018
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Worcester Village School
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Worcester, Washington Co., VT
town, county, state

Educational Resources of Vermont
name of multiple property listing

Photograph Labels

The following information is the same for all photographs: Worcester Village School, Worcester, Washington County, Vermont. Digital images on CD-R are filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Credit: L. Papazian, 4/19/05

<u>Photo. Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	View looking east on Calais Rd
2	View looking southeast
3	View looking north
4	View looking west
5	Detail: exterior decorative trim
6	Detail: Front door
7	First floor classroom, looking southeast
8	Second floor classroom, looking southwest
9	Detail: interior stair railing and newel posts