CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS 1 NAME HISTORIC Hydeville School AND/OR COMMON 2 LOCATION wer to the STREET & NUMBER Route 4A NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VICINITY OF Castleton COUNTY STATE CODE CODE 50 021 Vermont Rutland **3 CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE** __DISTRICT **X**PUBLIC OCCUPIED __AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM __BUILDING(S) __PRIVATE XUNOCCUPIED __COMMERCIAL __PARK _ STRUCTURE __BOTH _WORK IN PROGRESS __EDUCATIONAL __PRIVATE RESIDENCE __SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE** __ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS __OBJECT XYES: RESTRICTED __IN PROCESS _GOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC __YES: UNRESTRICTED -BEING CONSIDERED __INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION X_{OTHER} vacant __NO _MILITARY 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY Town of Castleton STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN STATE Castleton Vermont 05735 VICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Town Clerk STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN STATE Castleton Vermont 05735 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey DATE __FEDERAL X_STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL July 1976 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

_GOOD

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

X-FAIR

__RUINS __UNEXPOSED XALTERED

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hydeville is a small village within the Town of Castleton, Vermont and is located on State Route 4A. The Hydeville School stands near the front (east) corner of a three acre lot which is partially landscaped and used as a playground. An unpaved, unplanned, parking area extends from the front center entrance of the school-house to the edge of Route 4A.

The wood frame, clapboarded, 2-story building has a hipped roof with gable end ventilators, and has changed very little since its construction in 1898.

The 64' x 32', rectangular, 5 x 3 bay building suggests the Colonial Revival style in massing and symmetry. However, its dominating feature is a central projecting tower which extends two levels above the roofline and dramatizes the entrance bay.

The double entrance door and six-paned sidelights are recessed within the first level of the tower. The entrance is framed and protected within a round headed arch articulated by round turned pilasters, impost blocks, and a wooden keystone. Above the arched entranceway is a rectangular sign, with rounded ends, which says "Hydeville." Above the sign, at the second floor level of the tower, is a pair of 4/4 windows which match in height the 6/6 windows in flanking bays of the main building. Corner boards, articulated and fluted as pilasters, define the corners of the tower. At the first floor level the pilasters have molded capitals whereas at the second floor there are no capitals. At this level the pilasters are flanked by pierced brackets and visually support a denticulated cornice which extends around the tower and the entire building. The third level of the tower is inset into the hipped roof of the main building; it is square in shape and sheathed in slate. The lower section of this level is flared and the upper section has vertical sides clad in imbricated slate shingles with the facade articulated by two segmentally arched 9-light windows. The fourth level of the tower is an open belfry which projects above the ridge of the main roof and has a balustrade of turned balusters interrupted by turned posts with incised brackets. These support a denticulated cornice and a bellcast pyramidal roof sheathed in slate which is capped by a wooden finial.

The main block of the school also has fluted corner pilasters which are ornamented in the same manner as those on the tower, but without the pierced brackets. The windows are all 6/6; those on the first floor level have molded heads and both the first and

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second floor windows have footed sills. The Castleton Town Report of 1906 records that the building had slate entrance steps. Old photographs show that turned newel posts, similar to the turned posts in the belfry, were once the terminus of iron or wooden handrails.

In the interior, the lower central hall leads to a wide staircase which splits into two quarter-turn staircases leading to the second floor; the staircases have turned balusters and newel posts. The interior doors have molded architraves with corner blocks and transom lights. Two large classrooms occupy each floor with an additional small tower room off the second floor hallway.

The basement has windows above ground level and in recent years two rooms have been created in this space. Outside doors were cut for both basement rooms from the rear; a furnace room occupies the center front of the basement.

Although new partitions have been built in the basement, the room placement on the main floors is original.

Alterations to the school have not been severe. In the 1930's a one-story ell was built at the center of the rear (south) wall to house indoor bathroom facilities. This small addition utilized the two doors which originally led to the boys' and girls' outhouses; these separate privies were novel in Castleton at the time of the Hydeville school's construction. The modern indoor plumbing made the hand operated water pump in the west front yard obsolete and it was shortly removed. Circa 1950, iron fire escapes were added on the east and west sides, the doors to which were installed in original window openings. The slate slab foundation has been sheathed in concrete. The building is presently painted white; previous to this, the building had been pale yellow or cream.

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1898	BUILDER/ARCHITECT N.S. Wood, architect/ Frank Davis, Builder			
		INVENTION	.:		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X_EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hydeville School, designed by the architect N.S. Wood, was built in 1898 as a vernacular statement of the Colonial Revival mode, and also served as a laboratory for student teachers from the normal school in nearby Castleton (now Castleton State College). Its bold massing and thorough symmetry, accented by Colonial Revival details such as the arched entry and the stylized entablature, clearly show the designer's debt to the Georgian era and its classical antecedents. The belfry, however, betrays its late-19th Century heritage.

Construction of the school was authorized by the voters at a special town meeting on April 18, 1898, and the school opened for classes the following Autumn. The builder was Frank Davis.

As frequently happens with school systems located near educational institutions, the Hydeville School became the site of innovation in education and administration. Castleton had inaugurated the system of naming a single superintendent for all the school districts in town as early as 1893, twenty two years before it was mandated by the State. In addition, the town entered into an agreement whereby three of its schools were used for practice teaching by students.

Philip Leavenworth, son of the founder and later head of the normal school, as Castleton's first and longtime superintendent, had deplored the crowding at Hydeville for several years before the warning of the 1898 Town Meeting called for a vote on whether "to repair the schoolhouse at Hydeville, or build a new school building there."

The Town Report of the next year was full of praise for the new building. The school directors reported proudly on the "substantial modern school" on a "desirable site" which had been purchased from Zenas H. Ellis. N.S. Wood was described as a "competent architect." The "beautiful building built upon sanitary principles and equipped with modern conveniences" was erected at a cost of \$4,434, and immediately became a source of Town and village pride.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Castleton (VT). Annual Reports of the Auditors and Other Town Officers, 1894 to 1916.

Castleton (VT) Land Records. Book 23, p. 118; Book 24 pp. 388-389.

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Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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The building remains a landmark in the Village and the Town. Its forthright massing stands out strongly on State Route 4A (formerly US4), the main street through the Town. The school has been vacant for some years, and at the Town Meeting in March, 1978, the voters elected to save the building. It thus remains an important part of the historic fabric of the village and a visual focal point.