#### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

# 1. Name

historic	South Woods	tock Village Histo	ric District	
and/or common	South Woods	tock Village Histor	ric District	
2. Loca	ation est as	where vor 10	6, TH 61, a.	durch will p
street & numbe	Principally • Highway 61, and Chu	along Vermont Rout rch Hill Road	te 106, Town N	/A not for publication
city, town	Woodstock Mic.	$\frac{x}{x}$ vicinity of Sou	uth Woodstock	•
state	Vermont code	50 county	Windsor	code 027
3. Clas	sification			
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private _X both Public Acquisition N/A in process being considered	Status         X occupied         work in progress         Accessible         X yes: restricted         yes: unrestricted         no	Present Use agriculture _Xcommercial educational entertainment government industrial military	_X_ museum park _X_ private residence _X_ religious scientific transportation other:
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courthouse, reg	istry of deeds, etc. Office	of the Town Clerk		
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city, town	Woodst	_		Vermont
6. <b>Rep</b>	resentation i	n Existing a	Surveys	
itie Vermont Survey	Historic Sites and St	tructures has this pro	perty been determined e	ligible? yes _X_ no
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EXP. 12/31/34

# 7. Description

Condition		Check one
_X_excellent	deteriorated	X unaltered
good	ruins	altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one <u>X</u> original site moved date .

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the picturesque Kedron Brook Valley, the linear South Woodstock Village Historic District is composed of thirty-five principal structures dating from the late 18th through early 20th centuries, with the Federal and Greek Revival styles predominant. Most of the structures are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories in height, and are finely detailed and well-preserved. The District contains an unusually high proportion of brick Federal structures, many with recessed arched panels above windows and doors.

The Village of South Woodstock, Vermont is located in the Kedron Valley approximately five miles south of the well-known Village of Woodstock, Windsor County's shiretown. The geographical features of South Woodstock contribute significantly to the overall appeal of the Village. With boundaries essentially dictated by enveloping hills and the Kedron Brook, the Village has a linear layout along the valley plain with most of the buildings aligning Vermont Route 106. This road was built following the contours of the Kedron Brook which winds through the valley joining the Ottauquechee River at Woodstock Village.

The natural attributes of the Village are complemented by the quality of design seen in the man-made features of South Woodstock. Whether the buildings exhibit "high-style" traits or exemplify New England vernacular architecture, almost all have a basic, intrinsic merit which depends on the presence of proportion, line, and workmanship.

Within the Historic District there is an interesting mixture and variety of residential, commercial, and public structures. As one moves through the Village, a lively, multifaceted streetscape emerges with buildings proclaiming individual personalities and purposes while conforming to a common scale. For example, South Chapel (17), a distinguished Greek Revival meetinghouse, is flanked on the south by a small Cape Cod house (15) and on the north by a Federal Style "I" house (20). Across Route 106 is the brick, Federal-style Orion Grange (18) and further behind, on a bank overlooking the Village and the Kedron Brook, is the Greek Revival-style Green Mountain Perkins Academy (19).

Most of the buildings in the Village predate the Civil War, so it is not surprising that the Federal and Greek Revival styles predominate. Exceptions in both style and date include the notable Giles-Eyrne House (1), an elegant Georgian-style structure, the Schul er House (10), a Gothicized Classic Cottage, and the Putnam Schoolhouse (28), an interesting Queen Anne-style composition.

An unusually large number of brick structures can be seen in the Historic District. Of thirtyfive buildings, twelve are built of brick and among these are several recurring themes. All but three are Federal style and many display recessed arches above bay openings. Six also have brick piers dividing bays, a feature which emphasizes the solidity of the structures as well as craftsmanship. While these hallmarks of brick construction are found throughout the Ottauquechee region, South Woodstock is noteworthy for the number it has.

Brick buildings also serve as important focal points along the streetscape. The Giles-Byrne House (1) is located at the south end of the Village, the Kedron Valley Inn and Annex (26 and 25 and the Bennett House (24), directly across the road, are situated at the bend of Route 106, and the Goldsmith House (35) serves as an introduction to the Village from the northwest.

Two public buildings, South Chapel (17) and the Green Mountain Perkins Academy (19), are particularly fine examples of nineteenth century, rural New England architecture. Both are of the Greek Revival style, yet illustrate radically different approaches to that style. South Chapel, built in 1839, is part of the long tradition of the New England meetinghouse whose form essentially remained constant as it was subjected to Gramental changes. With two large fluted Doric columns supporting a recessed portico, South Chapel is a relatively sophisticated interpretation of the Greek Revival style. And although the building

# Significance



#### **Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The South Woodstock Village Historic District is an excellent example of a well-preserved collection of architecturally noteworthy, predominantly Federal and Greek Revival structures. Few non-contributing buildings intrude upon the very strong sense of time and place which the District conveys through its unspoiled natural and built environments.

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The Village of South Woodstock is part of the area originally referred to as South Parish, a designation for all of the land in the township that was "south of the Ottauquechee River by the Congregational Church / in Woodstock Village7 in 1799."1 The first settlers in this area arrived from Hartford, Connecticut in the late 1770's. Although many, in the customary practice, first resided on the town's hilltops, it is believed that the Cottle brothers, Jabez and Warren, were the first to build, around 1779, on the level valley plain where the Village now stands.<sup>3</sup> The hilltops were advantageous having better exposure and drainage, but the valley had Kedron Brook and harnessing water power for mills was an important consideration In fact, the Cottles quickly proceeded to build a gristmill on for South Parish settlers. In 1781, Jabez Cottle built a second gristmill on the Kedron, the Kedron as well as a store, an indication that business was probably thriving.<sup>4</sup> Soon other industries began to sprout along the Kedron, providing services and wares to farmers scattered throughout the area. As the population increased, so too did the demand for various services; and the Village proper became a natural gathering place for people living in South Parish. By the end of the eighteenth century, numerous industries could be found in the village: gristmills, a fulling mill, a blacksmith shop, cabinetmaking shops, a saddle and harness shop, a tannery, and a store.<sup>9</sup> Most of the men involved in these trades also farmed in order to survive; and some, in fact, had several occupations. For instance, George Lake was a farmer, carpenter and bricklayer; and Caleb Tilden worked as a farmer, carpenter, miller and nailmaker.<sup>6</sup> The relative Sec. 1.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Gilbert S. Williamson, "The Development of A Small Community, South Woodstock, Vermont, 1770-1900", Northfield, Minnesota, 1974, p.1. <sup>2</sup>Ibid., p.2. <sup>3</sup>Henry Swan Dana, History of Woodstock, Vermont, Boston, 1889, p.115. <sup>4</sup>Ibid., p.116. <sup>5</sup>Ibid., p.117. <sup>6</sup>Williamson, "Development", p.11.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 9-1

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Continuation sheet 1	Item number	4 Page 1
Owners of properties within the South Wood	lstock Villag	ge Historic District:
*Owns two or more properties.		
1. John J. Byrne	21.	Mrs. Perkins, c/o Gray Perkins
2. John J. Byrne (garage)	22.	Mrs. Benton Pinney
3. Ernst Schneider	23.	Gray Perkins
4. Lawrence Roberts	24.	Edward Bennett
5. Paul Kendall, Jr.	25.	Paul Kendall, Jr.) Kedron Valley
6. Mrs. Grace Cashion	26.	) Inn Buildings Paul Kendall, Jr.)
7. Col. Robert Freeny	27.	Darwin Hoadley
8. Ivan Shove, Shove's Wood Shop	28.	Hugh T. Putnam
9. Col. Robert Freeny	29.	Mrs. Paul Kendall, Sr.
0. George Schuler	30.	Sandy Putnam
1. Herbert Lutz	31.	Rockwell Stephens
2. Harold Murphy	32.	Oliver W. Holmes
3. Gus Wedell	33.	Carol Robertson
4. Ivan Shove	34.	Floyd Cowdrey
5. Mrs. James Burns	35.	Dorothy Goldsmith
6. Mrs. Helene Burns		
7. Trustees of South Chapel		
8. James Stanton-Abbott		
9. Dorothy Goldsmith: Green Mountain Perkins Academy		
0. Herbert Reynolds		
ote: All mailing addresses for the owners	s listed abov	ve are: South Woodstock, Vermont 050

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may at first appear somewhat staid being monochromatic, the profusion of Greek Revival details provides an entertaining interplay of light and shadow against the white background. The Green Mountain Perkins Academy, built in 1847, is also a large, prominently located structure and has the same essence of verticality as South Chapel due to its tower and its hillside location overlooking the Village. In contrast, however, the Academy is a simpler, more vernacular design. Its decorative features are minimal and confined to smaller corner pilasters, cornice returns, plain entrance surrounds, and a three-stage tower. This simplicity does not diminish the Academy's architectural stature; indeed, the spartan yet sensible design and proportions reflect a genre revered by many, and often poorly imitated, today.

Throughout the years, the residents of South Woodstock have maintained the Village's high degree of architectural integrity and cohesiveness. Additions have been placed behind buildings thereby respecting the historic framework. Alterations have been minimal, and few buildings have been clad with synthetic siding.

Altogether, the South Woodstock Village Historic District represents an environment of high distinction and beauty, both geographically and architecturally. Displaying a successful synthesis of variety and cohesiveness, South Woodstock is a nineteenth century village that has carefully preserved its architectural legacy for the benefit of future generations.

The following buildings comprise the South Woodstock Village Historic District (numbers refer to the enclosed sketch map):

1. Giles-Byrne House - 1796.

Located at the southern end of the Historic District and situated on a prominent knoll, the Giles-Byrne House is prehaps the most outstanding structure in South Woodstock. It is a large brick house befitting its Georgian style, and its size is accentuated by the two tall massive brick interior fireplace chimneys that straddle the hip roof. The house has Flemish bonded brick and a wooden denticulated cornice. With two stories and five by four bays, the house's massing is distinguished by the facade's Palladian window and elaborately detailed entrance. The central entrance is flanked by half-length sidelights and topped by an elliptical fanlight. All of the windows have splayed lintels and louvered shutters. The first-floor windows have 12/12 sash while those of the second floor have 8/8 sash.

There is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story, woodframe, clapboarded, gable roof ell off the rear of the house.

1A. Small, gable roof, storage shed.

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2. Byrne Garage - 1964.

Modern, one-story, gable-front, two-bay garage with overhead doors, weatherboard siding, and an asphalt shingle roof. This structure does not contribute to the Historic District.

3. Schneider House - c. 1860.

The Schneider House is a Classic Cottage with 1-1/2 stories, five by two bays, clapboard siding and an exterior brick fireplace chimney on the north end. The central entrance has a wide, plain entablature and full-length sidelights. The windows have 6/6 sash, plain lintels, and louvered shutters. The gable ends have cornice returns.

A wing is attached to the south end and has a saltbox shape. There are two garage bays.

4. Roberts House - c. 1819.

One of the older houses in the Historic District, the Roberts House is a 2-1/2 story, Federal Style "I" house with five by one bays, a gable roof, and clapboard siding. Panelled cornerboards support the molded cornice which returns across the gable ends to form pediments. The central entrance, altered during the Greek Revival era, has fulllength sidelights flanked by plain pilasters which support the plain, wide entablature. An entry porch, added later, has turned posts and scroll brackets. Windows on the first floor have 6/6 sash and window heads have cove-like dentils. The windows on the second floor and gable peaks are smaller in proportion and have 8/12 sash. A clapboarded ell is attached to the rear and serves part of the kitchen and as a garage.

5. P. Kendall, Jr. House - c. 1854.

This 1-1/2 story, five by four bay, brick house has been modified throughout the years yet retains its original Greek Revival character. Although the gable end faces the street, the entrance is centrally located on the south eaves facade. Heavy, square panelled Doric columns support the one-bay entrance porch and also extend the length of the north elevation supporting the open, screened, rear porch. Combined with the Doric columns is an equally heavy and broad entablature. The molded cornice returns at the gable ends. Above the central entrance is a transom. The windows have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. Like many other brick buildings in South Woodstock, the windows on the west gable end (street facade) have recessed arches above.

Later additions appear to be the porches, the hipped dormers with exposed rafters, and the clapboard L-shaped extension on the east side. For the most part, this extension is sympathetic to the original structure because details conform to the generaltime period of the main block. The extension exhibits cornice returns (same cornice design), 6/6 sash and louvered shutters, a fanlight in the south gable peak, and two carriage bays in the rear with elliptically shaped, keystoned arches.

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5A. Small tool shed.

Gable roof, clapboard siding, and lean-to addition with novelty siding.

6. Cashion House - c. 1840.

This is a 1-1/2 story, five by four bay, Cape Cod house with a standing seam metal roof and an off-center brick stove chimney. Although aluminum siding has been added, the molded cornice returns remain. The central entrance has a transom. The windows now have 1/1 sash.

Attached to the south end is a wing with an elliptically-arched carriage bay.

7. Freeny House - c. 1813.

Built in the Federal style, this is a 2-1/2 story, five by two bay, brick "I" house. The standing seam metal gable roof has two interior end chimneys. The windows have 12/12 sash and louvered shutters. The central entrance has half-length sidelights, and fluted surrounds which meet corner blocks. A gabled entrance porch, built in 1974, has a clapboarded tympanum and is supported by posts.

Part of the rear elevation and all of the ell have aluminum siding. A modern brick chimney serves the gable end of the ell.

7A. Small, gabled shed with vertical board siding.

7B. Small, shed-roofed structure with vertical board siding.

8. Shove's Wood Shop - 1930.

This 2-1/2 story building has a gable roof and wood shingle siding. The bays are irregularly spaced and the facade has three doorways. Paired windows have 2/1 sash. A lean-to with horizontal board siding and a carriage bay is attached to the south.

A blacksmith shop stood on this site until it burned around 1930. Benjamin Wood then built the present structure from designs supplied by Ivan Shove. It first served as a knitting mill but was altered in 1943 to serve as a woodworking shop.

&A. Recently constructed, small glass greenhouse with woodsided, shed-roof furnace room. Non-contributing.

9. Bartel Store-Freeny House - c. 1855.

This 1-1/2 story structure has clapboard siding and a two-bay gable front. To the right of the entrance are paired 12/12 storefront windows. The two second-story windows retain the original 12/12 sash. A one-story porch, supported by square posts, extends across the gable front. Cornerboards support a plain frieze which returns flush at the gable ends.

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The rear section is two stories with clapboard siding, and has a second-story opening with a lift on the south side. This building once served as a fulling mill and then as a store and post office. Around 1976, it was converted into a residence.

9A. Barn - c. 1850.

Large, 2-1/2 story, woodframe structure with sheet metal gable roof and clapboard siding. Many of the windows retain their original 6/9 and 6/6 sash.

10. Schuler House - c. 1854.

This house is an outstanding component of the Historic District because it is an excellent vernacular example of the Gothic Revival style. It is also the only example of this style in South Woodstock. Essentially a Gothicized Classic Cottage, this house is a large, 1-1/2 story plus attic, four by five bay, clapboard structure with a steeply pitched roof and a gable front. The four-bay gable front's first floor is recessed and has four square columns with scrolled brackets to support the wall space above and form a porch. The south and north elevations have a steeply pitched centrally located wall dormer with a pointed arched louver above the second floor windows. The centrally located south entrance is recessed and has half-length sidelights. The windows have 6/6 sash and some have louvered shutters. Decorative bargeboards and eavesboards with pendants provide special detail to the house as well as accentuate the verticality of the structure.

A 1-1/2 story wing is attached to the rear. Although it has been altered with large, multipaned picture windows, this section also has the same decorative eavesboards. The south side of the wing has one gable dormer whereas the north side has three.

10A. Barn: 2-1/2 story frame structure with a sheet metal gable roof and clapboard siding.

11. Lutz House - c. 1825.

The Lutz House is an elegant, 2-1/2 story, Federal style brick house with a low-pitch gable roof with two tall interior-end brick chimneys and a five-bay facade. An elaborate frieze displays tryglyphs and mutule blocks with the cornice returning at the gable ends. The central entrance has a double-leaf door and a transom above. The south side door also has a transom. The windows have 12/12 sash and louvered shutters. Unfortunately, the first floor window on the far left of the facade has been replaced with a paired window; however, this alteration does not greatly detract. There are elliptical fanlights in the gable peaks.

A sympathetic, two-story, three-bay addition is attached to the rear and has vertical board siding and windows with 12/12 sash as well as sliding glass doors and picture windows.

The interior is noteworthy because of the second floor dance hall. It displays a coved ceiling and a fiddler's stand which was reconstructed in the northeast corner.

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Built by John Arnold Cottle, this building at one time served as a store and post office before these services were transferred to the former Bartel Store (9).

11A. Barn - c. 1870.

Two-and-one-half story, frame structure with clapboard siding. The sheet metal gable roof has a cupela resting on a square base, louver vents and a weathervane. There is a large sliding door on the west eaves side. This is a stately structure and is in immaculate condition.

12. Murphy House - c. 1840.

This 2-1/2 story, gable-front, three by four bay house has a sidehall entrance with halflength sidelights protected by a gable porch, added later, with Tuscan columns. Cornerboards support a simple cornice which returns at the gable ends. Windows with simple molded surrounds have 12/12 sash; smaller windows have been installed on the side elevations. The asbestos siding detracts considerably, yet the basic form of the house is in keeping with the architectural character of South Woodstock. The rear elevation has a twostory porch which overlooks the Kedron Brook.

13. Wedell House - 1826.

Similar to its neighbor, the Shove House (14), the Wedell House is an admirable Federal style design distinguished by brickwork details common throughout the Woodstock region: wall piers and recessed arches. The 2-1/2 story structure has a gable roof of moderate pitch and a molded cornice which returns at the gable ends. The gable peaks have windows with 8/12 sash. The five-bay front arrangement has each bay divided by piers. On the second floor, the piers' wooden capitals serve as bases for the elliptical arches which crown the windows and connect the piers. The center bay has a window with 8/12 sash topped by an elliptical light with radiating muntins. This window corresponds in outline to the central entrance which has a fanlight. The first floor windows have elliptical relieving arches whereas the second floor windows have flat arches. The original 12/12 sash have been replaced with simple sheets of glass with painted 12/12 patterns.

The 1-1/2 story, gabled ell was remodelled recently. It now has vertical board siding, modern windows, and a large brick chimney at the rear gable end.

13A. Barn - c. 1860.

Large, 2-1/2 story structure with gable roof and clapboard siding. The facade has three arched carriage bays on the ground floor, a second-story door and two windows with 6/6 sash and plain lintels and sills.

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14. Shove House - c. 1826.

Because of its similarity to the Wedell House (13), it seems probable that these houses were built around the same time. It also has 2-1/2 stories and a gable roof, although the roof pitch is lower than the Wedell House because the Shove House is a five by two bay "I" house. Brick piers divide front bays and have wooden capitals from which spring the second floor window arches. The central entrance has an elliptical fanlight, repeated in the 8/12 window sash above. The other sash have been replaced by 2/2 sash and are flanked by louvered shutters. The molded cornice returns at the gable ends and the gable peaks have quarter-round louvered vents. The entrance Shove in 1951, has a broken pediment supported in front and fluted Doric pilasters in the rear.

The rear elevation is odd in that it has no windows. An ell is attached to the rear and serves as a kitchen, storage room (former post office), and a one-bay garage. The ell has asbestos shingle siding.

15. J. Burns House - c. 1820.

The J. Burns House is a simple 1-1/2 story, four by four bay house with a gable front and clapboard siding. The cornice returns at the gable ends. The windows now have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. An enclosed one-story porch (added later) with multi-paned sash extends across the gable front. A gabled and clapboarded ell, attached to the rear, serves as a woodshed.

16. H. Burns House - c. 1870.

This is a vernacular, L-shaped, one-story clapboard house with a saltbox form built on a bank at the edge of the Kedron Brook. The central entrance is located in a gable-front pavilion. This gabled portion of the roof is flared. Windows have 6/6 sash and louvered shutters. The longer stem of the ell, on the south, serves three carriage bays which have horizontal roller track doors and multi-paned sash.

17. South Chapel - 1839.

South Chapel is an impressive Greek Revival meetinghouse with a variety of architectural detail. Like the Green Mountain Perkins Academy (19), verticality is stressed by means of a three-stage tower. The gable front also has a portico in antis protecting three entries. Four fluted Doric pilasters grip the broken wall of the facade while two fluted Doric columns divide the portico. Above the pilasters and columns is an entablature composed of a clapboarded architrave, a plain frieze, and a molded cornice which, with its raking counterparts, creates the pediment. The tympanum has flush siding and a projecting centerpiece which is actually an extension of the tower's base.

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Behind the portico are three entrances with windows having 15/15 sash above. Each door has fluted caseboards and a transom with tracery and fret surrounds. The windows above also have fluted surrounds and corner blocks.

The side elevations are distinguished by each having three large windows with 40/40 sash. The rear corners also have fluted Doric pilasters and cornice returns.

The three-stage tower has a square base with vertical, flushboard siding and a molded cornice; the second stage has clapboard siding, cornerboards and a molded cornice; and the third stage is an octagonal belfry with eight columns resting on an octagonal drum and supporting an octagonal roof with a weathervane atop.

Marshall Mason was responsible for the design of the facade, belfry, and interior gallery. Galo B. Ralph excavated the ground and laid the foundation; John Lake and Hiram Holt did the joinery work and made the pews; and Otis Wood, later builder of the Green Mountain Perkins Academy (19), laid the siding and shingles.

The chapel was restored by the Community Church in 1957.

18. Orion Grange #83 - 1825.

Situated close to the street, this building is a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, Federal-style brick structure with a low-pitch gable roof and four by two bays. The cornice returns at the gable ends and the gable peaks have elliptical, louver fans. The entrance, located in the far left bay, has a modern door, transom, and a fan design of raised rays in the recessed arch above. In the bay above the entrance is an oval-shaped, plaster sign announcing: P of H, Orion Grange Hall, No. 83, S. Woodstock, Vermont. All of the windows have recessed, elliptical arches and 2/2 sash.

Originally built as the third schoolhouse, this building later served as a meetingplace for the Orion Grange #83; it is now a private residence.

19. Green Mountain Perkins Academy - 1848.

This schoolhouse is a large, 2-1/2 story, five by five bay, Greek Revival, clapboard structure situated on Cottle Ridge overlooking the Kedron Brook. Resting on a foundation of granite slabs, the building has a strong sense of verticality because of its broad, high gable front and the three-stage tower. Architectural detail throughout is restrained and simple, yet pleasing. Narrow pilasters with small, vernacular capitals adorn the corners and support the box cornice which returns at the gable ends. The windows have 12/12 sash and plain surrounds. The central entrance also has a simple surround with additional corner blocks and a pedimented lintel. The wide, six-panel door is flanked by half-length sidelights and topped by a transom. The sidelights and transom have Greek Revival style linear tracery, a common feature in South Woodstock.

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The bell tower has three stages: a square clapboard base, an identical though smaller stage above and the third stage which has a panelled base supporting four square columns which in turn support an entablature and a parapet.

Although this building is an essentially simple design, it is an excellent example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture as found in New England. Built in 1848 by Otis Wood, it was originally called the Green Mountain Liberal Institute until the name was changed in 1870 to the Green Mountain Perkins Academy. Closed in 1910, the interior also has been preserved. A remarkable collection of artifacts and information pertaining to the Academy and the Village is housed in the building.

20. Reynolds House - 1798.

This two-story, clapboarded, gable-roofed, five by two bay Federal style "I" house has one of the finer entrances in the Village. Centrally located, the doorway has a pediment surmounting a semi-circular fanlight with muntins springing from the center. Doric pilasters with entasis flank the door and support the full entablature which is broken by the fanlight.

The windows have plain surrounds, 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. Cornerboards support a simple cornice which returns at the gable ends. An ell, attached to the rear, also has clapboard siding and displays paired 1/1 sash.

Dr. Stephen Drew built this house in 1798.

20A. Barn:

Long, 1-1/2 story, clapboard barn with a sheet metal gable roof. There are two tractor bays on the right side of the front elevation and a carriage bay on the south gable elevation.

✤ 21. Perkins House - 1945.

This 1-1/2 story woodframe house has wood shingle siding, a two-bay gable front, paired windows and cornice returns. It was built by Ivan Shove.

Because of their ages, this house and outbuilding do not contribute to the historical or architectural character of the Historic District.

🔆 21A. Garage:

One-story, tin gable roof, board and batten siding; measures approximately 15 feet by 40 feet.

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22. Pinney-"Hyacinth" House - 1812.

Built by Jabez Cottle and situated on a ridge overlooking Kedron Brook, Hyacinth House is a large 2-1/2 story, Federal style, brick (six-course American Bond) structure. The gable roof was originally anchored by four tall interior end chimneys; three remain. The cornice returns at the gable ends and each gable peak has two windows with 8/12 sash. Other windows now have 2/1 sash and those of the second floor are highlighted by jack arches while those of the first floor have recessed arches. The central entrance has a narrow molded surround, a semi-circular fanlight with radiating muntins, and a "keystone" in the wooden arch surround. The round-headed, 2/2 sidelights are detached.

Like the doorway, a vernacular interpretation of a Palladian window is seen above the entrance. Again, detached side windows with 4/4 sash are topped by recessed arches and flank the center 8/12 sash which is surmounted by a semi-circular light with radiating muntin

There is a 2-1/2 story, woodframe, clapboarded ell on the rear.

22A. Barn:

Gabled roof with cantilevered gable ends, clapboard siding, double sliding doors, lean-to addition.

22B. Small shed with gable roof, vertical board siding.

23. South Woodstock Country Store and Post Office - 1935.

The Country Store is a 2-1/2 story, woodframe structure with a gable roof and asbestos shingle siding. Its commercial nature is recognized by the two large picture windows which flank the central entrance and the open porch which extends the length of the gable front. Traditional vernacular details are seen in the cornice returns and plain frieze. The one-story post office, added in 1950, has picture windows and vertical board siding.

The store was built in 1935 by Ivan Shove.

24. Bennett House - 1831.

Like the Kedron Valley Inn and Annex (26 and 25), the Bennett House is prominently situated on a knoll overlooking the crossroads of Vermont Route 106, Church Hill Road, and Town Highway 61. It is a stately, 2-1/2 story, five by three bay, Federal style brick house with its size accentuated by four tall interior-end brick chimneys on the gable roof and massive brick piers dividing the elevations. The central entrance is pronounced by the brick piers which flank it and by the elaborate, Federal style door surround: half-length sidelights are flanked by narrow pilasters and topped by small, oval lights, above the door is a larger, oval light, and crowning the entire frontispiece is a narrow projecting cornice. The first-floor windows have 12/12 sash while those of the second floor have

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8/12 sash; gable windows also have 8/12 sash. All windows have louvered shutters. The cornice fully returns across the gable ends creating pediments with plastered tympanums.

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The one-story clapboard ell in the rear has a modern bow window and three arched carriage bays.

The brickwork of this house is distinguished by its being offset by the large white tympanums and the painted pilaster capitals.

The Bennett House was built by Gaius Perkins.

25. Kedron Valley Inn Annex - 1822.

Together with the main building of the Kedron Valley Inn (26), this 2-1/2 story, three by five bay, Federal style, brick structure serves as an important anchor at the crossroads of Vermont Route 106 and Church Hill Road. Facing east, the gable-front annex has small parapets which rise above the roofline and extend outward to meet the cornice. The facade is divided into three bays by brick piers. The second-story windows of the facade and first floor windows of the sides have recessed arches above, although the second story arches also have keystones. Windows have 12/12 and 12/1 sash. The first floor of the facade now has an entrance with half-length sidelights in the left bay and a large picture window in the right bay. The second floor of the gable facade has a centrally located door which may originally have been a window. The center bay, the original entrance, now has a door with a sidelight on the left. A one-story Colonial Revival porch with Tuscan columns, a wide entablature, and a balustrade above is attached to the front of the Annex; it replaced an earlier, simpler two-story porch. The gable peak has an elliptical fanlight. The south side elevation has an entrance in the southwest bay; above the door is a transom. The north side has a large intrusive concrete block chimney.

Attached to the rear is a two-story frame addition with clapboard siding.

This building was Richard Ransom, Jr.'s third store (second was #30) in the Village. He supervised the construction in 1822 and Oliver Willard was the bricklayer. Originally called the National Store, it was later known as Holt's Cash Store.

26. Kedron Valley Inn - 1826.

As one of South Woodstock's landmarks, the Kedron Valley Inn also has a niche in the history of the Town of Woodstock having provided lodging and entertainment to travelers and tourists for over 150 years. Although alterations and enlargements have occurred over the years, the basic form and style of the Inn can still be seen. Originally having 2-1/2 stories and five by three bays, the brick Federal style building has its facade and

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side elevations divided by brick piers, a common motif in South Woodstock. Two interiorend chimneys protrude through the gable roof. There is also a continous dormer, built in 1910, extending the length of the roof and three paired windows, divided by singular 1/1 windows, have gable roofs and pilasterettes, a Colonial Revival design. The central entrance has half-length sidelights and a transom with linear, tracery-like designs. The windows have 12/12 and 12/1 sash and louvered shutters. A one-story Colonial Revival porch with Tuscan columns and pilasters and a simple stick balustrade above, extends across the facade and east elevation. It is similar to the Annex porch; both were built in 1910. An enclosed clapboard, one by three bay, porch addition exists on the east elevation.

An ell extends from the rear and has a brick first floor and clapboard second floor. Other clapboard additions have joined the ell throughout the years as the need for space grew. At one time, a two-story wing with a dance hall connected the Inn and the Annex.

The Inn was built by Richard Ransom, Jr. and Richard Mather in 1826. It was first called the National Hotel, then the Kedron Tavern, then the Colonial Inn and then changed back to Kedron Tavern in 1939.

💥 26A. Kedron Valley Inn Motel Rooms - 1968.

Continuous row of nine motel rooms in "log cabin" motif. L-shaped, one-story, wood shingle, gable roof, paired 1/1 windows. A recessed porch/walkway connects the rooms. This structure does not contribute to the Historic District.

27. Hoadley House - 1806.

This house is a 1-1/2 story Cape Cod structure with a gable roof, central stove chimney and a box cornice with no eaves overhanging. The first floor windows now have 2/2 sash. There is a continuous shed dormer with multiple sash on the south side and two shed dormers on the north side. The south side has a central entrance as does the north side, but the latter has a modern, gabled entrance porch. A lean-to addition is on the west side. Although now sheathed with aluminum siding, the Hoadley House is one of the oldest houses in town and still retains Cape features.

> 27A. Garage:

Modern, gabled, two-bay garage with overhead doors and vertical board siding. Non-contributing

28. Schoolhouse-Putnam House - 1906.

Essentially a rectangular, one-story, hipped roof block with a central projecting twostory tower, the former schoolhouse is a good example of the Queen Anne style interpreted vernacularly. The schoolhouse is clapboarded with staggered butt shingles on the second floor of the tower's facade. This second level contains three roundheaded windows. The other windows are 2/2 with the classroom windows having transoms. The tower is flanked by

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porches which have turned posts on the outer corners and scroll brackets. A deck extends out from these and across the facade. The cornice has paired brackets. The tower is surmounted by a finial with an eagle weathervane.

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\*28A. Garage:

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Modern, two-bay garage with gable roof and vertical board siding. Non-contributing.

29. P. Kendall, Sr. House - 1800.

Built in 1800 by Richard Ransom, Jr. for \$800, the Kendall, Sr. House is a large, 2-1/2 story, Federal style clapboard structure with two impressive entrances. These central entrances, one on the east and the other on the south side, seem designed to take advantage of the vista provided by the location of the house on a rise at the northeast corner of the Historic District. The house rests on a massive granite foundation which has a cellar 14 feet deep that can be reached by a walk-in entrance on the east side. The Georgian floor plan correlates to the five by five bay, Federal style massing of 2:1:2. The gable roof has a relatively low pitch and a molded cornice. A plain frieze returns across the gable ends to form pediments. Panelled cornerboards add further detail. Although most of the windows have 2/2 sash now, the gable peaks retain 8/12 sash. The east entrance (similar to the Reynolds entrance, #20) has a fine surround consisting of Doric pilasters supporting a broken pediment which enframes an elliptical fanlight with radiating muntins.

The south entrance also has Doric pilasters and entablature but the double-leaf door with opaque glass panes is a Victorian alteration. A wide, one-bay, Colonial Revival porch is attached to this entrance and has triplet Tuscan columns at the front corners, a balustrade and a full entablature above.

An ell is connected to the rear and has three arched carriage bays on the west side, and another carriage entrance and an 8/8 shed dormer on the east side.

29A. Carriage Barn:

Two-and-one-half story, clapboard structure with a 1-1/2 story gable front (west side) exhibiting a sliding entrance door and a loft door. The east side, a full 2-1/2 stories, has a carriage bay and windows with 6/6 sash.

30. S. Putnam House - 1794.

This house was originally built as a store by Richard Ransom, his second store in the Village and predecessor to his brick National Store (25). This low, long structure has 1-1/2 stories, five by one bays, and a gabled roof. It exhibits clapboard siding, 6/6 sash, a molded cornice and no eaves overhanging. Particularly interesting and unusual is the broad, plain, coved frieze which measures approximately 3-1/2 feet wide and is plastered. The entrance on the west side has three-quarter-length sidelights and a plain, wide surround. The east side also has an entrance and four windows, three of which have 6/6 sash and one with 12/12 sash. The ell, attached at the rear south end, has an entrance, 6/6 sash, and a storage door on a horizontal sliding roller. A porch with a simple stick balustrade is also located on the south end overlooking the Kedron Brook.

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30A. Barn - c. 1850.

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Two-story, clapboard structure with saltbox form, numerous bays and windows.

31. R. Stephens House - c. 1835.

The Stephens House is a Cape Cod with 1-1/2 stories, five by two bays, a gable roof, clapboard siding, and a wing attached on the east side. The main central entrance on the north side has a transom as does the wing's north entrance. The windows have 12/12 sash and louver shutters; the two shed dormers of the main section and that of the wing have 8/8 sash. Decorative details include cornice returns, and plain cornerboards and frieze. The south elevation was enlarged to two stories in 1924.

A 1-1/2 story barn is connected to the wing. The barn has a gable roof, vertical board siding and two garage bays.

¥ 32. 0. W. Holmes House - c. 1930.

Rebuilt after a fire, the Holmes House is a 1-1/2 story, woodframe, clapboard house with a gable roof and a continuous shed roof wall dormer. It has a vernacular Colonial Revival gable porch entry, a recessed corner porch, and three-part bungalow-type windows which flank the entrance. This building does not contribute to the Historic District.

★ 32A. Barn/Garage-c. 1930.

One-and-one-half story, gable roof, wood shingle siding. Non-contributing.

33. Robertson House - c. 1850.

Originally built as a gristmill, this structure now serves as a residence. It is a 1-1/2 story, woodframe, clapboarded building with a gable roof and two skylights.

33A, Garage:

One-and-one-half story, gable roof, vertical board siding.

★ 34. Cowdrey House - c. 1920.

This house is a simple 1-1/2 story, woodframe structure with a gambrel roof, clapboard and shingle siding and a wing on the east end. Non-contributing.

 $\gg$  34A. Shed:

One-story, gable roof, clapboard siding. Non-contributing.

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35. Goldsmith House - 1831.

The Goldsmith House is a 1-1/2 story, five by four bay, brick Classic Cottage with its bays divided by brick piers and recessed arches. The central entrance, located on the east elevation, has a transom. The windows retain 12/12 sash. Three interior end chimneys remain; it is likely that there were four originally. The gable roof has a molded cornice which returns at the gable ends. The west elevation has a gabled, tripartite "Palladianesque" dormer window. A one-story clapboard wing connects the main block to the 1-1/2 story, clapboard barn. This barn is distinguished by three carriage bays which have keystoned elliptical surrounds. Two dormers retain 8/12 sash and the west gable end has a window with 15 lights.

Although brick piers and arches are hallmarks in South Woodstock, they are usually found on 2-1/2 story structures. The Goldsmith and P. Kendall, Jr. (5) Houses are exceptions.

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isolation endured by early communities demanded a large number of self-sufficient skills as well as energy, yet these two factors helped South Woodstock succeed as a village.

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The early prosperity of South Woodstock is reflected in the village buildings. A large number of structures within the Historic District are built of brick and are stylish renditions of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival styles. Building with brick indicated a certain degree of affluence and yet the presence of at least one brickyard, as noted on the Woodstock Map of 1832, approximately 2-1/2 miles north of the village, made the material readily accessible.<sup>7</sup>

Besides establishing the village, the Cottles constructed some of the finer residences in South Woodstock. Owning what was known as Cottle's Ridge, Jabez Cottle built in 1812 a large Federal-style house (22) overlooking the Kedron Brook, the brook which helped him succeed as a miller.<sup>8</sup> Warren Cottle, Jabez's brother, built the exquisite Georgianstyle Giles-Byrne House (1) in 1796, located at the southern end of the village. Considered the first trader in the South Parish, Warren later joined with Amasa Ransom in operating a store. However, their luck eventually turned and shortly after the store failed in 1798, Warren moved to Missouri.<sup>9</sup> Jabez Cottle's son, John Arnold, followed his father and uncle's cue by building the Lutz House (11), another impressive house in the Historic District.<sup>10</sup> John Arnold and his brother, Jabez, Jr., were responsible for carrying on their father's fulling mill operation.

Like the Cottles, the Ransom family was also influential in building South Woodstock. Through the course of their lives, Richard Ransom and his son, Richard, Jr., built three stores in the Village, two of which are extant.<sup>11</sup> The first store is no longer standing, but the second store was built in 1794 and is now known as the S. Putnam House (30). This building is a frame and clapboard structure, unpretentious yet noteworthy because of its unusually wide, coved frieze. Twenty-eight years later, in 1822, Ransom's son built a third store and called it the National Store, a brick structure detailed by piers and arches (25).<sup>12</sup> Business must have always been good for the Ransom family because not only did they expand with new stores twice and build the Inn (26), but tax lists at one time listed Richard, Sr. as the richest man in the Village.<sup>13</sup> Ransom also built a large Federal-style house (29) in 1800 directly across from his second store (30).

<sup>7</sup>Woodstock Map of 1832

<sup>8</sup>Mary Grace Canfield. The Valley of the Kedron, South Woodstock, 1940, p. 65.

<sup>9</sup>Dana, <u>History</u>, pp. 116-117.

<sup>10</sup>Canfield, Valley, p. 281.

<sup>11</sup>The distinction between Richard Ransom, Sr. and Junior is often blurred.

<sup>12</sup>Canfield, <u>Valley</u>, p. 68.

<sup>13</sup>Williamson, "Development", p. 13.

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The first schoolhouse in the Village was constructed some time during the 1780's. Built of logs, it was replaced around 1789 by a frame structure which, in turn, was succeeded by the two-story brick building, later known as the Orion Grange (18).<sup>14</sup> Classes were held in the brick schoolhouse until the 1870's; it is unclear exactly where the children attended after that until the Putnam Schoolhouse (27) was built around 1906. This vernacular Queen Anne-style building served as a graded school until 1955.

The first church in the Village was standing by 1790 but was superseded by South Chapel (17) in 1835. South Chapel, although a Universalist Church, was used by all the various denominations in the Village. Each group was allowed to use the church a certain number of Sundays per year proportional to the number of members within each group.<sup>15</sup>

Since the majority of buildings within the Historic District were built before or during the first half of the nineteenth century, it would appear that the Village witnessed unchecked prosperity. Yet throughout the nineteenth century, the residents of South Woodstock also encountered serious problems and changes.<sup>16</sup> Soil erosion was a common result for those who cleared rolling and hilly terrain. Once the land was exhausted of topsoil and minerals, the only quick remedy for farmers was to move on. Simultaneously, as the population quickly inflated, the demand for land increased and soon the sizes of families, with many children maturing and needing farms of their own, outpaced the amount of land available. Thus, it is not surprising that the lure of cheap, rich, and abundant farmland in the west proved irresistable to many in Vermont. Also, as the country moved towards industrialization, the demand for labor in cities was difficult to ignore: steady wages, unaffected by seasonal demands or climatic changes, were enticing to those struggling to tame an ornery plot of land. And so it was that around 1810, the population of South Woodstock began to drop as many saw promise elsewhere. Today, stone foundations and root cellars scattered throughout the back hills of South Woodstock attest to the westward and urban flights. Homes were abandoned or quickly burned and salvaged for their nails; survival was a fast and desperate game.

For those who remained, the problem of productive farming was compounded not only by soil erosion but by competition from western markets. So, soon many farmers decided to forego raising crops and instead concentrated on raising sheep, a pursuit which allowed them to take advantage of their rocky, denuded land. While this venture matched the current state of the land to a suitable purpose, prosperity was dulled by a quiet and inexplicable terror: tuberculosis. Consumption, as it was then called, was responsible for destroying entire families while absolving others entirely, yet striking so often that it was greatly feared, if only because the cause of the disease was unknown.

<sup>14</sup>Dana, History, pp. 122, 124.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Interview with Dorothy Goldsmith, May 16, 1981.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Williamson, "Development", pp. 18-30.

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However, sheep raising proved a profitable venture for many in South Woodstock throughout the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. But again, around 1880, western farmers, aided by the railroad, doomed the Vermont market by undercutting sheep prices drastically. The market had fallen beyond hope so yet another alternative had to be found. This time sheep were replaced by cows, and dairy farms became common in South Woodstock and throughout the state, remaining so until recent years.

The history of South Woodstock is marked by an early and long interest in literary and educational pursuits. From the establishment of a library in 1797, the Village has been known for its progressive and intellectual character.

Considering the time involved just establishing homesteads and farms during the Village's early years, it is rather remarkable that a group of men found time to organize a library, called the "Woodstock Social Library," in 1797.<sup>17</sup> In 1815, the "Literary Fraternity" was established whereby men would gather once a week during the off-season to recite and debate a variety of topics.<sup>18</sup> Yet the most notable educational event in South Woodstock was the creation of the Green Mountain Perkins Academy in 1848. Originally called the Green Mountain Liberal Institute, this school offered a decidedly liberal education to its students, providing such exotic subjects as astrology. Because the quality of the education was considered unusually high, the Academy attracted students from throughout New England and New York. In a sense, the Academy became the linchpin of the Village during the fifty years of its existence. Not only was it valued for its educational prestige, but many villagers profitted financially by taking in students as boarders. However, the Academy was eventually doomed as public high schools improved and proliferated.

Socially, the Kedron Valley Inn has long attracted visitors and tourists while also serving the local area. Built in 1828 by Richard Ransom, Jr. and Richard Mather, the Inn was well known for the dances once held in its two-story ell. This dance hall, which stood until 1910, was noted for its springing dance floor, the spring provided by large rubber balls underneath the floorboards.<sup>19</sup> Continuing a tradition which has spanned over 150 years, the Kedron Valley Inn remains an attractive and viable influence on the Village.

The Orion Grange, organized in 1874, was located first on the third floor of the Green Mountain Perkins Academy. Later, around 1907, it moved to the old brick schoolhouse (18). As part of the national grange movement, the Orion Grange became an important social and educational outlet for South Woodstock.

<sup>17</sup>Dana, <u>History</u>, p. 121.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., p. 120.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Curtis, Will and Jane, and Lieberman, Frank. <u>Times Gone By</u>, Woodstock, Views of an Early Vermont Village. Woodstock, 1976, p. 78.

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When compared to earlier years, the twentieth century has been relatively quiet for South Woodstock. While continuing to serve local residents, the Village has become somewhat overshadowed by the larger Village of Woodstock. Improved transportation and the notoriety of Woodstock have brought an increasing number of people to the area to visit or live. While this influx has undoubtedly helped the local economy, the threat of slipshod, "fast-buck" development usually accompanies this type of growth. Yet recent events have shown that the villagers are determined to protect the surrounding land and open space as well as to maintain the architectural integrity of the village. Their vigilance is extraordinary and a promising sign concerning the future of South Woodstock.

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Williamson, Gilbert S. "The Development of a Small Community, South Woodstock, Vermont, 1770-1900". Thesis for Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, 1974, 49 pages.

Interviews:

Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell Stephens
Miss Dorothy Goldsmith
Mr. Ivan Shove
Mr. Paul Kendall, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Putnam
Mrs. Paul Kendall, Sr.
Mrs. Darwin Hoadley

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The boundary of the South Woodstock Village Historic District begins at Point A, a point located on the north bank of the Kedron Brook which meets the east edge of the footbridge that crosses the Kedron Brook on the Cowdrey Property (34). It thence proceeds in a southerly direction along said edge of said bridge and an extension thereof crossing Vermont Route 106 to the southern edge of the right-of-way of said road, Point B. From Point B the line continues in a westerly direction along said right-of-way approximately 50 feet to Point C, a point which meets the eastern fence line of the Goldsmith Property (35). The line thence proceeds in a southerly direction along said fence line approximately 100 feet to Point D, the southeast corner of said fence. The line thence proceeds in a southwesterly direction approximately 600 feet until it meets Point E, a granite post at the southeast corner of the Green Mountain Perkins Academy property (19). From Point E, the line continues generally west following the southern fence line of the Green Mountain Perkins Academy property (19) and an extension thereof until it meets the east bank of the Kedron Brook, Point F. From Point F, the line proceeds generally south along said bank and passing behind properties#16,12,11,8, 5 and 2 until it meets Point G, an easterly extension of a line running parallel to and approximately 100 feet south of the south side of the Giles-Byrne House (1). From Point G, the line proceeds generally west along said extension approximately 300 feet crossing Kedron Brook and Vermont Route 106 and continuing to Point H. The line thence proceeds generally north, running parallel to and approximately 200 feet west of the westerly edge of the right-of-way of Vermont Route 106 and a northerly extension of said line passing behind properties #1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25 and 26 until it meets the southern bank of the Kedron Valley Inn Pond, Point I. The line thence proceeds in a northeasterly then northerly direction along said bank and passing to the west of the Hoadley property (27) until it reaches Point J, a point approximately 30 feet west of and 10 feet north of the north wall of the Hoadley Garage (27A). From Point J, the line continues generally east passing 10 feet north of the Hoadley Garage (27A), crossing Church Hill Road, and continuing to the north of the Putnam Schoolhouse (28), crossing Brown Hill Road, and continuing along the stone fence north of the P. Kendall, Sr. House (29) until it meets Point K, a point which meets a northerly extension of the east fence line of the S. Putnam property (30). From Point K, the line thence proceeds generally south along said extension, crossing Town Highway 61, and continuing along the fence line and a southerly extension thereof until it meets the north bank of the Kedron Brook, Point L. From Point L, the line proceeds generally east along said bank until it meets Point A, the point of beginning.

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The boundary of the South Woodstock Village Historic District encompasses all of the historic buildings in the Village. The west side of the Historic District is bounded by a ridge; woodland borders the northern edge. The eastern boundary is drawn to reflect the extent of nineteenth century development in the Village; beyond this boundary lie several remodeled, non-contributing buildings on Vermont Route 106. Open fields border the southern edge of the Historic District.

