

10-5

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 13 1977

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The School House and Town Hall

and or common Town Hall (current name)

2. Location

street & number Intersection U.S. Route 7 and Town Highway 1 N/Z not for publication

city, town Leicester N/A vicinity of

state Vermont code 50 county Addison code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Senior Citizen Center

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Leicester

street & number R.D. 2

city, town Brandon N/A vicinity of state Vermont

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Leicester Town Clerk

street & number R.D. 2

city, town Brandon state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Leicester School and Town Hall occupies a prominent position at the intersection of U.S. Route 7 and Town Highway 1, known as Leicester Four Corners. Built circa 1858, it shares the village green with the Leicester Meeting House. The school is a two-story, wood-framed, clapboarded structure, embellished with late Greek Revival details. The south gable facade retains its original design with a massive frontispiece, wide paneled pilasters, and a raking box cornice with gable returns. A single story ell built early in the twentieth century projects from the rear of the building. The interior plan and details remain largely intact and well preserved.

The main block of the School measures twenty-six feet by thirty-six feet with the front entrance and gable facing the green and Town Highway 1. The ell, attached to the north gable, measures fourteen feet by twenty-five feet, and it is offset from the main block two feet to the west. The original slate covers the main roof while composition shingles cover the ell. Both foundations are laid with rectangular fieldstone.

The interior layout of the main block consists of two large open rooms, one over the other, with separate vestibules serving each room, and a stairway in the southwest corner of the building. The second floor has served as the Town Hall since 1858.

The south facade is dominated by the recessed front entrance. The four-foot wide front door has five horizontal panels. It is a replacement for the original door which had six vertical panels (this door is evident in a circa 1900 photograph). The unusual and somewhat awkward sidelights have applied panels beneath the sash. Supporting the heavy entablature are two large pilasters built of mostly flat members. This entrance is a good example of the Greek Revival period. Framing the entire south facade are large corner pilasters and the raking box cornice. The pilasters are fifteen inches square with one-half inch recessed panels. They rest directly on the sill board. The pilasters support a wide frieze broken by an ovolo band. A Grecian ovolo and fillet form the pilaster capital profile. The cornice bed moulding is a large, sharply projecting ovolo and cove. The crown moulding, a cyma recta, has only a slight projection, characteristic of the Greek Revival period. Also typical of the period is the design of the cornice return which carries only the bottom fillet of the eave crown moulding. This fillet forms the drip cap for the return.

The windows on the main block are six-over-six single hung, with unmoulded exterior casings. The glass is hand-blown, measuring nine inches by thirteen inches. Although these sash appear in a photo from the late 1800s, notches in the outside stop indicate the upper sash were approximately four inches longer. It is possible that the extant sash are replacements for earlier sash.

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The lower story of the east facade was altered early in the twentieth century. The two lower windows were replaced by a side entrance and a bank of four single hung, twelve over twelve windows. This was common for schools of the period to aid in illumination. A ramp was recently added for wheel chair access.

The north facade retains two of the six over six sash, but has sustained some alterations as well. The upper story window to the west was replaced by a casement six light sash due to the intersection of the attached wing. The lower story window to the east has a circa 1915 sister window on each side of similar size and design.

A fire escape has been built to serve the second story north east window. The main alteration to the north facade is the attached wing. It is a clapboard, wood framed structure, void of any embellishing details. The wing served for many years as a wood shed with privies but has been remodeled in recent years. The north end of the wing contains two small four light casement windows serving a closet and a bathroom.

The west facade of the main block was originally three bays deep. Two first floor windows have been removed and sided over.

Inside the front door is a four foot by eight foot vestibule. The walls are covered with narrow vertical beaded boards and the ceiling is plastered. The vestibule was built for entry to both the school downstairs (door on the east wall) and the Town Hall upstairs (stairs on the west wall). The school door has been filled in. Access now is through an exterior door on the east facade. The stairs in the southwest corner turn ninety degrees with narrow vertical beaded wainscoting and a simple chair rail. The inside corner of the stairs is a curved wall with the original curved railing.

The second floor of the Town Hall is one large room. The ceiling is plastered, and the walls are wainscotted with wallpaper above. The wainscoting is vertical beaded boards capped with a moulded chair rail. The floors are wide painted boards. In the south end of the room is a stage stepped above the main floor. This was added later to serve school plays and town meetings. The room also contains eight primitive pews which appear to be original.

Through the exterior east side door one enters a seven foot by nine foot vestibule with vertical wainscoting and horizontal beaded panelling on the walls and ceiling. The floors are new hardwood. The school room, entered through a door in the north wall of the vestibule, is twenty-five feet square.

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It also has hardwood flooring. The ceiling has narrow beaded panelling, and the walls are random width horizontal beaded boards. There is a closet under the stairs with an access door facing the main room. A temporary heating system is hung with screws from the ceiling.

The addition is one large room with a small closet and a bathroom at the north end. Modern panelling covers the walls. The floors are linoleum and the ceiling is dropped. A furnace which heats the building stands in the southeast corner of the room near the original chimney.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1858 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Leicester School and Town Hall building in Leicester, Vermont, is architecturally significant as an extant example of the late Greek Revival period. It is representative of the combined-use building, prevalent in rural communities with limited financial resources. Most importantly, it is Leicester's finest and best preserved District School, built circa 1858. Constructed next to the Leicester Meeting House on the village green, it is a focal point at the "Leicester Four Corners."

The Town Hall is a large and impressive structure for a town of Leicester's population. The late date for the Greek Revival design is due primarily to the persistence of that style for rural public buildings. Though some necessary additions were made circa 1915, the clearly pronounced Greek elements succeed in preserving the Town Hall's original appearance.

Because the interiors of both floors are essentially unaltered, we are provided with a remarkable opportunity to better understand nineteenth century rural life. In 1858, the minutes of the Leicester Meeting House Society record the decision to grant the Town of Leicester the "privilege" of erecting a building for the third school district, west of the meeting house. The second story of this school building was to be used as a town hall. This building was, very literally, the heart of Leicester. By 1860 Leicester's population peaked at seven hundred thirty-seven substantiating the need for the school. Since then Leicester's educational and governmental needs have been served in this building. The Town Hall's size, shape, roof pitch, and site orientation complement the Meeting House built in 1829.

Today, both buildings sit elegantly on the well preserved village green. The Town Hall is still a vital part of the Leicester community. As importantly, however, the Town Hall is a cultural artifact from the town's nineteenth century. It provides continuity and a sense of place for Leicester's citizens. When the Town Hall is considered with the Meeting House and the Stagecoach Inn, the "Four Corners" are visually defined, and we are presented with nearly complete evidence of a nineteenth century crossroads.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3+

Quadrangle name Brandon, VT

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	5	1	9	5	0	4	8	5	8	5	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

As listed in Book 5, Page 267 in the Leicester Town Clerk's Office, Leicester, Vermont. Original lot associated with the building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

N/A

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Townsend H. Anderson, Director of Historic Properties

organization Mill Bridge Construction date June 16, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 564 telephone 802-388-3169

city or town Middlebury state Vermont

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eric S. Roberts*

title Director/State Historic Preservation Officer date June 10, 1988

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

John Pelous Bryan date 7-14-88
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Major Bibliographical References

Beers, F.W. Atlas of Addison County, Vermont. New York, 1871.

Delorm, Constance. "History of Leicester and Leicester Meeting House".
Three page history stored at Office of Leicester Town Clerk. No
date available.

Smith, H.P. History of Addison County, Vermont. Syracuse, New York, 1886.

The Minutes of the Leicester Meeting House Society. Stored in vault of
Office of Leicester Town Clerk. Two Volumes, 1825 to date.

The Rutland Herald. Article entitled "Old Leicester Church Rich in History
of Century Ago". November 27, 1929.