

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 an 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. Make 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 Salisbury Town Hall

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number corner Maple and Prospect Streets not for publication

city or town Salisbury vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Addison code 001 zip code 05769

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Elsa Gilbertson, NR Specialist September 28, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of 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 official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson A. Ball
Signature of the Keeper
Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

11-7-95

Salisbury Town Hall
Name of Property

Addison County, Vermont
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Government Buildings in Vermont

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/City Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation marble

walls weatherboard

roof slate

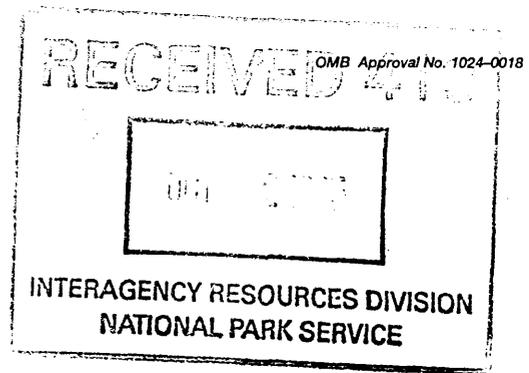
other wood

Narrative Description

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

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Salisbury Town Hall
Addison County, VT

DESCRIPTION

The Greek Revival-style Salisbury Town Hall was constructed in 1869 of local wood and stone on the corner of Prospect and Maple Streets, the principal thoroughfares in the village of Salisbury, Addison County, Vermont. The town is situated on the west side of Lake Dunmore and the Green Mountain range at the eastern edge of the fertile flatlands of the Champlain Valley in west central Vermont. The clapboarded 2-1/2 story, 3 x 3 bay, gable-front Town Hall with a slate shingle roof and a yellow marble foundation is distinguished by a recessed entrance sheltering original doors, 1/1 sash, arched-panel corner pilasters, a complete entablature, and a pediment with an oculus. A central, brick exterior furnace chimney was added c. 1905 to the west rear and a 1948 metal fire escape descends from the second story on the south side. The roof was raised and the interior was renovated in 1908 and again after both were gutted by fire in 1948. Keeping closely to the original lines of the structure during reconstruction has helped maintain the structural integrity and context of the building. Twin fluted Doric columns enframing the entrance in antis and long, multilight fenestration were removed when the roof was raised in 1908 to add a second story. The Salisbury Town Hall provides a dining room, kitchen and toilets on the first floor and a meeting hall with a stage on the second floor. The building is in good condition and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Town Hall is situated on a grade, which runs downward from north to south, exposing a foot of the north side and east facade yellow marble foundations and the full foundation on the south rear and a portion of the west side. A marble retaining wall continues east from the foundation and tapers to the grade of the street on the east front of the building. Gray limestone

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steps lead to the entry and a stone on the south foundation wall is chiselled with the construction date "1869".

The roof has stayed close to its original lines throughout the existence of the hall, even after it was raised to add a second story in 1908 and after the fire of 1949. The present slate finish of the roof replaces original circular sawn cedar shingles.

The Town Hall has a recessed center front entrance on the east facade which features double doors having four panels. Large fluted Doric columns have been removed when the second story was added c. 1908 and the height of the entrance in antis was reduced from its original dimensions. The south reveal of the entrance porch has a ticket window with a projecting counter and simple cap molded lintel. The Hall is further articulated with plain trim and simple cornice cap moldings setting off the two stories of 1/1 sash throughout. The central bay on the second story of the south side was converted to a fire exit in 1948, featuring a single light set over a single molded panel. Original double-hung sash had multiple lights and were of taller dimensions, lighting a one story interior prior to the raising of the roof in 1908. The brick exterior rear chimney supported with four steel hoops to the west rear was constructed of Drury machine pressed bricks and laid with hard, white lime mortar. The 1908 Town Hall photograph shows a different corbelled cap treatment. At the base of the chimney in the west rear is a small, hinged wooden door leading into the furnace room in the basement. There is also a large entrance with approximately four foot high, vertically boarded, double doors into the furnace room from the south side.

Interior:

The Town Hall interior was renovated in 1908 at the same time as the exterior and has been completely renovated, providing

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a dining room, kitchen, and toilets downstairs and a meeting hall and stage upstairs. The only original architectural components visible are the double exterior doors dating from 1869.

Immediately inside the principal entry doors on the east front is a vestibule, which services the southeast stairs to the second floor meeting hall. There is also a small closet under the stairs, a bathroom on both the northeast and northwest corners of the plan, a rear stairway to the rear of the second floor stage area, and the dining room, which occupies the majority of the first floor. The northeast corner of the dining room has been recently partitioned with wood. The first partition starts next to the north side of the interior door frame and runs two thirds of the length of the room, having a centrally located door. The second partition, which is about 1 bay wide, starts at this new corner and runs to the north wall. A small kitchen that was situated to the southwest of the dining hall is now used for storage. The two rooms were joined by both a door and a pantry cupboard with doors that open on both rooms.

Except for a suspended ceiling with fluorescent lights and the recent partition walls, the walls and ceilings of the first floor are entirely paneled in tongue-and-groove, beaded "wainscot" stock. This sheathing is applied vertically from the floor up 37" to a molded chairrail and horizontally from chairrail to ceiling. Together with the doors that have 5-raised, horizontal panels, it appears that this interior finish dates from the 1908 renovation and was skillfully repaired if damaged in the 1948 fire. Lath and plaster stains in both the southeast stair cavity and attic reveal that the Town Hall was most likely entirely plastered when it was originally finished.

The interior of the second floor is occupied almost entirely by a meeting room with a stage. A small storage room measuring 11' x 9-1/2' is situated in the southeast corner directly over the southeast stairwell. The meeting room has a 12'4" high ceiling refinished in early sheetrock material after the fire of

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1948. The walls are sheathed with tongue-and-groove wainscot similar to that on the first floor, running 42' up from the finished wood floor to a molded chairrail. The walls and ceiling were both finished in plaster applied over machine-cut lath; only that of the walls remains since the fire. The stage, which is raised 22" off the main room floor, occupies the western 9-1/2' of the room. The floor surfaces are finished in narrow, random width tongue-and-groove maple flooring. Electricity was introduced to the Town Hall in 1918; shallow, glass, bowl drop fixtures hang from the ceiling in the meeting hall and over the stage.

The basement was converted in 1877 into a jail and in 1905 into a furnace room. An area of earth was excavated in order to provide room for the large, wood-burning furnace. Sheet metal and wooden duct systems, in various stages of disrepair, run throughout the bailer. Ornate cast iron floor and wall grates survive from this system on both first and second floors.

The Salisbury Town Hall is presently vacant. The Salisbury Public Library was located on the first floor between c. 1970 and 1985, as were the physical education classes of the local school. A 1985 preservation plan, prepared by the Lignum Vitae of Middlebury, Vermont, and made possible by Vermont's Third Century Fund, calls for the Town Hall to be used for the Town Clerk's Office.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Salisbury Town Hall is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C for contributing to architecture and government as part of the multiple property submission "Growth of Government in Vermont", under the property type of town halls. Completed in 1869 and one of the earliest town halls built in this area of Vermont, this architecturally

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.)

- [X] 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.
[X] 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.)

Property is:

- [] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location.
[] C a birthplace or 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Government

Period of Significance

1869

1907

Significant Dates

1869

1907

1948

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

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important Greek Revival style hall originally had an entryway with columns in antis and very long, oversized fenestration distinguishing it as an outstanding example of public architecture. Renovated in 1908 and again in 1948, the importance of the Salisbury Town Hall also relates to the practical functioning of democracy during this period of history as being the symbolic manifestation of local government. The central, prominent placement of the hall in the town's streetscape reflects the importance of local control and the pride townspeople had in their community. The early building date for this property type in the area illustrates the significance achieved by Salisbury in the mid-nineteenth century as a center of commerce and a governmental hub due to its proximity to the prosperous water-powered industry on the Leicester River.

The Salisbury Town Hall contributes significantly to the understanding and interpretation of Salisbury's identity as it developed and prospered during the mid to late nineteenth century. The Town Hall siting reflects the organization and centralization of activity around a new town center. Originally, the center of commerce had been the neighborhood surrounding Salisbury Falls, and the town's nucleus was originally located in the geographical center of town. This early center, located in school district #3, was approximately halfway between the villages of Salisbury and West Salisbury. This center was sufficient to serve Salisbury during its early years when the economy of the town was based primarily on agriculture. In the decades before the construction of the hall, Town Meeting locations moved about between various schools and churches throughout town until Salisbury economy shifted to water-powered manufacturing.

In the early planning stages, the possibility of uniting the town government and village school under one roof was entertained, but the idea was rejected prior to construction. By erecting a separate Town Hall, Salisbury inhabitants were effectively separating their town government from past education

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and ecclesiastical ties. Salisbury had grown to require a structure that would serve only as a center for town government; a town of Salisbury's stature could no longer be run from a school house. When Salisbury first organized to erect a town hall in 1857, it was one the earliest such attempts in this vicinity to create a building to function strictly as a town hall. The process of actually erecting the hall was prolonged due most likely to Vermont's participation in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865 and the fact that, as seen in the US Census of 1870, no one prior to that time had sufficient architectural background to take on the challenge of its design.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Lignum Vitea of Middlebury, Vt. "Preservation Plan for the Salisbury Town Hall." (funded by Vermont's Third Century Fund). Copy on file at VT Division for Historic Preservation, 1985.

Petersen, Max P. *Salisbury: From Birth to Bicentennial*. Salisbury, Vt.: Published Privately, 1976.

Smith, Henry P. *History of Addison County, Vermont*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Mason & Co., 1886.

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey. "Salisbury, survey number 0117-30." Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vt.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for this property is the land on which the town hall is located. The town hall is on the southwest corner of the corner of Maple and Prospect streets in Salisbury village at the UTM Reference Point 18/652430/4861880. The lot measures approximately 29' in width and 50' in length.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all the land historically associated with the building.