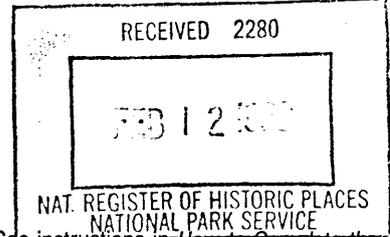


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Albans Town Hall  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route 36 (Lake Road)  not for publication  
city or town St. Albans  vicinity  
state Vermont code VT county Franklin code 011 zip code 05481

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.)

Elva Melbeckson, National Register Specialist February 6, 1996  
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 certifying 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 H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 3/14/96

St. Albans Town Hall  
Name of Property

Franklin 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.)

Historic Government Buildings of Vermont

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: city hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: city hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
walls brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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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St. Albans Town, Franklin County, VermontSection number 7 Page 1

The St. Albans Town Hall, built in 1898, is located in the village of St. Albans Bay, approximately two miles west of the city of St. Albans, Franklin County, Vermont. Set back some twenty-five feet from and fronting the northwest side of Lake Road, the building sits in a primarily residential area in the west corner of the intersection of Town Highway 36 (Lake Road) and Chubb Road. The two-story, approximately 30 by 40 foot, brick building designed Richardson-Romanesque style originally functioned as both the town hall and graded school. An access divides the northeast property boundary from the 1878 United Methodist Church next door. A large rear yard extends from the rear facade of the structure to Cherry Street, approximately 30 feet away. Although the building no longer operates as a school, the St. Albans town hall has retained its original function as a town hall. Some reversible interior renovations have been made, but the building remains largely unaltered. The town hall retains the integrity of its historic function, location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

The St. Albans Town Hall rest on a rock-faced ashlar limestone foundation. The large but compact massing of the approximately 30' (side) by 40'(length) building is accomplished by the intersection of a rectangularly massed, three by six bay main block with a two by one bay, two story, hip-roof wing centered on the same plane as the northeast facade. The bricks, which may have been manufactured locally, are laid in a well-crafted common bond with a splayed arch soldier course above each non-arched window. Projecting above the slate covered, hip-roof of the primary block is a two-story, engaged tower; its gable roof with slate finished tympanum meets the hip roof at about mid-center. Below this a tall, round-arched, tripartite window scheme is formed by a fixed, semi-circular arch window consisting of a center twelve pane light flanked by two quarter-round six pane lights. Separating this section from the windows below is a wide wooden sill. The lower part of the arch window is formed by a central, rectangular, 6/1, double-hung, sash below a fixed six pane light. This window is flanked by two double-hung, 5/1 sash windows topped by two five pane lights and is seated atop a large single stone sill. The first floor windows directly below are marked by paired, double-hung, 4/4, sash windows both resting atop a single stone sill. These windows are separated from the second story arch windows by two, rectangular, raised brick panels, set within a slightly recessed arcade and outlined by brick detailing, which surrounds the entire window arcade. Left of the tower on the first floor level, a double-hung, 6/2 sash window atop a single stone sill sits directly below a thin raised rectangular brick panel set within a larger recessed panel. This detail is repeated at the same level to the right of the tower, above two 4/4 double-hung windows each on its own stone sill. Directly below each first story window, at the basement level, are five approximately 29" x 49" three-pane, fixed windows.

In the east corner between the main block and the projecting wing, the southeast wall is

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continued by a single-story entry-way. The shed roof of this entrance meets the main block behind a parapet wall that joins the main block at the second floor level and rises to approximately 18" below the eaves. A centered, recessed, rectangular panel at the base of the parapet, appears parallel to a corbelled brick stringcourse extending along the length of the entrance block at the second floor level and wrapping around to the northeast facade under the shed roof eaves. The entry way features a large, round arch with a semi-circular, brick drip molding. Recessed within this arch is a doorway consisting of two, quarter-round, arched lights over two single pane doors each with two recessed rectangular panels atop one another. A small, 6/1, sash window is located just left of the arch and is approximately 6" above the sill level of all first floor windows sills, below which is a two pane fixed basement window.

The northeast facade consists of the two bay by one bay, hip-roof wing, which meets the main block slightly left of center. It features an entryway arch in the right bay, which is identical to that of the primary (southwest) facade. The first floor of the left bay of the main block has two paired, double-hung, 12/2 sash windows resting on a single stone sill. Directly above, on the second floor, a tall arched window scheme consisting of two paired, double-hung, 12/2 segmented arch windows share a single stone sill. These windows are set within a slightly recessed brick, segmented-arch arcade, which extends approximately 18" below sill level with two raised rectangular brick panels under each of the windows. Basement level windows located under each of the first story windows consist of two fixed, rectangular, three pane windows. To the right of the entrance arch is a 6/2, double-hung sash window with stone sill. Against the northeast wall at the intersection of the northeast wing and the primary block, a modern handicap access door is placed along side an engaged rectangular ventilation shaft rising from the ground level to the eaves.

The fenestration of the five bay, rear facade consists of five 48" x 95" windows at the first floor level--the second and third being 8/1 sash and the first, third, and fifth being boarded-up. Three sets of 6/2 paired windows, diminished to approximately half the size of the first floor windows, sit directly above the first, third and fifth bay first floor windows; each atop a single stone sill. At the basement level are five, 29" x 48", three pane, fixed windows located directly below each of the five first story windows.

The six bay, southeast facade of the main block consists of two centered, paired, projecting bays like the front tower (projecting bay) of the primary block in detail and fenestration. To the right of these, two pairs of 6/2 sash, double-hung window each on individual stone sills, mark both the first and second floor levels. This same window scheme is repeated at the first floor level of the left two bays. On the second floor of the far left bay is a smaller, double-hung, 6/2 sash window identical to those on the rear facade. Immediately to the

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St. Albans Town Hall  
St. Albans Town, Franklin County, Vermont

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right is a fire door, accessible by a metal fire escape. Six fixed three pane basement windows are placed directly below each first story window. A tall brick chimney, corbelled at the crown, projects well above the roof line.

The building features a slate roof and metal flashing along all eaves, valleys and ridges. The two peaks of the hip-roof primary block are finished with a heavy metal finial. Closely spaced, exposed rafters and rafter tails appear along the eaves. A second distinct corbelled-out, chimney rises from the peak of the northeast wing.

### **INTERIOR:**

Significant interior features within the St. Albans Town Hall include the main stair hall, panelled doors and woodwork surrounds of the town clerk's office, the original built-in, fire-proof records vault, a second floor stage and auditorium with vaulted ceiling supported by large semi-circular boxed trusses, a basement equipped with original bathroom facilities for the school children, and a specially designed basement to roof ventilator shaft.

The original floor plan of the Town Hall has been somewhat altered due to renovations in 1961 and 1987. However, most of the spaces still retain evidence of their original size and fabric. The St. Albans Town Hall originally was designed to serve for the dual functions of school and town hall. Today the school has moved to a new location and functions of the town clerk offices, zoning administrators office, and meeting hall divide the interior floor plan.

One enters the building from the primary (street) entrance, going into a small entrance hall. The town clerk's offices are directly behind a set of original double doors with paired, rectangular, raised panels, placed in the center two-thirds and flanked above and below by a single, square, raised panel.

The original built-in, fire-proof records vault set within the northeast wall of the approximately 20' x 20' town clerk's office is embellished with a small, hand-painted landscape with the town name above. A small conference room and office, located between the clerks office and the rear wall of the building, leads to the former classroom (now meeting hall). Public access to this newly renovated space is gained through the arched entryway of the northeast wing. A large staircase, identical to that in the primary entrance, leads to a small entrance hall.

The climb to the second floor leads from the primary entrance up a wide, sturdy, U-shaped, main staircase, its balusters, rails and newel posts finished in a heavy but well-crafted manner. The auditorium covers nearly the entire second floor of the main block. Recent

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St. Albans Town Hall  
St. Albans Town, Franklin County, Vermont

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renovations have included a dropped ceiling and temporary partitions. However, the original vaulted ceiling with semi-circular boxed trusses remain intact above.

A stage flanked by small dressing rooms is in the northeast wall of the rectangular room. The overall sense of space and light are the result of the elegant fenestration from both the tripartite window scheme of the engaged towers and the large paired double-hung windows. Exposed brick lines the south east wall of the auditorium, which separates a small office from the auditorium. Although now covered by carpeting the original floors are of spruce. The choice to use the more costly spruce was an unexplained change during construction which is noted in the Report from the Selectmen of the Town of St. Albans, May 1898.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

1898 - 1945

**Significant Dates**

1898

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Smith, Arthur H.

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

St. Albans Town Hall  
Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 4 | 7 | | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Michele Praught  
University of Vermont Graduate Program in  
organization Historic Preservation date May 6, 1991  
street & number History Dept., Wheeler House telephone (802) 656-3180  
city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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### Property Owner

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

name Town of St. Albans  
street & number P.O. Box 37 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town St. Albans Bay state Vermont zip code 05481

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

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

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Albans Town Hall  
St. Albans Town, Franklin County, Vermont

Section number 8 Page 1

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The St. Albans Town Hall, built in 1898, is a distinctively Richardsonian-Romanesque style interpretation, of the Vermont town hall property type. An excellent example of the varied and accomplished work of noted Vermont architect Arthur H. Smith, it is a fine example of the diversity of architectural styles in Vermont town hall construction near the turn of the twentieth century. It also is symbolic of the importance of town government in the state. This structure is being nominated under the multiple property submission Historic Government Buildings of Vermont. This town hall clearly meets the registration requirements for this property type. The building retains its original function and sitting with its significant materials intact. Additionally, the town hall possesses all qualities of historical integrity.

St. Albans, located in the northwestern Franklin County, Vermont, was first settled in 1778 by a Connecticut native, Jesse Welden, who had discovered the bay some thirteen years earlier. The area where Welden first settled, the Bellamaquan Bay of Lake Champlain, was soon known as St. Albans Bay. St. Albans village located three miles inland, was chartered in 1793. By 1800 the village had grown in size and population and became the county seat. Still the commercial center of St. Albans remained at the Bay well beyond the turn of the twentieth century. Prosperity in the Bay had always depended largely on its ideal location as a port on Lake Champlain, a major trade corridor. The St. Albans Bay had served as a busy smuggling port between the United States and Canada. Following the 1807 Embargo Act by President Jefferson there was a ban on the import of British goods. By the 1830s steamboats including several from the St. Albans Steamboat Company, began to ply Lake Champlain, transporting lumber, cattle, grain, and potash. By 1849 the railroad had come to the Village and the focus of commercial activity turned inland. The village of St. Albans became the City of St. Albans when it was incorporated in 1896. Yet, even beyond the height of its prosperity in 1840, the bay continued to survive as a viable town center, serving the needs of the Bay and the surrounding rural community.

The St. Albans Town Hall is located within the St. Albans Bay Historic District, listed in the Vermont State Register of Historic Places. Built as both a town hall and graded school, it was designed by the noted Vermont architect, Arthur H. Smith. The London-born Smith was trained at the University of Edinburgh. He arrived in Rutland, Vermont, about 1892. He is attributed to have designed the Mission of the Church of Our Savior church in Sherburne in 1895. He then received a number of commissions for public buildings including the Vergennes Opera House (City Hall) and many buildings in St. Albans Town and St. Albans City. His St. Albans works are believed to be the Barlow Street School (1897) and its twin, the Messenger Street School (1897), the St. Albans City Hall (1897), and the Franklin County Jail (1898) on Lincoln Street. There may be yet other public buildings in the city that were designed by Smith. Smith's use of the Richardsonian-Romanesque style for the St. Albans Town Hall was no doubt

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Albans Town Hall  
St. Albans Town, Franklin County, Vermont

Section number 8 Page 2

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influenced by his success with the strikingly similar but slightly larger Vergennes City Hall and St. Albans City Hall. The construction of the St. Albans Town Hall was the solution to the situation created by the incorporation of the City of St. Albans in 1986, which left what was left of the town, with no municipal building and a shortage of schools. His known domestic architecture is in Rutland and make use of several popular styles of the period, including the Colonial Revival and Tudor (rare in Vermont). His known later work, commercial blocks in downtown Rutland City, demonstrate his knowledge of the Chicago Style vocabulary.

The physical features of the St. Albans Town Hall captures the essence of the symbolism of the Vermont town hall property type as a center of local authority and a source of community pride. The use of an engaged tower in the St. Albans Town Hall hints at the traditional belfry of many early Vermont town halls and meeting houses. The scale and details of the interior spaces are decidedly large and comfortable. As the building was also used as a school efforts were taken to design the building with adequate ventilation. It includes a basement to eaves ventilator shaft along one wall of the classroom. A wide and sturdy staircase with narrowly spaced balusters and expansive window schemes allowing for maximum light and air are also important features.

The building functioned in its original use as school and civic building until 1961 when a new school was constructed in the town. At that point, interior renovations were made to convert the building for sole use as the town hall and town offices. The former classroom located on the first floor at the rear of the building was adapted to serve as a meeting room and polling place. In 1987 additional renovations took place on the second floor. The stage of the former auditorium was closed off with temporary partitions. Today the building remains a busy town hall where yearly town meeting day is held and daily town business is still conducted.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Albans Town Hall  
St. Albans, Franklin County, Vermont

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams, Henry K. *A Centennial History of St. Albans, Vermont*. St. Albans, Vt.: Wallace Printing, 1889.

St. Albans Historical Society. *St. Albans, Vermont, Through the Years, 1763-1963: A Bicentennial History*. St. Albans, Vt.: 1977.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. *The Historic Architecture of Rutland County*. Montpelier, Vt.: 1988.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Historic Sites and Structures Survey, St. Albans Town, typescript, on file at VDHP office, Montpelier, Vt.

Interview:

Eleanor Goodrich, Town Clerk, St. Albans, Vermont. Conducted March 1991.

### 10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property occupies the lot bounded by VT Route 36 (Lake Road) on the southeast and Cherry Street on the northeast and northwest.

Boundary Justification:

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