

VERMONT NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Seventeen properties in Vermont are currently designated as National Historic Landmarks.

2014 Inventory and
Status Report

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Introduction

National Park Service Condition Categories:

Emergency - indicates that recent catastrophic damage has occurred that requires immediate intervention

Threatened (Priority 1) - indicates NHLs that have suffered, or are in imminent danger of, a severe loss of integrity

Watch (Priority 2) - indicates NHLs that face impending actions or circumstances that likely will cause a loss of integrity

Satisfactory (Priority 3) - indicates that there is no known current or potential threats to the landmark

Coolidge, Calvin, Homestead District

Town of Plymouth, Windsor County

Date of designation: 6/23/1965

Owner: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation/State of Vermont

Contact: William Jenney, Regional Site Administrator
802-672-3773
william.jenney@state.vt.us

Statement of Significance: Calvin Coolidge was born here in 1872 in the house attached to his father's general store. In 1876 the family moved across the street and it was here in 1923 that Coolidge was sworn in as president by his father, a justice of the peace, after word of President Harding's death had been received. The president and six generations of the Coolidge family are buried here. The district consists of twelve buildings and is a State-owned historic site.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Frost, Robert, Farm

Town of Ripton, Addison County

Date of designation: 5/23/1968

Owner: Middlebury College

Contact: Norm Cushman, Associate VP for Operations
802-443-5003
Cushman@middlebury.edu

Statement of Significance: A distinguished 20th-century poet and winner of four Pulitzer Prizes, Frost lived and wrote at this farm in the summer and fall months from 1940 until his death in 1963.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

June 2014: Middlebury College is forming a committee with representatives from Bread Loaf School of English, Facilities Services, Committee on Art in Public Places, and academic departments to explore options for a thoughtful redesign of the interior, the development of cabin-related programming, and a plan for the future.
<http://www.middlebury.edu/newsroom/archive/2014/node/477068#sthash.SFsjmvQf.dpuf>

Marsh, George Perkins, Boyhood Home

Town of Woodstock, Windsor County

Date of designation: 6/11/1967

Owner: National Park Service

Contact: Michael Creasy, Superintendent
802-457-3368

Statement of Significance: Built in 1805 by his father, this was Marsh's home until he left for Dartmouth College in 1816. Marsh, a lawyer, philologist, and diplomat, made a significant contribution to the conservation movement in America with his writings, especially *MAN AND NATURE* (1864). A later owner, Frederick Billings, President of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, transformed the house into a Queen Anne style residence.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

July 2014: The National Park Service has contracted the Public Archeology Laboratory (PAL) to prepare formal National Register documentation for the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Historic District. VT SHPO is reviewing draft nomination now and will submit final comments to the NPS shortly.

Morrill, Justin S., Homestead

Town of Strafford, Orange County

Date of designation: 9/22/1960

Owner: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation/State of Vermont

Contact: John Dumville, Sites Operations Chief
802-828-3051
john.dumville@state.vt.us

Statement of Significance: Morrill was responsible for the Morrill Acts (1862, 1890), which provided for land grant colleges. He designed and constructed this Gothic Revival house in 1848-51, and retained ownership while in the Congress as a Representative (1855-67) and Senator (1867-98), and until his death in 1898.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

July 2014: Work is underway to repair the septic system that serves the site and to repair deteriorated siding on the house. Collections within the house are being inventoried and entered into PastPerfect database to provide better oversight and tracking of historic objects, furnishings and fine art in the house.

Mount Independence

Town of Orwell, Addison County

Date of designation: 11/28/1972

Owner: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation/State of Vermont

Contact: Elsa Gilbertson, Regional Sites Administrator
802-759-2412
elsa.gilbertson@state.vt.us

Statement of Significance: This site, on Lake Champlain opposite Fort Ticonderoga, was fortified by Colonial troops in 1776 to prevent the British from penetrating to the Hudson River through the Champlain Valley.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Naulakha (Rudyard Kipling House)

Town of Dummerston, Windham County

Date of designation: 11/04/1993

Owner: The Landmark Trust USA

Contact: Tristam Johnson, Executive Director
802-257-7783
tristamj@landmarktrustusa.org

Statement of Significance: Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), the first English language author to win the Nobel Prize for Literature (1907), had this house and outbuildings built for his American bride. Despite their brief residence in the house (1893-1896), Kipling wrote several of his best known books here, including "The Jungle Book" and "Captains Courageous."

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Robbins and Lawrence Armory and Machine Shop

Town of Windsor, Windsor County

Date of designation: 11/13/1966

Owner: American Precision Museum

Contact: Ann Lawless, Executive Director
802-674-5781
alawless@americanprecision.org

Statement of Significance: Erected in 1846, the Robbins and Lawrence Armory and Machine Shop is an excellent example of 19th century American industrial architecture. During the 1840s and 1850s the company designed and manufactured machine tools that accelerated the industrial revolution by improving the production of interchangeable parts, thus stimulating the growth of mass production.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

2012: Completed another phase of masonry restoration and stabilization.

2011: Created ADA-accessible outdoor programming area, and completed foundation and site drainage repairs. Much of this work was destroyed in August 2011 during Tropical Storm Irene, when the Mill Brook overflowed the retaining wall and briefly flooded the basement. There was no permanent damage to the building or artifacts.

2010: Awarded a NEH Planning Grant to hire a conservator, a historic preservation architect, a civil engineer, and a mechanical engineer to explore solutions to ongoing moisture problems in the building.

2009: Completed full HAER documentation of the building's historic fabric, with a focus on the historic waterpower systems. Undertook limited site excavation at the rear of the building to identify the location, direction and configuration of the headrace. Also completed the first phase of masonry restoration and stabilization, based on the 2008 plan.

2008: Rehabilitated 60 more historic windows, and developed a Masonry Restoration Plan.

2007: Completed interior structural repairs to address overloading on floors and deficiencies in the cupola framing. Also undertook life safety and accessibility improvements.

2005: Installed new roof and rehabilitated 70 historic windows.

Rockingham Meeting House

Town of Rockingham, Windham County

Date of designation: 5/16/2000

Owner: Town of Rockingham

Contact: Francis (Dutch) Walsh, Development Director
802-463-3964 ext 110
fwalsh@rockbf.org

Statement of Significance: The Rockingham Meeting House is a rare 18th century New England meetinghouse of the "second period" type, virtually unaltered on the exterior or interior. Its barn-like massing and austere appearance evoke Medieval and Puritan forms, yet it is styled in the Georgian manner to a degree unmatched among surviving New England meetinghouses of its type and period. It is the most intact 18th century public building remaining in Vermont, and is a distinctive survivor from the period of settlement by European immigrants when structures built at public expense were employed for both religious and civic purposes.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

2013: Regional fire inspector raised concerns about the occupancy levels for the building and the use of the balcony for public events. VT SHPO staff met onsite with representatives from the town, the Department of Public Safety, and the Preservation Trust of Vermont to discuss the issues and develop potential solutions. Consultation is ongoing with all parties.

Rokeby

Town of Ferrisburgh, Addison County

Date of designation: 12/09/1997

Owner: Rokeby Museum

Contact: Jane Williamson, Executive Director
802-877-3406
rokeby@comcast.net

Statement of Significance: Rokeby, a Robinson family farmstead for four generations, is significant for its role in the Underground Railroad. Rare surviving documentation that the Robinson family kept attests to its use as a stop, and provides accurate insights into an understandably shadowy segment of American history. In 1851, one former slave who escaped to Canada wrote that he was "at work at my trade getting a living looking through the glasses you gave me for which I never shall forget to be thankful. I think that I shall soon be able to send for my family if I conclude to stay here." Of all the known Underground Railroad sites, Rokeby is unrivalled in its historical integrity, and in the poignancy of the stories its documents tell. It is open to the public as a museum.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

2014: Planning for minor repairs to the floor joists of one room in the 1814 section of the house.

2012: Construction of the new Underground Railroad Education Center provides the site with much-needed exhibition space, collections storage space, and public facilities.

Round Church

Town of Richmond, Chittenden County

Date of designation: 06/19/1996

Owner: Richmond Historical Society

Contact: Fran Thomas, President
802- 434-3654
dtft5171@gmavt.net

Statement of Significance: The Round Church, built in 1812-1813, is a rare, well-preserved example of a sixteen-sided meetinghouse. Richmond architect and builder William Rhodes displayed a level of skill and imagination that is normally reserved for "high style" architects. Traditionally, 18th and 19th century meetinghouses were rectangular or occasionally square in form. Recently restored, the Round Church is significant as an exceptional, and possibly sole, surviving example of an early 19th century sixteen-sided meeting house.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

2013: Repairs made to stone foundation and deteriorated post in rear wall.

2009: Installation of a sprinkler system.

2007: Exterior painting and rehabilitation of historic windows.

2006: Installed a new roof and repaired the belfry. Interior plaster repairs and painting.

Shelburne Farms

Town of Shelburne, Chittenden County

Date of designation: 01/03/2001

Owner: Shelburne Farms

Contact: Alec Webb, President
802-985-8686
awebb@shelburnefarms.org

Statement of Significance: One of the many estate properties built for wealthy American industrialists during the Gilded Age period, Shelburne Farms was considered an "ideal country place" for its exemplary model stock farm and horse breeding service, architectural and technological achievements, and scenic landscape. The estate is a nationally-significant representative of turn-of-the-century American country estates and model farms that retains its core property and its historic character. Its buildings and structures are outstanding examples of the Shingle and Queen Anne architectural styles. Shelburne Farms is the most significant and intact property developed by its founders, Dr. William Seward Webb and Lila Osgood Vanderbilt Webb. In addition, its architecture and landscape architecture represent significant achievements by both architect Robert Henderson Robertson, and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

2013: Structural restoration of the upper gardens, including stairs, walls, and landings of the grand allee. In progress 2013-14.

2012: Structural restoration of the Lily Pool area, including stairs, walls, landings, the lily pool, and the overlook balustrade.

2011: Small electrical fire at the Inn at Shelburne Farms (the Webb Mansion) caused extensive damage to a bathroom and hallway. Repairs have been made.

2010: Installation of 180 mw "solar orchard" in a field behind the Coach Barn.

2007: Stabilization of shoreline with new seawall.

Socialist Labor Party Hall

City of Barre, Washington County

Date of designation: 05/16/2000

Owner: Barre Historical Society

Contact: Ruth Ruttenberg, Vice President
info@oldlaborhall.com

Statement of Significance: The Socialist Labor Party Hall is significant for its association with socialist and anarchist politics, labor organizations, and Italian immigrant heritage in the early 20th century. Barre, Vermont played a central role in the history of Italian anarchism and militant unionism in the United States, and was the leading place where debates took place among anarchists, socialists, and union leaders over the future direction of the labor movement in America. The Socialist Labor Party Hall, as the primary site for these discussions, embodies the radical heritage and the strength of the union movement during the early 20th century.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

August 2011: Extensive flooding caused by Tropical Storm Irene. Some repairs and flood proofing is complete, and additional work is being coordinated with FEMA.

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

City of St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County

Date of designation: 06/19/1996

Owner: St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Contact: Bob Joly, Director
(802) 748-8291 Extension 304
bjoly@stjathenaeum.org

Statement of Significance: The Athenaeum's construction (1868-1873), its collection of American landscape paintings and books, its original role as a public library and free art gallery, and the industrial origins of the fortune that provided it, all contribute to the national significance of the building. The art collection contains a number of Hudson River School paintings. This unaltered building retains a strong, elegant Victorian flavor of the 19th century.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

2011: Based on the 2009 conditions assessment, the main gallery skylight is reconstructed and side skylights are rehabilitated. Use of Sage glass (electronically tintable insulated glass units) provides control of daylighting levels in the gallery to protect the works of art from UV damage.

2009: Conditions assessment of the Art Gallery skylights reveals extensive deterioration and structural concerns.

2003: Installed an elevator, replaced the heating and electrical systems, added sprinklers and security monitoring, re-paint the interior, and re-located the children's room.

Stellafane Observatory

City of Springfield, Windsor County

Date of designation: 12/20/1989

Owner: The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.

Contact: Dave Tabor, President
Webmaster@Stellafane.org

Statement of Significance: Stellafane Observatory played a pioneering role in the development of amateur telescope making and popular astronomy in the United States. The site contains the original clubhouse of the Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. (1924), and the first large optical telescope (1930) built and owned by that kind of amateur society; since their construction, both clubhouse and telescope have remained in continuous use and have been preserved essentially in original condition. Annual conventions held on the site attract thousands of amateur telescope makers and astronomers from many countries.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

2013: Based on historic plans, the club built a new Astronomical Equipment Shed to house their historic Cook Spectroheliometer.

Ticonderoga (Side-paddle-wheel Lakeboat)

Town of Shelburne, Chittenden County

Date of designation: 01/28/1964

Owner: Shelburne Museum

Contact: Thomas Denenberg, Director
802-985-3346 x3387
tdenenberg@shelburnemuseum.org

Statement of Significance: Only extant and basically unchanged side-paddle-wheel lakeboat in the U.S. Used as a Lake Champlain excursion boat from 1906 to 1953.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

Extensive rehabilitation work has been completed in the past decade; details need to be confirmed.

Vermont Statehouse

City of Montpelier, Washington County

Date of designation: 12/30/1970

Owner: State of Vermont

Contact: David Schütz, State Curator
802-828-5657
david.schutz@state.vt.us

Statement of Significance: Erected in 1833-38, this building is probably the least-altered example of a noted architect's monumentally-scaled public building in the Greek Revival style. Though the timber interior was damaged by fire in 1857, the granite exterior walls and Doric portico survived, and interior reconstruction generally followed original plans.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

2014: Department of Buildings and General Services is exploring options to improve the thermal efficiency of the Statehouse, including insulation measures. Consultation is ongoing.

2012: Restoration of historic windows and ceiling of entry vestibule.

Willard, Emma, House

Town of Middlebury, Addison County

Date of designation: 12/21/1965

Owner: Middlebury College

Contact: Norm Cushman, Associate VP for Operations
802-443-5003
Cushman@middlebury.edu

Statement of Significance: This two-story brick structure was from 1809 until 1819 the home of Emma Hart Willard, an influential pioneer in the development of women's education in the United States. It is now used as the admissions office for Middlebury College, which was known as the Middlebury Female Seminary when it was founded in 1814 by Emma Willard.

NPS Condition Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory

Notes:

Present status is not known, but we are not aware of any issues.

Potential Future NHL Designations

- Brown Bridge, Town of Shrewsbury, Rutland County
 - Approved by NPS Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee, December 2013
 - Approved by NPS Advisory Board, May 2014
- Hubbardton Battlefield, Town of Hubbardton, Rutland County
 - Scheduled for review by NPS Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee