

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: H.H. Mower General Store

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 200 Bridge StreetCity or town: Sheldon State: VT County: FranklinNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:**Date**Vermont Division for Historic Preservation**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
District	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Object	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None (0)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: General Store

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

GOVERNMENT: Town Clerk

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Civic

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: STONE, CONCRETE; Walls:
WOOD (weatherboard); Roof: METAL (steel); Other: WOOD (trim and cornerboards).

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The H.H. Mower General Store is a wood-frame former general store building standing on the east bank of the Black Creek in the village of Sheldon, Franklin County, Vermont. The building was constructed in 1932 on the stone foundation of an earlier nineteenth century general store following a fire that destroyed much of Sheldon Village's commercial district, with the property the sole remaining commercial representative of the once bustling commercial and industrial district. The gable-roofed, false-front design of the building is reflective of its role as a community commercial anchor for the village of Sheldon. The building rests on a foundation composed of fieldstone and multiple eras of concrete. Walls are clad in narrow reveal clapboard, with wood cornerboards, with a mixture of original and compatibly replaced wood clapboard. The gable roof features broad eaves terminated with wood fascia and corrugated metal roofing. While spare and generally utilitarian in design, the Bridge Street frontage of the building expresses a pronounced commercial form, with a lofty wood clapboard false-front and a full width commercial storefront characterized by a pair of prominent commercial windows embedded in wood panel framing flanked by two inset entries featuring original single-light wood panel doors. The interior of the building at the first level is reflective of the property's commercial and civic functions, with an open plan that historically encompassed general store and United States Post Office uses. The second level reflects greater evolution over time, with the property's original meeting hall functions largely obscured by later apartment adaptations. The two-part basement reflects multiple uses, with a walk-out office space that once housed the

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Town Office and a generalized utility space. The secondary rear elevation of the property reflects modern updates, with a two-story addition housing a lift and additional program areas for the building. The addition is subservient in design, with a gable roof, wood clapboards and cornerboards, and an understated form. With its modest and simple commercial design, the H.H. Mower General Store serves as a prominent visual and contextual element of Sheldon's village streetscape, remaining as a longstanding commercial representative that conveys associations to the village's historic form. While the property is no longer in use as a general store, the physical integrity of the building remains strong and cohesive, and the property's integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association remain intact. Material changes to the exterior and interior of the property have been undertaken to address material lifespan and disrepair and are compatible with the building's historic form and design. As such, the building conveys its essential design, materials, and workmanship through its physical form. As a whole, the H. H. Mower General Store retains sufficient integrity under the seven aspects of integrity to convey its significant local contextual associations as an early twentieth century general store and diversified community space.

Narrative Description

Exterior Description

The H.H. Mower General Store is generally square in plan, with the northerly Bridge Street frontage of the building the central architectural and operational focal point of the building. An offset gable roof, two-story addition completed in 2023 extends from the southeast corner of the building, housing a lift and additional program space. The building stands on a foundation that is reflective of successive eras of development, with portions composed of fieldstone that was laid in the nineteenth century as part of an earlier commercial building; portions of board-formed concrete from 1932 dating to the construction of the building; and select portions from 2018, when areas of the foundation were repaired to address slumping and structural failure and placement of the rear addition. In all areas excepting the wood frame and glass storefront, the building is sheathed in narrow-reveal wood clapboard with cornerboards. Fenestration is spare, with the rhythmic northerly storefront presenting a cohesive form that anchors an otherwise restrained and irregular placement of windows. Storefront windows are original, featuring large plate glass overlain by ribbon detailing. The remainder of the windows are primarily four-over-one wood replica windows in original openings, 2019 replacements reflecting the original design. The building has a medium-pitch gable roof, sheathed in metal with overhanging eaves. The gable roofline is largely obscured from the Bridge Street thoroughfare, with the tall false-front parapet presenting a lofty exterior form from the road frontage.

North Elevation

As developed, the small village of Sheldon radiated around Black Creek, with Bridge Street serving as a key connecting industrial and commercial thoroughfare anchored around the watercourse (see **Figure 1**). The north elevation of the H.H. Mower General Store fronts this key community transportation corridor. The north elevation is the building's primary functional and stylistic focal point, designed to convey commercial attributes with a soaring false front and full-width storefront. The building is slightly recessed from the Bridge Street corridor, with a small

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pull-out that once housed gas pumps. A concrete stoop, laid in 1932, rises from the streetside, accessing the storefront. A narrow wood overhang demarcates the storefront from the second level above. The storefront features two plate glass windows overlain by seven-light ribbon windows, original to the building. Two recessed wood-panel single-light doors provide access to the building, with the easterly door accessing the general store historically, and the westerly door the Post Office. A rectilinear wood panel design frames the windows and doors, painted in a tripartite complementary palette of gold, taupe, and maroon. Portions of this wood storefront were rebuilt to replicate the original design in 2017 as much of the original wood framing had been altered in the late twentieth century (see **Figures 13-16**). Three windows line the second story of the building, with two set on the easterly half of the façade and one toward the west. The three windows are historically accurate wood reproductions of the original windows, with a four-over-one design. As a whole, the north elevation exudes a strong commercial form, with the flat and imposing false-front and readily discernible storefront elements creating a unified commercial composition that is strongly reflective of the period of significance for the building.

East Elevation

The east elevation of the H.H. Mower General Store fronts a small gravel road (Town Highway 25 / former Depot Street) that once accessed a complex of rail and industrial resources associated with the adjacent former rail-line of the Lamoille Valley Railroad (since removed though alignment remains as a multi-use path). As historically developed, this elevation featured an exterior covered stairway leading to the second level (see **Figures 13 and 15**). This stairway was removed in 2018 and will be replaced with a comparable exterior stair. Additionally, a small single-story utility shed that once extended from the rear of the building (see **Figure 13**) was removed in 2017 and replaced with a two-story offset gable roof addition that houses a lift to serve the second level and programmatic space. The east elevation is clad in the same narrow reveal clapboard as the remainder of the building and features five irregularly set windows, four of which are the characteristic wood reproductions, and one of a larger commercial design with a single plate glass window overlain by three ribbon lights. The foundation undergirding the east elevation is concrete, poured in 2018 to address slumping and structural failure. Remnant fieldstone from the building's original foundation has been incorporated into a low retaining wall that extends from the southeast corner of the building, where the grade drops away at the back of the building.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the H.H. Mower General Store rises above a sloping vegetated lot at the rear of the building. Because of the recession of the grade from the Bridge Street roadway, the building reads as three stories on this elevation, with a walkout basement. The south elevation is defined by the broad clapboard-clad form of the main building, with the offset gable addition extending from the southeast corner. This elevation of the building features a new concrete foundation underlying the addition, and a board-formed concrete foundation under the original section of the building. All sections of this elevation are clad in clapboard, with the characteristic reproduction four-over-one windows arranged in a spare and irregular fenestration pattern. The ground level of the addition features two open garage bays, designed to house utility items. A

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single door in the original main body of the building accesses a utility area that houses the building's furnace and other utility infrastructure.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the H.H. Mower General Store rises above the sloping grass expanse leading to the Black Creek. This side of the building also reads as three stories, underlain by a board-formed concrete foundation. The elevation is clad in clapboard and features six of the characteristic reproduction four-over-one windows, with three at the basement level, one at the first, and two at the upper level. A single-light wood panel door accesses a room at the basement level, once housing the Sheldon Town Clerk, which operated in the building from 1932-1951. A concrete stoop is laid at this access door, leading to concrete stairs that rise to the Bridge Street corridor and the front of the store building.

Interior Description

The interior arrangement of the H.H. Mower General Store is centered upon the building's core commercial functions. The first level of the building is open in plan, with a large, single-room volume that historically housed both the general store and Post Office functions. The modern addition at the rear of the building has altered this plan somewhat, adding an additional vestibule and access lift to the building at its rear. The upper level presents a more altered form, with some vestige elements of the original community space overlain by ongoing residential adaptations. The upper level also presents significant material decay, with water incursion and material disintegration evident throughout. The basement level interior functions are somewhat segregated from the remainder of the building, with access to the two discrete basement spaces—utility and former town office—only allowed by entry from the exterior on the building's south and west sides (discussed above).

First Level

The first level of the building is accessed through the two main commercial entries fronting Bridge Street, as well as a secondary door on the rear of the east side. The volume of the room is open, with a boxed beam support system running through the center of the room. Floors are original wood, with original wood wainscoting running around the base of the wall. Walls are sheetrock, placed in 2019, with a ceiling of fiberboard panels that will be covered with pressed tin ceiling panels when complete, reflecting what originally hung over the entirety of the store. Window and door framing is of a simple and understated warm-toned wood composition, with smooth sills and lintels framing the windows and doors. As the current home to the Sheldon Historical Society, the first level houses a number of period pieces and Sheldon ephemera, most notably the United States Post Office counter and boxes that were originally a functional component of the H. H. Mower General Store, removed and then returned to the space following acquisition by the historical society. While much of the historical ephemera is original to Sheldon and its vicinity, other pieces are repurposed from other locales, although of a compatible historic period. Of note, a prominent store counter lines the east side of the room, salvaged from the Sheldon Springs' store of Arthur J. LaFley, demolished in the 1970s. Several wood signs

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from Sheldon stores that have been demolished or closed line the walls, including that of Bridge Street druggist J.H. Marvin, whose nineteenth century pharmacy is now a private residence.¹

The lift addition extending off the southeast corner of the building is accessed through a cased opening and includes a vestibule that opens to the lift and a restroom. Floors are wood, compatible with the original portions of the building. Walls and ceiling are sheetrock. The bathroom door is a single light wood panel door with frosted glass emblazoned with "Board Room," salvaged from the Sheldon Town Office, demolished in 2014.

Second Level

As constructed, the second level of the H. H. Mower Store was developed as a community space, housing fraternal meetings, civic functions, and informal community uses. The space was accessed by an exterior stair, running up the east side of the building, removed in 2018 and scheduled for reconstruction. At present, the lift addition also accesses the second floor. The second level plan consists of a small vestibule opening to an open plan volume. The original community space functions were adapted for residential use in 1950, following the sale of the H.H. Mower General Store by Harlow Henry Mower to Clarence and Helen Mercure. The space currently conveys physical aspects from both the community meeting space period and the residential occupation; however, as a whole this level is in very poor condition, with notable deterioration in materials evident from water incursion and other deferred maintenance.

The main volume of the room features original wood floors and wood wainscoting that is reflective of that found at the first level. Some areas of the wood wainscoting are missing. Ceilings are pressed tin, with some areas of tin deteriorated or missing from water damage and material decay. Walls are hung with several layers of wallpaper or mid-century plywood paneling, reflecting ongoing residential use. Much of the wall papering is peeling or damaged from water incursion. Mid-century kitchen fixtures line the southeast wall of the main volume, dating from residential occupation. The main volume of the room currently serves a generalized storage purpose, with a variety of boxes, material items, and equipment stored throughout.

The small vestibule at the east side of the second floor was developed as an entry area to the larger communal space. This section features original wood floors, wainscoting, and a variety of wall finishes, all in a similarly deteriorated condition. The lift addition extends from the south side of this vestibule, with a small office and lift access opening from the area. The addition features laminate wood floors and sheetrock walls.

The intention of the Sheldon Historical Society is to return this area of the building to its original communal civic use as a community gathering area. Work proposed will restore the original wood floors and wainscoting, repair the walls, remove successive layers of wall coverings, and replace the damaged pressed tin ceiling in kind.

Basement

The walk-out basement of the H.H. Mower Building is accessed through the south and west sides of the building as the grade descends away from Bridge Street toward Black Creek. On the

¹ Personal correspondence with Andrew Crane, Sheldon Historical Society, March 10, 2024.

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building's south side, a single door accesses a utility space that houses the furnace. This area is unfinished, and the building's original nineteenth century fieldstone foundation wall is evident, a vestige element predating the 1932 Bridge Street fire. On the building's west side, an additional door accesses a basement level space, developed to house the Town Clerk's Office, which occupied the space through 1951 when a dedicated Town Office was built elsewhere in town.

Integrity

The physical integrity of the H.H. Mower General Store remains high, and the building readily conveys its identity as an early twentieth century rural general store. The setting and location of the building are key facets of the integrity, with the Bridge Street location reflective of strong commercial associations, both related to the 1932 construction of the property and the earlier layers of commercial and industrial development that defined Sheldon's nineteenth and early twentieth century form. As the last vestige of over two centuries of commercial development at the site, the H. H. Mower Store conveys significant associations through its location, setting, and historical associations. Materials are largely original to construction or replacement materials that were selected in kind to address material lifespan and deterioration. While major material areas of the building have been repaired or replaced, including foundation elements, clapboards, areas of framing, roofing materials, windows, and interior finishes, the work has been accomplished to restore the building to its original material composition and has not detracted from the property's material integrity. At a broad level, the exterior design of the building is reflective of the period of significance, with the commercial form, massing, and material composition all intact. While a subservient addition to provide lift access has been added to the building's secondary elevation (south side), the volume of the addition replaces a shed that had previously been affixed to the building and is compatible and subservient in nature, with a material composition and spatial form that does not detract from the historic design of the store building. Workmanship is readily discerned through the building's physical form, with the building's original development and sensitive restoration evident through its physical properties. Through this overall material and design integrity, the building's feeling and association retains key associations to the period of significance and the building retains sufficient physical and contextual integrity to convey its significance under the criteria of the National Register.

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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.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1932-1950

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The H. H. Mower General Store is a locally significant reflection of commerce and community development in Sheldon, Franklin County, Vermont. Constructed in 1932 on the foundation of an earlier commercial block burned in a catastrophic village fire the same year, the H.H. Mower General Store exists as the sole surviving commercial reflection of Sheldon's once bustling nineteenth and early twentieth century Bridge Street commercial and industrial district. The building operated as a general store from its construction in 1932 until the mid-1960s, also housing Sheldon's Post Office, Town Clerk's Office, and a community meeting hall through much of the period. As an early twentieth century rural commercial and social anchor for the Village of Sheldon, the H.H. Mower General Store is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A at the local level for its strong commercial and social associations related to the community development of Sheldon. Through its commercial form, with a spare, wood-frame gable design accentuated with a prominent street-facing false-front storefront, the H.H. Mower General Store is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C, as an architectural reflection of commercial development in Sheldon. The period of significance for the property spans from the 1932 construction of the building to 1950, when original owner H.H. Mower sold the store to a subsequent series of owners and the building's

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central community role was altered by removal of the social hall (1950), Town Clerk's Office (1951), and Post Office (1953).

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Black Creek, running through Fairfield, enters Sheldon on the south, and empties into the Missisquoi two miles below. It has a good waterpower about a mile above its mouth at Sheldon Village (also known as Sheldon Creek), which is thoroughly improved...Here there are three churches, a post office, three stores, two hotels, two groceries, one grist mill, one woolen factory, one foundry, one paper bag mill, one sawmill, one carriage shop, one cabinet, one harness, and two blacksmith shops...Although there are a small collection of houses elsewhere, there is but one village: Sheldon Creek.

Abby Maria Hemenway, *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer: Franklin County*, 1871

Eight buildings comprising virtually the entire business section of Sheldon were leveled to the ground by fire and the two sections of this village were cut off from each other by the destruction of the highway bridge across Black Creek...The Mower Block which housed the general store on the first floor, the dance hall and masonic hall on the second floor; another adjoining Mower Building which formerly housed a tinsmith shop; the W.C. Marsh Block which housed the Post Office and barber shop operated by Mose Larabee; Hood's Creamery and an unoccupied dwelling house belonging to the creamery; the blacksmith shop formerly operated by Brigg Northrop; the cheese house near the Hood Creamery; a horse shed, and the large wooden highway bridge all were totally destroyed...

St. Albans Daily Messenger, April 4, 1932

H.H. Mower Store Sheldon: Here's a grocery and specialty store, a real store, a good store, in a good town; a store where your money goes further. Mr. Mower has owned it since 1899.

St. Albans Daily Messenger, August 12, 1933

Origins of Sheldon: Water Power, Railroads, and Regional Commerce

The 39 square-mile swath of Franklin County lands that would become Sheldon were originally chartered under the name Hungerford, granted to Connecticut resident Samuel Hungerford and a reported 64 associates in 1763 under the New Hampshire Grants. By 1792, Hungerford had been purchased by the Sheldon family, with the town's name changed to Sheldon on November 8, 1792. The same year, Major Samuel B. Sheldon developed a sawmill at the "Lower Falls," present-day Sheldon Springs, processing pine from adjacent stands to support community

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development. By 1797, Sheldon had also developed a water-powered grist mill, followed by a furnace and forge developed by Israel Keith in 1799, which employed a reported 100 men supplying the forge with locally-processed charcoal, potash, and iron. By 1803, a carding mill stood at the site, producing woolens from Sheldon's growing flocks. Ultimately, Sheldon sold the sawmill to Smith Olmsted, with the small industrial enclave then termed "Olmsted's Falls" through much of the nineteenth century, until the village was renamed Sheldon Springs in the late nineteenth century as the area was shaped by the mineral spring boom.²

While present-day Sheldon Springs, then called Olmsted's Falls, was the first to develop, by the first decades of the nineteenth century, the lands flanking the Black Creek in the south-central portion of the Sheldon Township had become a locus of settlement and commercial activity, much of it derived from the creek's notable hydro-power potential. The village, known as Sheldon Creek or Sheldon Village, radiated around the rocky water course of Black Creek, with, "a church, three stores, a post office, two hotels, two grocery stores, one grist mill, one woolen factory, a furnace and forge, a paper bag mill, a saw mill, one carriage shop, one cabinet shop, a harness shop, two blacksmith shops and a carding mill." By the early 1840s, Sheldon Township was touted as a progressive and prosperous agricultural enclave by regional press, with the village of Sheldon Creek serving as its primary commercial center:

This township is well watered, the Missisco (sic) River running through it east to west, and Black Creek entering it at the south, and running some distance in a westerly direction until it falls into the Missisco (sic). There are several good mill privileges on both of these streams, which are already occupied to a considerable extent. As a farming town Sheldon stands high compared with any other town in the County. It has much intervalle land of the richest quality, and its upland is exceedingly productive. Its hills also afford excellent pasturage, and its dairies are, we believe, the largest of any in the County. Sheldon Creek is a place of considerable business, which will probably be greatly increased in the course of a few years. Industry and enterprise are all that is necessary to place this township among the richest in the County.³

Mid-nineteenth century maps depict a diversified village setting in Sheldon Creek, with a woolen mill, grist mill, saw mill, and store on the east bank of Black Creek, lining present-day Bridge Street, and a saw mill, blacksmith shop, furnace and machine shop, and grocery on the west bank. Radiating residences frame the industrial assemblage on both sides of the watercourse. Beyond, agricultural assemblages followed the river valleys, with dairying emerging as a key Sheldon land use.

The subject H.H. Mower General Store site was an important commercial component of this diversified nineteenth century village context (see **Figure 1**). While the current store building was constructed in 1932, prior to this the subject lot was developed with a succession of store buildings run by proprietors through the nineteenth century. By the 1850s, village mapping

² Hemenway, Abby Maria. *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer Volume Two: Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orange Counties* (Burlington, VT: Abby Maria Hemenway, 1871), 368-382.

³ "Franklin County, No. 13," *The St. Albans Weekly Messenger*, May 20, 1846.

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depicts the Wead & Hapgood Store at the site. Period advertising conveys a diversified emporium, touting “dry goods, groceries, crockery, hard-ware, drugs and medicines, ready-made clothing, etc.,” as well as the “manufacture of boots and shoes,” (see **Figure 2**). By 1884, the historic record indicates the Wead & Hapgood Store had burned, with a new three-story wood-frame store constructed on the lot by George Maynard, who, “enlarged the store and made it one of the largest stores in Northern Vermont,” (see **Figures 4-8**). Through the nineteenth and into the twentieth century this store was run by a series of partnerships and proprietors, with George Maynard joined by Weston Marsh in the partnership of Maynard & Marsh, followed by a period of sole ownership by Weston Marsh, who in turn sold to Irving Chase. Accounts of the then “Marsh Store” in *The Burlington Free Press* in 1907 convey a substantial and established commercial heft and breadth:

As one alights from the train at Sheldon he observes immediately opposite the Depot a fine, large, frame structure, one of the best and most imposing buildings in the town. This is the headquarters of W.C. Marsh, wholesale and retail dealer in merchandise. The business was established many years ago but in 1893 the firm was Maynard & Marsh. By enterprising and honorable business methods he has built up a trade second to none in this section. He occupies a large, three-story building, 30 by 100 feet in dimensions.... The interior of the huge retail establishment reveals several departments, each complete in itself, the goods carried embracing dry and fancy goods, gents furnishings, fine boots and shoes, stylish hats and caps, everything in the line of groceries, crockery and glassware, hardware, paints, oils, etc. In a separate department are carried great stores of flour and feed. In addition, Mr. Marsh is an extensive dealer in the famous D&H coal, handling at times entire boatloads.⁴

As relayed in the *Burlington Free Press*’s account above, by the 1870s the hydro-industrial context of the village of Sheldon Creek had been supplanted by the arrival of the railroad, with the Sheldon Depot of the Lamoille Valley Railroad (also known as Vermont Division of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad and the St. Johnsbury & Lake Champlain Railroad) standing immediately southeast of the Bridge Street site (see **Figure 3**). Railroad connectivity greatly increased the commercial complexity of Sheldon Creek, bringing with it many of the commercial wares extolled by the *Burlington Free Press* in its mercantile accounting of the W.C. Marsh Store. As relayed in period press accountings of the railroad, the alignment was central to nineteenth century growth in commerce, industry, and Sheldon Township’s growing identity as a mineral spring resort enclave, with observers noting, “When the projected railroad from this point is built or completed, Sheldon must be much benefited and may become a busy place.” Along with the Missisquoi Valley Railroad, which traversed the northerly stretches of Sheldon Township through Sheldon Springs, Sheldon Junction, and North Sheldon, the Lamoille Valley Railroad served as a defining transportation and economic artery for the town from its 1870s

⁴ “Sheldon, Vermont,” *The Burlington Free Press*, January 26, 1907.

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origins through the first decades of the twentieth century, fading only as trucking eclipsed rail freight and passenger travel declined.⁵

Within this framing industrial, economic, and rail-based transportation context, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Sheldon Village's Bridge Street existed as an economic locus, with hydro-powered processing mills, a regional creamery, and a range of commercial goods and services reflecting a complex and established local economy. This established identity would be undercut by the fire of April 3, 1932, with over 100 years of growth and commercial evolution largely razed to embers in a single early spring evening.

A Village Destroyed: The Sheldon Fire of 1932

Eight buildings comprising virtually the entire business section of the town were leveled to the ground and the two sections of this village cut off from each other by the destruction of the highway bridge across Sheldon Creek when a fire of undetermined origin swept through the property on the east bank... Today the bridge was gone completely, the timbers having been swept away by the swollen stream as fast as they dropped into it. Not a wall was left standing in the area ravaged by the fire. The Mower Block which housed the general store on the first floor, the dance hall and Masonic Hall on the second floor; another adjoining Mower building which formerly housed a tinsmith shop; the W.C. Marsh Block, which housed the Post Office and Barber Shop operated by Mose Larabee; Hood's Creamery, an unoccupied dwelling house belonging to the creamery; the blacksmith shop formerly operated by Brigg Northrop; the cheese house near the Hood Creamery; a horse shed and the large wooden highway bridge all were totally destroyed.

Of the buildings owned, the only ones occupied by business interests were the Mower Store, the Post Office, and barbershop. The creamery and the cheese plant had not been in operation for some time, farmers from this vicinity taking their milk to the creamery at Sheldon Junction... The loss is only partially covered by insurance and there is very little hope of any of the burned structures being rebuilt with the exception of the highway bridge.⁶

The Sheldon Creek Fire of 1932 was a devastating local blow, destroying much of the established commercial heart of Sheldon. As alluded by the *St. Albans Daily Messenger* account above, however, in reality, the decisive violence of the fire took place within a context of steady localized industrial decline. As detailed in the article, at the time of the fire, the Hood Creamery was vacant (former Capitol Creamery/Alden Brothers Creamery), as was the blacksmith shop and tinsmith shop, all localized services that were steadily being effaced by changing technologies and regional economic networks. Immediately north of the site of the fire, too, the woolen mill, grist mill, and blast furnace that had defined industrial production in Sheldon for much of the nineteenth century were gone or shuttered by the time of the fire, with the last-

⁵ "Hardwick to Plattsburgh, *Vermont Watchman and State Journal*, September 19, 1877.

⁶ "Loss of Bridge Divides Village," *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, April 4, 1932.

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standing grist mill demolished shortly after the 1932 fire. As recounted by long-time Sheldon resident and witness to the 1932 fire, Frederika Northrop Sargent (1903-2003), the wholesale destruction of the fire was framed by the quieter erosion of an increasingly modern age that steadily undermined Sheldon Creek's localized village economy:

When the fire broke out in one of the village stores...For a while the old bridge hung on—it seemed to kind of tremble in the excitement and the heat of it all. I rather like to feel that it was human enough to think, “I’ve stood freshets, floods, and thaws, Rebel Raiders and other town fires, but I’ve been lonesome lately. I don’t somehow fit into this impersonal age, I don’t even know the person who turns on the electric light, that took the place of the mellow lantern glow. And people? I haven’t made a new acquaintance for a long time. Autos bounce in one end and bob off the other. What’s this? The old horse sheds and blacksmith shop going? Then I want to go to. It seemed sort of glad to be free...A shower of sparks...A quick and brilliant finish to that monument to pioneer toil and association.⁷

Within this context of steady economic and technological change, following the fire, Bridge Street would never again assume the central industrial and commercial role it had long held, with only the H.H. Mower Store emerging from the disaster to convey the historically complex commercial and industrial foundations of the corridor.

The H.H. Mower General Store 1932-1950

By the time of the 1932 fire, Harlow Henry (H.H.) Mower was a key commercial figure on Bridge Street. Mower was born in 1873 in Sheldon to Henry and Martha (Smith) Mower and spent much of his life in Sheldon through his death in 1960. As the son of a merchant, Mower had assisted in the running of his parent's general store in Sheldon Springs through the 1898 death of his father, Henry Mower, spending much of his adult life in the merchant business, almost entirely in Sheldon.⁸ By the late 1890s, Harlow Mower had become an established figure on Bridge Street, going into partnership with Charles Dixon in Sheldon's only hardware store. By 1904, Mower was operating his own hardware store, located just off the eastern abutment of the bridge spanning Black Creek, just west of the current H.H. Mower General Store (see **Figures 8-10**). Mower would operate this store through the 1932 fire, building a strong hardware business through, “displays at the Sheldon Fair and by providing area farmers with consistently good workmanship on plumbing.”⁹

Period photographs from the turn of the twentieth century depict a compact commercial thoroughfare along Bridge Street, dominated by the Marsh Block and the Mower Store, as well as an adjoining building holding Sheldon's Post Office and Library, with the entire assemblage commonly termed the “Post Office Block,” (see **Figure 8**). By the time of the 1932 fire, records

⁷ Dorothy Hemenway Ashton, *Sheldon, Vermont: The People Who Lived and Worked There* (St. Albans, Vermont: Regal Art Press, 1979) 56, 95.

⁸ The Henry Mower Store operated from approximately 1840 to 1890 in Sheldon Springs (then Olmsted's Falls).

⁹ “History of the Harlow Mower Era in Sheldon,” *The Burlington Free Press*, January 16, 2019.

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indicate that Mower had purchased much of the block, growing his holdings on Bridge Street to become the dominant property holder of the commercial district on the west side of the bridge.¹⁰

Although a reported eight buildings burned in the 1932 fire, only one was rebuilt on the formerly dense commercial block: the currently documented H.H. Mower General Store. Designed with space for a general store and Post Office at the first level, a social hall at the second level, and a basement level Town Clerk's office, the H.H. Mower General Store physically united a key range of community functions for Sheldon Creek, presenting an optimistic and stolid face for a physically devastated community with its pragmatic vernacular design and prominent commercial face. By 1933, succinct advertisements circulated in Franklin County periodicals, indicative of a resilient Sheldon Creek, "The H.H. Mower Store: Here's a grocery and specialty store, a real store, a good store, in a good town; A store where your money goes further. Mr. Mower has owned it since 1899," (see **Figure 12**).¹¹

As importantly, the H.H. Mower General Store had become the communal and social lynchpin for Sheldon Creek, housing the Post Office at the first level through 1953 and the Town Clerk at the basement level through 1951—with H.H. Mower's daughter Grace Mower Winchester serving as Sheldon's Town Clerk from 1935 to 1969. In addition to these key community functions, the H.H. Mower Building's second story hall housed an array of informal social functions, including fraternal meetings, benefits, dances, and lectures. Local press recount a steady array of local functions in the building, characterized by the Sheldon Parent Teacher's Association (PTA) hosting of a food sale to aid the community dental clinic in 1935, the Street Light League holding a benefit in 1936, and the Church Committee hosting fundraisers through the 1940s. As recounted by Sheldon resident Edith Fiske, the store was a center for community, "offering penny candy to Sheldon's children" and a commercial and civic communal resource for young and old alike.¹²

The H.H. Mower General Store: Commercial Transition Through the Twentieth Century

After over 52 years in the store business, Harlow H. Mower sold his store, stock, and fixtures Wednesday January 25 to Clarence and Mrs. Helen Mercure of Burlington. Immediate possession was given and the terms were cash."¹³

At 77 years of age, H.H. Mower sold his Bridge Street store to Clarence and Helen Mercure, who went on to run the store for three years until they, in turn, sold the business to Arthur Murray (see **Figure 13**). The then-named Sheldon Market remained open through the 1960s, with the store closed by 1975 when the building and lot were sold to local dairy farmer Harold Howrigan. While Howrigan did not maintain a general store at the site, the building was occupied through the closing years of the twentieth century by Phillip Joseph Chaplin Jr., and

¹⁰ "Sheldon Junction," *The St. Albans Daily Messenger*, November 24 1897; "Sheldon," *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, August 20, 1904; "History of the Harlow Mower Era in Sheldon," *The Burlington Free Press*, January 16, 2019.

¹¹ "H.H. Mower, *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, August 12, 1933.

¹² "Sheldon," *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, May 23, 1935; "Sheldon," *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, January 30, 1936; "Sheldon," *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, January 28, 1941.

¹³ "Mower Sells Store," *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, February 1, 1950.

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family, who lived in the second level. Phillip, known as “Junior,” operated Junior’s Harness Shop out of the first floor store level. According to local accounts, Junior was a former dairy farm laborer at Howrigan’s farm, shifting to the Harness Shop following an injury that precluded continued farm labor.¹⁴

The 1950 sale of the H.H. Mower General Store represented more than the end of Mower’s long and locally influential commercial tenure on Bridge Street. Following purchase, the Mercures converted the second level social hall to a storekeeper’s apartment, undermining the building’s role as a social fixture in community life by converting the once-public facing second level of the building to residential use. In addition, by 1952, the Sheldon Town Clerk’s Office had been moved from the Mower Building to a newly constructed Colonial Revival brick Town Office and Library, with H.H. Mower’s daughter Grace Mower Winchester laying the cornerstone of the new building in a public ceremony commemorating the construction and modernization effort. Lastly, following the Mercure’s sale of the building, the Post Office was moved from the H.H. Mower General Store, with Helen Mercure remaining Post Mistress in a relocated Post Office housed in a former school building on Main Street. Thus, by the mid-1950s the H.H. Mower General Store’s central role in community life had faded, even as the building remained a prominent visual fixture on Bridge Street.¹⁵

By the time of the 2016 purchase of the former H.H. Mower Store by the Sheldon Historical Society, only the second level apartment of the building remained in use, with tenants occupying the building through the early 2010s. The storefront was vacant, presenting a largely altered and deteriorated face with plywood siding from the Junior’s Harness Shop era obscuring the original storefront design (see **Figures 14-16**). Restoration work undertaken to the present has done much to return the building to its original early twentieth century form, with the goal of creating a cohesive local space that reflects the property’s rich and long-standing commercial and social foundations.

Comparative Analysis: The General Store in Sheldon and Vermont

As a property type, the general store is a defining characteristic of Vermont’s village centers. By the middle decades of the nineteenth century, most of Vermont’s dispersed communities were anchored by one or several groceries or mercantile establishments, dealing in wares and goods not readily available locally and reflecting an increasingly interconnected commercial society fueled by mass marketing and transportation connectivity. Like the documented H.H. Mower Store and its site predecessors, such general stores were generally simple in design, characterized by modest and adaptable wood-frame forms and recognizable features including window-lined storefronts, parapets, street-fronting porches and stoops, and secondary communal, civic, or residential spaces. As a common Vermont property type, the general store served a key commercial and social role, physically and socially defining the center of community across the state.

¹⁴ Author conversation with Sheldon Historical Society’s Andrew Crane, December 2023.

¹⁵ “Sheldon Lays Cornerstone for Town Office Building,” *Richford Journal and Gazette*, October 18, 1951; “News of Sheldon,” *The St. Albans Messenger*, May 25, 1953.

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The general store property type in Vermont reflects a broad development trajectory, with many lost in a steady process of attrition through fires, demolition, and material and economic decline and transition across the state's village centers. Other examples have been adapted for alternate commercial or residential use, with a number also standing vacant throughout the state. Still others remain as operating commercial anchors within their community to the present, providing both a physical and social connection to multiple community development eras. Many of the state's historic period general stores that remain extant have been documented in the National Register and/or Vermont State Register, almost uniformly as contributors to village historic districts as part of a larger assemblage of community development.¹⁶

Within this larger commercial context, the evolution of Sheldon's commercial landscape reflects notable themes of this overarching development pattern, with the H.H. Mower Store remaining as a significant local representative of the general store property type in Sheldon Creek. By the 1850s, Sheldon Creek held at least three general stores: that at the H.H. Mower site, another further west on Bridge Street across the covered bridge (Jennison & Gallup Store), and one to the east on present-day Pleasant Street (Deming & Company--building no longer extant). While both the H.H. Mower Store and the Jennison & Gallup Store (also known as Kittell's) remain in place at present, neither commercially operate, with both closed by the last decades of the twentieth century. As discussed in this nomination, however, while the H.H. Mower Store is no longer in commercial use, the integrity of the building as a commercial resource remains intact and readily discernible for interpretation, even as its immediate framing industrial and commercial context has been largely effaced. In contrast, while the former Jennison & Gallup Store remains in place further west on Bridge Street, it is in materially poor condition, with a collapsing storefront that has been converted to residential use and a far lower ability to convey cohesive local commercial associations.¹⁷

Like Sheldon Creek, the Town of Sheldon's other primary village center—Sheldon Springs (previously Olmsted's Falls), also held a series of general and mercantile stores, most notably the Henry Mower Store which operated from approximately 1840-1900 under Mower and successive owners; the "Company Store," a general store owned by the adjacent Missisquoi Pulp and Paper Company from approximately 1900 to 1980 and leased to various operators through the twentieth century; and the LaFley Store, which operated through the 1960s at the junction of School Street and Vermont Route 105. None of these commercial establishments remain in place at present, with the original Henry Mower Store burned in the early twentieth century; the Company Store (later Village Market) demolished in 1983 for site redevelopment of the Sheldon Fire Department; and the LaFley Store demolished and now a vacant lot adjacent to the Sheldon

¹⁶ For a representative although *not intended to be exhaustive* spectrum see: East Calais General Store (Dwinell Store), contributor to the East Calais NRHP Historic District (SG100005618, listed 9/24/2020); Craftsbury General Store, contributor to the Vermont State Register Craftsbury Village Historic District (Survey 1006-2, listed 3/3/1994); Jericho Center Country Store (Desso's), contributor to the Jericho Center NRHP Historic District (83003207, listed 5/26/1983); the Warren Store and others in Warren Village NRHP Historic District (92001532, listed 11/20/1992); Northam Store, contributor to the North Shrewsbury Vermont State Register Historic District (listed 4/21/1987); Willy's Store, contributor to the Greensboro Historic District (Survey 1009-85, listed 3/15/1990).

¹⁷ The former Jennison & Gallup Store (also occupied as Sheridan Kittell's Store) is listed in the Vermont State Register (5/26/1994), Survey No. 0614-03.

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Elementary School Playground. While several general and convenience stores have continued to operate to the present in Sheldon Springs, including the 1980s Sheldon Quick Stop and Pauline's Store (presently Valero), a highly altered residential building expanded and converted to store functions circa 2000, Sheldon's legacy of nineteenth and early twentieth century general commerce has been largely erased through fire, demolition, and conversion, with the exception of the the H.H. Mower General Store.¹⁸

Within this local commercial context, the extant 1932 H.H. Mower Store is the strongest and most cogent local representative of a once common property type that characterized Sheldon's community settlement and economic patterns, as well as those of the state of Vermont's rural communities as a whole, as described further in the application of the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation, below.

Application of the National Register of Historic Places Criteria

Criterion A: Commerce and Social History

The H.H. Mower General Store is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the commercial and social development of Sheldon, Franklin County, Vermont. While constructed in 1932, the general store was a direct physical and contextual successor to over a century of earlier commercial and industrial development that defined Bridge Street in Sheldon Village (Sheldon Creek), with H. H. Mower's construction of the store an emphatic response to a destructive fire that razed the village's historic physical and commercial core. Through the mid-twentieth century, the H.H. Mower General Store served as both a vital commercial enterprise for the Village of Sheldon, providing general wares and staples to the rural community; and a key civic and social center, housing the Post Office, the Town Clerk's Office, and a meeting room and social hall at the second level that supported a broad spectrum of local community affairs. This diversified commercial and social role is reflective of key facets of rural life in early twentieth century Sheldon, with the building serving as a central community hub that undergirded rural life during the period. The period of significance for the property under Criterion A extends from the property's 1932 construction to 1950, when the property was sold by original owner H.H. Mower and the building's central community role ebbed with removal of the property's civic and social functions. While the period of significance begins with construction of the building in 1932, the H.H. Mower General Store also presents an evocative vantage to Sheldon's nineteenth and early twentieth century development, providing a physical and contextual link to interpret the vibrant commercial and industrial characteristics of Bridge Street in its concerted period of nineteenth century development that was undercut by the Village's transformative 1932 fire.

¹⁸ Sheldon Historical Society, "Sheldon Springs Merchants Timeline 1830-2023; personal correspondence with Andrew Crane of the Sheldon Historical Society, March 10, 2024; Vermont State Register listing for the Sheldon Springs Historic District (5/26/1994), Survey No. 0614-43); Walling, H.F. *Map of the Counties of Franklin and Grand Isle, Vermont*, 1857.

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Criterion C: Architecture

The H.H. Mower General Store is locally significant under Criterion C for its commercial design. Constructed upon the nineteenth century fieldstone foundation of an earlier general store, the exterior of the building conveys a practical and readily discernible commercial form, with a spare gable-roof plan, minimal use of materials, and soaring false-front commercial storefront facing the Bridge Street corridor. The interior of the property is also reflective of this significant commercial design, with a plan that is expressive of clearly demarcated commercial and social functions, featuring an open plan store area at the first level and accompanying social and civic uses at the second and basement levels. Interior materials further convey this significant commercial form, with wood framing and wainscoting and application of pressed tin presenting a heightened commercial face for the interior of the property. As an early twentieth century commercial representative of a rural store and social and civic space, the H.H. Mower Store represents a significant type, period, and method of construction that physically conveys important architectural themes related to early twentieth century development in Sheldon, Franklin County, Vermont. The period of significance for the property under Criterion C extends from the property's 1932 construction to 1950, when the second-floor commercial space was converted to apartment use.

Character Defining Features

The H.H. Mower General Store retains a number of key physical characteristics that allow the building to convey its essential physical and operational form as an early twentieth century rural general store and community building. These features are considered character defining and allow the property to convey significance within its historic context for development.

- *Placement and Orientation on Bridge Street:* As a commercial building, the H.H. Mower Store is defined by its placement and false-front storefront orientation to Bridge Street. The Bridge Street location also reflects the property's historical associations to the successive commercial and industrial layers of development that once defined the site.
- *Spare Use of Materials:* The H.H. Mower Store employs a limited number of practical materials, with a concrete and stone foundation, wood framing, clapboard clad walls, wood cornerboards, and metal roofing. This material composition is reflective of its rural vernacular form and is character defining. The material remnants of the building's fieldstone foundation that predate construction and are associated with earlier commercial development are also character defining as they bear associations to the site's nineteenth century development.
- *Clearly Demarcated Commercial Design on Northerly Elevation:* The lofty Bridge Street-fronting commercial face of the building is key to conveying the property's strong local commercial associations. The false-front parapet, storefront divisions and fenestration, and storefront materials are all character defining. It is important to note that some elements of the storefront are replacements for missing and deteriorated original elements, but as a whole the integrity of the storefront and fenestration pattern is high.

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- *Interior Layout and Plan:* The single volume commercial space in the original first level of the building is a key character defining element conveying commercial associations. Additionally, while altered and in the process of restoration at the time of this writing, the second story social hall volume is character defining, allowing the property to convey its rich local communal associations.
- *Heightened Interior Materials:* The application of a limited range of interior materials employed to convey a public-facing composition are character defining, including the original wood floors, intact wainscoting and molding, and pressed tin composition of ceilings. While the pressed tin was removed in key areas and is in the process of restoration, this aesthetic design framework is character defining and restoration based on the historic record should be considered character defining.
- *Intact Post Office Features:* The wood Post Office window and boxes located in the first level of the H.H. Mower Store are original to the Post Office's tenure at the site (1932-1953) and are character defining interpretive elements. This feature was returned to the site following the Sheldon Historical Society's acquisition of the building in 2016.
- While compatible in form and design and based upon an earlier shed addition, the rear lift addition is not considered character defining. Additionally, associated Sheldon historical ephemera collected and stored in the building should not be considered character defining, as while an important component of the building's current function and interpretive value, the materials do not share direct linkages to the site's historical development.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Books

Ashton, Dorothy Hemenway, *Sheldon Vermont: The People Who Lived and Worked There*. St. Albans, Vermont: The Regal Arts Press, 1979.

Hemenway, Abby Maria, *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer: Volume Two: Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orange Counties*. Burlington, VT: Abby Maria Hemenway, 1871.

Newspapers, Journals, Periodicals

Burlington Free Press

St. Albans Daily Messenger

St. Albans Messenger

St. Albans Weekly Messenger

St. Johnsbury Caledonian

Vermont Watchman and State Journal

Records and Maps

Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, Vermont*, 1871.

Sheldon Town Land Records

Various United States Federal Census Records 1860-1940

Walling, H.F. *Map of the Counties of Franklin and Grand Isle, Vermont*, 1857.

Unpublished Materials / Collections

Collections of the Sheldon Historical Society

Correspondence with Andrew Crane, Sheldon Historical Society, March 10, 2024

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Online Resource Center

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .36 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 44.88155 ° N Longitude: 72.94233 ° W

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The NRHP Resource Boundary includes the H.H. Mower Store and its immediate contextual Bridge Street surroundings. As depicted in the accompanying mapping, the boundary includes an approximately .36-acre part of SPAN 585-184-10356 and includes an open vegetated surround that extends around the building fronting Bridge Street at north, Town Highway 25 at east, Black Creek at west, and forested former commercial/industrial lands at south.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Boundary includes the nominated resource as well as sufficient contextual area to interpret the commercial and community associations that qualify the property for listing in the NRHP.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Polly Seddon Allen
organization: Consulting Architectural Historian
street & number: PO Box 215
city or town: Craftsbury Common state: VT zip code: 05827
e-mail polly.s.allen@gmail.com
telephone: 916.201.1855
date: 3/11/2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

TBD: PENDING FINAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Property: H.H. Mower General Store

City or Vicinity: Sheldon

County: Franklin County State: Vermont

Photographer: Polly Seddon Allen

Date Photographed: 11/13/2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ____.

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WEAD & HAPGOOD,
SHELDON, VT.
OFFER for sale as low as can be bought in Frank-
lin County if not lower. A large stock of
Dry Goods,
Groceries,
Crockery,
Hardware,
Drugs & Medicines,
Ready-made
Clothing, &c.
They also Manufacture
Boots and Shoes,
of the very best quality as hundreds can attest
who have tried them, which are offered as low as
ever notwithstanding the great advance in Leather
and persons wishing any of the above are invited
to give them a call.
Sheldon, November 19, 1855.

Figure 2: Advertisement for Wead & Hapgood Store, *The St. Albans Daily Messenger*, 1855

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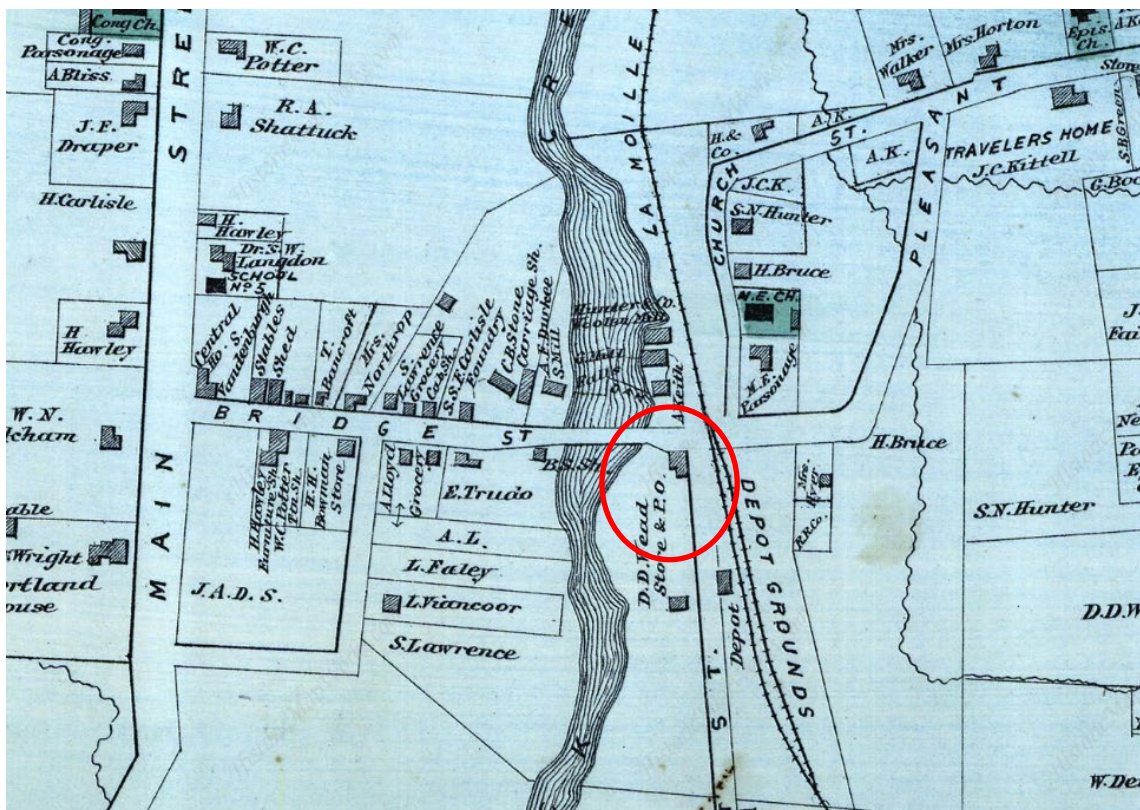


Figure 3: Sheldon Creek in F.W. Beers and Company *Map of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties*, 1871. Location of D.D. Wead Store on current H.H. Mower General Store site in red.

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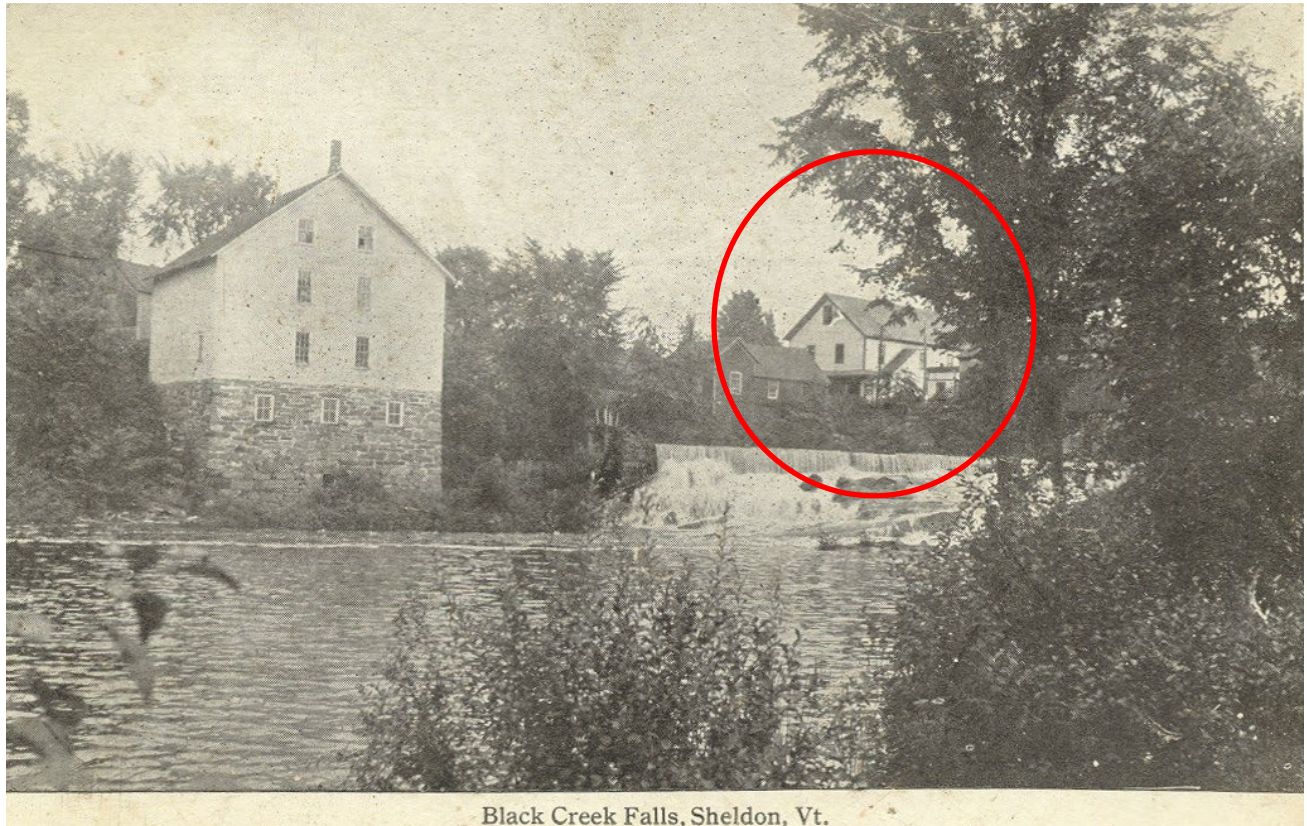


Figure 4: Looking upstream toward Bridge Street, Sheldon Creek Grist Mill at left with dam above. Location of Wead Store on current H.H. Mower General Store site in red. Circa 1890s.

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Figure 5: W.C. Marsh Store, standing on current site of H.H. Mower Store. Note creamery buildings at rear on Depot Street. Circa 1900.

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Figure 6: Detail of W.C. Marsh Store, standing on current site of H.H. Mower Store. Circa 1900.

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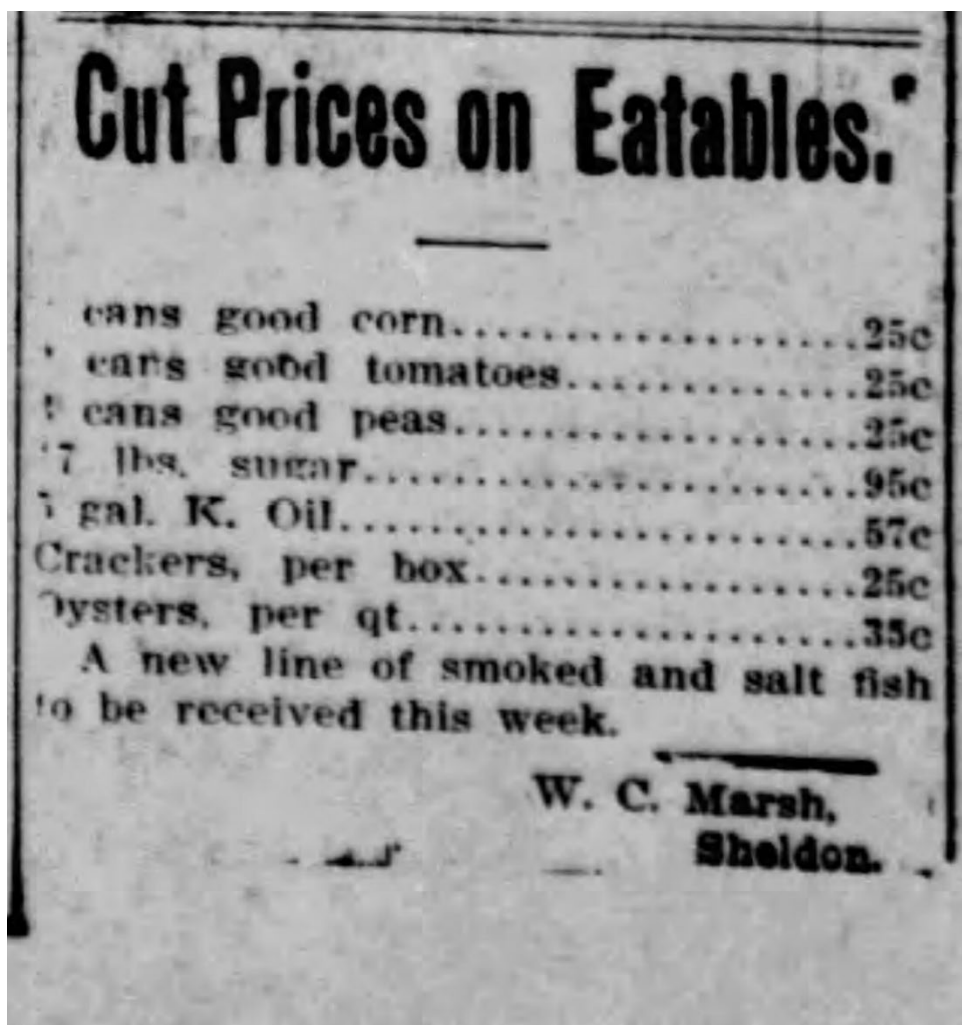


Figure 7: W.C. Marsh Store Advertisement, *St. Albans Weekly Messenger*, 1910

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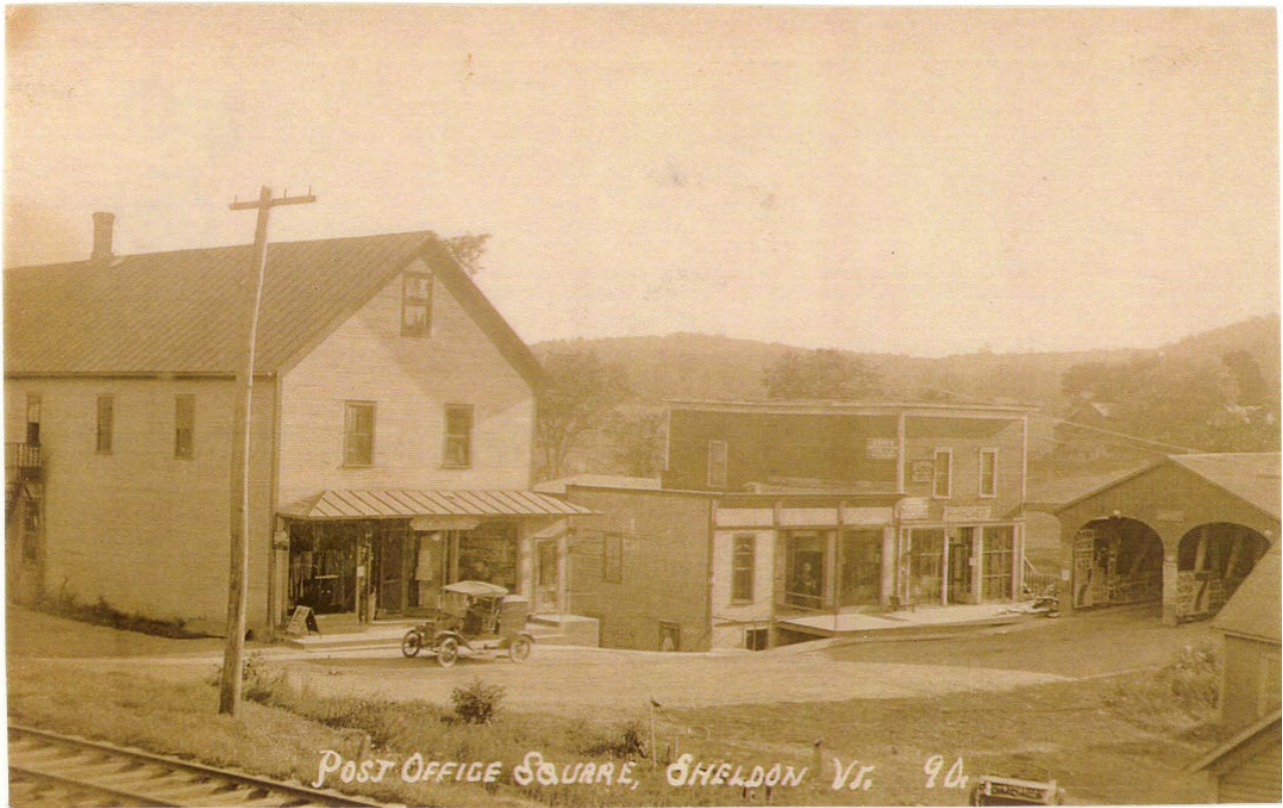


Figure 8: Detail of Post Office Square with W.C. Marsh Store at left, Post Office, and H.H. Mower Store at right next to bridge. Note railroad alignment in foreground. Circa 1920s.

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Figure 9: Detail of Post Office Square with W.C. Marsh Store at left, Post Office, and H.H. Mower Store at right next to bridge. Note railroad alignment in foreground. A gas pump is visible in front of store stoop. Circa 1920s.

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Figure 10: Detail of Post Office and H.H. Mower Store prior to the 1932 fire. Circa 1920s.

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Figure 11: Temporary footbridge spanning Black Creek following fire, with H.H. Mower surveying scene. Circa April 1932.

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County and State

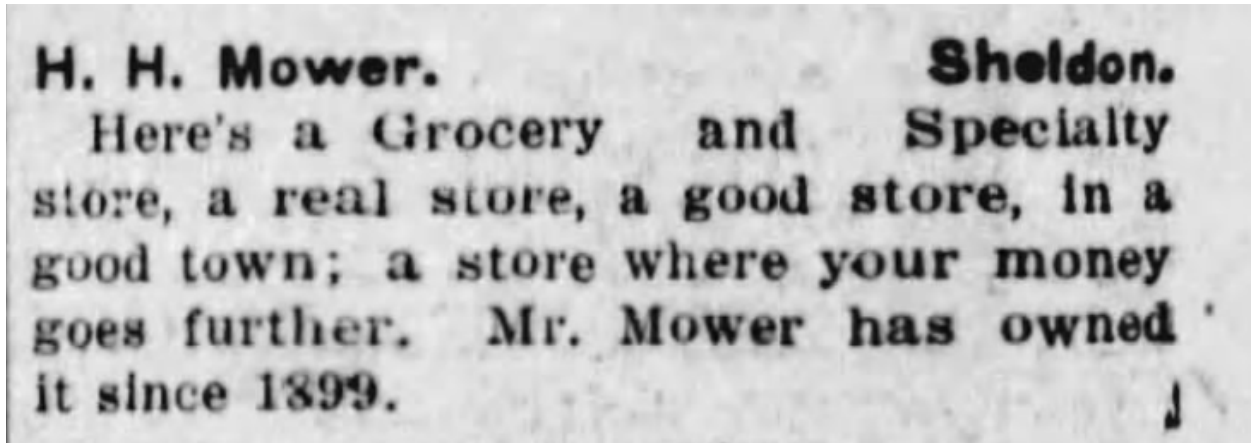


Figure 12: H.H. Mower Advertisement, *St. Albans Weekly Messenger*, 1933.

H.H. Mower General Store
Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont
County and State

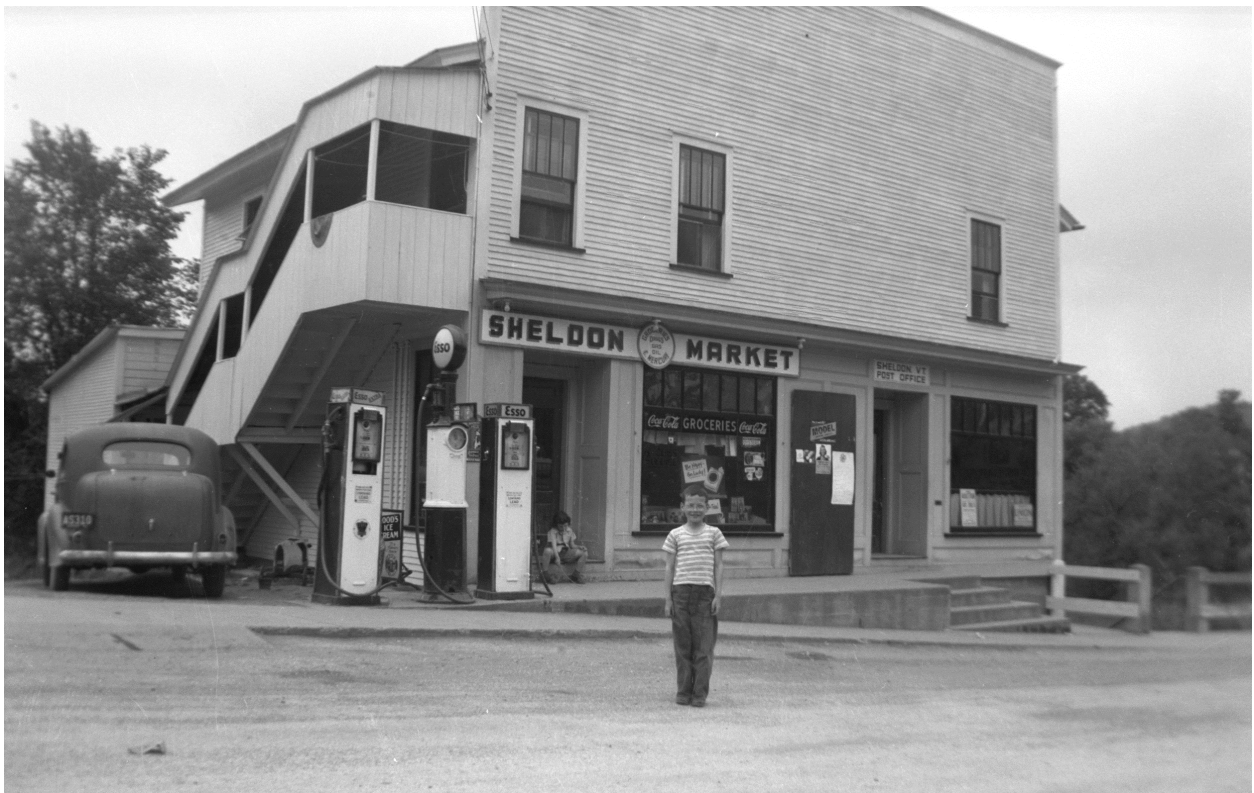


Figure 13: H.H. Mower Store following sale to Clarence and Helen Mercure, with son Jim Mercure standing in front and daughter Jean Mercure on stoop, circa 1950s.

H.H. Mower General Store
Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont
County and State



Figure 14: Storefront of H.H. Mower Store, under operation as Junior's Harness Shop. "Junior" (Phillip Joseph Chaplin Jr.), circa 1980s.

H.H. Mower General Store
Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont
County and State



Figure 15: H.H Mower General Store at time of acquisition by Sheldon Historical Society prior to restoration activities, 2016.

H.H. Mower General Store
Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont
County and State



Figure 16: H.H Mower General Store at time of acquisition by Sheldon Historical Society, storefront restoration in progress, circa 2016.

H.H. Mower General Store
Name of Property

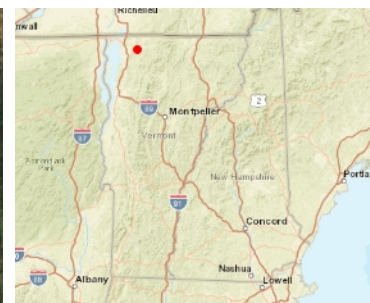
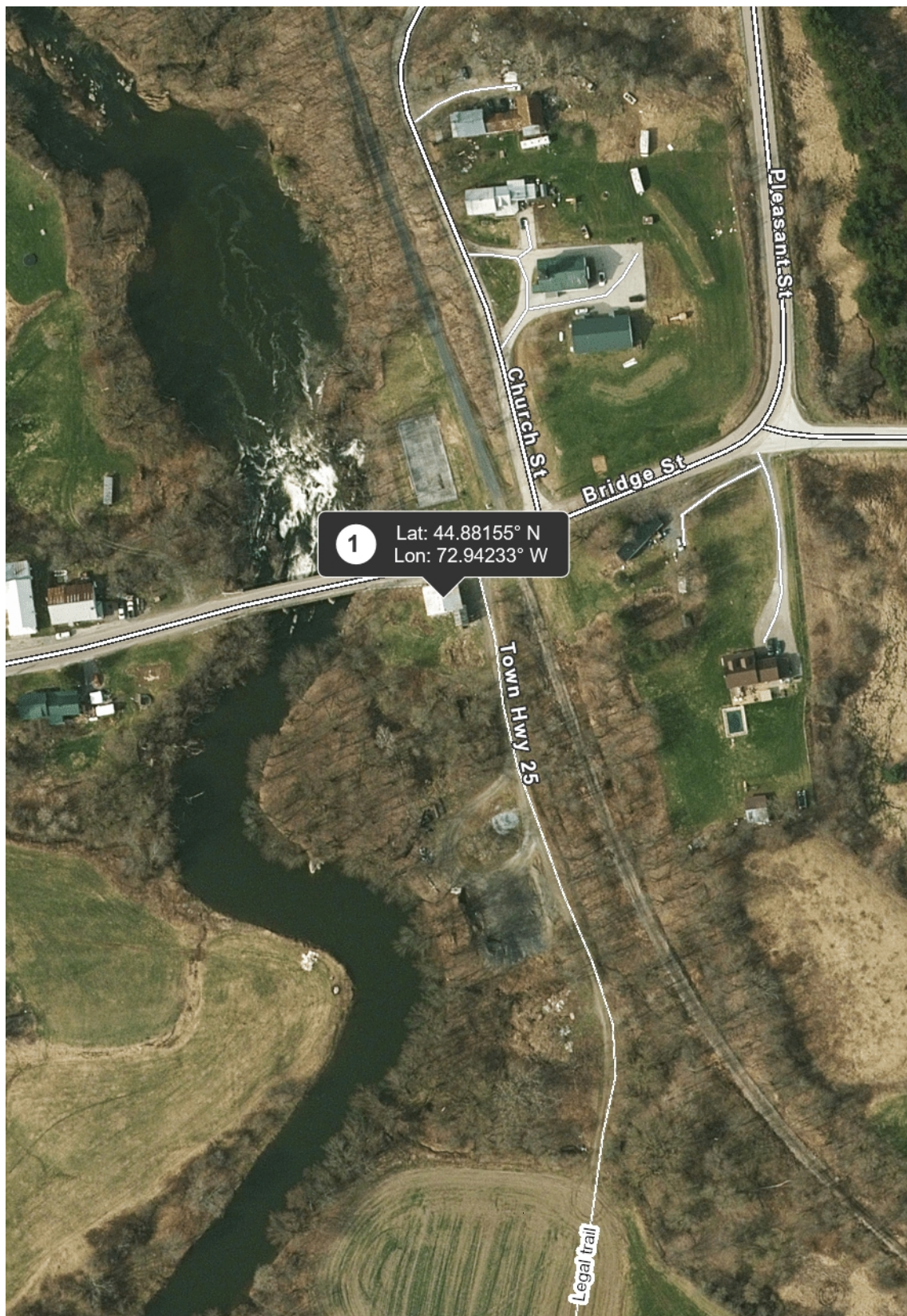
Franklin County, Vermont
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.














Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



LEGEND

-  Airports
-  Mountains and Hills
-  US Highways
-  State Highways
- Roads - Public (VTrans)**
 -  Interstate Highway
 -  US Highway
 -  State Highway
 -  Local road
 -  Other road
 -  Legal trail
- Roads - Private (E911)**
 -  Driveways
-  Rail Lines
-  Town Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

1. Historic Property Location

NOTES

This map was created with the VT Interactive Map Viewer.

0.07 0 0.04 0.07 Miles

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere 1" = 188 Ft. 1cm = 23 Meters

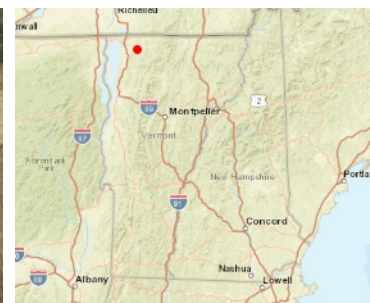
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

1: 2,262



















November 30, 2023




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LEGEND

-  Parcel polygons
-  Inactive parcels
-  Airports
-  Mountains and Hills
-  US Highways
-  State Highways
-  Roads - Public (VTrans)
-  Interstate Highway
-  US Highway
-  State Highway
-  Local road
-  Other road
-  Legal trail
-  Roads - Private (E911)
-  Driveways
-  Rail Lines
-  Town Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

 **Historic Property Boundary:**
Approximately .36 acre contextual surrounding of Historic Property

NOTES

This map was created with the VT Interactive Map Viewer.

0.07 0 0.04 0.07 Miles

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere 1" = 188 Ft. 1cm = 23 Meters
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

1: 2,262

November 30, 2023








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1 Lat: 44.88155° N
Lon: 72.94233° W



LEGEND

-  Airports
-  Mountains and Hills
-  Rail Lines
-  Town Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

1. Historic Property Location

NOTES

This map was created with the VT Interactive Map Viewer.

0.14 0 0.07 0.14 Miles

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere 1" = 377 Ft. 1cm = 45 Meters

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1: 4,523

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