

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 Property

Historic name: Valley Hall

Other names/site number: Gihon Valley Grange Hall

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 5503 Vermont Route 100

City or town: Hyde Park State: Vermont County: Lamoille

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Vermont Division for Historic Preservation</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District

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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 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Stone & concrete

Walls: Wood

Roof: Metal

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 Valley Hall, located at 5503 Vermont Route 100 in North Hyde Park, Lamoille County, Vermont, is a 4x6 bay, two-and-a-half-story, gable-front community hall. The building rises off a stone foundation, is clad in clapboard siding, and has a standing seam metal roof. The building's façade faces east and is dominated by a double-decked porch supported by chamfered columns and covered by a low-hipped standing seam metal roof. Fenestration throughout consists of wooden two-over-two double hung windows set in simple flat wooden frames. Inside, the building is divided into two floors with a semi-finished attic and an unfinished basement. The first floor is an open volume space with a full width stage across the rear of the building. The second floor, accessed from a staircase in the front vestibule, consists of a series of small rooms

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which lead into another large open volume space with a cove ceiling. The second floor has plaster ceilings which are in poor condition. The building is set back from Vermont Route 100 by about thirty feet and is accessed by a concrete sidewalk. The building is in the center of the small village of North Hyde Park and is surrounded by residences and a few ecclesiastic buildings. Valley Hall is largely intact from its original construction in 1910. The building has experienced limited alterations and efforts have been made to maintain the building's primary interior spaces. Given this, Valley Hall maintains integrity of setting, feeling, association, workmanship, materials, design, and location.

Narrative Description

Façade (East)

The façade of Valley Hall faces Vermont Route 100 and a grassy front lawn. The façade is dominated by a wide, two-bay, double-decked porch which shelters the centrally placed primary entrance on its first story. This porch is accessed by a low wooden deck with wood steps and a wood accessibility ramp. The porch is wrapped by a low lattice skirt and supported by three chamfered wood posts set on pedestals. Each pedestal is spanned by a wooden railing with narrow turned balusters. The primary entry consists of solid wood double doors set in a simple wood surround. To the left of the entry and sheltered beneath the porch is a single 2/2 double-hung wood window. Right of the door is a wood plaque that reads "Hyde Park Historical Society." A final 2/2 double-hung window occupies the façade's rightmost first story bay. On the second story the façade features a pair of 2/2 double-hung windows and a four-panel door sheltered beneath the porch. The second story porch features turned balusters, chamfered wood posts on pedestals which support an architrave, and a low-hipped standing seam metal roof. The upper half-story features a pair of 2/2 double-hung windows in the pediment. The façade's corners are defined by pilasters and a wide fascia board defies the roofline. A simple brick chimney splits the building's gable.

Side Elevation (North)

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The north side elevation of Valley Hall faces a neighboring residence. The north elevation rises off a visible concrete foundation which has been parged over the earlier stone foundation. The building has clapboard walls and a regular fenestration pattern of 2/2 double-hung wood windows on the first and second floor of the elevation's first four bays as well as its sixth bay. These windows all have narrow wooden sills and flat wood lintels. On the second story the windows are tight to the roofline which overhangs the building slightly. In the fifth bay of the first story there is an exterior elevated wooden deck which leads to a four-panel door, providing an alternative entry point to the building. The deck is supported by unfinished pressure treated wood posts and features pressure treated wood decking and a short wooden staircase. Beneath the deck is a sealed-up panel door which formerly provided access to the basement. The second story of the fifth bay features a 2/2 double-hung wood window matching the style of the previous four bays. The sixth bay of the north elevation also has a basement level fixed-pane two-light window. An architrave cornice is visible and supported by the pilasters present on the façade and rear elevations.

Side Elevation (South)

The south side elevation of Valley Hall faces a neighboring residence. The south elevation largely reflects the north elevation though there is no secondary egress point or deck on the south elevation. Again, fenestration generally consists of 2/2 double-hung wood windows with narrow wooden sills and flat wood lintels with a single window occupying each bay on the building's first and second story. On the first and sixth bays of the first story however two light casement windows are present. An architrave cornice is visible and supported by the pilasters present on the façade and rear elevations.

Rear (West)

The rear elevation of Valley Hall faces a precipitous drop to the Gihon River and forestland beyond. The rear elevation features a one story shed-roof bump out that at one time held the building's outhouse. This bump out has a wood frame covered in clapboard siding and topped by

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a metal roof. An entryway opening, presently infilled with foamboard insulation, indicates that there was a second matching outhouse on the rear elevation. On the first story of the rear elevation there are a pair of two light casement windows and on the building's second story a pair of 2/2 double-hung wood windows are present. The rest of the wall plane is blank. The corners are defined by pilasters and the roof's gable is split at the center from the removal of a chimney.

Interior

The interior of Valley Hall can be accessed from the double doors on the façade. Passing through these doors leads to a large vestibule which provides access to all of the building's spaces. The vestibule measures approximately 13' wide by 11' deep and features hardwood flooring, plaster walls, varnished chair rail, and ribbed metal ceilings. The vestibule is lit by a modern light fixture with a fan. To the south a set of double doors provide access to the basement while a staircase provides access to the second floor and attic level. The staircase has chair rail, turned balusters, and stout turned wooden newel posts. To the west, a pair of double doors set in a wood frame with a simple door head entablature provide access to the main first floor gathering space. A door and small wood frame opening are present along the northern wall. The door provides access to a pair of bathrooms while the framed opening acted as a ticket booth for events at the hall. The bathrooms have chair rail and plaster walls. Based on their fixtures the smaller of these bathrooms likely date from the 1940s. The larger bathroom is an ADA compliant restroom likely installed c. 2000. A single doorway at the end of the side hall with the bathrooms can also be used to access the main first floor hall space. The hall occupies the five rearmost bays of the first floor and features hardwood flooring, plaster walls with varnished chair rail, and wooden crown moulding. The ceiling is covered with acoustic tile with light provided by modern light fixtures with fans. There are also two inverted queen-post trusses visible below the ceiling consisting of metal tie rods joined the center with a turnbuckle. A second-story floor beam serves as the top chord of each truss, and the tie rods are held in place by two cast iron posts. These trusses allow for a clear-span space on the first floor. At the rear of the first floor is a full-width stage. The stage has a large rectangular opening flanked by two projecting square piers, two shallow wings accessed by staircases, and a rolldown painted curtain which depicts nearby Lake Eden. The

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stage walls and the flanking pier are clad with varnished beadboard, the stage's ceiling is covered with ribbed metal. Black curtains are present in the backstage area to provide transitional spaces for actors. Windows on the first floor all have simple varnished wooden frames as do all the doorways which have simple door head entablatures.

The basement of Valley Hall is a wholly unfinished space. Descending the wooden staircase from the vestibule, the stone walls of the foundation are visible as are original beadboard walls and ribbed metal ceilings. The bulk of the basement consists of an open concrete floor with a mix of wooden posts, metal posts, and lally columns supporting two heavy wooden beams that run the length of the building. The basement walls are primarily stone, although in certain portions of the basement the stone foundation has been reinforced with concrete. Light is provided by regularly spaced incandescent lightbulbs.

The second floor of the hall is accessed via the stairway in the vestibule. At the top of the stairway is a small landing with a doorway that leads out to the second-story porch and two additional doorways. The first, which faces north, leads to a former kitchen space, while the second, which faces west, leads to a small coatroom; a third door on the landing leads to a small closet. As with the first floor, the second floor's finishes consist of wood flooring, plaster walls, and varnished chair rail. The ceilings on this level are plastered. Doorways are set in varnished surrounds with door head entablatures. Four-panel wood doors are present throughout. The second-floor landing also has a wooden railing with turned balusters. The former kitchen space has a full height set of glass-front built-in cabinets, plaster walls, and chair rail. The coat room has identical finishes with plaster walls and chair rail throughout. The coat room also has a large closet space with a four-panel solid wood door. Both the coat room and the kitchen provide access to the second floor's hall a large open volume space which occupies the five rearmost bays of the second floor. The second-floor hall has a plastered cove ceiling, wood flooring, chair rail, and plaster walls. Windows in the hall are regularly spaced and feature simple varnished wood surrounds while regularly spaced incandescent light bulbs illuminate the space.

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A short curving staircase with turned balusters and stout newel posts provides access to the attic space. The staircase leads to a wooden four panel door which opens into the attic. Roughly a quarter of the attic consists of a finished room with chair rail, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. The attic door's frame has bullseye corner blocks as do the attic level windows. The finished portion of the attic also has a wooden bump out that encased the chimney. A metal wall thimble at the top of the bump out provided a means of connecting a wood stove to the chimney. Presently there is a closet in the cavity of the bump out. Beyond this room, the rest of the attic is unfinished. The framing of Valley Hall's roof is visible in the unfinished attic space. It consists of a series of four evenly spaced, heavy timber queen rod trusses, each with a raised bottom chord to accommodate the cove ceiling of the room below the attic. The rods drop from the straining beam to the bottom chord, and the between which are placed five dimensional 2x8 rafters and floor joists. The rafters meet at the ridge beam, as do the top chords of each truss. The butt-end joints of each section of ridge beam are held in place at each truss. The four trusses are integrated directly into the roof system, as opposed to supporting a purlin and common rafters. The collar ties on each set of rafters are a later addition that helps stabilize the roof framing. Like the inverted queen post trusses on the second story, the queen rod attic trusses support the ceiling of the room below and provide a clear-span space for large gatherings. The building has an 8/12 roof pitch.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1910-1972

Significant Dates

1935

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Hayford, Charles

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.)

Valley Hall, located in the settlement of North Hyde Park in Lamoille County, Vermont, is an excellent example of a public hall. Built in 1910 by the Valley Hall Corporation, the building has a first-floor meeting hall with a rear stage as well as a second story ballroom space with a plastered cove ceiling. During its first twenty-five years of existence the building served as a dance hall and a gathering space for local organizations like the G.A.R and Gihon Valley Grange. In 1935 the Valley Hall Corporation went bankrupt, and the Gihon Valley Grange took over Valley Hall. The grange used the building until dissolving in 1991, after which the building passed into town ownership. Given its extensive history as a community gathering space Valley

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Hall is locally significant under Criterion A in Social History. Valley Hall is also locally significant under Criterion C in Architecture as a good example of a community hall, an important building type seen across many of Vermont's small towns. The building has a large open first floor with a stage at the rear of the building as well as an open second floor with a cove ceiling. These spaces were heavily used by the community and remain completely intact and capable of conveying their function.

The period of significance for Valley Hall begins in 1910 with the building's construction and ends in 1972, the fifty-year cutoff for significance. The social activities for which the hall is significant continue to have importance and no more specific date can be defined to end the historic period.

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

History of Hyde Park, Vermont

The Town of Hyde Park is located near the geographic center of Lamoille County in northern Vermont. The town is bordered to the north by the Town of Eden, to the east by Wolcott, to the south by Morrisville, and to the west by Johnson. Hyde Park was chartered by the Vermont Legislature in 1781 and was initially part of a greatly enlarged Rutland County which stretched from the present southern border of Rutland County to the northern border with Canada.¹ Rutland County was steadily subdivided into Chittenden, Addison, Orleans, and Franklin Counties and in 1835 Lamoille County was created with Hyde Park as the shire town and center of county governance. Geographically the town is hilly and possesses two significant waterways in the Gihon and Lamoille Rivers as well as several large glacial lakes now incorporated in the Green River Reservoir.

After clearing land in the town, settlers quickly discovered that the soil was well adapted for producing cereal grains and raising livestock.² Many of these early settlers developed farms in

¹ Hamilton Child, *The History of Lamoille County Vermont* (Syracuse: Printed at the Journal Offices, 1883), 29.

² Child, *The History of Lamoille County Vermont*, 93.

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the southern edge of the town near the Lamoille River which was utilized to produce waterpower for saw and gristmills. In the 1820s settlers began clearing land along the northwestern corner of Hyde Park along the Gihon River's banks. In 1840 a country road from Johnson to Eden passed through the small village which became known as North Hyde Park.³ By 1865 the village of North Hyde Park consisted of a couple dozen homes, a blacksmith, church, factories, a hotel, and several shops.⁴ The village experienced major growth between 1865 and 1869 with the construction of another church, a business block, over thirty new homes, a steam mill, and two groceries.⁵ Residents of North Hyde Park practiced agriculture and timbered the surrounding hillsides during the nineteenth century. By the turn of the twentieth century North Hyde Park had become a flourishing community of several hundred residents. These residents were eager for entertainment and a group of men from the community stepped forward to provide a venue for communal gatherings and traveling entertainers.

The Valley Hall Corporation and Early Use of Valley Hall

In 1909 a group of ten men from Hyde Park, Johnson, and Burlington incorporated the Valley Hall Corporation, an organization formed "for the purpose of procuring and holding land at Hyde Park and erecting and maintaining a public hall there."⁶ The next year the Valley Hall Corporation erected Valley Hall, later known as the Gihon Valley Grange Hall, reportedly using plans from architect Charles Hayford.⁷ The building was dedicated on November 2, 1910, with 500 people in attendance making the ceremony one of the largest events in the history of North Hyde Park.⁸ The ceremony featured speeches by locals, performances by a Burlington orchestra, choir performances by the Gihon Valley Grange's choir, a supper, and grand ball.⁹

³ Child, *The History of Lamoille County Vermont*, 94.

⁴ Child, *The History of Lamoille County Vermont*, 95.

⁵ Abbe Maria Hemmingway, *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer: Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille and Orange Counties* (Burlington: 1871), 655.

⁶ "New Corporations," *The Barre Daily Times*, October 12, 1909, 1.

⁷ Hayford's contribution was noted in a 1999 pamphlet. To date no additional information had been found to corroborate him as the building's architect.

⁸ "Dedication at North Hyde Park," *News and Citizen*, November 2, 1910, 3.

⁹ "Dedication at North Hyde Park," *News and Citizen*, 3.

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After the Valley Hall opened it immediately became a crucial community fixture. To generate revenue the Valley Hall Corporation held regular dances in the hall and rented the space to organizations like North Hyde Park Council No. 42 of the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics, Aaron Keeler Post No. 91 of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Gihon Valley Grange Society.¹⁰ By providing the Valley Hall for these organizations the Valley Hall Corporation made Valley Hall a community fixture and a critical gathering space for the community. The Valley Hall Corporation owned Valley Hall from 1910 until 1935 when the organization forfeited its charter by failing to pay taxes.¹¹ That same year several of the surviving stockholders of the Valley Hall Corporation donated their shares to the Gihon Valley Grange Society. Subsequently the grange society purchased Valley Hall's mortgage and the building became known as the Gihon Valley Grange Hall.¹²

The G.A.R. in Vermont

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was formed in 1866 in Springfield, Illinois as a fraternal organization for northern veterans of the Civil War. The G.A.R. initially operated as a political arm for the Republican Party mobilizing support for Reconstruction among veterans and promoting equal voting rights for black veterans. Nationally, following Reconstruction's conclusion in 1877 the G.A.R. struggled for purpose and nearly disappeared however the organization was revived in the 1880s to help advocate for serviceman pensions and by the 1890s the G.A.R. had become a more traditional fraternal organization bringing veterans together in remembrance of their shared experience and struggles.¹³ In Vermont there were 116 G.A.R. posts and almost every town in the state had its own post.¹⁴ In Hyde Park the Aaron Keeler G.A.R. Post was organized in 1885; it joined nearby posts in Johnson, Stowe, Wolcott, and Waterville several of which were organized within a few years of the Aaron Keeler Post.

¹⁰ "North Hyde Park," *News and Citizen*, November 5, 1913, 4; "North Hyde Park," *News and Citizen*, December 10, 1910, 4; "North Hyde Park," *News and Citizen*, January 17, 1912, 4.

¹¹ "74 Vermont Corporations Forfeit their Charters," *The Caledonia Recorder*, May 11, 1935, 4.

¹² "No Hyde Park Grangers Observe Anniversary of Dedication Valley Hall," *News and Citizen*, November 13, 1935, 1.

¹³ "Grand Army of the Republic History," *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, https://www.suvcw.org/?page_id=167.

¹⁴ "National G.A.R. Records Program," *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, <https://www.suvcw.org/garrecords/garposts/vt.pdf>.

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Aaron Keeler Post 91 G.A.R.

Organized by Colonel Edward Sawyer in 1885, Aaron Keeler Post 91 of the G.A.R. was named for Sawyer's maternal grandfather and early Hyde Park settler Aaron Keeler.¹⁵ Under the leadership of Sawyer and subsequent commanders, the Aaron Keeler Post celebrated Memorial Day with other local G.A.R. posts by decorating the graves of their comrades.¹⁶ The post also held regular events such as campfire gatherings of veterans and attended larger regional gatherings called grand encampments.

In 1910 the construction of Valley Hall gave the post a permanent home in North Hyde Park. The post used Valley Hall as a regular meeting site and hosted regular dinners in the building.¹⁷ The Aaron Keeler Post of the G.A.R. remained active in Valley Hall until circa 1930 when declining membership effectively ended the post's existence. In 1915 the post counted seventy-two active members however by 1930 this number had been reduced to only a pair, neither of whom lived in North Hyde Park.¹⁸ The decline of the Aaron Keeler Post reflected the national decline of the G.A.R. as America's Civil War veterans passed away. The final G.A.R. member in America died in 1956 however by this time the G.A.R. had been replaced by more broad reaching veteran fraternal societies such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Grange in Vermont

The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was organized in 1867 in Fredonia, New York under the leadership of Oliver Hudson Kelley, who having seen the outdated methods by which southern and western farmers cultivated the land, decided that America's farmers needed to organize.¹⁹ Taking the secretive freemason societies as his model Kelly envisioned the

¹⁵ "Col. Sawyer Dies in Home at Hyde Park," *Burlington Daily News*, March 18, 1918, 1.

¹⁶ "Honoring Soldier Dead," *Morrisville Messenger*, May 31, 1907, 1.

¹⁷ "G.A.R. and W.R.C.," *News and Citizen*, December 29, 1915, 4.

¹⁸ "North Hyde Park," *News and Citizen*, June 2, 1915, 3; "To Hold Memorial Day Exercises at Hyde Park," *Morrisville Messenger*, May 28, 1930, 1.

¹⁹ William D. Barns, "Oliver Hudson Kelley and the Genesis of the Grange: A Reappraisal," *Agricultural History* 41, no. 3 (1967): 232.

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grange a fraternal association of farmers dedicated to intellectual advancement and scientific farming methods.²⁰ For the first five years of the National Grange's existence membership rose slowly as the movement's leaders crisscrossed the country organizing local and state granges.²¹ The first grange in Vermont organized at St. Johnsbury in 1871 and by 1873 there were approximately 25 grange organizations in the state.²²

While its founders envisioned grange societies as fraternities dedicated to the intellectual advancement of farmers, financial considerations played a much larger role in the explosion of grange societies which occurred between 1873-1875.²³ During the 1870s railroad monopolies controlled shipping rates, cutting into the already slim profits many farmers realized from their crops. Through the grange, farmers organized a significant voting block and agitated for government oversight of freight rates. Additionally, grange organizations worked together to purchase supplies at discount rates and sell their products through the creation of cooperative stores.²⁴ These cooperative stores were key to the growth of many grange societies across Vermont as farmers sought to cut out middlemen and purchasing agents by negotiating purchases as a collective.²⁵ As a result, by 1874 150 granges had been organized in Vermont and an estimated ten to twelve thousand Vermonters were involved with their local grange.²⁶

1874 represented the peak of grange involvement in Vermont. In subsequent years few grange societies were organized and as merchants found ways to circumvent the grange cooperative stores many people, who had joined the grange for discounted goods, left.²⁷ Between 1876 and 1889 no new grange societies were organized in Vermont and membership hovered at around 1,000. Membership rebounded in the 1890s as long-established grange societies gained new members and new societies were organized throughout the state. Many of the grangers and

²⁰ Barns, "Oliver Hudson Kelley and the Genesis of the Grange: A Reappraisal," 232.

²¹ Solon Justus Buck, *The Granger Movement: A Study of its Agricultural Organization and its Political, Economic, and Social Manifestations 1870-1880* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1913), 48.

²² "Patrons of Husbandry," *The St. Albans Daily Messenger*, December 1, 1874, 3.

²³ Buck, *The Granger Movement*, 52.

²⁴ Guy B. Horton, *The Grange in Vermont* (Montpelier: Capital City Press, 1926), 16.

²⁵ Horton, *The Grange in Vermont*, 18.

²⁶ "Patrons of Husbandry," *The St. Albans Daily Messenger*, 3.

²⁷ Horton, *The Grange in Vermont*, 23.

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grange societies organized in the 1890s joined for socialization and educational opportunities and by 1900 many grange societies focused on rural and agricultural education issues and provided a space for members to fraternize. This continued to be the mission of local grange societies for the remainder of the twentieth century; grangers across Vermont gathered to fraternize, break bread, and plan and complete community service projects.²⁸ For many rural Vermont communities' opportunities to come together and socialize were extremely important and the grange society played a crucial role in knitting together communities.

Gihon Valley Grange No. 379 and the Gihon Valley Grange Hall

Gihon Valley Grange No. 379 was organized on March 18, 1907, with thirty-nine charter members as part of the second major wave of grange society formation in America.²⁹ The grange society grew quickly and by 1912 the Gihon Valley Grange society had 145 active members.³⁰ In its early years the grange society performed many of the social functions associated with Vermont grange societies. The Gihon Valley grangers organized well attended dances, lectures, picnics, debates, and choral recitals.³¹ After the construction of Valley Hall the grange became one of the building's most important occupants. The grange society hosted events in Valley Hall such as Old Home Day which drew hundreds of guests.³² Among these guests were grangers from the surrounding community as well as people from the community without any grange affiliation.

The Gihon Valley Grange society purchased Valley Hall in 1935 and continued using the building as their headquarters. The organization continued hosting private and public events such as community dinners, dances, lectures, and plays. The grange society also hired outside entertainers such as the Rusty Reuben Boys to come to the grange hall and perform.³³ These

²⁸ Virginia Resnik, "Wither the Grange," *Burlington Free Press*, July 12, 1994, 9.

²⁹ "North Hyde Park," *Burlington Free Press*, March 24, 1932, 8.

³⁰ "Gihon Valley Grange," *News and Citizen*, January 31, 1912, 3. Census data from 1910 states that Hyde Park's total population was 423 meaning that a significant portion of the town's residents counted themselves as members of Gihon Valley Grange no. 379.

³¹ "North Hyde Park," *News and Citizen*, August 25, 1909, 4.

³² "Old Home Day at the Grange," *News and Citizen*, September 1, 1915, 4.

³³ North Hyde Park Grange to Eddie Rusty Brest, May 12, 1935.

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events were an important component of the social calendar in Hyde Park throughout the mid-twentieth century and the grange society remained a vibrant institution during this period. By the 1980s however membership in the grange began to wain and the dwindling membership found it increasingly difficult to provide upkeep on their aging building. Interest in the Gihon Valley Grange Hall was briefly revived in 1987 when North Hyde Park was chosen as a shooting location for the film *Sweethearts Dance* starring Don Johnson and Susan Sarandon.³⁴ During filming the Gihon Valley Grange Hall was used for dancing scenes and the interior of the hall retains markings from the production crew's time in the building.

Despite the local fanfare created by the film production the underlying issues surrounding the grange's declining membership and the Gihon Valley Grange Hall's growing needs persisted. In 1991 the grange society dissolved and turned the building over to the Town of Hyde Park.³⁵ The building sat largely unused until 1999 when the Hyde Park Historical Society took over management of the building. The historical society made numerous improvements to the building between 2001-2013 including restoring the historic stage curtain, installing new lights and ceiling fans, repainting, replacing the basement level front wall, building a new porch, walkway, handicap ramp and bathroom.³⁶ Presently the Gihon Valley Grange Hall remains a town-owned building with restoration efforts at the hall being led by the Gihon Valley Hall Committee a local community group.

Architectural Analysis

Valley Hall is a two-and-a-half-story vernacular building with two large open volume floor plates on its first and second floor. Reportedly designed by Charles Hayford, the Valley Hall is a representative example of a community hall. As a building type, community halls were designed to provide event space for large groups of people and to permit meetings, dances, plays, and other performances. Valley Hall features a first-floor stage for the performance of plays or

³⁴ Danica Kirka, "North Hyde Park Swoons for "Miami Vice" Star," *Burlington Free Press*, March 29, 1987, 1.

³⁵ In 1934 the shareholders of Valley Hall had stipulated that if the grange ever quit the building that they had to transfer ownership to the town.

³⁶ "Forward Momentum," *About Gihon Valley Hall*, <https://gihonvalleyhall.wixsite.com/home/about>.

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musical groups while the open unobstructed floor provided space for dancing or communal meetings. Similarly, the second floor's open floor provided a large gathering space and elements such as the shuffleboard court painted on the floor speak to the second floor's use by the community. On the first floor, the vestibule with its ticket window allowed the hall's owners to control the flow of people in and out of the building and to efficiently distribute tickets and collect money from guests entering the hall. On the exterior, the gable-front orientation and wood clapboard siding integrate the building with the surrounding neighborhood. The dominant architectural feature of the exterior is the double-decked porch; otherwise, the building is of simple and practical design with modest architectural detailing. Structurally, the use of queen-post truss systems to support the ceilings of the both the first and second stories is distinctive and makes each floor adaptable for any number of uses. The retention of these features enables Valley Hall to clearly convey its use and history, allowing for the clear articulation of the importance of this building to the community of North Hyde Park.

Conclusion

Since its construction in 1910 Valley Hall has been a focal point of the village of North Hyde Park. Built by the Valley Hall Corporation the building served as a gathering place for important local fraternal groups like the Aaron Keeler Post of the G.A.R. and Gihon Valley Grange No. 379. The building also acted as an important community gathering place and the central hub of entertainment within the village. Regionally known entertainers performed at the hall and public dances were frequently held. Architecturally, the Valley Hall is a vernacular building with a high degree of interior architectural integrity. On both its first and second floors the grange hall's open floor plates remain intact as does first floor stage. Further the building's architectural finishes such as its plaster walls, varnished chair rail, and simple pressed metal ceilings are all intact. Given this, the building clearly reads as an important community hall, one which is presently being actively restored by the Gihon Valley Hall Committee a local community group who hope to see the hall return to active use within the North Hyde Park community.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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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 # _____

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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): North Hyde Park State HD #0805-23-28

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property .17 Acres

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: 44.67071N

Longitude: -72.59973W

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

The boundary for Valley Hall corresponds to SPAN# 306-097-10624.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries chosen reflect the historic boundaries of Valley Hall as built in 1909-1910 by the Valley Hall Corporation.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Matthew Shoen/ Research Intern
organization: Preservation Trust of Vermont
street & number: 60 Grove Street Apt 2
city or town: Burlington state: Vermont zip code: 05401
e-mail mattshoen26@gmail.com
telephone: 315-528-8227
date: _____

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.)

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Figure 1: Early photo of Valley Hall's façade and side elevation. The photo shows that many of the building's features such as its two-story porch, fenestration pattern, and materials have remained largely unchanged since 1910.³⁷

³⁷ James Heath and Monica Heath, *Hyde Park* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 15.

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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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Valley Hall

City or Vicinity: North Hyde Park

County: Lamoille

State: Vermont

Photographer: Matthew Shoen

Date Photographed: 1/24/2022

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

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0001: Exterior, $\frac{3}{4}$ view of the façade and southern side elevation showing the two-story porch and other architectural details. Camera facing northwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0002: Exterior, detail view of the porch and façade. Camera facing northwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0003: Exterior, southern elevation. Camera facing northwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0004: Exterior, northern elevation towards the rear of the building. Camera facing southwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0005: Exterior, northern elevation showing detail of rear pilaster. Camera facing southwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0006: Interior, basement showing the stone foundation which has been reinforced with concrete. Camera facing northwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0007: Interior, first floor vestibule showing staircase to the second floor. Camera facing southwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0008: Interior, first floor hall showing the open volume floor and rear stage. Camera facing north.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0009: Interior, first floor detail photo showing the rear stage. Camera facing northwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0010: Interior, first floor showing the painted stage curtain. Camera facing northwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0011: Interior, first floor showing the hall from the stage. Camera facing southeast.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0012: Interior, second floor detail photo of the staircase's newel post. Camera facing northeast.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0013: Interior, second floor showing the staircase and stair landing of the second floor. Camera facing northeast.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0014: Interior, second floor showing the former kitchen space. Camera facing northeast.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0015: Interior, second floor showing the second floor hall and the space's cove ceiling. Camera facing northwest.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0016: Interior, attic showing the finished room with its original finishes. Camera facing east.

Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0017: Interior, attic showing the framing of the Gihon Valley Grange Hall's roof. Camera facing northwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0001: Exterior, $\frac{3}{4}$ view of the façade and southern side elevation showing the two-story porch and other architectural details. Camera facing northwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0002: Exterior, detail view of the porch and façade. Camera facing northwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0003: Exterior, southern elevation.
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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0004: Exterior, northern elevation towards the rear of the building. Camera facing southwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0005: Exterior, northern elevation showing detail of rear pilaster. Camera facing southwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0006: Interior, basement showing the stone foundation which has been reinforced with concrete. Camera facing northwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0007: Interior, first floor vestibule showing staircase to the second floor. Camera facing southwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0008: Interior, first floor hall showing the open volume floor and rear stage. Camera facing north.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0009: Interior, first floor detail photo showing the rear stage. Camera facing northwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0010: Interior, first floor showing the painted stage curtain. Camera facing northwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0011: Interior, first floor showing the hall from the stage. Camera facing southeast.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0012: Interior, second floor detail photo of the staircase's newel post. Camera facing northeast.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0013: Interior, second floor showing the staircase and stair landing of the second floor. Camera facing northeast.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0014: Interior, second floor showing the former kitchen space. Camera facing northeast.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0015: Interior, second floor showing the second floor hall and the space's cove ceiling. Camera facing northwest.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0016: Interior, attic showing the finished room with its original finishes. Camera facing east.

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Vermont_LamoilleCounty_GihonValleyGrangeHall_0017: Interior, attic showing the framing of the Gihon Valley Grange Hall's roof. Camera facing northwest.

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.

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

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