

Major Ira Day

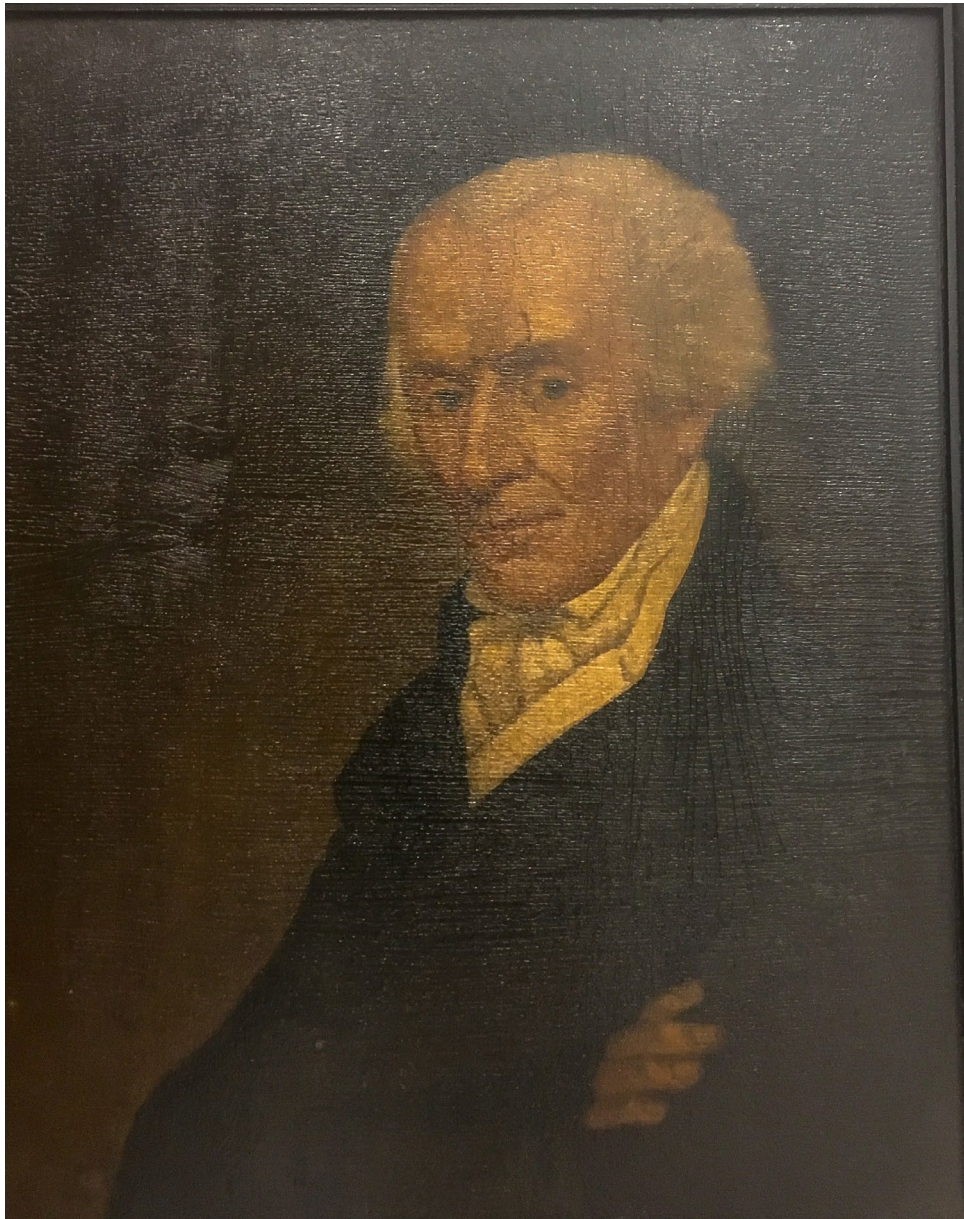
Williamstown, Vermont

Applicant: Joshua Blouin,
great-great-great-great-grandson

Major Ira Day Hosteler and Turnpike Investor

Ira Day (1777-1853) was one of the earliest settlers of South Barre. A prominent tavern and storekeeper, he was the town's first postmaster (1801), operated a grist mill on Stevens Branch, and served as a director of the Bank of Montpelier. In 1803, Day chartered a turnpike through the Williamstown gulf that would become the main thoroughfare to Massachusetts. The successful turnpike, finished in 1825, enabled the efficient shipment of goods throughout New England. The Marquis de Lafayette traveled on the turnpike and visited Ira Day's tavern during his 1825 tour of the U.S. With Mahlon Cottrell, Day owned the Pavilion Hotel in Montpelier, and created the first stage and mail route between Burlington and Boston.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation -- 2022



Major Ira Day, oil on wood, c. 1820

Barre Times, July 18, 1931

Major Day was not only a tavern keeper and storekeeper but he also was part owner of the mail and stage route between Boston and Montreal. He owned farm lands and a grist mill.

He was described "as a small, dried up man but wiry. In his day he was considered well off."

Although General Lafayette's visit to Barre on the occasion of his triumphal tour of the United States in 1925 was eight years before Miss Harrington's birth, the room in which the distinguished French general of Revolutionary fame was feted during a short stay in South Barre was pointed out as long as the Day tavern stood. The refreshments served General Lafayette in the Day tavern were not extensive or elaborate. They were cake and wine, as Miss Harrington recalls the event as related to her. General Lafayette did not stay all night in South Barre but went on to Montpelier in the gay coach drawn by pure white horses of Cottrell and Day's stage route from Boston, through Williamstown gulf, to Burlington. Major Day was not only a tavern keeper and storekeeper but he also was part owner of the mail and stage route between Boston and Montreal. Major Day is recalled by Miss Harrington as a "small, dried up man but wiry." In his day he was considered well off. Besides all his other activities, he owned farm lands and he owned the grist mill on Stevens branch in South Barre where John Gould had started business with the settlement of the town of Wildersburg.

In Miss Harrington's early days

Still another tavern in the "upper village" or South Barre was Major Ira Day's hostelry, which was located on the site of the present house just north of the railroad station, the Claf- lin house. Miss Harrington describes the Day tavern as a large brick structure of about the same proportions as the colonial Dennison Smith house just across the street, and which still stands. Dennison Smith was one of the earliest lawyers in Barre. Major Day's tavern was more or less imposing, as recalled by Miss Harrington. She remembers the "parlor" in which were three mirrors, one large center mirror and two smaller flanking mirrors. Later, when these mirrors were removed, there was revealed a striking painting on the wall which was a representation of an English castle, with beautiful terraces. Pictured wandering over these terraces were many young people in gay finery, while below them was a "short, fat woman who was what you call a chaperone," as Miss Harrington said in describing the painting. There was a lot of mystery, too, connected with a secret cellar in the Ira Day house, knowledge of which was not revealed to the public until many years later when some men started to pour potatoes into the cellar, as they supposed. When they thought the bin must be full they investigated and, lo and behold! there were no potatoes to be seen. The weight of the potatoes had broken through the covering of the sub- cellar and the potatoes had gone out of sight into the sub-cellar. That was the first the public had known about the secret compartment in Major Ira Day's tavern building.

Barre Times, July 18, 1931

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In the parlor were three mirrors, one large center mirror and two smaller flanking mirrors. When the mirrors were removed, a striking painting on the wall which was a representation of an English castle, with young people wandering beautiful terraces.

Secret cellar in house, later filled with potatoes that one day disappeared and fell into a sub-cellar.... "That was the first the public had known about the secret compartment in Major Ira Day's tavern building."

THE WILLIAMSTOWN CENTER TURNPIKE

November 14, 1803, the act incorporating the Williamstown Center Turnpike Company was passed, providing for a road from

Experience Fisk's in Brookfield, northerly up the side of the branch of White River, through the notch of the mountains, to the road leading from Williamstown to Chelsea.

Twenty-five years after the completion of the road it was to become free and the property of the state, but the more liberal legislature of 1804 granted another fifteen years of corporate life.

Nothing was done for two years, and the date set in the original act for the first meeting, at which organization was to be effected, passed without that formality. But hope still lived and permission to hold the meeting on another day was secured in 1805.

This turnpike seems to have been known as "Ira Day's turnpike," and followed the "Gulf Route," according to Child's *Gazetteer* of Washington County. There are fanciful tales of the Boston and Montreal stages passing this way carrying the British Royal mail, guarded by a soldier of King George, but the course of the turnpike did not lend itself to direct stage travel in that direction, and the presence of a foreign soldier seems open to much doubt.

It is said that Cottrill and Day's stages followed this route.

Williamstown Center Turnpike, November 1803 Act

1850 United States Federal Census for Ira Day

Vermont > Washington > Barre

1	2	3	DESCRIPTION.			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			4	5	6							
Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Age.	Sex.	Color.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 15 years of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
		Martin Pettigrew	75	M	W	Merchant		Vt.				
		Evelyn "	27	F	W			"				
336	336	Therese Ellis	34	F	W	Calinell wood	1500	"				
		Phelinda "	29	F	W			"				
		Ann "	6	F	W			"				
335	335	Ira Day	73	M	W	Merchant	1900	N.H.				
		Oliver "	43	M	W			"				
		Asa Boutwell	70	M	W	Laborer		"				
		Elvira McCreekin	44	F	W			Ireland				
336	336	Peter Johnson	78	M	W	Farmer	1000	Mass				
		Sarah "	76	F	W			"				



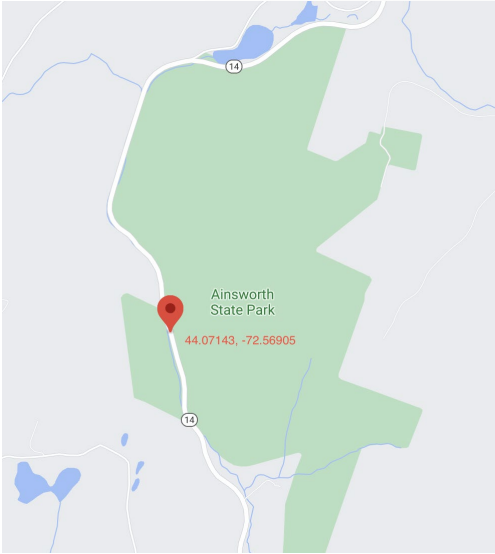
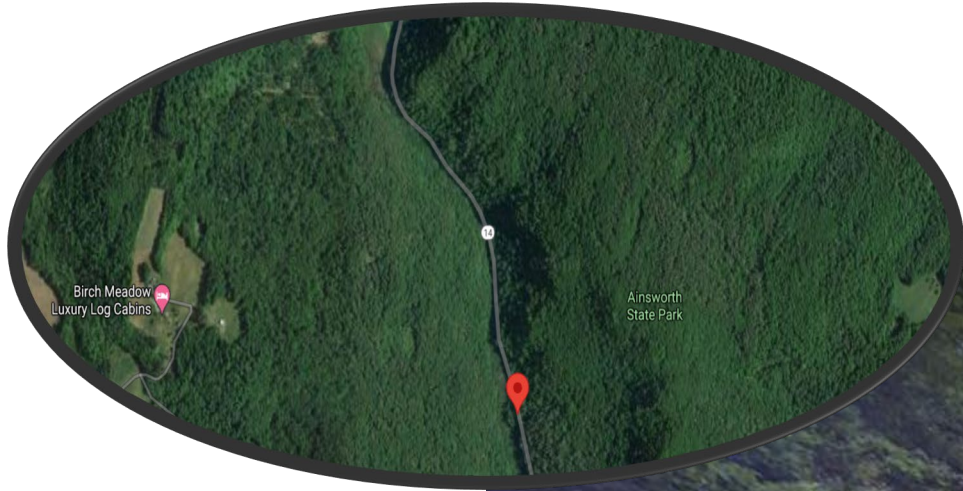
Elmwood Cemetery, Barre, VT

This stone is erected in memory of a beloved husband & father, Major Ira Day, who departed this life Oct. 2, 1853, in the 76th year of his age.

Major Ira Day, veteran of War of 1812

- Son of Private Benjamin Day, Jr, American Revolution/ with Capt. Joseph Parkhurst Company/one of original grantees of Royalton
- Grandson of Captain Benjamin Day, Sr., 3rd CT Company in French and Indian War in 1750
- 5x great-grandfather of Robert Day, traveled to Massachusetts in 1634 and first settler of Hartford, CT

Requested Marker Location



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Vermont Division for Historic Preservation -- 2022

Green Mountain Perkins Academy

South Woodstock, Vermont

Applicant: Green Mountain Perkins Academy Board

Green Mountain Liberal Institute

Green Mountain Liberal Institute was chartered in 1848, with backing from the Universalist Church. It provided secondary schooling to men and women ages 15 to 20. Pupils from the area and throughout the Northeast *boarded out* in nearby homes. The ringing bell announced the start of classes in the sciences, music, art, astronomy, and history. Greek and Latin were mandatory for a Classical education.

The first commencement was held in 1854 for ten students, with successive classes reaching 200. Many went on to college, most notably Tufts and Dartmouth. The school educated future farmers, craftsmen, teachers, physicians, judges, businessmen, a gubernatorial candidate, and assistant secretary of the Navy.

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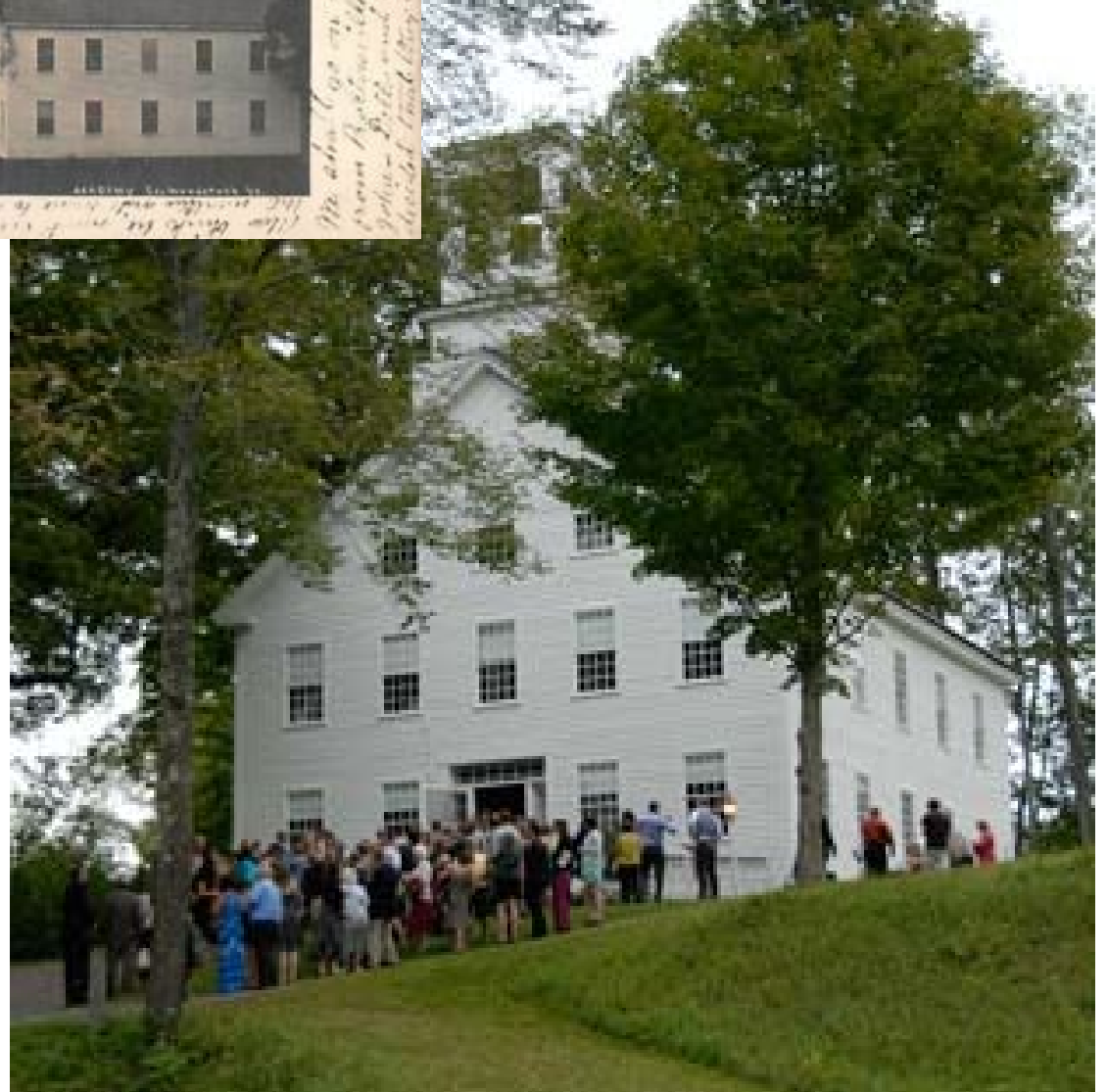
Green Mountain Perkins Academy

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Land for the “liberal & scientific institute” was donated by Royal Cottle, a successful farmer. Local carpenter Otis Wood built the Greek Revival-style school building. In 1869 the name was changed to the Green Mountain Perkins Academy, in recognition of a bequest by Gaius Perkins, a tanner, shoemaker, and president of the Academy’s board of trustees.

With the advent of public high schools, attendance declined, and the Academy closed in 1898. Subsequently the building has served as the local grange, community hall, and South Woodstock’s historical center and museum. The interior was preserved much as it appeared in the 1880s with original desks, schoolbooks, maps, and portraits of the staff and students.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation – 2022



THIRD
 ANNUAL CATALOGUE
 OF THE
OFFICERS AND STUDENTS
 OF
 GREEN-MOUNTAIN LIBERAL
INSTITUTE,
 SOUTH WOODSTOCK, VT.,
 FOR THE
 YEAR ENDING NOV. 19, 1850.

NEW YORK:
 KNEBLAND, PRINTER, NO. 120 FULTON STREET.
 1850.

G. M. L. INSTITUTE. 13

SUMMARY.

WINTER TERM OF TWELVE WEEKS, - - - -	-	-	-	-	32
SPRING " FOURTEEN " - - - -					75
FALL " TWELVE " - - - -					106
TOTAL, - - - - -					213

GENTLEMEN, - - - - -	-	-	-	-	105
LADIES, - - - - -					108

CLASSICAL, - - - - -	-	-	-	-	62
FRENCH, - - - - -					43
MUSIC, - - - - -					26

REFERENCES.

*	-	-	-	-	-	- Music.
†						- German.
‡						- French.
§						- Deceased.

GREEN MOUNTAIN PERKINS ACADEMY.

THIS INSTITUTION is situated in the quiet and pleasant village of South Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont, eight miles west of Hartland Station on the Vermont Central Railroad, twenty-five miles from Charlestown, N. H., by stage, and five miles south of the main village of Woodstock, with which it is connected by stage. It was incorporated in 1848, and has since been in successful operation. In 1870 the name was changed to the Green Mountain Perkins Academy, in honor of the late Gaius Perkins, an eminent benefactor of the school. It has recently received an endowment of twelve thousand dollars, which will place it upon a permanent basis, second, it is hoped, to none in the State.

The course of instruction at this Institution purposes to furnish students with a thorough and practical education so far as their connection with the school will permit—and to accomplish this end, two systematic courses are presented.

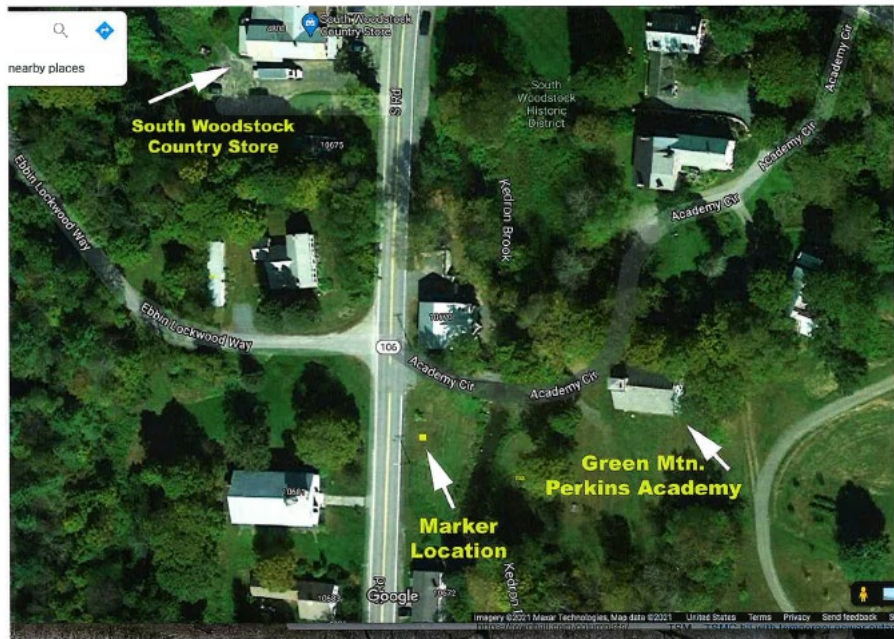
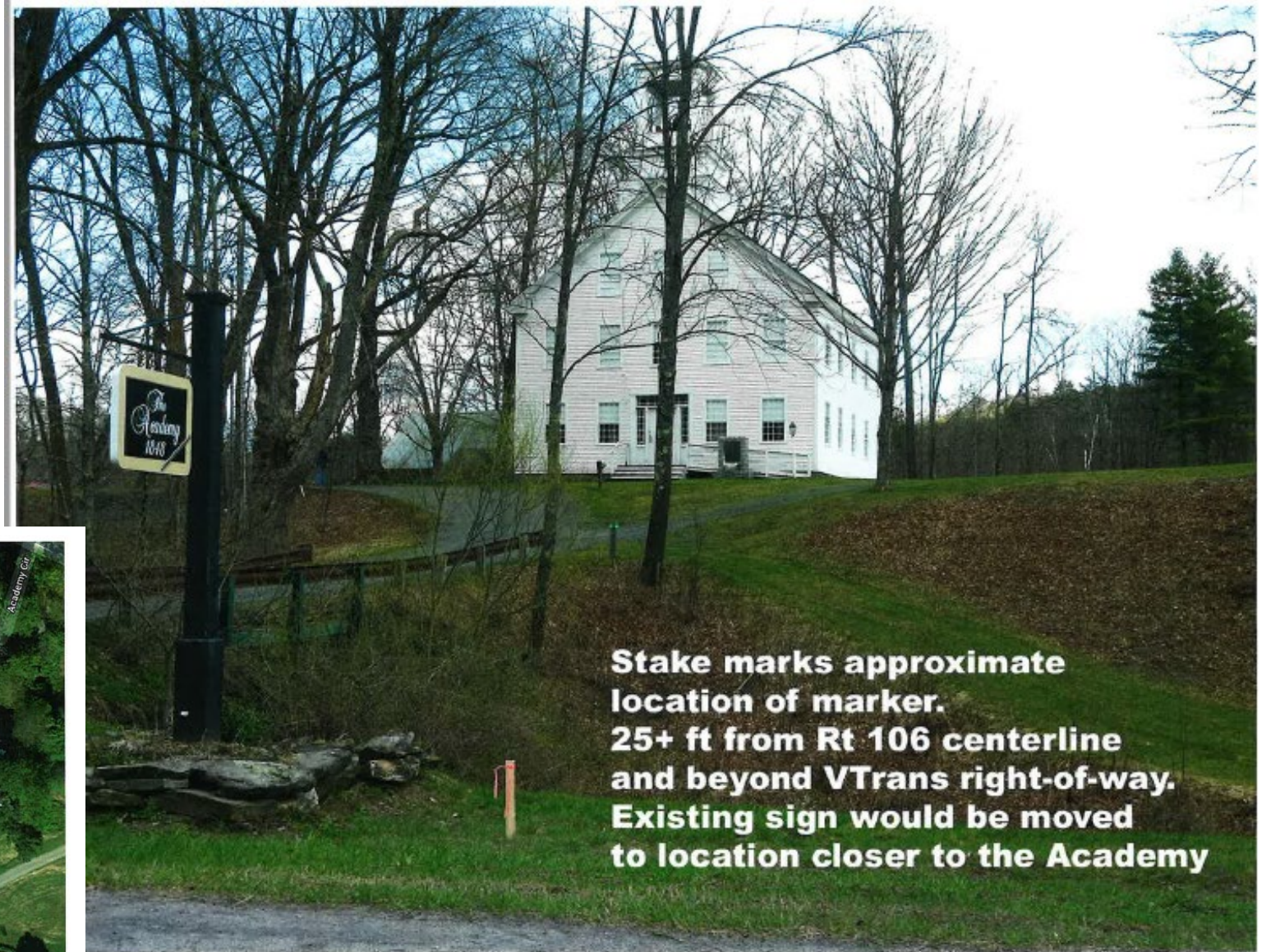
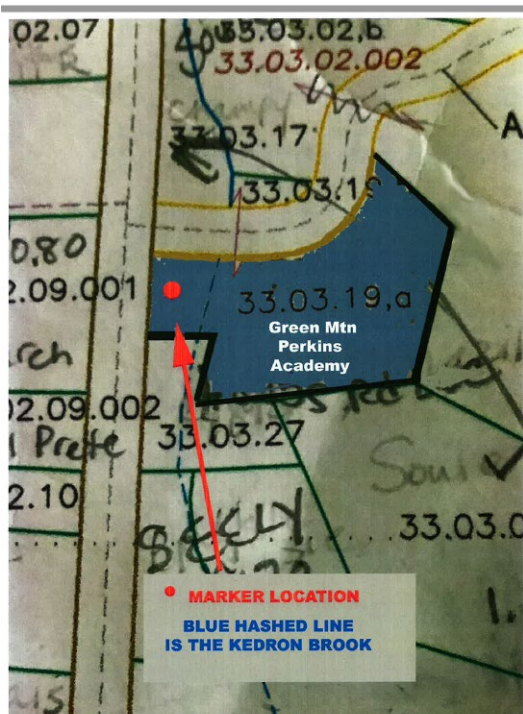
The Classical course includes the Greek and Latin sufficient to prepare the students for admission to any New England College.

The English course comprises the ordinary branches, together with Ethics, Intellectual Philosophy, Political Economy, and the Higher Mathematics.

In connection with either course, may be taken Music, Drawing, Painting and French.

Competent teachers have also been engaged in all other branches, and no effort will be spared to make the instruction, in every way satisfactory and profitable.

The Academic Year commences with the Fall Term, and it is earnestly advised that all who purpose pursuing either of the courses prescribed should be present at the commencement of the Term.



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