

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: South Hero Historic District

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. Location

Street & number: US RT-2

City or town: South Hero State: Vermont County: Grand Isle

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐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

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**

South Hero Village
Name of Property

Grand Isle Vermont

County and State

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)	<input type="checkbox"/>
District	<input checked="" 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	Non-contributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC /single dwelling/secondary structureDOMESTIC/hotelRELIGION/religious facility

GOVERNMENT/city hall
EDUCATION/school
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single family
DOMESTIC/business
GOVERNMENT/city hall
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO-STYLE
MID-19th Century/Greek Revival
LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Bungalow/Craftsmen

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, stone, brick, metal, glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and non-contributing 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



Figure 1. View of the north side of Rt. 2, looking west, c.1910(South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

The South Hero Historic District encompasses approximately 11.75 acres within the town of South Hero, a small, rural town located in Grand Isle, Vermont. The Town of South Hero, located in Grand Isle County in Northwestern Vermont, lies on the Southern half of South Hero Island in Lake Champlain. It is bordered by the towns of Plattsburgh and Peru in Clinton County, New York, across Lake Champlain to the west. The town of Milton in Chittenden County, Vermont, borders it to the east, across the eastern arm of Lake Champlain. Colchester, also in Chittenden County, borders South Hero to the south across Lake Champlain. The district follows the linear corridor on an east-west axis on Vermont Rt-2. US Route 2 crosses the town, leaving north into the town of Grand Isle and to the east, across Lake Champlain into the town of Milton.

The sparsely settled village contains commercial, government, religious, and residential buildings constructed between XXXX and XXXX. The district comprises mainly 1½ story commercial, institutional, and residential buildings dating from the early nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. These buildings are primarily Vernacular, Cape, or Greek Revival Style. South Hero developed as a commercial and social community and is now mainly a residential community. The village retains the look and feel of a nineteenth-century village that served the surrounding farming area for 100 years. The South Hero Village Historic District encompasses the early commercial center of South Hero. The contributing resources retain a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.



Figure 2. View of the north side of Rt. 2, looking west, c.1910 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

The evolution of South Hero is similar to that of many small Vermont villages and towns. The most significant development period, from 1820 to 1920, is documented by most of the district. The district retains the appearance of a mid to late-nineteenth-century village, with remarkably little new construction in the twentieth century. The dominating architectural style is the Greek Revival and Federal style. There are two examples of twentieth-century homes in the village and several smaller sheds and outbuildings. There are XXX contributing and XXX non-contributing buildings. The resources within the historic district retain a high degree of integrity, contributing to the district's overall integrity. The historic integrity and physical character of the district, with its mixture of open land and village residences, evoke an early Vermont village.

Narrative Description

The South Hero Village Center Historic District is a commercial and residential hamlet in the north portion of the Town of South Hero. The district runs linearly on an east-west on Vermont Route 2, connecting to the Grand Isle to the north and the Sand Bar bridge, leading to Milton, Vermont, to the east. The district includes some of the earliest and some of South Hero's most significant buildings. The area has been the town's social, commercial, and political center for the last two centuries. Except for the small Keeler Bay area, it is the only business district of the town, and the South Hero Inn serves as its focal point. The district exhibits several types of vernacular architecture; most buildings are in good condition and relatively unchanged. One can find the town's early church and school facility (HD#10), an inn serving South Hero's visitors since 1829 (HD#1), and the town's government facilities (HD8). The district features Federal and Greek Revival styles and the Town's only Bungalow house (HD#2). All

of the district's resources are located on Vermont Route 2 except for HD #1 and HD#15, both located at the corners of the district's east end.

The historic district boundary follows the outer perimeter property lines of the parcels adjacent to Vermont Route 2. Vermont Route 2, Hill Road, and South Road are all paved.

The district has intact examples of several types of historic resources generally found in Vermont towns of its size, including one church, two general stores, as well as farmsteads, barns, and single-family houses. Most of the historic buildings in the district have granite foundations, timber frame structures, and clapboard siding. Settlers cleared field stone and timber-framing materials from the surrounding land.

The oldest architectural style in East Calais is the Greek Revival, which is reflected on the oldest extant buildings of the historic district: the 1816 Old Meeting house (HD #10), the 1829 South Hero Inn (HD#1) and the c.1831 Fifield House. Vernacular builder-inspired examples dominate the historic district, presenting minimal architectural details that enrich the visual character of the district. There are a few post -1900 buildings in the district, including a bungalow (HD#2) and an arts and crafts library (HD#4).

1. South Hero Inn, 2 South Street, 1829, contributing building

The South Hero Inn is located at the southwest corner of South Street and US Route 2 at the district's east end. It has a minimal setback and is oriented on a north-south axis. The primary block is a two-and-a-half-story, five-bay by three-bay, rectangular plan, gable-front building with Federal and Greek Revival stylistic elements. The walls are constructed of locally quarried coursed hammered stone blocks. The building is capped by a gable roof sheathed with standing seam metal roofing. An interior stone chimney is located at each gable end. Fenestration consists of two-over-two double hung sash flanked by louvered shutters." Sills and lintels are cut stones. The soffits and frieze are adorned with mutules and guttae. The street-facing (north) elevation has a two-story entrance which is the most prominent feature of the structure. It has two four square timber columns tiers, with an intermediate balcony supporting the gable roof overhang. The pedimented gable roof overhang is infilled with horizontal flush boards and is adorned with a central louvered fan. The first floor and balcony are enclosed by a plain wooden railing which is echoed above with matching wood valances. An oval datestone above the door reads 1829.

The central entrance of the east elevation is capped by a fanlight and flanked by sidelights. It's framed by a gabled entrance porch supported by six turned timber columns. An oval datestone reading 1829 is also located above this door. The south side of the building is constructed of rougher cut stone than the more visually prominent elevations and has no windows in its central bay. Two half-round windows adorn the gable. A clapboarded, two-and-a-half-story story, gable-roofed ell, with altered irregular fenestration, slate roof, and two brick interior stove chimneys, extends west from the main building.

There are two new additions, the accessible entrance on the south elevation and a shed-roofed, one-story walk-in ATM and night deposit area projecting from the west elevation of the ell. This area has a pedimented entry. They have wood trim and wood clapboards. A drive-thru teller is located to the south of the buildings.

In 1980, the interior's "hand work" was in evidence with "the paneling in the interior, the hand wrought latches" and the "fan windows over the east doorway and north door" were original.¹ Before the 1990s, the South Hero Inn had several ells and outbuildings. There was a small one-story, rectangular gable addition centered along its south elevation. A one-and-a-half-story, rectangular, gable-roofed shed extends south from the west end of the ell. Further west, sited in line with the shed, is a smaller shed and a two-story horse barn and carriage shed. West of the ell was a series of three small flush-board-sided, gable-

¹ Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

roofed motel cabins dating from the first half of the twentieth century. The carriage shed addition to the horse barn was greatly altered and removed. On the south side of the Old Tavern was a c.1930 shed used as an ice house. It was removed. A shed was added to the south of the ell and removed. Interior features included a wooden fireplace, window framing and wainscoting, splayed window framing, a columned entryway, and a pressed metal ceiling.



Figure 3. View of HD #1, c.1915(South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

Thomas Dixon was the first owner of the land. In 1795, the Revolutionary War veteran built a tavern and dwelling on the site. Along with Ebenezer Allen's Publick House to the south at Allen's Point, Dixon's tavern was one of the earliest commercial enterprises on South Hero. Dixon built the tavern

To cater to the travelers crossing by the way of the Sandbar on their way to Montreal and Quebec, and return. His tavern also held a distinctive place in the community. It was a place of hospitality, warmth and good cheer. It was a gathering place for the exchange of outside news and local gossip. It was a place for the cold and tired traveler, to the driver with his herd of cattle or team going to market.²

The Dixon tavern was the site for town meetings up to the construction of the Old Meeting House in 1816 (**HD#10**) and the Methodist Church held their services there. Dixon's building burnt within a few years. Helmer Kent then purchased the property. Kent's

Hair was light, and his eyes were blue. He was an ambitious man, full of energy, a blacksmith by trade. He had very little education, although his stepfather was a schoolteacher.³

Helmer Kent arrived in South Hero in 1808 at the 'Corners' on "one half acre of land and a small house."⁴ Kent was "a rather remarkable man, uneducated, originally destitute" and in 1809, he was "ordered confined to the Debtor's Jail."⁵ Kent was captain of the local militia during the 1814 Battle of Plattsburgh.

² Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

³ Paine, Margaret Fletcher Kent. *My Ninety-Five Milestones*. Austin C. Murray, Chicago, Ill, 1932.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Kent hired mason William Aiken[Hakins] to build the stone portion of the inn in 1829. The stone remnants from Thomas Dixon's former tavern were incorporated into the extant building's frame wing.⁶ The stones for the new building "were probably quarried on the west shore about five miles distant," and "in the stones on the east and south walls may be seen fossil shells in all stages of perfection."⁷ Quarried in Isle La Motte, the stones are called Isle La Motte marble, "but the material is more of a limestone."⁸ The wood-frame portion of the building may pre-date the 1829 stone portion as it was "perhaps moved from its original location to the foundation there after the Dixon's first tavern burned."⁹ After Helmer Kent built the inn, he "found some men whittling the pillars of the porch," so Kent "painted the pillars and, while they were still wet, threw sand on them. He said that stopped the whittling."¹⁰

For many years, the tavern was known as the Island House. The tavern was a popular stop for Vermont's northern farmers who had to travel northward to Montreal to sell their products. As the journey often took several months, places like the Island House were necessary for the farmers heading north and south. To accommodate these travelers, Kent built bunks against the downstairs walls and men "used their own fur robes for covering."¹¹ There was also a dance hall on the second floor "used for dance and parties."¹² Kent also owned a blacksmith's shop "situated in the Four Corners in South Hero."¹³ As a blacksmith, he made the nails for the pews at the Old Meeting House (**HD #10**).¹⁴



Figure 4. View of HD #1, c.1920 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

⁶ Hedbor, Eloise, "Bank Now in South Hero's Future." *The Islander*, June 20, 1994.

⁷ Untitled Manuscript, South Hero Bicentennial Museum, South Hero, Vermont.

⁸ Hedbor, Eloise.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ *Sentinel and Democrat*, February 3, 1832.

¹⁴ Hedbor, Eloise.

In the mid-1830s, Kent rented the inn and moved to his farm.¹⁵ He then moved back to the hotel in 1839. He then sold the property to James Conro(1807-1872), "a prominent citizen of South Hero," in 1844.¹⁶ Conro was a farmer who lived in South Hero with his wife Betsy and son Henry. Brothers Gideon H. Rice (1808-1887) and Henderson I. Rice(1813-1872) purchased the property in 1850. Gideon H. Rice was a South Hero postmaster, store owner, and Vermont State Railroad Commissioner. Clark S. Keeler purchased the inn in 1870. Clark Keeler was the brother of Albert Keeler (**HD #5**). In May 1893, Keeler "sold his hotel, the Island House, to Fred Allen, who expects to take possession soon."¹⁷ By August 1893, Allen "built a new barn."¹⁸ Allen also "added the second story and made more bedrooms."¹⁹ In 1902, the inn provide accommodations for 25 guests at \$1.50 per day or \$7.00 per week.²⁰

In September 1914, Fred Allen "sold the Island House to Juan Robinson and sister" - Lillian Robinson Axtell.²¹ Lillian Axtell was born in South Hero in 1863, the daughter of Calvin and Lydia Robinson. She married Henry O. Axtell in Bloomington, Illinois. She partnered with her brother Willis G. Robinson as merchants in Clay Center, Kansas.²²

By October 1914, the Allens had "stored their household goods" and "stayed with their son Robert Allen."²³ They "expended a large sum in improvements."²⁴ In January 1915, "the historical 'old stone house' at South Hero, which for more than 100 years has been a landmark in that part of the country, has been put into excellent shape, and is now an up-to-date hotel."²⁵ Improvements included steam heat, cold water, baths, electric lights, hardwood floors, and "the old fireplaces, used in colonial days, have been uncovered and put in shape for use."²⁶ The building was "tastefully remodeled in a manner thoroughly in keeping with its Colonial Style of architecture."²⁷ The inn accommodated thirty guests, but it was "planned to increase its capacity during summer months by constructing cottages."²⁸ The inn boasted proximity to the railroad station, easy access to the lake, and occupied "a site which commands the entire

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ *St Albans Daily Messenger*, February 17, 1872

¹⁷ *Burlington Free Press*, May 16, 1893.

¹⁸ *Argus and Patriot*, August 23, 1893.

¹⁹ Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ *Burlington Free Press*, September 7, 1914.

²² Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

²³ *Burlington Free Press*, October 3, 1914.

²⁴ *Burlington Free Press*, January 14, 1915.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ *Burlington Free Press*, February 23, 1915.

²⁸ *Burlington Free Press*, January 14, 1915

view of Keeler's Bay" and was "expected to be a favorite summer resort."²⁹ Robinson and Axtell were "building up a substantial patronage from motorists and vacationists."³⁰ It boasted connections with an automobile garage, livery stable, and boat livery. The hotel offered ice boating, ice fishing, and toboggan rides during the winter. In February, the inn opened to the public to celebrate George Washington's Birthday.³¹ Lillian Axtell was the inn's manager and was considered a "genial hostess" who "cares for all with hospitable entertainment."³² The inn had a farm, growing vegetables for its menu. The produce included golden bantam corn and potatoes.

The inn hosted many events, including whist parties and meetings for the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Vermont State Horticulturalists Society. The inn hosted many meals, including chicken dinners, sturgeon dinners, and Thanksgiving turkeys.

In July 1917, Fred Field and Sons handled the sale of the South Hero Inn. The inn was a "very attractive stone building, 18 rooms, barn, and garage. Three acres of land on State Road. An ideal summer resort."³³

Mina Mooney Griswold (1863-1927) was the owner, and Ashley Hoag was the manager starting in 1919. Hoag was Griswold's son-in-law. Mina Griswold had married twice – first to Set W. Hoag (1857-1904) and then to Solon S. Griswold (1857-1915). Mina Griswold was a Grand Isle and South Hero teacher for many years. In 1910, she lived in Grand Isle with her husband Solon and was employed primarily as an undertaker. Griswold also owned property on King Street in Burlington, the Maple Grove Stock farm in East Charlotte, and the Miner farm in Shelburne.³⁴ In her later years, she was a superintendent of the Burlington school system. In 1924, Griswold "moved to the South Hero Inn and has a house full of tourists."³⁵ A promotional brochure from this time boasted that the inn

Offers an ideal resting place for the Motorist. Its broad piazzas, large fireplaces, and attractive surroundings appeal to the traveler. It is located on the great scenic route to the White Mountains and to Montreal, surrounded by a marvelous chain of waterways and splendid mountain views. The table is bountifully supplied with our own milk, eggs, vegetables, and chickens. Splendid roads in all directions. Walks, boating, bathing, and croquet. Special meals at all hours.³⁶

In 1924, the inn was put on the market, "which is a good paying investment for a summer hotel, well located for tourists."³⁷ Raymond A. Mooney (1800-1887) purchased the inn in 1925, and Griswold and Hoag "moved to Shelburne Road in Burlington."³⁸ Raymond Mooney was the son of John Mooney, an early settler of South Hero. After graduating from the University of Massachusetts, Mooney returned to

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ *Burlington Weekly Free Press*, July 29, 1915.

³¹ *Burlington Free Press*, February 13, 1915.

³² *Burlington Daily News*, July 24, 1915.

³³ *Rutland Daily Herald*, July 19, 1917.

³⁴ *Burlington Free Press*, May 12, 1917; *Burlington Free Press*, January 12, 1918; *Burlington Free Press*, August 15, 1923.

³⁵ *Burlington Daily News*, October 9, 1924.

³⁶ South Hero Inn Brochure, South Hero Bicentennial Museum, South Hero, Vermont, N.D.

³⁷ *Burlington Free Press*, December 13, 1924.

³⁸ *Burlington Daily News*, May 26, 1925.

South Hero where he was Town Clerk for twenty years. Raymond Mooney offered rooms for \$4.00 a day. Following World War Two, Colonel John Rooks operated the building from 1946 to 1947. Rooks "came to Vermont with his wife from his last station in Hawaii."³⁹ Rooks "made extensive improvements, and since purchasing the building, Rooks had "since conducting it as an Inn and residing there."⁴⁰ At the time, "several cottages" were "included in the sale."⁴¹ In 1947, the inn was put on the market for \$21,000. It was described as a

Stone and frame 18-room house -running water and wash basins in each bedroom - new oil heating system – laundry room – set tubs – washing machine and ironer. Large bathroom – extra shower on the second floor – large halls - beer room with ladies and gents toilets – servants quarters – three lovely heated cabins – with showers -hot and cold water – large barn-ice house- approx.. one acre of land – strawberry and asparagus beds – cherry tree – lake water – house newly redecorated – extra apartment with large living room and fireplace - den – three bedrooms. Dining room seating 36 includes linen, dishes, and silver - large garden space.⁴²

Nicholas and George Marchacos were the next owners. They were the former proprietors of the High Hat in Burlington.⁴³ In 1948, Nicholas and Costas Banakos purchased the property. Mr. and Mrs. William Gregg, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Poquette, and John Farnham were subsequent owners. In 1995, the Merchants Bank purchased the building and conducted renovations, including removing ells and outbuildings.

2. Charles H. Reade House, 307 VT RT-2, c.1922, contributing building

This is a one-and-a-half-story, eaves-front, wood-frame, single-family-dwelling. It is oriented parallel to the road and has a moderate setback. Resting on a concrete foundation, it has a standing seam metal jerkinhead roof and wood shingle siding. Fenestration consists of one-over-one replacement double hung sash. A one-story ell projects from the rear (south) elevation. Centered on the street-facing (north) elevation is an entry protected by a gable-roofed porch with exposed rafter tails and square posts. An exterior stove chimney abuts the west gable end and cuts through the eaves. A two-light shed dormer is centered on the street-facing (north) roofline. A similar shed-roofed dormer extends across the rear (south) roofline. A gabled entry porch with square posts and a basket handle arch under the roof extends along the front elevation. A one-story porch with square posts and a lattice skirt extends along the east gable end. A modern wood staircase accesses a second-story entry on the east elevation.

2a Garage, c.1960, 307 VT-2, contributing building

This is a one-story, saltbox-roofed structure. Resting on a concrete slab, it is sheathed with T-111 siding and has a standing seam metal roof. Fenestration consists of one-over-one windows.

2b. Garage, c.1922, 307 VT-2, contributing building

This is a one-story, gable-front, one-bay garage. Resting on a concrete slab, it is sheathed with wood shingles and has a standing seam metal roof.

³⁹ *The Suburban List*, January 23, 1947.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Burlington Free Press*, January 17, 1947.

⁴² 1947 newspaper clipping, South Hero Bicentennial Museum, South Hero, Vermont, N.D.

⁴³ *The Suburban List*, January 23, 1947.

3. Mina Griswold House, c.1885, 315 VT-2, contributing building

This is a two-story, eaves-front wood-frame, single-family-dwelling. It is oriented perpendicular to the road and has a moderate setback. Resting on a stone foundation, it is sheathed with wood clapboards and has a corrugated metal roof. Fenestration consists of one-over-one replacement double hung sash. An exterior brick chimney abuts the east gable end at the ridge. A one-story, gable-roofed enclosed porch extends along the street-facing (north) elevation. The porch has turned posts, turned balusters, and brackets. A one-story, gable-roofed ell projects from the rear (south) elevation. There is a one-story, shed-roofed entry addition on the south elevation of the ell.

3a. Barn, c.1885, 315 VT-2, contributing building

This is a two-story, gable-front barn with vertical wood siding at the first story and novelty siding at the second story. The street-facing (north) elevation has a sliding barn door at the first and an off-center hayloft door at the second.

Mina Griswold was an early owner of the property. Griswold (**HD#1**) worked as an undertaker and teacher in Grand Isle County. In 1901, George H. Duba (1869-1947), who worked for John Warren as a blacksmith in Grand Isle, "bought a place at the Corners and will locate."⁴⁴ Duba was born in Isle La Motte and was a member of the Isle of Patmus Masons.⁴⁵ He married Lizzie Larrow in 1895.⁴⁶ Francis and Amy Doty, originally of East Wallingford, purchased the property in 1947. Francis J. Doty (1900-1972) attended Wallingford schools and Mount St. Joseph Academy. After school, he worked as a telegraph operator at a Rutland railroad station. When he was transferred to the North Hero railroad station, he and his wife, Amy Blair of East Middlebury, moved to South Hero. Francis Doty served the South Hero community as town auditor, town agent, and overseer of the poor. After Doty retired in 1954, he sold the house to Robert and Edna Lahue of Grand Isle, and the Dotys moved to Bristol to operate a general store.⁴⁷

4. South Hero Bicentennial Museum, 1925, 317 VT-2, contributing building

This is a one-story, hip-roofed, wood-frame building. It has a moderate setback and is oriented parallel to the road. Resting on a concrete foundation, it has brick siding and a slate roof. Fenestration consists of bands of four 4-light windows under the eaves. A band of four of these windows flanks the center entry, and there are two bands of three of the windows on the east and west elevations. An interior brick chimney at the east and west ends. Iron cresting extends along the ridge. Centered on the street-facing (north) elevation is an entry protected by a gable-roofed porch with exposed rafter tails. The porch has square posts and a basket handle arch under the gable. Projecting from the rear (south) elevation is a one-story ell.

Mrs. Susan B. Hall (1868- 1924) bequeathed the funds for an official library building in 19134. The new structure was to be a tribute to her son, Arthur Hall Landon, who died in 1919 in France during World War One. Hall was married to Thomas B. Landon, and she was a cousin of Juan Robinson. Following the death of her only son, Hall moved to Kansas, returning to South Hero frequently and staying with Juan Robinson. Following her death, schools were closed for her funeral services.⁴⁸ The new building cost

⁴⁴ *Burlington Clipper*, May 18, 1901.

⁴⁵ *Burlington Daily News*, March 17, 1947.

⁴⁶ *Burlington Free Press*, January 5, 1895.

⁴⁷ *Rutland Daily Herald*, May 30, 1972.

⁴⁸ *Burlington Daily News*, April 18, 1924.

\$5,000; by September 1925, "it was nearly completed."⁴⁹ The Lake Champlain chapter of the DAR held its annual meetings at the South Hero Inn (**HD #1**) and donated the funds for the brick fireplace.,

It was initially used as a library. The first evidence of a South Hero library was in 1895 when the Town elected five library officials at the Town Meeting. The first librarian was Wallace Hall, who used his home as the repository. The library was then housed at the home of Mrs. Frank Darrrt and then the Old Meeting House (**HD #11**). In 1957, the building became a museum.

5. Asahel Landon Jr. House, c.1825 /c.1850, 323 VT-2, contributing building

This is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-front and ell, wood-frame single-family-dwelling. Fenestration consists of six-over-one replacement double hung sash. Resting on a stone foundation, it is sheathed with vinyl siding and has a corrugated metal roof. It has a moderate setback and is oriented parallel to the road. A concrete block interior chimney is at the west end of the ell. Architectural features include cornice returns.



Figure 5. View of HD #5, c.1975 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

The building is supposedly two houses put together and, at one time, served as a Post Office when Mr. Keeler owned it.

Asahel Landon Jr. (1808 - 1862) was an elder in the church. He offered this house to Reverend Williams for religious services. In 1876, Albert Burr Keeler (1809-1894), brother of Clark S. Keeler (**HD #1**), lived in the extant house. Born in Connecticut and the husband of Sarah A. Keeler, Albert Keeler was a shoemaker and postmaster. He also sold groceries, patent medicines, and stamps. Following the death of Keeler, the land was transferred to Joseph Larose (**HD #6**). The transaction included "a certain piece of land with a house and barn and shop thereon, containing two acres, more or less."⁵⁰ In 1899, the

⁴⁹ *Burlington Clipper*, September 17, 1925.

⁵⁰ South Hero Land records, Book 12, Pg. 367 (1895), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

property was transferred to his wife, Linda May Larose (1873-1901). Elmer and Lillian Hill purchased the property in 1949. The Hills also owned Hill's Orchards, which featured apples, cherries, and plums. They also rented several furnished cottages to summer visitors. Born in Jonson, Vermont, Elmer E. Hill (1872-1956) was a veteran of the Spanish American War. They spent the winter months in Florida. Richard and Kameko Mable purchased the property in 1959. A year later, John and Dolores Gardner "have bought the house recently owned by Richard Mable near the library."⁵¹ John Gardner worked for the Super Temp Wire Factory in Winooski.

6. Antoine Larose House, c.1865, 321 VT-2, contributing building

This is a one-and-a-half-story, eaves-front, wood-frame, saltbox-style house. Resting on a stone foundation, it is sheathed with wood clapboards and has a corrugated metal roof. Fenestration consists of two-over-two wood double hung sash with wide trim. There is an interior concrete block chimney at the ridge.

Henry Robinson owned this land originally. Robinson was a farmer with large apple orchards. At the 1878 Grand Isle Agricultural Society Fair, Robinson exhibited 15 apples, two pears, and one variety of crabapples.⁵² He also bred Morgan horses. In 1865, Robinson sold Rosalie Larose one-half acre of land. Rosalie Goyette Rose was the wife of Joseph Larose (1839–1880), who was the son of Antoine and Sophie Larose. Emigrating from Quebec, Canada, Antoine Larose (1813-1885) initially settled in South Hero in 1830. Antoine and his son, Joseph Larose, were blacksmiths.

A second son, Antoine Larose Jr., died in the Civil War while serving in the 13th Vermont Regiment. 13th Vermont historian Ralph O. Sturtevant recalled Larose

My remembrance of him is one of robust health and strength, a splendid specimen of young manhood, capable of endurance in the hardest service, even-tempered, willing, and obedient to every call. But sickness overtook him, and the last we saw of him was, I think, the morning of the 25th of June when all was activity in preparation of the great march when two men were assisting him down the company street to be taken with the other sick of the regiment to some general hospital. It is recorded in the Revised Roster of the state that he died July 18, 1863, and was buried in the National Military Cemetery.⁵³

The blacksmith shop was located on the empty lot immediately to the west. When Rosalie Larose Blanch died, she left her son Joseph Larose (1868–1946) "my blacksmith shop and wish him to leave it where it now stands."⁵⁴ In 1936, Joseph Larose continued the trade of his father and grandfather as "Milton White, assisted by Joe LaRose, is shoeing horses twice a week at LaRose's shop."⁵⁵ In 1899, Joseph and his sister Mary signed an agreement where Joseph agreed that he "forever from this date afterward abstain from the

⁵¹ *The Suburban List*, February 11, 1960.

⁵² *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, October 14, 1878.

⁵³ Sturtevant, Ralph Orson, *Pictorial history Thirteenth Regiment Vermont Volunteers, War of 1861-1865*, 1910.

⁵⁴ South Hero Land records, Book 12, Pg. 879 (1905), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

⁵⁵ *Burlington Clipper*, February 27, 1936.

use of intoxicating liquors" and "that he will devote his whole time and attention to his trade as a blacksmith."⁵⁶ Elmer E. Hill (**HD #5**) purchased the property in 1949.

7. South Hero Rescue, 1977, 329 VT-2, non-contributing building due to age

This is a one-story, gable-front, wood-frame building with vertical board siding, concrete foundation, and corrugated metal roof. Fenestration consists of triple and double, single-pane casement windows. There is an overhead door on the street-facing (north) gable end.



Figure 6. View of HD #7 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

Built in 1977, the South Hero Rescue Squad building cost \$12,000. It had a "classroom for weekly drills and first aid classes, an ambulance bay, and two storage areas."⁵⁷

8. South Hero Town Offices, c.1929, 333 VT-2, contributing building

This is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-front, wood-frame building. It rests on a concrete foundation with a textured rock-faced concrete block and a corrugated metal roof with exposed rafter tails. Fenestration consists of one-over-one replacement vinyl double hung sash with concrete lintels. Abutting the east elevation is an exterior concrete block chimney. A shed-roofed dormer is on each side of the north portion of the gable roof. Fenestration with the dormer consists of six-over-two wood windows. The gable and dormers are sheathed in clapboards. Centered on the street-facing (north) elevation is an entry protected by a gable-roofed porch with square posts.

⁵⁶ South Hero Land records, Book 12, Pg. 516 (1899), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

⁵⁷ *Burlington Free Press*, January 22, 1978.

This was South Hero Town Hall. In August 1927, nearly \$3,000 was pledged towards the construction of a new town hall.⁵⁸ In December 1928, there was a Thanksgiving Ball at South Hero “for the benefit of their proposed new town hall” which “was largely attended and was a big success in every way.”⁵⁹ In 1976, the town of South Hero spent \$24,000 “to convert the old building” and by March 1976, “renovations are nearly completed.”⁶⁰

9. George Duba House, c.1920, 324 VT-2, non-contributing building due to alterations

This is a one-story, hipped-roofed, wood-frame building with rounded rafter ends. Resting on a concrete foundation, it is sheathed with wood panels and has an asphalt shingle roof. Fenestration consists of one-over-one replacement windows. A one-story, shed-roofed porch supported by square posts extends along the street-facing (south) elevation.

This was a single-family-dwelling from 1920 to 1970. In 1901, George H. Duba (1869-1947), who formerly lived at HD #3, was the first occupant. Duba worked for John Warren as a blacksmith in Grand Isle before moving to South Hero in 1901. Duba was born in Isle La Motte and was a member of the Isle of Patmus Masons.⁶¹ He married Lizzie Larrow in 1895.⁶² It was then the village post office, craft store, karate studio, and Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources (CIDER) home offices.

10. Old Meeting House, 1816, 320 VT-2, contributing building

This is a two-story, gable front, 40' by 47', wood-frame building with a steeple. It is oriented perpendicular to the road and has a moderate setback. Blacktop extends on all sides, with a small grass strip except the east. Resting on a random ashlar limestone foundation with silica mortar, it is sheathed with wood clapboards and has a slate roof. Architectural features include cornice returns and flat corner boards.

Centered on the street-facing (south) elevation is a six-panel door. Fenestration consists of two-over-two double hung sash with architrave moldings. The street-facing (south) elevation has two shuttered windows flanking the center entry at the first story and three evenly spaced windows at the second story. The south elevation originally had two separate entrances with Greek Revival entablatures. The south elevation has the same fenestration pattern as originally built but lower windows were changed to match the upper windows some time after 1895.⁶³ The windows were originally 12/12 double hung sash.

The west elevation has five windows at the first story and a single window in the southernmost bay at the second story. The remaining second-story windows consist of four pairs of larger two-over-two double hung sash. The southernmost second-story window reflects the size of the original windows which were replaced in the 1920s with larger two-over-two double hung sash to meet new Vermont school regulations for requiring minimum light into classroom spaces.

⁵⁸ *Burlington Free Press*, August 19, 1927.

⁵⁹ *Burlington Daily News*, December 1, 1928.

⁶⁰ *Burlington Free Press*, March 26, 1976.

⁶¹ *Burlington Daily News*, March 17, 1947.

⁶² *Burlington Free Press*, January 5, 1895.

⁶³ Newman, Scott. *Conditions Assessment: Granny's Attic, South Hero*. Burlington, Vermont, 2014.

The north elevation has irregular fenestration with a single window flanking the one-story shed at the first story and a single window in the east bay, and a paired window, similar to the west elevation, at the west bay. Attached to the rear (north) elevation are a 10' x 16' shed addition with novelty siding, a utility plank door, another plank sliding door, and one blocked-out window. A rear interior concrete block chimney with a clay tile flue liner rises from the north end.

The east elevation has a single window at the south bay on the first and second floors. The first story has two overhead doors, and the second has four pairs of larger two-over-two double hung sash. The southernmost second-story window reflects the size of the original windows which were replaced in the 1920s with larger two-over-two double hung sash to meet new Vermont school regulations for requiring minimum light into classroom spaces.

Rising from the south end of the roofline is an 8-9" x 8-9" belfry. The 1st stage of the belfry is square with a molded cornice. The second stage and third stage are also square and have corner pilasters. The windows in the 3rd stage are topped with a peaked lintel molding, and there is wood paneling between the windows and pilasters with molded caps. There are pedimented head casings above the paneled sections. A crown cornice and broad frieze cap the third stage. The belfry roof is a hipped, ogee-shaped roof covered in flat-seam galvanized metal. A finial and weathervane rest on the top. A plaque on the front of the building reads "1816, First Protestant Church, First Town Hall."

The slate roof is primarily Vermont weathering green (gray color) slate nailed to the roof deck. There is evidence of the previous wood-shingle roofing under the slate.

The Narthex entry lobby is the only finished room on the first floor. It has tongue and groove floor, beaded board, and homasote/batten wall and ceiling covering. There are two doors leading from the entry into the former sanctuary. Wood stairs lead to the second floor in the southwest and southeast corners. The east stairs are original to the building and the west stairs are c.1953.

The first floor beyond the Narthex was originally an open space with columns. This space now consists of two fire truck garage bays with concrete floors poured below the sill at grade. The original 4" x 6" floor joists are found in the sill in the open bays. There are remnants of horizontal board wainscoting on the walls, center partition, and portions of the old brick chimneys. Two old chamfered 6' x 6' wood columns bear on 9' x 13' timber sills that remain only under the center partition. Concrete interior bulwarks have been added on the east, and the pressed tin ceiling remains.

The second-floor stair halls are open to the ceiling, with utility wood stairs and railings, horizontal wood paneling, and remnants of wooden panels. The upper walls are finished with plaster, and the ceiling is finished in pressed painted tin panels. Two former classrooms have banks of windows and slate chalkboards, strip oak flooring, beaverboard and batten wall and ceiling finish, and pendant schoolhouse lights. The original chimneys remain on the north wall. A workroom on the south has tongue and groove wood flooring, beaded board, and beaverboard/batten walls and ceiling, with a ceiling access hatch to the attic. Next to this is a storage room with similar finishes and a five-panel wood door.

The first-floor framing is divided into three bays along the east-west axis. A 9' x 13' wood perimeter sill rests on the foundation walls. There are two primary carry beams resting on concrete blocks that support the vertical posts. Concrete bulwarks have been added to the east elevation.

The unfinished attic has had a 10' x 10' section of roof near the south end re-framed with new dimensional lumber where the cupola was removed. The original hewn timber framing consists of four kingpost trusses spaced approximately 9' o.c, consisting of 9" x 12" kingposts bearing on 9" x 13" bottom chords that span the 38' width of the building and frame into 9" x 13" top plates at the walls. Sawn 2.5" x 9" joists frame between trusses at 24" o.c. The trusses have double top chords, the upper one 9" x 8", the lower one 7" x 8". The top chords are continuous with 9" x 9" purlins framing between them. The undersized 3.5" x 4" rafters at 32" o.c. frame between the purlins and top plates and the upper rafters meet

in pairs at the peak. The opposing rafter pairs are pinned together, as there is no ridge beam. At the southernmost bay, two 7" x 9" transfer beams on the east and west sides of the cupola footprint span from the south wall plate to the bottom chord of the 1st truss. They support 8" x 8" corner posts and 7" x 6" top plates that once supported the corners of the cupola but now support 2" x 8" modern dimensional framing that closes the opening in the roof. These side frames are reinforced with 2.5" x 9" and 3" x 4" cross-bracing.

10a. South Hero Inn Tourist Cabin, c. 1915, moved 2020, non-contributing building due to being moved

This is a one-story, side-gabled, wood-frame cabin. Resting on concrete blocks, it is sheathed with novelty siding and has an asphalt shingle roof. A one-story, shed-roofed porch extends across the street-facing (south) elevation. Known as the "Honeymoon Cabin," Lillian Axtell built the cabin as part of the South Hero Inn (**HD #1**). It was moved to TimStead Farm on the Kinney property in 1990 and then to its present location in October 2020.



Figure 7. View of 10a, c.1940 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

In 1795, seven members of the South Hero community gathered together, agreeing to form a Congregational Society. The group sought out Reverend Asa Lyon, an ordained minister from Sunderland, Massachusetts to lead their services. Between 1795 and 1803, the small group “met wherever they could find a place to hold service, schools, private homes, even in woods in good weather.”⁶⁴ In 1803, the groups’ ranks increased to 11, with one of the new members being Colonel Alpheus Hall, who offered his home for services. At this time, the group officially organized as the Congregational Church of South Hero. In 1815, Reverend Asa Lyon was elected to United States Congress and the congregation found a temporary replacement with Reverend Simeon Parmalee(1782-1882), a 30-yr-old minister from Westford, Vermont.

In 1816, a volunteer group raised the building. According to Caroline Hall, the daughter of Colonel Alpheus Hall,, the church meetings “were held in a public house in a large dancing hall, for there was no church edifice at that time, but I well remember that every available spot in the room was filled with attentive hearers.”⁶⁵ In 1856, the Town of South Hero assumed ownership of the building when the new Congregational Church was built on South Street. At this time, the building became known as the Meeting House as it served as the site for Town Meetings.

⁶⁴ Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

⁶⁵ Ibid.



Figure 8 View of HD #10 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

Sometime after 1895, a second floor was added to the building. In 1900, Maple Lawn Academy, founded by William M. Stevens, used the second floor as a state-approved 4-year high school. The school closed in 1911 and remained unused for the next nine years. Starting in 1920, the second floor was used as a public school for various grades. The 2nd Floor East room was used as a library before the construction of the Memorial Library. In 1953, the South Hero Town Highway Department modified the first floor to house town trucks. Garage bays were cut out of the east wall, and lateral structural beams were removed from the cuts. The flooring on the first level was moved so that vehicles could enter on grade. In 1954, the non-profit volunteer organization, Granny's Attic, moved to the 2nd floor of the Meeting House. This group donates 100% of its proceeds to local non-profits. Between 1999 and 2018, the South Hero Fire Department used the ground floor of the building to house fire trucks when the Town Highway Department moved to the former Malcolm Allen Garage.

During the 21st century, the South Hero community has focused tremendously on preserving the building. In 2012, South Hero voters approved a \$50,000 bond to repair the steeple, which was removed, reconstructed, and replaced. In 2014, the Preservation Trust of Vermont awarded the Town of South Hero a \$250 grant for a conditions assessment, highlighting the need to repair some slate roof tiles. That work was completed with the help of a 2015 Historic Preservation Grant Award. Between 2018 and 2022, two

planning grants provide funding to determine the structural state of the building and evaluate community support for revitalization. The second grant provided funding for conceptual plans for the building that preserves its historical integrity. In 2022, the Preservation Trust of Vermont awarded a Paul Bruhn Historical Buildings Revitalization Grant to stabilize the east wall and build a new foundation.

11. Parsonage, c.1903, 316 VT-2, contributing building

This is a two-story, eaves front, three by two bay, wood-frame structure with an interior brick chimney at each end. Resting on a coursed stone foundation, it is sheathed with vinyl siding and has a slate roof. Fenestration consists of one-over-one windows. A one-story, hip-roofed porch with square posts extends along the street-facing (south) elevation. Abutting the west elevation is a second-story polygonal bay window. A one-story, shed-roofed addition abuts the north elevation.



Figure 9. View of HD #11 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

Julie Hall to Congregational Church of South Hero and Grand Isle in 1903. The land was "to be occupied for the purpose of building a parsonage to be used in collection with said church and for no other purpose."⁶⁶ While the Old Meeting House (HD #10) was a former church, it was used for a school and

⁶⁶ South Hero Land records, Book 12, Pg. 767 (1903), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

town purposes at the time of Hall's donation. It was most likely to be used for a parsonage for the Congregational Church on South Street.

12. Fifield House, c.1831, 310 VT-2, contributing building

This is a two-story, side-gable, wood-frame, three by two bay Greek Revival single-family-dwelling. It rests on a stone foundation with wood clapboard siding and a slate roof. Fenestration consists of one-over-one replacement windows. A recent one-story porch with square posts extends along the street-facing (south) elevation. An exterior brick chimney abuts the east and west gable ends. Architectural features include cornice returns and triangular gable louvers. Projecting from the west gable end is a one-story, shed-roofed addition. A two-story ell projects from the rear (north) elevation



Figure 10. View of HD #12, c.1920 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

12a. Garage, c.1960, non-contributing due to alterations

A gable-front, three-bay garage with three overhead doors on the east elevation. Resting on a concrete slab, it has a standing seam metal roof and vertical wood siding.

12b. Barn, c.1850, contributing building

This is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame English barn with a corrugated metal roof and vertical barnboard siding.

Hector Adams (1801-1875) owned this property in the early 19th century. Born in Burlington, Adams was the State's Attorney for Grand Isle County and a South Hero Justice of the Peace. Adams lived primarily in Milton, Vermont but died in Grand Isle. Daniel Brown (1800-1849) sold this property to Dr. Abraham

Harding (1800-1880) in 1844.⁶⁷ As Harding lived in a house just west of the Meeting House (HD#10), he most likely lived in the extant house.

Born in Hartland, Harding graduated from Woodstock Medical College and then went to work as a physician for the British North American Land Company in Canada. During the Revolutions of Lower and Upper Canada in 1837, Harding "left the province ... on account of his republican sentiments."⁶⁸ After leaving Canada, Harding "escaped to his native state, and after years of an unsettled life, drifted upon our island."⁶⁹ In 1840, he lived alone at North Hero.⁷⁰ In South Hero, he became the primary doctor after the death of Dr. Elisha Root and had a "very successful and satisfactory professional- career."⁷¹ He "practiced medicine in Vermont for fifty-five years with the exception of nine years spent in Canada."⁷² Harding was South Hero's superintendent in 1847, a member of the Vermont Democratic Party, and an officer of the Vermont State Medical Society.

In 1850, Harding sold the property to Curtis Martin(1819-1887).⁷³ Martin was a farmer and carpenter and was considered "a self-made man and a man of good judgment."⁷⁴ By 1875, Curtis Martin owned the George Phelps farm in South Hero. In 1871, it was the home of Oscar Hall, the son of Alonzo Hall. In the 1880s, Oscar Hall was "stricken with paralysis while crossing the Sand Bar Bridge and has been in a helpless condition and not expected to recover."⁷⁵ Orson and Minnie Fifield purchased the house in 1913. Orson David Fifield (1875-1937) was born in Mooers Forks, New York, and worked as an agent for Newell Company of Ogdensburg, New York. In 1909, Fifield partnered with Juan Robinson to run the general store to the east (**HD #14**). In December 1913, the Fifields "were pleasantly surprised Monday evening when their many friends gathered at their new home to enjoy a good time."⁷⁶ Orson Fifield was a town representative, assistant judge of the Grand Isle County Court, and a member of the Isle of Patmos Masonic Lodge. Subsequent owners were Fisk and Jessie Fifield and then Willis and Bonnie Fifield.

13. Martin House, c.1900, 308 VT-2, contributing building

This is a 2-story, gable-front and ell, wood-frame, single-family-dwelling. It rests on a stone foundation with a wood clapboard siding and slate shingle roof. Fenestration consists of four-over-one replacement windows. The gable ends have cornice returns and patterned wood shingles in the tympanums. A one-story porch extends along the street-facing (south) elevation on the ell. It is supported by chamfered,

⁶⁷ South Hero Land records, Book 9, Pg. 107 (1844), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

⁶⁸ *Burlington Free Press*, October 29, 1873.

⁶⁹ *Burlington Weekly Free Press*, November 26, 1880.

⁷⁰ Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

⁷¹ *Burlington Weekly Free Press*, November 26, 1880.

⁷² *Burlington Free Press*, October 29, 1873.

⁷³ South Hero Land records, Book 9, Pg. 348(1850), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

⁷⁴ *Burlington Free Press*, July 6, 1887.

⁷⁵ *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, October 9, 1882.

⁷⁶ *Burlington Clipper*, December 4, 1913.

bracketed posts. Projecting from the rear (north) elevation is a one-story, gable-roofed ell with a porch extending along its east elevation.



Figure 11. View of HD #13 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

Charles B. Irish (**HD #14** and **HD #15**) sold a "piece of land taken from the southwest corner of our home place."⁷⁷ In 1919, Mina Griswold (**HD #1**), who owned several pieces of real estate, "purchased the Irish place at South Hero and will begin extensive repairs soon."⁷⁸ In December 1919, Horace Corbin was "installing electric lights in Mrs. Mina Griswold's residence."⁷⁹ Brothers Hardy Martin (1860-1934) and Wallace Martin (1849-1919) purchased the building in 1900. The two were South Hero-based builders. Wallace Martin built the stage for the Maple Lawn Academy (**HD#10**) in 1900. They formerly lived on the east shore farm "Broad Acres" before selling it to Charles Reade (**HD#2**). In 1921, Henry Cassidy moved "from Frank Hall's farm to Hardy Martin's home at the corners."⁸⁰ Three years later, Ashley Hoag, the proprietor of the South Hero Inn (**HD #1**), "moved to the place formerly owned by Hardy Martin."⁸¹ Roy Dewyea (1864-1946) was the next owner. Dewyea was a laborer born in Canada and owned several properties in South Hero, Milton, Richmond, and Westford. The Delivorias Family owned the property from 1940 to the 1980s. Catherine Delvorias was a member of the Dewyea family.

⁷⁷ South Hero Land records, Book 12, Pg. 663(1900), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

⁷⁸ *Burlington Weekly Free Press*, June 12, 1919

⁷⁹ *Burlington Daily News*, December 4, 1919.

⁸⁰ *Burlington Daily News*, March 4, 1921.

⁸¹ *Burlington Suburban List*, September 4, 1921.

14. Irish/Robinson/Fifield Store, c.1887, 304 VT-2, contributing building

This is a two-story, gable-front, wood-framed commercial building. Resting on a stone foundation, it is sheathed with wood clapboards and has a slate shingle roof. Fenestration consists of one-over-one windows with cornice moldings. Projecting from the east elevation is a one-story ell that connects to a one-story gable-front minor block. Architectural features include cornice returns on the gable ends, corner boards, simple frieze, and three-sided wood shingles in the tympanum of the main block. There are five concrete buttresses along the west elevation of the main block. Extending along the first story of the street-facing (south) elevation of the main block, is a replacement one-story porch supported by square posts. A one-story ell projects from the rear (north) elevation. A bay window is centered in the gable on the minor block.



Figure 12. View of HD #14, c.1900 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

In 1887, Wolford Phelps purchased a 150-acre farm in which this parcel was part. That same year, he sold the same parcel to Charles Bellostee Irish (1852-1901). Charles Irish, the son of Grand Isle merchant Leman Bellostee Irish (1822-1878), ran his own tin shop in Grand Isle before purchasing property in South Hero.⁸² Irish most likely built the extant building and operated a store and post office. The minor block was moved from the neighboring Mott house (HD #15). In 1886, Irish succeeded Albert B. Keeler (HD#5) as the village postmaster.

The building was then sold at a public auction to Amos Minkler in 1902. At the time, the property consisted of "lands set to Susan M. Irish as her homestead in said Charles B. Irish's estate ... being a lot

⁸² Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

89 feet front and 175 feet deep on which stands a building used for concerts."⁸³ That same year, Minkler sold it to Herbert and Homer Keeler for \$1400.

In 1907, Juan Robinson (1851-1937) "bough Herbert Keeler's store and will take possession this week."⁸⁴ Robinson was born in South Hero and then moved to Grand Isle. He was initially a farmer before becoming engaged as a merchant. He maintained a large apple orchard near Keeler's Bay, had a large merino sheep flock and was a horse trader. In 1875, he married Sarah Gordon of Grand Isle, and "their devotion to each other and their peaceful and hospitable home have been an ideal and inspiration to all that knew them."⁸⁵ Their marriage "was quite an event on Grand Isle, as both bride and groom belonging to influential and highly esteemed families."⁸⁶ Robinson represented South Hero in Montpelier, was a State Senator from Grand Isle County and was a member of the San Bar Bridge Commission.⁸⁷ He was also a South Hero selectman, treasurer, and lister.

Robinson, known as an "enterprising merchant" offered red stamps upon every purchase made in his store. These stamps then could be redeemed for items in his inventory which ranged from women's hosiery to poultry feed. Robinson was also an insurance agent. In 1909, Robinson partnered with Orson Fifield of Mooers, New York. Fifield moved from Swanton and resided "in the rooms over Juan Robinson's store."⁸⁸ Fifield was previously an agent for Newell Company of Ogdensburg, New York. This company specialized in general merchandise and Fifield was a traveling salesman, carrying his wares from general store to general store. Orson Fifield was a town representative, assistant judge of the Grand Isle County Court, and a member of the Isle of Patmos Masonic Lodge.

With Fifield's partnership, the company became Juan Robinson Co., General Merchandise. For many years, Robinson and Co. ran immediately next door to Robinson Bros (**HD#15**), both general stores. In 1915, Robinson Bros closed, and Juan Robinson purchased the Robinson Bros.' inventory. Around this time, Juan Robinson purchased the actual ell that the Robinson Bros. store was located in and moved it to this site.

⁸³ South Hero Land records, Book 12, Pg. 600 (1902), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

⁸⁴ *Burlington Weekly Free Press*, August 15, 1907.

⁸⁵ *Burlington Free Press*, February 3, 1937.

⁸⁶ *Argus and Patriot*, January 28, 1875.

⁸⁷ *Burlington Free Press*, February 3, 1937.

⁸⁸ *Burlington Free Press*, January 28, 1909.



Figure 13. View of HD #14, c. 1945 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

In 1929, Juan Robinson sold his interest, and the store operated as Fifield and Son in 1929. Juan Robinson continued to operate an insurance business. Orson and his son Fiske were the proprietors. Orson passed away in 1937. Paul and Betha Low purchased the store in 1940. Paul died in 1944, and Betha operated the store until she sold it to Darwin Branch in 1947.

15. James Mott House, c.1830, 1 Hill Road, contributing building

This is a 1½ story, wood-frame eaves-front building. Resting on a stone foundation, it is sheathed with wood clapboards and has a corrugated metal roof. A corbelled brick chimney rises from the roofline. Fenestration consists of two-over-two and six-over-two double-hung sash. A screened-in porch with a clapboard knee wall is projected from the south portion of the east elevation. Projecting from the north end of the east elevation is a one-story, shed-roofed addition. Abutting the north elevation of this addition is a one-story, gable-front, one-bay garage. A one-story back ell with wood shingles projects from the west elevation. In the 1980s, the interior had wide, symmetrically molded trim w/corner blocks. The corner blocks had either bull's-eyes or a maple leaf design. There was paneling under windows, random-width plank flooring, and a riven lathe.

Between 1850 and 1855, James Mott (1807-1887) took three houses and put them together on this site. Two of the houses were brought up from Lake Champlain. The third part -which was used as a store was removed. Mott lived here with his wife Thirza Boardman and their children. In 1867, he sold the 16 ½

acre property to Clinton and Merriam Mayo for \$3,000.⁸⁹ Soon after selling the property, the Mott family moved to Iowa. Mayo was the principal at the South Hero Academy (**HD#10**). In 1891, Charles B. Irish (**HD #14**) "bought and commenced repairing the old James Mott place at the Corners."⁹⁰ After Irish's death in 1901, his wife Susan Irish leased to Wallace and Edson Robinson (**HD #15**)

Part of her house now occupied as a general store with the basement under the store and the two west cellars and two north rooms on second floor now used as store rooms; also, one half the barn, the ice house, and wagon shed. The said Susan M. Irish is to keep the said buildings in repair.⁹¹

In 1901, brothers Edson and Wallace Robinson established a store on this site. Calling themselves Robinson Bros, they used the rear ell, projecting to the west and no longer extant, for the store. In 1908, Wallace Robinson was "raising the roof on the ell of his house."⁹² This part of the building was eventually moved over and joined with the store at **HD#14**. In addition to the store, Robinson Bros offered delivery services and they made "their route every week the same as usual, and customers on the route will get goods at the same low prices if bought at the store, except kerosene."⁹³



Figure 14 View of HD #15, c.1890 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

After 11 years of renting from Susan Irish, the heirs to the Irish estate announced that they intended "to offer to sale, the land and premises you now occupy and that three months notice you are entitled to according to the terms of the lease, shall begin from this date."⁹⁴

⁸⁹ South Hero Land records, Book 10, Pg. 473 (1867), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

⁹⁰ *Burlington Free Press*, October 2, 1891.

⁹¹ South Hero Land records, Book 12, Pg. 612 (1902), South Hero Town Clerk's Office, South Hero, Vermont

⁹² *Burlington Suburban List*, October 8, 1908.

⁹³ *Burlington Suburban List*, January 2, 1913.

⁹⁴ *Burlington Suburban List*, December 5, 1912.

In November 1913, Robinson Bros announced they were ceasing operations. Wallace Robinson placed an advertisement in the paper announcing that the “entire stock of general merchandise and fixtures for sale” and that the “store and dwelling can be bought if wanted.”⁹⁵ In December 1913, Robinson Bros. held a “closing out sale” which was the “thing now.”⁹⁶ In February 1914, C.H. Russell of Grand Isle went to South Hero to help “to inventory the mercantile goods of the late firm of Robinson bros. The goods have been purchased by Robinson and Fifield (**HD#14**) and the firm of Robinson Bros. have gone out of business.”⁹⁷ Juan Robinson purchased he inventory “at a very low figure” and the store was “closed for invoice” and “re-opened for closing of the stock.”⁹⁸ Wallace Robinson then started a new hardware business to the west outside the district boundary. A blacksmith, James Daugherty (1846-1913), operated his shop here in the early 20th century.



Figure 15 View of HD #1 and HD 315, c.1900 (South Hero Bicentennial Museum).

⁹⁵ *Burlington Free Press*, November 7, 1913.

⁹⁶ *Burlington Suburban List*, December 18, 1913.

⁹⁷ *Burlington Suburban List*, February 5, 1914.

⁹⁸ *Burlington Clipper*, January 15, 1914.

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
- ☐

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

_____None_____

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 South Hero Historic District is a representative example of a Vermont village serving the commercial, social, educational and religious needs for the surrounding community. The architecture and development of South Hero remain visible to document its history, prosperity, and contribution to the growth of the Grand Isle County. The South Hero Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for community planning and development, and Criterion C for architecture. The period of significance begins in 1816 to mark the residential development and ends in 1XXXX.

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

Community Planning and Development

The East Calais Historic District is significant under Criterion A for community planning and development. The historic district documents the establishment and growth of a village in central Vermont. Settlement began with the felling of trees, clearing of land for agriculture, and constructing residential buildings. Community development extended throughout the nineteenth century as the population increased. In South Hero, businesses and services were established, a meeting house to served the religious needs of the community. The greatest period of residential development occurred prior to the Civil War (1861-1865), , resulting from Grand Isle County's growth. Following the Civil War, there was commercial development wit the the opening of two general stores. Following World War One, development increased even more with the construction of a single-family-dwelling, a library and the town hall.

Architecture

The South Hero Historic District is significant under Criterion C for its intact collection of historic resources that represent the architectural forms and styles of Vermont from the early nineteenth century to the early-twentieth century. The greatest concentration of extant buildings date from the 1816 to 1900, representing development and prosperity. Regardless of the period of construction, the buildings generally have wood clapboard siding, granite foundations, gabled roofs with overhanging eaves, and wood-sash windows. The dominating architectural style is the Greek Revival.

Historic Context

The Vermont Legislature chartered South Hero on October 27, 1779. The Vermont Legislature originally granted three Lake Champlain islands - North Hero, South Hero, and Grand Isle - to Ethan Allen, Samuel Herrick, and 363 other Revolutionary War veterans as a single town known as Two Heroes. In 1798, Two Heroes was divided into North Hero, Middle Hero, and South Hero. The former comprised the entire north island, while the latter shared the southern island. In 1810, Middle Hero was given complete autonomy and renamed Grand Isle.

Colonel Ebenezer Allen, a cousin of Ethan and Ira, was the island's first settler. Allen had served under Colonel Herrick with Rogers' Rangers during the French and Indian Wars and then with Green Mountain Boys during the American Revolution. Four years after arriving in South Hero, Allen converted his

residence into a tavern. South Hero's settlers took advantage of the fertile soil with subsistence farming. The area was heavily wooded, and the settlers had to clear the land. The earliest settlements were by the waterside, while the interior remained dense and forested. As a result, most transportation occurred by canoe and, during the winter months, across the frozen water.



Figure 16. 1871 Beers Atlas

Jedidiah Hyde performed the first town survey in 1783 and the first town meeting was held in 1786. Soon thereafter, the first roads, which were simple cart paths, developed on the island. The first road led northward from Ebenezer Allen's dwelling at Allen's Point at the southern tip and a later early road led from Sand Bar Bridge towards Grand Isle. These two roads in what is today South Hero, which was referred to as the 'Corners.' The "natural confluence" of these two roads "destined the logical location" for commercial activity.⁹⁹

The first commercial presence in the 'Corners' was the tavern of Thomas Dixon. Soon thereafter, there were tradesmen such as blacksmiths and merchants. In 1816, the Congregational Society, which had been meeting in private homes for years, built the Old Meeting House (HD#10). While Dixon's tavern burned in the 1290s, Helmer Kent, a blacksmith by trade, built the Island House in 1829. The Island House was an important layover for travelers making their way between Vermont and Montreal.

By the middle of the 19th century, the 'Corners' grew considerably, with several residences sprouting up. With the construction of the Congregational Church on South Street, In 1856, the Town of South Hero assumed ownership of the building and the building became known as the Meeting House as it served as the site for Town Meetings. Antoine and his son, Joseph Larose, were village blacksmiths at HD#6 while Albert Keeler (HD #5) was a shoemaker, postmaster and sold groceries, patent medicines, and stamps.

⁹⁹ Stratton, Allen L. *History of the South Heroe Island: Being the Towns of South Hero and Grand Isle*, Queen City Printers: Burlington, Vermont. 1980.

By the turn of the 20th century, South Hero Village became more and more of a focal point for the community. In 1901, Robinson Bros established a general store at HD #15. Six years later, Juan Robinson purchased Herbert's Keeler's general store(HD#14). In the 1920s, the town built the library (HD #4) and the community center (HD#8). Following World War Two, the South Hero Fire Department assumed control of the Old Meeting house, converting the building for truck storage. In 1977, the South Hero Rescue built their own building (HD#7). During the late 20th century, the George Duba House (HD #9) served as the village post office. With the arrival of larger stores outside the village center, many of the traditional general stores closed down. However with the presence of the town offices(HD #8), several commercial entities (HD #1, HD# 7, HD#11), the North Hero Bicentennial Museum (HD #4), South Hero Village maintains its trait as a government and social center for the island. With preservation efforts focused on the restoration of the Old Meeting House, coupled with the preservation efforts to restore the South Hero Inn in the 199s, there is a strong tradition of preserving South Hero's historic village.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 11.75 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: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The boundary follows the outer lines of all the parcels in the district.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries follow the parcels of the contributing properties in South Hero.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Brian Knight
organization: Brian Knight Research
street & number: PO Box 1096
city or town: Manchester state: VT zip code: 05254
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telephone: 201-919-3416
date: 04/23/2023

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.

Photo Log

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

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

1 of ____.

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.