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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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Blaisdell, Augustus and Laura, House

other names/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: 517 Depot Street not for publication N/A

city or town: Chester vicinity: N/A

state: Vermont code: VT county: Windsor code: 027 zip code: 05144

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide XX locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Saurat Groschmann
Signature of certifying official

11/27/2013
Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official or other official and title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>1-29-2014</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

Number of Resources Within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings:	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
districts:	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
sites:	<u> </u>	<u>1</u>
structures:	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
objects:	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
total:	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Category of Property: (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site(s)
- structure(s)
- object(s)

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: (Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

Category:	Subcategory:
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Specialty Store</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions: (Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

Category:	Subcategory:
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Multiple Dwelling</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification: (Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival (vernacular)
- Italianate (vernacular)
-

Materials: (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: stone
- concrete
- roof: slate
- asphalt
- walls: weatherboard
-
- other: wood
-

Narrative Description: (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
 See continuation sheet.

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 a grave.
- D. A cemetery.
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F. A commemorative property.
- G. Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance with the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1868

Significant Person: (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Significant Dates:

1868

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect / Builder:

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance:

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography:

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

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 for the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey No. _____
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record No. _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

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Blaisdell, Augustus and Laura, House
----- Name of Property
Windsor County, Vermont
----- County and State
n/a
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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The Augustus and Laura Blaisdell House, built in 1868 and located at 517 Depot Street in the village of Chester Depot, is a large, 2 ¾ story, 5x4 bay, wood frame, east-facing gable front house. A two-story rear wing with open porches on its south elevation projects from the rear (west) elevation of the main house. The building was built in the transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style and retains many original stylistic, albeit vernacular, features both outside and inside. The house has a single-story Italianate-style open porch spanning the front elevation that shelters a Greek Revival-style entry with full-length blind sidelights and rectangular transom light. The steeply pitched roof of the main block is covered with slate shingles. The main block's symmetrically placed windows have distinctive caps consisting of a peaked head with a segmentally arched base set over a piece of plain trim. The house faces the railroad tracks and village green and sits at the intersection of Depot Street and Erskines Avenue, which runs alongside the railroad tracks in the heart of Chester Depot. The railroad tracks cross Depot Street and Erskines Street in front of the house, making it a focal point at the intersection of these significant transportation corridors. The building has a commanding presence in a prominent location, visible from the town hall and village green immediately to its northeast and from the railroad depot across the tracks to its northwest. In the early 1990s, the building was renovated and converted to apartments, but many of the original distinctive features remain intact including the floor plan, central staircase, molded trim with peaked lintels, paneled doors, and cabinetry. Despite this alteration, the house retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Setting:

The town of Chester lies in the Williams River Valley in the center of the southern part of Windsor County. The township contains four villages: Chester, Chester Depot, North Chester and Gassetts, with a total population of about 3,000. The village of Chester Depot stands on a fairly narrow bench between the west side of the North Branch of the Williams River and the eastern base of a low ridge known locally as "Depot Hill." The village is oriented north-south along the axis of Depot Street, which is also known as Vermont Route 103. This road runs from Chester Village, the primary village of the township, (also known as the south village), to North Chester, the site of the "Stone Village," both of which are listed in the National Register. The commercial center of Chester Depot, which includes the Chester Town Hall, surrounds a small triangular green at the intersection of Depot Street and Elm Street, which runs southeast from the green. Residential areas of the village radiate out along these streets. The Green Mountain Railroad tracks bisect the village, running northwest-southeast and intersecting Depot Street at the western point of the green. The Blaisdell House sits near this intersection and can be seen from numerous points in the village center. The village largely developed in a thirty-five year period, beginning around 1850 following the arrival of the railroad. The Greek Revival/Italianate-style Blaisdell House is a prominent visual link to this period of prosperity and growth.

The house's triangular lot has a large deciduous tree shading the shallow front lawn. An unpaved access road runs along the northern edge of the lot to the woods beyond. Behind the house, to the west, is a small yard containing stone and concrete remnants of barn foundations that were associated with the house. A dilapidated modern, single-story, shed roofed wooden outbuilding with unpainted vertical board siding lies adjacent to these foundation remains, at the edge of scrubby new growth woods. The

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shed and foundation remains lack integrity and do not contribute to the property's historic significance. On the south side of the house is a large unpaved parking area.

Exterior:

The 2 ¾ story, wood frame, gable front, Greek Revival/Italianate-style house has a two-story, 6x1 bay wing projecting from the west (rear) side of the 5x4 bay main block. An open, two-story, shed roofed porch with turned posts spans the south elevation of the wing. A single-story flat roofed Italianate-style porch supported by square columns with paneled bases spans the east (front) elevation and shelters the recessed central front entry. The historic four-panel front door has a Greek Revival-style surround composed of simple, wide trim framing full-length sidelights and a large rectangular transom window. The entry opens into a central stair hall. The main block is distinguished by a blind round arched window in the front gable peak, paired windows in the central bay on the second and third stories, and symmetrical windows with distinctive caps consisting of a peaked head with a segmentally arched base set over a piece of plain trim. These caps are striking as they are an unusual form of the peaked lintels commonly found on late Greek Revival-style buildings.

The house has a stone foundation with concrete block above grade on the north and south sides, and a dirt floor. A bulkhead with wood doors enters into the foundation in the southeast corner of the main block. The main block has a slate roof with wide overhanging eaves. There is a wide frieze board and bed molding where the walls meet the overhanging roof. A rectangular brick chimney rises from the center of the roof's ridge. The rear wing has an asphalt shingle roof and a boxed eave with a shallower overhang and fascia than the main block. It has the same frieze board and bed molding where the walls meet the overhanging roof. A corbelled brick chimney projects from the wing's north roof slope.

The entire building is clad with wood weatherboards and has a plain, wide water table and corner boards. On the main block, the corner boards are detailed with corner round molding extending from the water table up to the frieze board, where it terminates with a small bed molding.

Fenestration on the main block is symmetrical. On the first story, the central front door is flanked by two double-hung windows. On the second story, a pair of narrow double-hung sash is located in the central bay flanked by two double-hung windows, and on the third story a pair of narrow double-hung sash is located in the central bay flanked by single double-hung windows. In the gable peak is a blind round arched window. On the north and south sides of the main block there are four window openings on each story. On the first story of the north side, the first and third bays are blind. Windows are largely 2/2 wood, double-hung sash. The paired windows on the third story are 1/1 and there are two 6/6 sash on the third story in the back of the main block and one at the rear end of the wing. Windows on the main block have the previously described unusual caps while those on the wing have plain surrounds, except for two windows on the north elevation of the wing in the second and third bays which have the same caps as those on the main block.

Spanning the first story of the front elevation is an open, flat roofed porch with a molded cornice. Across the front of the porch are four, square posts with molded, recessed panel pedestals and plain

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bases. They have simple molded capitals supporting a solid valence that curves to meet each post. A band of molding rests at the juncture of the valence and cornice, similar to that at the eaves of the house. The porch railing has a plain handrail and posts. The ceiling and floor are flush board and there is a lattice skirt. A set of wide wood stairs with simple wood handrails on either side rises from the front yard to access the center of the porch.

The long, 6x1 bay wing houses four apartment units and has an open, shed roof, two-story, six-bay porch across its southern elevation. The porch has turned posts and modern, plain railings. On the second story, the sixth bay of the porch is enclosed and has weatherboard siding to match the main block and two 2/2 double-hung windows on the south wall. A similar window on the west wall, facing the open porch, has been boarded over. There are several entries into the wing on the south side. On the first story, a wide entry occupies the first bay and a half, entering into an area that may have been a woodshed. This entry is now boarded up and unused. To the right of this doorway an open wooden staircase rises in a westerly direction to the second story. Two pedestrian doors are located to the right of the stairs on the first story and there are two double-hung windows in the last two bays. On the second story, there are doors in the first and fourth bays with double-hung windows occupying the remaining four bays. The ceiling on the second story of the porch is unfinished with the rafters and roofing boards exposed and painted. The floor is pine boarding. The porch rests on a poured concrete slab and is accessed by a concrete ramp that approaches from the dirt parking area. The west end of the wing has a 6/6 window on the first story and a boarded over window high in the gable. On the north side of the wing, there are five bays on the first story and three on the second. A modern entry porch, with a two-sided, steeply pitched hip roof and two square posts, is located at the juncture of the wing and main block on the first story. The porch has a concrete slab floor and is accessed by a concrete ramp that runs from the dirt access road along the side of the house. The porch shelters a door and there is a second door in the fourth bay, the remaining bays have double-hung windows.

Interior:

On the interior, the main block's floor plan is largely intact with two rooms on each side of a central stair hall on all three floors. There is a single apartment on each side of the first floor's stair hall and there is one unit that occupies the entire second floor, retaining the open stair hall. Unused rooms on the third floor are likely the former living space for household help. The staircase has its original, dark stained, elaborately turned newel post and railing with turned balusters and rounded handrail. The base of the staircase flairs at the first floor, and the railing wraps around the second floor landing and continues across the second floor stair hall. The original railing on the third floor has been removed and replaced with a rough board railing. The original front-back stair hall space remains intact on the third floor. On the second floor, the rear quarter has been enclosed for use as a bathroom. On the first floor, the front third of the hall remains open; the middle third, alongside the staircase, has been enclosed for use as a bathroom for the south unit; and the rear third has been enclosed and is a bathroom for the north unit. The rear rooms in the first floor units have access to the adjacent room in the rear wing, where their kitchens are located. Historically, this space likely served as the kitchen area for the house.

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The primary rooms and halls retain their decorative finishes, including original wide molded baseboards, peaked lintels with molded caps over windows and doors, molded four panel doors with original hardware, paneled pocket doors between the front parlor and dining room on the south side's first floor, and a built-in china cabinet with peaked lintel and molded doors in the dining room on the rear south side. The first floor north unit retains historic built-in cabinetry with shelving above, remnants from a period when this section of the building served as a storefront. On the third floor, the trim is wide and plain but narrower than on other floors. There are peaked lintels over windows and doors but they do not have molded caps, and the four panel doors are flat, not molded, an indication that the space was less significant and perhaps not used by the family members.

The apartment units in the wing retain some historic wide, plain trim and panel doors, although most are not molded. The simpler trim of the wing indicates its more utilitarian origins. Vertical board wainscoting remains in the kitchen of the first floor rear unit (4). The entry door to the first floor, front unit (3) has a large window with two molded recessed panels above and four below.

Historic photographs from c. 1900 indicate that there were several barns that stood to the rear of the wing and may have been attached. Included in these buildings was a very large, gable front barn. These buildings are now gone but remnants of the foundations remain.

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The Augustus and Laura Blaisdell House, built in 1868 in Chester Depot, Vermont, is locally significant under Criterion C as an example of a transitional Greek Revival/Italianate-style residence. The vernacular building was designed with a dual purpose, which included commercial space originally highlighted by a large plate-glass show window. The Blaisdell House presents a traditional temple front form with a steeply pitched front-gabled roof framed by wide overhanging eaves that are emphasized by a plain frieze and bed molding. The unique two-part window lintels incorporate an Italianate segmental arch topped by a Greek Revival-style peaked head. Located prominently at the center of the community, the imposing building was constructed on land purchased by Laura Blaisdell following her marriage to Augustus Blaisdell, a successful merchant who moved to Vermont by 1860 to serve as agent for his family’s fireproof roofing and paint company. The location of the Blaisdell House alongside the tracks of the Champlain and Connecticut River Railroad was strategic in order to provide ease in the transportation of goods to the village of Chester Depot from the New Hampshire-based headquarters of A.H. Blaisdell & Co. This convenient location, coupled with the imposing building’s fashionable architectural expression and commercial show window, served as advertisement for the business, which aided in fostering new construction during a period of the rapid growth in the village and surrounding areas. The Blaisdell House stands auspiciously within a core group of commercial and residential buildings that hallmark the mid-19th century growth of the village as a direct result of the railroad and its depot. The building’s period of significance is 1868, the year it was built as a house and store for Augustus and Laura Blaisdell.

Blaisdell House History

On March 17, 1868, Laura Blaisdell bought an undeveloped parcel of land from Horace Deming for \$375.00. The Beers map indicates that a house, the footprint of which consisted of a main block and rear wing, had been built on the parcel by 1869. Laura (White) Blaisdell was born in 1829 in New Hampshire. In 1853 she married Augustus Blaisdell in Nashua, New Hampshire. Augustus was born c. 1832 in New Hampshire, and in 1850 he was single and living in Londonderry, New Hampshire; by 1860 he was living in Rutland, Vermont and married to Laura. Directories indicate that the Blaisdell family operated a company that manufactured fireproof roofing and paint in New Hampshire. Augustus worked as an agent for the company in Vermont. The location of the new Blaisdell House alongside the railroad tracks in the newly developing Village of Chester Depot provided him with easy access to the railroad and the arrival of goods from the family’s operation in New Hampshire. Likewise, the prominent location of the large home in the heart of this village emphasized the strength of the business and easily attracted customers. A historic photograph from c. 1887 shows the Blaisdell House aside the active tracks with a large storefront window and sign above located on the first story north front, likely the outlet for the Blaisdell’s fireproof roofing and paint company. Twenty years after building the house, Laura executed her last will and testament on August 7, 1888, which left all of her property to Augustus. The will was probated on September 13, 1888.

On May 18, 1891, Augustus sold the property to Alphonzo Oaks for \$3,000. By this time Blaisdell had moved to Warwick, Massachusetts, closing the family’s Vermont company store. Oakes retained ownership until November 1891 when he sold it to Harriet Bosworth, who in turn sold it to Charles Franklin Howe in 1895. The 1880 census indicates Howe was born in 1861 in Ludlow, Vermont, and

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lived in Chester with his parents and his 18-year-old brother, Henry. The 1884 Child’s Gazetteer indicates that Howe was then living in North Chester, working as a dealer in eggs and an agent for the American Sewing Machine Company. Directories indicate that Howe went into business with Fred Leland in 1893, opening a general merchandise store in the former Blaisdell House in Chester Depot. The men remained partners through the early years of the 20th century, with Leland ultimately operating the store on his own until 1918. The 1900 census recorded Charles Howe was a merchant in Chester Depot who owned his home and lived with his wife, son and daughter. In 1905 the Blaisdell House appeared on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, containing Howe’s grocery store in addition to its residential use as their home. The 1910 census indicated that Howe was no longer working as a merchant but was a laborer doing odd jobs. The change in his occupation as noted by the census and the 1912 Sanborn map, documents the Blaisdell House’s use solely as a single-family dwelling, with boarders to support the family’s expenses.

In July 1920 the property was conveyed to William Spaulding, a farmer, by Charles Howe’s guardian, Charles Waterman. The building remained in the hands of various members of the Spaulding family until 1940. During these years it appears the building was only used for residential purposes.

Gordie B. Hart bought the property from Edward and Lulu Spaulding in 1940 and retained ownership until 1962. Hart lived at the house and operated the Chester Super Service Station and International Service on a portion of the property. This business was an auto dealership that also sold accessories and had a garage that did repairs. In the 1950s, the business was known as Hart’s Sales and Service. The commercial space on the first floor, which retains its historic storefront cabinetry and shelving, was used as an electric appliance repair shop in the 1940s and 1950s.

Architectural Significance

The large house, with its commanding presence in the village, is a largely intact example of a wood frame, 2½ story, gable-front, transitional Greek Revival/Italianate-style house and wing with intact decorative vernacular features both inside and out. The building is noteworthy for its distinctive window caps consisting of a peaked head with an Italianate segmental arch set over a piece of plain trim. These caps are striking, as they are an unusual form of the peaked lintels commonly found on late Greek Revival-style buildings in the state. A windshield survey conducted in 2012, as well as an analysis of the National Register documentation for the two National Register-listed historic districts in the town of Chester—South Village Historic District (also known as Chester Village) and the Stone Village Historic District—as well as the Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey for Chester (the State Register-listing for the town of Chester), did not reveal any other buildings in the community with similarly designed window heads.

In both Chester Depot and nearby Chester Village, the long-popular Greek Revival temple is the most common building form, along with a few associated classical design elements. The basic temple form – oriented toward the street with usually a three-bay gable front (several five-bay versions also exist, reflecting the lingering Federal influence) occurs repeatedly. While most buildings are wood frame vernacular structures, along with Greek Revival details they exhibit various combinations of popular

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decorative features from the Italianate and the Queen Anne styles. These include elements such as cornice brackets, bay windows, and porches with paneled pillars and square pedestals. These design elements reflect the periods of the two villages' most intensive development.

The Blaisdell House follows in these building traditions using a traditional temple front form and mixing decorative elements, in a vernacular presentation, from the Greek Revival- and Italianate-styles of the period. The main block's symmetrical, gable front form, fenestration pattern, and layout are all hallmarks of the Greek Revival building tradition, one that remained popular in Vermont well into the late 19th century. The paneled central front door with its transom and full-length sidelights framed by a simple, wide surround reflect late Greek Revival entry treatments. The two remaining 6/6 double-hung windows on the rear of the main block remain as a record of the building's original openings, containing sash that were used during the period. The unique two-part window lintels on most of the openings incorporate an Italianate segmental arch topped by a Greek Revival-style peaked head.

On the interior of the main block, the wide molded baseboards and wide surrounds with peaked lintels over windows and doors are also typical traits of the late Greek Revival style, as are the many interior four-panel doors. The building's layout, with central front to back stair hall flanked by two rooms, front and back, on each side remains largely intact on all three floors. This layout, more commonly found on eaves-front buildings, is a result of the building's large, broad massing, wider on the five-bay gable front than the four-bay eaves sides. The rear wing, with its simpler trim treatment of wide plain baseboards and peaked window and door heads that lack the molding found in the main block, reflects the more utilitarian nature of this portion of the building. Remaining four-panel interior doors and paneled exterior doors continue to tie the renovated wing to its late 19th century origin.

Embellishment of the front façade, facing the railroad tracks and depot, as well as the crossroads and town green, with Italianate-style features made a modern statement and tied the building to the newly in-vogue style. This indicated to all that the owners of this new building, who sold construction materials-paint and fireproof roofing, were up-to-date on the latest construction ideas and architectural fashions. The style is manifest in elements including the round arched window in the gable peak and narrow, paired windows in the central front bays on the second and third stories. The decorative, flat roofed front porch with a molded cornice and square posts with molded, recessed panel pedestals and plain bases dresses up the front façade in the Italianate style. On the interior, the elaborate central staircase with its flared base and elaborately turned newel post and turned balusters, adds elegance to the public entry hall. Paneled pocket doors between the parlor and dining room, on the south side, and a built-in china cabinet in the dining room, add Italianate-style ambiance in the public rooms of the house. These features reflect standard Italianate interior conventions and provide references to the popular designs and materials of the period.

Along with the stylistic features, the building retains its stone foundation, weatherboard siding and wood trim, slate roof, and 2/2 double-hung windows. Storefront cabinetry and shelving that remain in the first floor north unit tie this section of the building to its use as a commercial space off and on throughout the history of building. The storefront window shown in the c. 1887 historic photograph was replaced at an

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unknown date with two double-hung windows matching the rest of the windows and trim on the front façade.

The building’s large and stylish presence facing the heart of the newly developing village of Chester Depot and its transportation arteries was a strong advertisement for the recently arrived representative of the New Hampshire-based A.H. Blaisdell & Co. The largely intact building continues to reflect the long-standing Greek Revival-style building tradition in Vermont coupled with then-current Italianate style detail. It stands in the heart of the village as an example of the community’s rapid period of growth during the thirty-five year period after the railroad arrived in 1849.

Development of Chester Depot

Chester Depot was an undeveloped area of open land before 1848 when the Champlain and Connecticut River Railroad, chartered by an act of the Vermont Legislature in 1845, began construction of a rail line between the Village of Bellows Falls, on Vermont’s eastern border, and the Town of Cavendish, approximately thirty-five miles to the northwest. This line passed directly through what would become Chester Depot and eventually connected to Rutland, on the western side of the state. The arrival of the railroad in 1849 and construction of its first depot in the area that is now Chester Depot precipitated additional construction and the growth of a surrounding village. A core group of several commercial buildings were built near the tracks, with residential construction radiating outward from there. The 1856 Doton map and the 1860 Walling map indicate that, at the time of the two maps, there was just one building and the depot in the area. By the time of the 1869 Beers map, however, much of the village had been developed with houses and commercial buildings, including the Blaisdell House.

The village of Chester Depot developed in an area located between the 19th century political, religious and commercial rival villages – the North Village (also known as the Stone Village) and the South Village (also known as Chester Village). Chester Depot became the neutral ground where the community’s town hall was eventually built facing the green in 1884. Prior to that, town meetings were held alternately each year in the North and South Villages. Several stores and a hotel were built around the triangular village green in Chester Depot, conveniently located near the railroad tracks. Railroad-related wood sheds and a freight house were built alongside the tracks along with the depot. The Blaisdell House’s prominent location facing the tracks adds a residential component to this crossroads development.

The village grew throughout the 19th century and, by the end of the century, Chester Depot had become one of the busiest stations on the entire Rutland Railroad, which was operating the line after several reorganizations. Five passenger trains per day, in each direction, stopped during this period giving Chester direct rail connections to Boston, New York, Montreal and other cities. After the turn of the 20th century, rail service began a gradual decline and led to a loss of small commercial and industrial enterprises in the village. Passenger service ended in 1953 and freight in 1963. The waning commercial use of the Blaisdell House reflects this decline in the mid-20th century.

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Augustus and Laura Blaisdell House

Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Blaisdell, Augustus and Laura,
House

Name of Property

Chester, Windsor County, Vermont

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Verbal Boundary Description

The Augustus and Laura Blaisdell House is also known as 517 Depot Street in the village of Chester Depot. The building is located on a .87 acre triangular parcel located at the intersection of Depot Street and Vermont Route 103. The tax lot number is 58-50-57.

Boundary Justification

The present boundary is the land historically associated with the house. It is sufficient to convey the historic significance of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Blaisdell, Augustus and Laura, House

Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photograph Identification Sheet

Page 1

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Blaisdell, Augustus and Laura, House
Chester, Windsor County, Vermont
Photographs by Suzanne Jamele
January 2012
CD on file at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photograph #1 of 14

Looking southwesterly from town green toward the Blaisdell House in far center of image.

Photograph #2 of 14

Looking northerly at Blaisdell House with railroad depot in center.

Photograph #3 of 14

Looking northwesterly at rear of parcel at deteriorated shed and former barn foundations of concrete (foreground) and stone.

Photograph #4 of 14

Looking westerly at front and south side elevations.

Photograph #5 of 14

Looking northerly at south side of house and wing.

Photograph #6 of 14

Looking easterly at north and rear sides of house and wing.

Photograph #7 of 14

Detail of window caps consisting of a peaked head with a segmentally arched base set over a piece of plain trim.

Photograph #8 of 14

Looking westerly at Greek Revival style front entry with transom and full length sidelights, now boarded up, and simple surround. Also, detail of Italianate style front porch posts.

Photograph #9 of 14

Looking westerly at central staircase in first floor stair hall at front of building.

Photograph #10 of 14

Looking southerly at former storefront cabinetry in first floor front room on main block. Note peaked head over door to entry hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Blaisdell, Augustus and Laura, House

Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photograph Identification Sheet

Page 2

Photograph #11 of 14

Looking easterly at south rear room of main block (dining room). Note pocket doors, peaked window heads, china cabinet on left.

Photograph #12 of 14

Looking southwesterly in second floor rear bedroom on northwest side. Note wide baseboards, molded and peaked heads on molded four panel doors.

Photograph #13 of 14

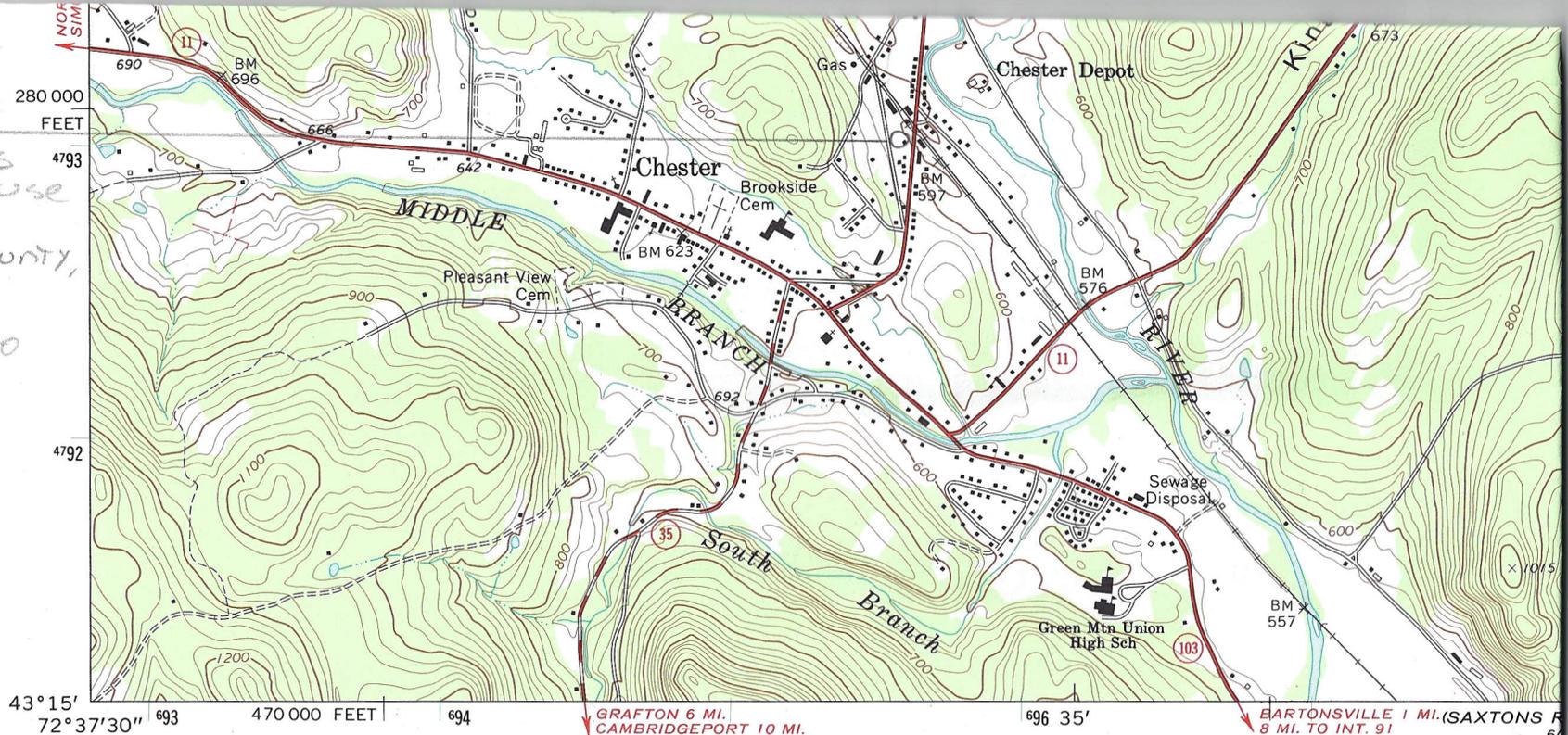
Looking northeasterly in third floor front room on north side. Note simpler peaked heads over doors and windows.

Photograph #14 of 14

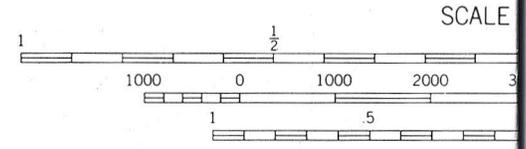
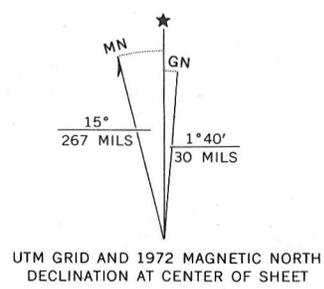
Looking westerly at the Blaisdell House, c. 1887, courtesy of the University of Vermont Special Collections.

Blaisdell, Augustus
and Laura, House
Chester, Windsor County,
VERMONT
18-695549-4793090

6470 II
(SAXTONS RIVER)
1:62,500



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Vermont coordinate system (transverse Mercator)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS



AVON ST 1041

STOP

Coca-Cola









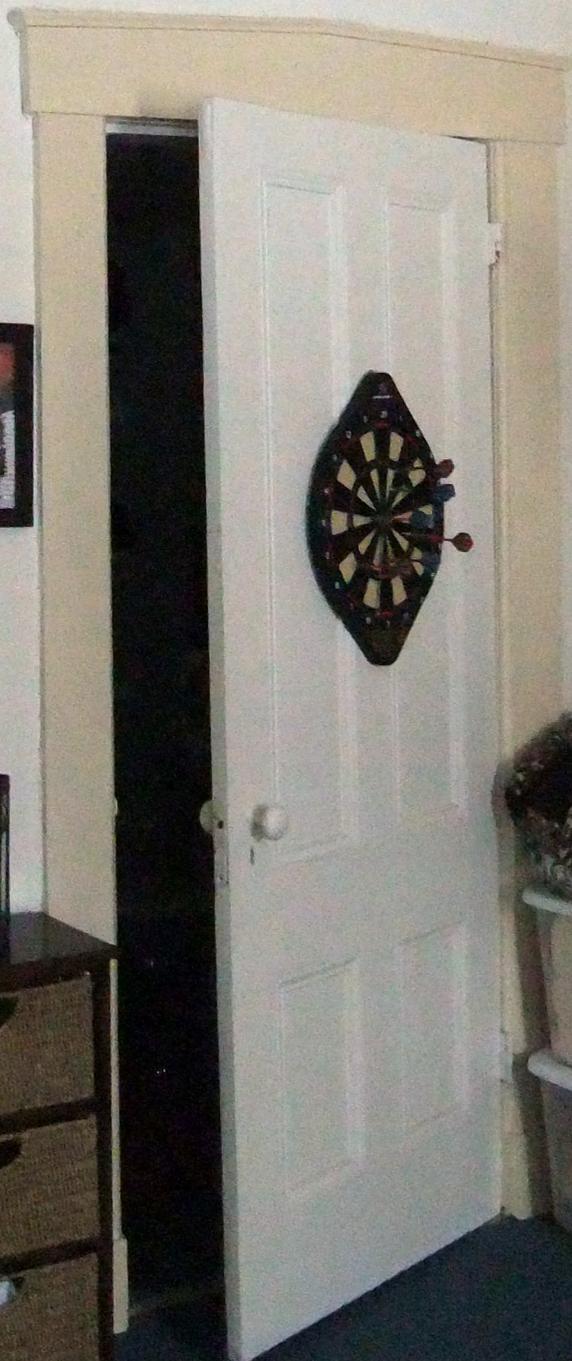




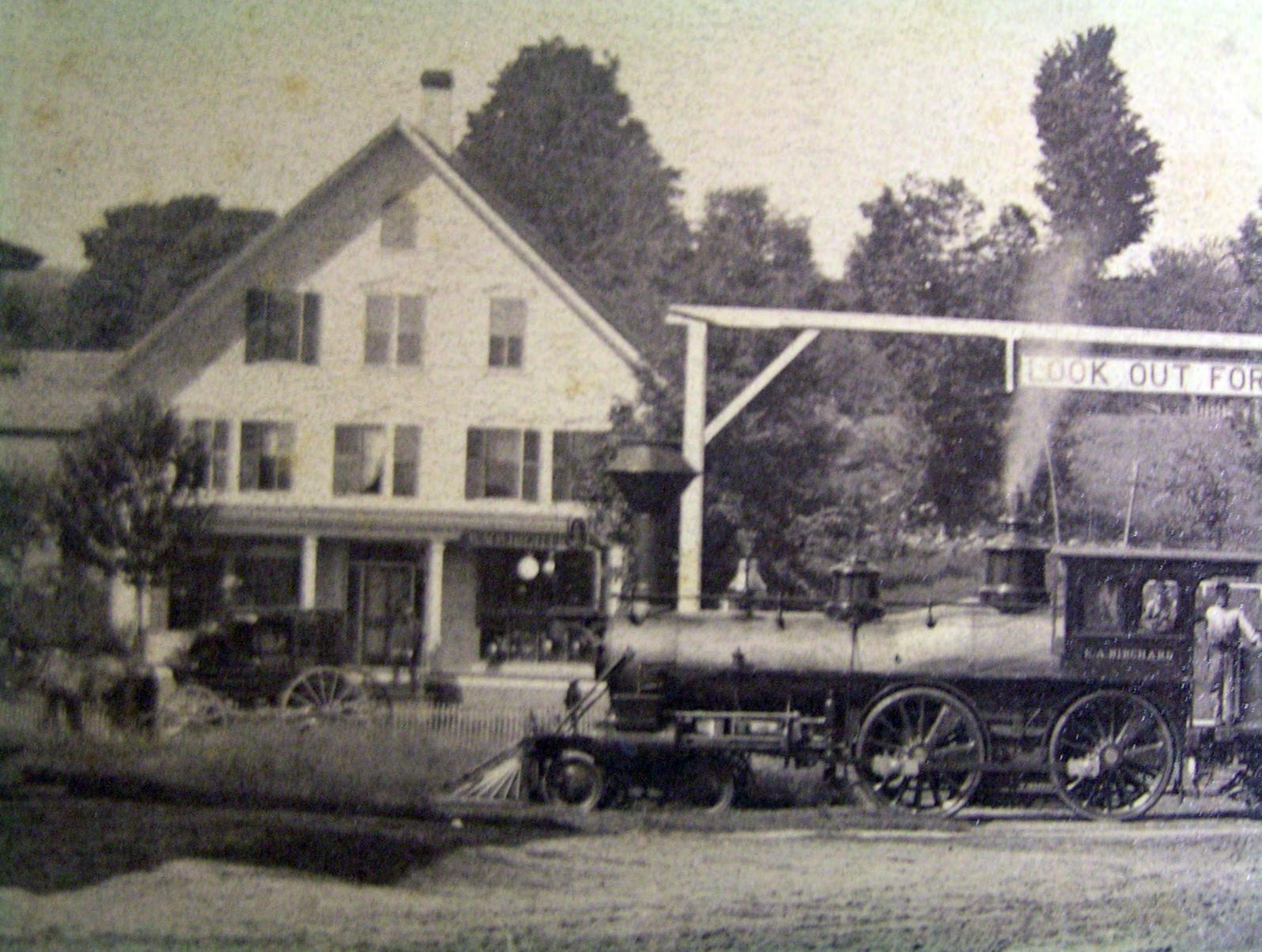












LOOK OUT FOR

H.A. BIRCHARD