

## **Introduction and Background I**

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### Introduction

The Chittenden South Supervisory Union and Charlotte Central School Board commissioned an assessment of the Charlotte Central School site and building. The objective of this study was to:

1. Inspect and evaluate the condition of the school building and site.
2. Provide recommendations to meet short-term and long-range goals of the school and community.

Considerations were made to review the future use of the school facility, looking ahead to the next 40 years, as it relates to building systems and equipment as well as the safety of building occupants. Any possible schemes shall support the integration of energy efficiency, renewable energy technology and environmentally friendly materials to the extent feasible.

### Brief History

A three story school building was originally constructed in 1949. Charlotte Central School had 4 additions since then, with a total approximate area of 91,242 square feet. A single story classroom addition was added north of the original building in 1969. The Town Hall, built in 1938, was renovated into the school kitchen and cafeteria at the lower level and gym. In 1987 the gym was renovated into the school library and media center. Also in 1987, a single story addition was constructed to include a multipurpose room, stage, lockers and a music room east of the 1969 classroom building. A second story addition above the 1969 classroom addition was most recently added in 1996, as well as a gym addition south of the multipurpose room.

The Charlotte School has seen a recent decline in enrollment. The School had an enrollment of 461 students, grades PreK-8, in 2006. Projected enrollment is 419 students in 2016.

### Documentation

This report is based on information gathered by visual observations of the building and site reviewed by Dore & Whittier Architects, Inc. and its consultants in July 2007, existing building drawings, and documents\*, discussions and input from school staff, administration, school board and building committee members.

During our study a general review of current codes was performed. Codes used in this review are: 2005 Vermont Fire and Safety Code (and referenced adopted codes), Federal Handicap Accessibility Guidelines - ADAAG (ADA), and Vermont Department of Education Regulations.

\*Charlotte Central Mechanical Systems Review, William Root, PE, dated December 16, 2006