

# 70 McIndoes Academy

Town of Barnet, Caledonia County, Vermont

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The McIndoes Academy, chartered in 1853, hails from a time in Vermont's history when establishing private educational institutions was a priority. Located along Route 5 in the small village of McIndoes Village in Barnet, the Academy was one of over 25 private academies that were chartered in Vermont between the years of 1849 and 1853.

The idea of building a private academy in Barnet to provide more advanced instruction for the young people of the region had been contemplated for many years. After land for the Academy was donated by Dea Gilchrist, under the supervision of master carpenter, William Carr Martin, construction began in the spring of 1853 and was completed that same summer. Community members believing in the need for the Academy made donations in the form of lumber and man hours. Farmers used their ox teams to dig the cellar hole and haul stone and lumber, joining together for a true community effort.

The result was a Greek Revival style building featuring a full two story projecting entrance portico which frames two central bays of the front elevation and two-tiered cupola, topped by a Mansard dome. The original cost was \$5,005 which included a \$2,500 gift from a Dr. Brewer that allowed the Academy to open debt free.

The McIndoes Academy welcomed its first students in September 1853, shortly after construction was completed. The Reverend Edward Cleveland, a Yale graduate, became the first principal of the Academy, Miss Elizabeth Harvey was the Academy's preceptress and Mrs. W.W. Thayer, taught music and drawing.

Over time, the Academy's interior underwent significant modernization alterations to meet state educational standards and health and safety codes. After educating secondary school-aged students for almost 120 years, the McIndoes Academy closed in 1969. The building now houses the McIndoes Academy Library, the U.S. Post Office, a museum and community center.

In 1975 The McIndoes Academy building was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Sources:**

"Founding of McIndoes Academy." Barnet, Vermont—McIndoes Academy. The U.S. GenWeb Project. Web accessed May 2013 by S. Holcomb. from [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtcbarne/barnet\\_mcia.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtcbarne/barnet_mcia.htm)

National Register of Historic Places. McIndoes Academy. Town of Barnet. Caledonia County. Vermont. Reference # 75000137. Web accessed by S. Holcomb May 2013 from <http://www.crjc.org/heritage/V18-116.htm>