

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 an 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 Squire, Frederick, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 185 North Street N/A not for publication

city or town Bennington N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Bennington code 003 zip code 05201

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Eric Silberman Dir. SHPO 6/28/92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the  
National Register

Date of Action

Helena Byars

7/30/92

Squire, Frederick, House  
Name of Property

Bennington County, Vermont  
County and State

**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)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard  
shingle

roof slate

other wood

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Bennington, Bennington Co., VTSection number 7 Page 1

The Frederick Squire House, located at 185 North Street in Bennington, Vermont, is a large, 2 1/2 story, wood frame, gable-front house built c.1887 in the Queen Anne style with transitional Colonial Revival period features. It is clapboard-sided and ornamented with bands of wood shingles, projecting porches and bay windows typical of the Queen Anne style, and oval keystone windows of the Colonial Revival style. The c.1910 front porch was enclosed with windows c.1960. The house, built on a corner lot at the southeast intersection of North and Gage streets, was originally surrounded by other contemporary houses. In the early 1900s the site to the south of the house was developed as a school and schoolyard. Today the house is the last Queen Anne style house in its nearly original state on North Street.

Exterior:

The Squire House, built c.1887, is a 2 1/2 story, wood frame structure with an irregular plan, pedimented gable roofs and is situated on the southeast corner of North Street and Gage Street in the town of Bennington. Its gable front faces east onto North Street. The house sits on brick and stone piers that have been infilled with concrete. Exterior siding materials are clapboard and wood shingles cut in decorative shapes. A band of imbricated shingles wraps the building between the first and second floors. The roofing is slate laid in patterns. Windows have 6/1, 4/1, multi-pane, and 1/1 sash with some simple Queen Anne detailing in some of the upper sash. Storm windows have been installed over the windows.

The main, gable-front facade of the Squire House has its entrance in the middle of the left half. Covering it is a full-width porch on the first floor and above it to the left an enclosed sleeping porch with a projecting gable roof. The first floor porch, c.1910, has a shed roof and is recessed somewhat into the main block of the house. The right half of the porch is a canted bay projection with a hip roof. The porch was enclosed in the 1960s with long single pane windows and clapboards around the bottom. The sleeping porch has chamfered, decorative posts on the corners, multi-paned windows on all sides, and an entablature under the pedimented gable roof. Within the pediment are imbricated shingles and a small, round-arched vent. To the right of the upper porch are paired 1/1 windows. The lower half of the gable peak is slightly recessed, with imbricated shingles at its lower edge

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and in the middle has paired 4/1 windows and half-timbering with stucco infill. The upper half of the gable has a round-arched vent in the center and is covered in fishscale wooden shingles flush with the roofline.

The north side elevation has a two story bay projection with a gabled roof near the middle of the wall. The first floor has a small, square stair window in the wall toward the front of the house. On the second floor is a window with a Queen Anne top sash to the left and right of the bay and to the right, between the bay and the window is an oval window with keystones. The center bay has paired windows with the Queen Anne top sash on the first and second floors. Above the second floor windows are panels filled with decorative wooden shingles. Above the panels is a projecting panel supported by four carved brackets. The gable end of the projection is somewhat irregular, extending further down to the right with its overhanging eave being supported by three decorative brackets. The gable peak has paired 2/2 windows surrounded by half-timbering and stucco infill and topped by clapboards.

The south side wall is distinguished by a canted corner bay toward the back of the house. The first floor has a large window with a round arched top sash to the left, and to the right on the other side of the bay, the side entrance to the recessed back porch with two 6/1 sash and an open entryway. This porch dates c.1910 and has the same chamfered posts as the sleeping porch. The second floor has a window with Queen Anne top sash to the left and to the right, oval, keystoned windows on each side of the bay projection. The bay window has three windows on each floor, the second floor windows having the Queen Anne top sash. Below the first floor windows of the bay are panels of decorative applied woodwork. The bay is topped by a pedimented gable, whose pediment contains paired multi-paned windows and wood shingled walls.

The rear (west) wall has a c.1910 porch projecting from the righthand side. It is supported by chamfered posts and has a round arched vent in the gable peak. The porch has imbricated shingles around the lower half. The space between the posts has been filled in with clapboards. All the way to the left on the first floor is a small 1/1 window and abutting the porch is a larger 1/1 window. On the second floor are two 12/1 windows separated by a wooden panel, but sharing a common sill and lintel. In the gable peak, which has cornice returns, is a small multi-paned window.

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Squire, Frederick, House  
Bennington, Bennington Co., VT

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Interior:

The interior of the house is dominated by the extensive original woodwork, "broken" stairwell, built-in cabinetry, and spindlework. The main hall on the first floor contains a "broken" stairwell with a "casket corner." The walls have three foot high double beaded wainscoting. The double doors leading into the front parlor contain a spindlework transom "screen." The spindlework is repeated in the arched window of the south elevation.

Ceilings in the great hall and dining room are covered in raised ceiling paper and pressed metal, respectively. The dining room and kitchen contain built-in glassed enclosed shelving. A small water closet under the stairwell was converted to a modern bathroom c. 1964. Two original fireplaces with Italian tile are located in the front parlor and the sitting room.

The upper story is in its original configuration. There is wainscoting in all the bedrooms, bathrooms, and closets. Window surrounds have bulls-eye corner blocks. A small triangular spindlework screen is located in the center hallway at the stairwell. The right front bedroom contains a "Victorian" door that does not provide access; rather, it provides symmetry to the room. The left front bedroom contains a door leading to the sleeping porch with a stained glass light in the upper half.

The third, or attic, floor is plain with little ornamentation.

Squire, Frederick, House  
Name of Property

Bennington County, Vermont  
County and State

## 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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

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

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

c. 1887

### Significant Dates

c. 1887

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Squire, Frederick, House  
Name of Property

Bennington County, Vermont  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	8
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6	4	7	2	2	0
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4	7	4	9	1	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2 

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3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vicki Welcher

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date December 20, 1988; revised 1992

street & number 2021 Gardenbrook Lane telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32301

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Paul Harsch

street & number Crow Hill Farm telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Pownal state Vermont zip code 05261

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Bennington, Bennington Co., VT

The Frederick Squire House, a large 2 1/2 story building on the corner of North and Gage streets, is one of the earliest and most elaborate examples of the Queen Anne style in Bennington. It was built c.1887 by Frederick Squire, a prosperous local jeweler, to replace his old family home on the same site.

The c.1887 Squire House, with its irregular form, rich wall surfaces of clapboards and decoratively cut shingles, and two story projecting bays, is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style in the town of Bennington. It is believed to be the the only known house in town from this period that uses half-timbering and stucco as ornamentation.

Of the over 2,000 buildings that have been surveyed to date in the town of Bennington, twenty-two houses are classified as Queen Anne in style. The majority (nine) are located along Main Street, with three each on Gage and Bradford streets, two on Union Street, and the rest on other streets. They range in date of construction from the mid 1880s to the early 1900s. (Construction dates in the survey were based on visual evidence and some research.) Of these Queen Anne style houses in Bennington, the Frederick Squire House is among the oldest and most elaborate. Several others are also embellished with imbricated shinglework, but the Squire House is the only one with half-timbering and stucco detail.

The house was built c.1887 by Frederick Squire. Squire was born on November 8, 1831, in Bennington, and was the son of Newell Squire, who was born in Bennington in 1795 and was a leading citizen in town. Newell Squire was a jeweler and a tanner, and owned property on North Street, one of the major streets leading into the town. Early Sanborn insurance maps show that Squire owned a large parcel of land at the corner of North and Gage streets. His tannery was located on the north bank of the Walloomsac River, on the east side of North Street, until it burned c.1850. Squire built his home, a 1 1/2 story wood frame building, on the southeast corner of North and Gage streets.

Frederick Squire opened his own jewelers store on May 1, 1854. The shop was operated the first twelve years with his partner, Horace P. Bradley. In 1876 Squire dissolved the partnership, and ran the business himself for the next 11 years. In 1887 he became partners with E. E. Rawson. This

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Squire, Frederick, House  
Bennington, Bennington Co., VT

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partnership lasted seven years. For the last ten years of his business career, Squire maintained his enterprise as a single proprietor.

During the fifty years that Squire maintained his business in Bennington, he became an influential figure in the civic, social, and economic activities in town. On March 16, 1868, he acquired the corner lot on North Street from his aged and ailing father. As part of their agreement, Squire agreed not to alter the family home and to house his father until his father's death. Newell Squire died on May 5, 1880.

By about 1887 Frederick Squire was able to construct a house he felt was suitable for his station in society. At this time, Bennington was undergoing a period of prosperity and new, elaborate houses were being built up and down North Street. It is believed that Squire razed the family house and then constructed this building on its site. In 1904 Squire died of tuberculosis. The house was then purchased by a local resident, who is the one who probably added the front and rear porches c.1910. From 1964 to 1984, the structure was used as a nunnery for the school on the adjacent property. In 1987 the structure was renovated after having been used as a storage facility for several years. Its current function is as a real estate office.

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Bibliography

Aldrich, Lewis Cass, ed. History of Bennington County, Vermont. (Syracuse, N.Y.: D. Mason and Co., 1889).

Child, Hamilton, comp. Gazetteer and Business Directory of Bennington County, Vt., for 1880-1881. (Syracuse, N.Y.: 1880).

Sanborn Maps for Mutual Fire Insurance Companies of Vermont, 1885, 1891.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey, Town of Bennington. 1988.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: That portion of Lot #05665 as described in Plat Book 262, page 245 of the town of Bennington, Vermont, with the square footage of 28,050, with a front of 90 feet and depth of 181 feet.

Boundary Justification: The boundary follows the lot that has been historically associated with the property.