

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Vergennes Historic District  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

Along Main Street, Otter Creek Falls--east and west banks,  
MacDonough Drive, Maple and North Maple Streets, North Street,  
Green and Park Streets.

CITY, TOWN Vergennes		VICINITY OF		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Vermont	
STATE Vermont	CODE 50	COUNTY Addison	CODE 001	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Town Clerk of Vergennes

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Vergennes

STATE  
Vermont

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE  
Vermont

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Vergennes Historic District comprises three distinct yet closely interconnected sections--residential, commercial, and industrial--which occur in that order as one progresses south on Main Street from Monkton Road to Otter Creek Falls. The density of buildings varies from the well-spaced homes of upper Main Street, to the closely packed shops of the business center and sparsely settled industrial buildings on the falls. Consistent in scale, the district is visually enhanced by strategically situated landmark buildings which act as important focal and transitional points in the streetscape. Eighty buildings ranging from the 1790s to the early twentieth century compose the district, and through their wide variety of functional types reflect the activity of Vergennes as a manufacturing center in the nineteenth century.

Several highly ornate French Second Empire and Italianate houses introduce the district on northern Main Street just below Monkton Road. Much simpler Italianate residences occur repeatedly along this section of the streetscape and are interspersed with a variety of other styles such as the Greek and Colonial Revival, as well as Carpenter Gothic.

The transition to the commercial district is presaged by the increasingly higher density of the buildings and by the Gothic Revival First Methodist Episcopal Church and the Italianized Greek Revival Ryan Block which form the outer curve of the road as it sweeps to the southwest. As the business core is approached, landmark features begin to unfold along the inner bend of the curve: the bold, three-gable side of City Hall, the tower of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and in the distance, the Italianized Stevens House. One intrusion occurs at this point: a high, cylindrical water tower clad in sheet metal, sits behind City Hall and is very evident from the road.

At the head of the commercial district two new views are opened up. The small, finely scaled City Park which is surrounded by houses, St. Paul's Church, the Stevens House, and a contemporary colonialized post office abut Main Street on the north. Continuing in a southwesterly direction, Main Street descends rapidly through the city center and is visually focused on a distant view of the former Vermont Shade Roller Building which dominates the west bank of the Otter Creek Falls and symbolizes the industrial nature of the area.

The streetscape of the commercial core varies: the south side of Main Street is lined with continuous shopfronts while the north side largely consists of free-standing buildings such as Colby Hall, a French Second Empire residence now used

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for apartment units. With their applique of stylistically varied architectural ornament, the commercial blocks and buildings report a long history of reuse. Two, long, two-storied blocks--one dating from 1836 and the other c. 1855--provide great continuity and cohesiveness to the street. The end of this section of the district is firmly defined by the large Neo-Classical Bixby Library with its spacious borders of lawn (north side of Main Street) and LeBeau's Store, a Greek Revival, brick building (south side of Main Street).

At the intersection of Main Street and MacDonough Drive/Water Street, the character of the district begins to change: industrial structures increase in number, buildings become less regularly spaced, and the rugged features of the falls become the dominant visual element. Just below the intersection as the road descends toward the falls, a second intrusion occurs in the form of a small gas station which is attached to a house. This transitional stretch of road is lightly settled but does contain among other buildings a Greek Revival, an Italianate, and a Bungaloid-type house.

Main Street levels out at the falls which is divided into three channels by two islands. A few, late nineteenth-century vestiges of Vergennes' industrial past string across the banks and islands: the pumphouse, the grist mill, and the former Vermont Shade Roller building. The district abandons Main Street at the west edge of the Vermont Shade Roller wing and descends in a northerly direction to the west bank of the creek where buildings presently occupied by the Green Mountain Power Co. are located.

This portion of the district affords a spectacular view of the falls and also of the creek with its low banks and varied concentration of trees and bushes. Penetrating the ledge of the west bank is the remains of a waterworks tunnel which was built in about 1815 and extended from the former Monkton Iron Works at a possible length of 860 feet. Both banks on both sides of the falls saw a succession of nineteenth-century industrial activities though only a handful of buildings remain to record this important phase of Vergennes' history.

The district continues north across the creek and emerges on MacDonough Drive encompassing two almost identical transitional Federal/Greek Revival structures one of which functioned as a store during the period of active shipbuilding and commerce on Otter Creek. Progressing in a southerly direction back toward Main Street, the district takes in the whole east bank of the creek and very importantly includes the site of Commodore MacDonough's Shipyard. The street gradually winds away from the low, tree-lined banks of Otter Creek; few houses occur along the east bank. Close to Main Street,

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the road makes a steep ascent. The rugged terrain on the east bank partially obscures the falls, while the left side of the road is bordered by two Greek Revival houses, the last of which has been transformed with extensive frame additions. This house sits on a huge hill studded with boulders and commanding an excellent view of the falls. Referred to as "Battery Hill" in an 1871 atlas, it was probably the site of MacDonough's fortifications for the shipyard.

A visual separation occurs between "Battery Hill" and the library property: at one time North Street extended west beyond North Maple Street through this property to MacDonough Drive. It is now completely overgrown but a space remains. Encompassing this entire hill section bounded by MacDonough Drive, Main, Maple and North Maple Streets, the district continues up North Street with City Park and its surrounding buildings as the visual focus. Ascending still further, the district follows North Street past the copse of trees near St. Paul's Rectory, a small cluster of frame garages and carriage houses, an early nineteenth-century clapboard house and finally emerges back onto Main Street.

The district is extremely cohesive having only two intrusions and about eight buildings that make little contribution to its architectural character. A very few buildings are standing vacant and most are in a constant cycle of reuse. While the condition of the buildings in the district is generally good, several are in need of paint and repairs.

The architecturally significant buildings within the district are:

3. Herrick Stevens House - Italianate style, 1866. Herrick Stevens, son of wealthy and influential Thomas Stevens, returned to Vergennes in the 1850's after amassing a small fortune in the Chicago hotel trade. The house is a 2-story, clapboarded building with a stone foundation and a slate-covered hip roof. The square main block is given an irregular effect by the recessed south wing, a 1½-story rear ell with a porch, and a small porch on the north elevation. On the 2-bay facade a ground story bay window balances the small, off-center entrance porch which is supported on paneled posts with capitals. The fenestration consists of single and paired rectangular 1/1 double-hung sash with segmental arch surrounds and cap-molded lintels. Paneled corner pilasters, a wide frieze with lozenge-shaped panels, large, paired consoles, and a modillion box cornice add the main decorative elements. A square cupola with paired consoles and a valanceboard running along the box cornice surmounts the house. In 1964 the rear ell was extensively remodeled to

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to allow for kitchen facilities and an enclosed porch abutting the ell was added a year or two later. A 1½-story carriage barn is at the rear of the house.

5. John Clark House - Italianate, c. 1875. Erected by a wealthy businessman, this ornate residence is a 2-story, clapboarded, frame building with a partially exposed stone foundation and a hip roof. The dominant feature of the 5-bay facade is a projecting center porch consisting of thin, ornate posts on pedestals supporting a flat roof which in turn supports a second-story bay window with large 2/2 round-arched windows. This bay window motif is repeated on the first floor of the north and south elevations. Fenestration is emphatic due to the heavy, elaborate trim used: 2/2 windows have segmental arch tops and cornice lintels resting on brackets. Ornament is extensively used as evidenced by the paneled pilasters, the wide, paneled frieze which is punctuated by small lozenge-shaped eyebrow windows, alternating with paired consoles and jigsaw-cut trim on the cornice. The generously proportioned cupola with its slate-sheathed mansard roof and bull's eye window dormers shows the influence of the French Second Empire style. On the southwest corner of the house is appended a hip-roofed ell with a denticular and bracketed cornice. A bracketed porch supported by posts resting on a low balustrade spans the 3-bay facade. Window treatment on the ell is consistent with that of the main block.
8. "Willow Cottage" - Carpenter Gothic style, c. 1845. Formerly the residence of an attorney, Solon Burroughs, this 1½-story, frame, clapboarded, gable-roofed house is L-shaped in plan and has elaborate, scroll-sawn vergeboards in the gable ends and the gable-roofed entrance porch. Enclosed porches have been added along the inner sides of the ell.
9. Old Judge Fish House - vernacular French Second Empire style, c. 1870. Much akin in massing and detail to its Italianate neighbors, the former residence of Judge Fish--a prominent Vergennes citizen in the late nineteenth century--is distinguished from them largely by its mansard roof. The house follows the basic pattern established by No.'s 3 and 5, that is, a clapboarded, frame block with a wing and/or an attached ell, but is less ornate. At the extreme left of the 4-bay facade is a small entrance porch with openwork posts, while slightly right of center is a bay window with small brackets and 2/2 rectangular windows. Second-story windows have segmental arch tops and cap-molded entablatures. An unadorned frieze and small box cornice with paired pendant brackets give

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- give rise to a slate-covered mansard roof from which project three 2/2 round-arched dormer windows and three brick chimneys. Along the angle formed by the intersection of the gable-roofed north wing and the main block is a porch with posts and balustrades. A rear ell is attached to the wing. A carriage barn with a gable roof and vergeboard trim is at the rear.
10. Cecile Rheaume House - French Second Empire style, c. 1875. The house is very similar in overall conception to Nos. 3, 5 and 9. The central feature of the three-bay facade is an entrance porch embellished with paired, scrolled brackets and octagonal posts; upon this, sits at the second-story level, a bay window surmounted by an arched hood with a modillion cornice. This bay consists of three 2/2 segmental arched windows each with a hood molding and cartouche-like keystone. There is a similar window on either side of the window bay. On the first-floor the 1/1 sash windows are paired and have segmental arch tops and cap-molded lintels. Above the frieze with its lozenge-shaped panels and the cornice with its paired, scroll-sawn brackets is a mansard roof fenestrated by round-headed 2/2 dormer windows. In 1954 a two-story enclosed porch addition was added to the north side, while on the south was added another porch with an open ground level and enclosed second story. The interior of the clapboarded, frame structure was extensively remodelled when it was divided into apartments during this century.
25. Vergennes City Hall, 1897. Designed by the architects Chappell and Smith, the building originally served as both the city hall and opera house. It presently houses municipal offices and the Vergennes Police Department. The 2½-story, hip-roofed brick building with its high foundation of both rock-faced and smooth marble blocks capped by a marble watertable, is three bays wide and has a central projecting pavilion on the main (south) facade. A central entrance is recessed behind a round arch flanked by two small 2/2 windows on the first story of the pavilion. Above the entranceway is a marble stringcourse, upon which sits a double window with wooden panels below and above it. Above the upper panel is a round-arched window with radiating muntins which is in the face of a pedimented, gabled wall dormer projecting up through the cornice of the slate-sheathed roof. The two end bays of the facade contain 6/9 windows with brick flat arches, on both the first and second stories in vertical axis with each other. The side elevations are dominated by 3 symmetrically spaced double windows which rise from wooden panels resting along the stringcourse. Each set of windows is topped by a round-arched window with radiating muntins, in a pedimented gabled dormer, similar to the arc on the main (south) facade.

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27. St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Gothic Revival style, 1834. Of brick, load bearing construction, the three-bay-wide church is dominated by a projecting center tower into which is set a pointed arched entrance. Completely spanning the height of the tower's second story is a huge quadruple hung window with gothic sash and a total of 192 panes. The brickwork of the tower terminates above the ridge of the gabled roof; above this is a frame stage each face of which is ornamented by an ogee arch filled in with a triple, trefoil-topped, louvered panel. Flanking the central bay of the church are large, blind pointed arches, similar in shape to the three gothic sash windows on the sides of the building. A small frame, 1-story addition with asphalt shingles is appended to the rear. The roof of the church is covered with asphalt shingles on the east side and what appears to be metal sheeting on the west.
29. St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall - Federal (altered), c. 1835. The 3-bay, 1½-story main block (original building) has 2/2 double-hung sash windows with stone lintels and lugsills. Set into a shallow recess with paneled reveals, the off-center door is capped by a semi-elliptical fanlight with a painted brick arch. This building was originally erected to house the law office of F. E. Woodbridge. Until 1890 it was used by a succession of lawyers and was thereafter acquired by St. Paul's Church for use as a parish hall. The one-story wing on the south side makes the building an L-shape and nominally connects it with the church. In expanding the hall, the church sought to be consistent in design and materials with the original fabric.
30. First Methodist Episcopal Church - 1841, remodeled in 1898. A rectangular edifice of brick load bearing construction, the church has a low-pitched, slate-covered gable roof and a square, projecting side tower with an open belfry. Oriented towards the street, the plain gable end is interrupted only by a lunette with quatrefoil stained glass panels and a single, round-arched opening with trefoil, quatrefoil, and rectangular stained glass panels. The quatrefoil motif is again repeated, this time in the transom surmounting the double doors of the tower which give entrance to the church. Clusters of superimposed pilasters flank the semicircular arched openings of the belfry; the tower is capped by a truncated, hipped roof covered with slate.

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31. St. Paul's Rectory - Federal, c. 1820 with many additions. The two-story, clapboarded, rectangular building has a stone foundation and a low-pitched gable roof with asphalt shingles. Two bay window additions with bellcast roofs frame the recessed entrance of the five-bay facade. Extensive additions occur on the rear and side elevations.

Owned in 1825 by a merchant who operated a blast furnace on the falls, the house became the property of U. S. Congressman F. E. Woodbridge in 1857. The church purchased it for its rectory in 1890.

34. Ryan Block - 1848. A very important visual component of the commercial center, the 3½-story, 15-bay block has a truncated gable roof with flared eaves and parapeted double end chimneys. Originally built as a hotel, the block was converted to apartments on the second floor and commercial space on the ground level in 1886, a combined use which it continues today. Architecturally, it combines a number of elements from several different styles: Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne. The entire cornice has jigsaw-cut trim just above the paneled, bracketed frieze. The brick building has a dominating, 2-staged, flat-roofed, wooden cupola with corner pilasters and 12/12 windows. On the ground level is a series of four continuous shopfronts, each separated from the others by double pilasters with Queen Anne style motifs. Indicating the change from commercial to residential space, a heavy entablature with large, paired brackets surmounts the stores.

35. David Aubin House - Federal, c. 1830. The 2-story, 5-bay, brick house has 6/6 windows framed by painted stone lintels and lugsills. The doorway has the fine detailing characteristic of the Federal style: elaborately curvilinear lead glazing bars decorate the sidelights and the three-centered arched transom. Above the transom is a three-centered stone arch while narrow, fluted pilasters frame the sidelights and door. The house has a low-pitched gable roof, brick interior and chimneys, and a two-part, clapboarded, rear addition with exposed basement level. The main portion of the house was built in c. 1830 while the frame section predates 1816. The house combines a wood frame with a brick veneer.

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41. Stevens House - c. 1815, remodeled in the Italianate style in the 1870's.
43. A major town landmark, the former hotel (now used as the Vergennes Furniture Store) is the oldest extant structure in the heart of the commercial district. Serving as a hotel, tavern and stagecoach stop, the building was purchased by C. C. and C. J. Stevens in 1840 and enlarged with a brick southwest addition (#43) in 1848. Walling's 1857 map of Addison County pictures the original building as a gable-roofed, two-story, rectangular structure with rear ell; a two-story veranda wrapped around the facade and the entire northeast side (fronts on park). Eventually the main block was increased through the addition of a third story and was transformed to the Italianate style. As it presently stands, the five-bay main block is square, clapboarded, and flat-roofed. The first-floor veranda has been enclosed and part of it has been converted into a modern shopfront with plate glass windows. The second-story veranda was left open and Italianized; it has a box cornice with pendant brackets and modillions. Other decorative details include cornice lintels over the windows, corner pilasters, and a cornice consisting of a paneled frieze with pairs of brackets and closely spaced modillions with pendant drops. Surmounting the gabled roof of the three-bay, three-story brick addition is a square cupola with segmental arched windows and paired pendant brackets. Also appended to the north of the main block is a house divided into two sections. This house belonged to Col. Alexander Brush who became part owner of the hotel in 1815; supposedly at this time the house became part of the complex. The most northern section of the house has a second-story overhang and is divided into three bays with virtually all diamond paned casement windows. Both parts of the house are clapboarded and share a common gabled roof.
49. Colby Hall - French Second Empire, c. 1870. Built as the residence of a wealthy merchant, Ira Bingham, Colby Hall was converted into apartments and enlarged in the twentieth century. The 5-bay main block is a two-story, plus mansard structure dominated by a projecting, pavilion-like feature. This "frontispiece" consists of an entrance porch with chamfered posts on pedestals supporting a second-story bay window with triple, rectangular windows set under a triple-arched hood molding. Surmounting the pavilion is a mansard roof pierced by a peaked dormer with paired, round-arched windows. Flanking this feature are gabled dormers with flared ends. Windows on the first and second stories are 2/2 double-hung sash with trim and shaped lintels outlined with coping. On both side elevations

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is a bay window ornamented with scroll-sawn brackets and denticular cornice. The main block and its extensive two-story, gable-roofed, rear ell (on the west) have elaborate decorative detail at the cornice; paired brackets, a wide architrave and frieze, and openwork ornament. Appended to the rear of the northeast ell is a one-story, flat-roofed, addition with window lintels very similar to those of the main block.

50. Russell Block - 1836. Also called the "Stone Block" and the "Sherman Block", the structure was built by a Russell and used exclusively for commercial space. Of load bearing, random-coursed, limestone masonry construction, the block consists of 15 bays, two stories and a flat roof. A fire in 1896 destroyed the building's third story and a stone parapet. Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash and are shuttered; decorative detail is largely confined to the paneled frieze which runs the length of the facade under an unornamented cornice. The ground story was rebuilt to accommodate five shopfronts which are divided off into sections by thin cast iron piers and colonettes. A succession of mixed commercial uses has occupied the structure throughout the twentieth century.
51. Chittenden Trust Bank - Federal/Greek Revival, 1842. This building was originally constructed to house the National Bank of Vergennes. The two-story, five-bay, brick structure has a stone foundation, interior chimneys, and a low-pitched gabled roof. Centered on the facade is a pedimented entrance porch which with its slender, fluted Ionic columns has a Federal style lightness to it. The doorway is framed by sidelights and a rectangular transom, and the windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with stone lintels and sills. Decorative brickwork occurs beneath the cornice, and the chimney caps are corbeled. The three-bay gable end with its triangular attic window fronts onto Main Street. The west elevation has a projecting porch and on the north is a one-story wing.
53. Bixby Memorial Free Library - Neo-Classical Revival, 1912. Designed by G. Frederick Frost of New York City, the library was built with funds donated by William G. Bixby, a prominent Vergennes citizen who upon his death in 1907 bequeathed his entire \$300,000 estate to the library. Laid in running bond, the two-story, largely rectangular building has an apse on the north end and on the south is dominated by a projecting, pedimented entrance portico which is supported by four giant order Ionic columns with Scamozzi capitals. Set on a high foundation, the library has several important horizontal elements in the overall design: a wide, unornamented, stone architrave and frieze beneath the cornice, a belt

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course separating the first and second-story windows, and an unbroken parapet. Flanking the portico, the first-floor windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with cap-molded lintels and shouldered architraves; above are smaller 6/6 windows with trim. At the entrance is a double door surmounted by a large transom with latticework grill and set into a shouldered architrave. Arising from the flat roof is a low, octagonal, slate-sheathed dome supported on a brick drum. Eighteen feet in diameter, the dome consists of 32 elongated wedge-shaped sections of stained glass radiating from concentric circles--also of stained glass--and a five-foot center oculus. The west side has a one-story portico supported by paired Tuscan limestone columns.

54. Laundromat - c. 1870's. The three-bay, two-story brick commercial building has a flat roof and elaborate wood cornice with four inch-board brackets and closely spaced modillions. Label moldings trim the rectangular 2/2 light double-hung sash windows on the second story. The addition of entrances and two three-sided bay windows to the ground floor has interrupted the continuity of the bays.
57. 257 Main Street - Federal, c. 1825. One of the few residential buildings in the commercial district, it is also one of the oldest brick houses in Vergennes. The five-bay, two-and-one-half-story structure has a slate-covered, low-pitched gabled roof, interior chimneys, and painted stone lintels above the 2/2 double-hung sash windows. Post and beam, flat-roofed porches were added to the main entrance and the east and west elevations; spanning the space between each post support is a single piece of dimension lumber curved into a three-centered arch. Within the enclosed entrance porch, the doorway is capped by a semi-elliptical fanlight and sidelights contained within a three-centered arched opening. A carriage barn is at the rear.
58. LeBeau's Store - Greek Revival, c. 1825. This large, gable front store has a four-bay, two-and one-half story elevation on Main Street and a five-bay Water Street elevation. Sited on sloping grade, it has an exposed ground story on the Water Street side. The facade is further distinguished by being laid in Flemish-bond brickwork and having two-entrances while the Water Street side is laid in American bond and has a single doorway. Splayed stone lintels cap the windows and doors, and two interior chimneys rise from the slate-covered gable roof. Throughout the nineteenth century, the building was used as a store and dwelling on the lower floors and as a Masonic Hall and women's school above. It has known a succession of commercial uses in the twentieth century.

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Covered with German siding, the long rectangular building has an asphalt shingle gable roof, a stone foundation, and both 12/8 and 12/12 double-hung sash windows. At the rear of the structure is attached a two-story all while a second-story enclosed bridge straddles Canal Street and connects the west side of the main block with a one-story, gable-roofed, clapboarded wing. The wing is assymetrically-bayed on the Main Street elevation; windows are 16/12 double-hung sash with trim. Decorative detail is confined to the cornerboards, plain frieze and box cornice. The east end is surmounted by a one-stage cupola.

70. Green Mountain Power Plant - 1911. In 1910 directors of the Burlington Traction Co. purchased water rights on the west bank of Otter Creek Falls and built a plant in 1911 to furnish electricity for their street-car line in Burlington. The same water wheels and turbines that were first put into operation in 1912 are still being used today. A two-story, rectangular brick building, the structure has an extremely low-pitched roof. The elevations are divided into bays by blind wall arcades; on the facade semicircular windows fill the upper portion of the arcade.
72. Meyers Warehouse - c. 1825. Now vacant, this building functioned as a warehouse and a store during the period of active shipbuilding and commerce on Otter Creek.
73. Ballamy's Distillery - c. 1820. Originally Bellamy's Distillery, the building was later used by steamboat operator M. D. Hall as a warehouse. The property was bought by a Captain Daniels in 1894 and is still owned by his descendants. It is presently used as a residence; a gambrel roof barn serving as a garage is adjacent to it.

The two almost identical structures mix both Federal and Greek Revival elements. Situated on the east bank of the creek, the two-and-one-half-story brick buildings have the gable end facing MacDonough Drive. In each, the facade is organized into three bays by a blind wall arcade which, with its three-centered arches, extends just above the returns of the gable. A door pierces the first- and second-story central bay and is flanked by trabeated windows set into the adjoining recessed bays. The distillery facade windows are 3/1 (central muntin removed) double-hung sash while those of the former warehouse are 15/15. All windows are highlighted with heavy stone lintels and sills. The former distillery is further distinguished from its neighbor by the small post and beam entrance porch from which rises a railed, second-story balcony.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-12)

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76. Jackman House - Greek Revival, c. 1835, extensive late nineteenth-century additions. Originally a Greek Revival brick building, this house has been triped in size through extensive additions. The pedimented, three-bay gable ends of the original building faces the library and has 6/1 double-hung sash with stone lintels. A columned veranda with a corner entrance begins on the gable end and extends around the east side. The orientation of the building has been changed so that the facade, though almost inaccessible, now overlooks the falls. This was accomplished by doubling the length of the original west elevation with a clapboard addition and by creating a central feature with a projecting, pedimented, shingled gable which is pierced by a triple window. A columned veranda extends across the elongated facade and another frame addition occurs on the east side of the house.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-13)

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The historically significant sites in the Vergennes Historic District are:

68. The Monkton Iron Works Tunnel - circa 1815. Blasted through the rock ledge on which the former Vermont Shade Roller Company building now stands, the waterworks tunnel extended from the Otter Creek Falls to the iron works. Interior width is approximately 12 feet while the estimated height is about 8 feet. Although the length is not known, it may have been about 360 feet, the length of the tunnel used by the Vergennes Iron Co. which purchased the Monkton Iron Works in 1836. Only about twenty feet remain today. Organized in 1807, the Monkton Iron Works was one of the most extensive iron manufacturing concerns in the country.
  
74. MacDonough Shipyard Site - 1813/14. The Vermont Historic Sites Commission marker commemorates the shipbuilding activity that took place on the east bank of Otter Creek Falls during the winter and spring of 1814. To prepare for the British invasion of Lake Champlain, Commodore Thomas MacDonough made Vergennes his headquarters in December of 1813 and began building gunboats. The "Saratoga", "Ticonderoga", "Preble", "President" and "Montgomery" were all part of the fleet he built on this site. Contributing to the building effort was the Monkton Iron Works which was situated across the creek. MacDonough led his fleet to victory over the British in the Battle of Plattsburg in September, 1814.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-14)

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Inventory of Buildings within the Vergennes Historic District, Vergennes

1. House, 68 Main Street: Three-bay, two-story, hip-roofed house has wood shingle sheathing on second story, clapboard on the first. Small pedimented entrance porch supported on Tuscan columns. Oriel window on facade. Circa: 1900.
2. House, 69 Main Street: one-and-one-half-story gambrel-roofed house with added half-story above original roofline. Partial front porch; bay window addition on facade. Greek Revival detail around door. Early nineteenth century.
3. Herrick Stevens House, 72 Main Street: see Description.
4. House, 73 Main Street: Five-bay, one-and-one-half-story, aluminum-sided dwelling with pointed window and door lintels. Early nineteenth century.
5. John Clark House, 76 Main Street: see Description.
6. House, 75 Main Street: Three-bay, two-story, hip-roofed Italianate house has cornerboards, paired consoles on entablature. Small entrance porch. two/two sash. Circa: 1865.
7. House, 80 Main Street: Remodelled carriage barn with central gable, slate roof, bracketed cornice, small porch. Clapboard siding. Late nineteenth century.
8. Willow Cottage, Main Street: see Description.
9. Old Judge Fish House: 82 Main Street: see Description.
10. Cecile Rheaume House, 83 Main Street: see Description.
11. House, 86 Main Street: The one-and-one-half-story house has a slate-covered, hipped, gambrel roof with intersecting gambrel roof on the west. The first floor is constructed of brick, and the gable ends are covered with imbricated wood shingles. The facade has a small entrance porch with Tuscan columns. Circa: 1905.
12. House, 87 Main Street: Three-bay, Colonial Revival frame house with pedimented entrance porch supported on fluted posts. Central gable with mutules on both porch and building cornice. Circa: 1900.

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13. House, 90 Main Street: Narrow-fronted, wood shingle-sided house with steep, slate-covered, gable roof. Large gambrel-roofed dormer on facade covered with shingles and pierced by a Palladian window. Porch supported on Tuscan columns along facade; two-story bay windows on northeast. Circa: 1905.
- ✓ 14. House, 91 Main Street. Five-bay, two-story frame house with Greek Revival entrance consisting of pilasters, four-paned sidelights, Greek fretwork trim and corner blocks. One-story porch supported on fluted columns. Gable roof. Carriage barn.
- ✓ 15. House, 92 Main Street: Three-bay, one-story contemporary dwelling with aluminum siding.
16. Apartment building/store, 97, 99, 101 Main Street: Combined residential and commercial structure has hip roof, cornerboards, paired inch-board brackets under box cornice. No. 97 has entrance porch with openwork posts. Nos. 99 and 101 have enclosed commercial facades. Circa: 1870's. Italianate.
17. Duplex House, 94/96 Main Street: Five-bay, two-and-one-half-story frame house has asphalt-covered roof and portico formed by extension of roof over facade. Four fluted post supports portico. Connecticut Valley door surround. Recently minted Colonial Revival.
18. House, 103 and 105 Main Street: Two-story, two-bay, hip-roofed Italianate main block. One story entrance porch with thin, openwork posts. Paired pendant consoles on cornice. No. 105: two-story, gable-roofed southwest wing with entrance porch. Circa: 1865.
19. House, 106 Main Street: Gable-front frame house has two-story central section and flanking one-and-one-half-story wings with added three-bay shed dormers. Central section has triangular louvered vent in gable, jigsaw-cut bargeboards, and small bracketed porch. Circa: 1840's.
20. House, 107 Main Street: Three-bay, two-story, frame Italianate house with slate-covered, hipped roof and bracketed frieze. Doorway has bell-cast hood and surround of fluted pilasters and pointed lintel. Circa: 1865.

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21. House, 108 Main Street: Three-bay, brick, gable-front Greek Revival house. Splayed stone lintels above windows and doors. One-story porches on facade and northeast; two-story entrance porch on southwest. Circa: 1840.
22. House, 111 Main Street: Three-bay, gable-front dwelling has pointed lintels and pendant brackets along cornice. Slate roof and aluminum siding. Small entrance porch. Circa: 1840's.
23. House, 114 and 116 Main Street: Very altered brick, gable-front, one-and-one-half-story building. Small frame entrance porch and bay window on facade. One-and-one-half-story frame wing with pointed lintels and one-story porch on posts. Second-story addition to southwest side of main block; on northeast is one-story, enclosed porch with sloping roof. Main block: Circa: 1850.
24. House, 115 Main Street: Two-and-one-half-story, central gable, stucco house with casement windows. Small pedimented entrance hood over door. Attached to 119 Main Street. Early nineteenth century.
25. City Hall, Main Street: see Description.
26. House/apartments, 119 Main Street. Two-story, flat-roofed, irregularly-bayed frame house with porch. Pointed lintels above windows, corner pilasters, entablature with pendant drop brackets under cornice. Italianate, before 1853.
27. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Main Street: see Description.
28. Office/store/house, 125 Main Street: Five-bay, two-and-one-half-story, frame dwelling with small enclosed entrance porch addition on facade. Porch addition on west. Gable-roofed structure with 6/6 windows. Corner pilasters; plain frieze under cornice. Federal/Greek Revival.
29. St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall: 1½ story, brick, gable-roofed building with 2/2 windows with stone lintels and lugsills. Set into a shallow recess with paneled reveals, the door is capped by a semi-elliptical fanlight with a painted brick arch. A one-story wing on the south side nominally connects the building with the church. The building originally housed law offices. Federal style (altered). Circa: 1835.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-17)

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30. First Methodist Episcopal Church, Main Street: see Description.
31. St. Paul's Rectory, 6 Park Street: see Description.
32. House, 133 and 135 Main Street: Three-bay, two-story, hip-roofed, frame building with vinyl siding. Paired, scroll-sawn consoles with pendants on box cornice; wide frieze and architrave. Projecting, second-story, enclosed porch addition on facade.
33. House, 26 North Street: Two-and-one-half-story, clapboarded building with gable front and west entrance porch addition.
34. Ryan Block, Nos. 139-153 Main Street: see Description.
35. David Aubin House, 30 North Street: see Description.
36. Commercial building, 161 Main Street: two-bay brick building with commercial front and flat roof. Ground level shopfront faced with carrera glass. Three stories; wide frieze and projecting cornice. Circa: 1850.
37. Nursing Home, 34 North Street: two-story, square, hip-roofed, Italianate building with segmental-arched transom light and sidelights framing doorway. Slate roof; aluminum siding. Elaborate bracketed porch with modillions on southwest and facade. Circa: 1865.
38. Stores, 165-171 Main Street: Two combined brick shopfronts attached via continuous bracketed cornice and wide frieze. American bond brickwork. 167 Main Street has three-bay timber shopfront with wood pilasters supporting cornice and frieze. Circa: 1870's.
- NC 39. Vergennes Post Office: Contemporary brick post office with pedimented, gable front facing street. One-story.
40. Commercial Block, 179-181 Main Street: Four-bay, two-and-one-half-story, brick gable-front store is attached to flat-roofed, two-story section. Latter has carrera glass shopfront on ground floor. Second floor of brick building has one bay window and three 2/2 windows, while ground level converted to modern shopfront with large plate glass windows. West elevation has enclosed second-story porch. Brick building: Circa: 1850.

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- 41 and 43. Stevens House, Main Street: see Description.
42. Store, 9 Green Street: Three-and-one-half-story, gable-front, brick commercial building. Painted stone lintels and sills. Windows are 12/12, 6/6, and 2/2. Ground floor shopfront divided into sections by paired pilasters with Queen Anne style motifs and surmounted by cornice with paired brackets. Circa: 1840.
44. Store, 185 Main Street: The four-bay, three-story, rectangular building once housed the office of Commodore Thomas MacDonough. Several materials make up the wall surface: coursed fieldstone on the Green Street elevation, brick facing on the upper two stories, and courses of dressed ashlar used at the top of each story to simulate architrave and frieze. Large display windows have been added to the ground level. The doorway of this flat-roofed structure is recessed. Built: 1827.
45. Store, 206 Main Street: three-bay, two-and-one-half-story frame building with large picture window additions. Gable roof. Attached to the brick addition of the Stevens House, it was probably part of the hotel complex.
- NC 46. Stephens' Pharmacy, 187 Main Street: One-story, flat-roofed, brick store with plate glass shopfront. Attached to Ben Franklin Store, Circa: 1940.
47. Store, 210 and 214 Main Street: Two-and-one-half story frame commercial building with projecting frame entrance porch and second-story bay window. Unusual flattened gable roof. Paired pendant consoles on cornice. Gable end fronts onto Main Street.
- N 48. Ben Franklin 5-10, 193 Main Street: One-story, flat-roofed commercial building with large plate glass windows. Circa: 1940.
49. Colby Hall, 224 Main Street: see Description.
50. Russell Block, corner of Main and Maple streets: see Description.
51. Chittenden Trust Bank, corner of Main and North Maple: see Description.
52. Commercial block/apartments, 229-235 Main Street: Seven-bay, two-story brick structure. Ground level divided into two large shopfronts; second story spanned by 6/6 double-hung sash with splayed lintels. Wide, vertically grooved fasciaboard addition running length of facade under cornice. Maple Street elevation has two separate exterior stairways leading to a first-and-a-second-story entrance porch. Clapboarded rear ell with Greek Revival detail. A third story had been added to the block in 1875, but has since been removed.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-19)

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53. Birby Memorial Free Library, 258 Main Street: see Description.
54. Laundromat, 245 Main Street: see Description.
55. Commercial building, 249 Main Street: Small-scaled, one-story, three-bay, flat-roofed, frame structure. Paneled pilasters divide facade into bays. Paired inch-board consoles on cornice corresponding to top of each pilaster. New casement windows. Circa: 1875.
56. Commercial building, 253 Main Street: Identical to #55, except for denticulated entablature and large, four-paned windows.
57. House, 257 Main Street: see Description.
58. LeBeau's Store, Main and South Water Streets: see Description.
59. Daigneault's Machine Shop, Main Street: Rectangular, one-story, hip-roofed building with projecting eaves. Vinyl siding.
60. Apartment building, 281 Main Street: Long, rectangular, two-and-a-half-story, frame building. Slate-covered gable roof; vinyl siding. Extensive porch additions on facade and both side elevations.
61. House, 272/274 Main Street: Two-bay, two-and-a-half-story, brick building. Heavy projecting cornice with paired brackets and large modillions. Painted stone lintels above 2/2 windows. Eyebrow windows at attic level. Flat roof suspended over first floor of facade. Stairway leading to second-story entrance on southwest. Circa: 1865.
62. House, 299 Main Street: Two-bay, brick, L-shaped building with gable end to street. Splayed stone lintels over windows. Greek Revival, about 1840.
63. House, 282 Main Street: One-story, shingle-clad house on high basement. Gable roof with standing seam covering. Projecting eaves. Across facade is gable-roofed, shingled entrance porch supported on posts. Garage with deck roof attached to southwest. Bungalow type.
64. Simmons Precision Products, Inc., Main Street: One-story, flat-roofed brick building with stone foundation. Rear portion of building is part of former Hayes Fallardo and Parker Manufacturing Co. 1941.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-20)

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65. Office, Otter Creek Falls, Main Street: Small, one-story, three-bay, flat-roofed building with paneled corner pilasters and plain entablature. Windows have 2/2 double-hung sash and lable moldings with feet.
66. Vergennes Pumphouse, Otter Creek Falls: see Description.
67. Norton's Grist Mill, Otter Creek Falls: see Description.
68. Monkton Iron Works Tunnel, Otter Creek Falls: see Description.
69. Vermont Shade Roller Company, Otter Creek Falls: see Description.
70. Green Mountain Power Plant, Otter Creek Falls: see Description.
71. Green Mountain Power Co. Office/Storehouse, Otter Creek Falls: early twentieth century rectangular, gable-roofed, clapboarded building.
72. Myers Warehouse, MacDonough Drive: see Description.
73. Bellamy's Distillery, MacDonough Drive: see Description.
74. MacDonough Shipyard Site, MacDonough Drive: see Description.
75. House, 16 MacDonough Drive: One-and-a-half story, brick building with gable front toward street. Enclosed, clapboarded porch across first-floor facade. Two/two, rectangular, double-hung sash set into segmental arched window openings. Gauged brick lintels. Circa: 1855.
76. Jackman House, 15 North Maple Street: see Description.
77. House, 11 MacDonough Drive: Clapboarded, three-bay, two-story hipped-roof building with 2/2 sash and two-story veranda across facade and north side. Heavy cornice with paired brackets. Italianate, circa: 1875.
78. House, 7 MacDonough Drive: Two-story, gable-front, brick building with enclosed, gable-roofed, entrance addition.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-21)

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79. House, 55 North Street: Rectangular, aluminum-sided building, with facade facing south. Applied to both gable ends is a very shallow second gable that projects from the wall surface; because it is more steeply pitched than the roof gable it creates the suggestion of shed dormers along the side elevations. Enclosed porch additions.
80. House, 15/17 North Street: Two-and-a-half-story, clapboarded building with enclosed two-story porch addition on facade. Gable roof, interior chimneys, one-story wing on northeast. Early nineteenth-century.

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66. Vergennes Pumphouse, 1874. Built on a small island on Otter Creek Falls, the pumphouse is the only significant vestige of the city's early water-works system. This structure housed the Flanders Pump which was expressly designed for the city by J. P. Flanders; the Holly pumps that had been in use proved inefficient and costly to maintain. The small, square, three-bay building is of coursed ashlar and has walls three feet thick. The hip roof has bellcast eaves and is surmounted by wrought iron grillwork. Hood molds cap the segmental arched windows and door, and other decorative detail is found on the cornice with its paired brackets. Efforts are being made by a small group to restore the pumphouse and convert it into an industrial museum with a diorama to show the manufacturing activities that centered on the falls for over two hundred years. The pump machinery is still in place.
67. Norton's Grist Mill - 1877. Located on "Island Mills"--the small promontory over the Otter Creek Falls--the building is one of the few extant examples of the city's industrial past. In 1877/78 N. G. Norton who dealt in grain, flour, feed, and building materials, constructed a frame mill on this site. When it burned down several months after completion, he rebuilt what is now the present structure using brick. The mill with its adjoining frame warehouse (formerly a stable) are owned by Green Mountain Power Company. Both structures are now vacant. The rectangular, gable-roofed brick structure has a high stone foundation on the river elevation (north side). Dominating the right side of the facade is a large gable which intersects with the slate-covered main roof. Placement of windows throughout the two-and-one-half-story structure is irregular, especially at the rear. Stone lintels cap all windows as well as the three ground-floor entrances on the facade. On the second story is a frame, gable-roofed porch with double doors, and on the west side (near the warehouse), a rectangular window, larger than the flanking windows, penetrates each floor of the central bay. Openings then, occur where needed to expedite production, and follow no pattern. A small tornado hit the mill in August, 1975 ripping a large hole in the roof; it is currently being repaired.
69. Vermont Shade Roller Company, 1888. Dominating the west bank of the falls, the building is visible from many vantage points in the city. The site had seen a succession of industries before the factory was constructed to manufacture rollers and slats. With its parapeted gable end facing Main Street, the main building has three stories and an exposed basement on the creek side and three stories on the Canal Street elevation.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-11)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The importance of Vergennes as a military, commercial and industrial center during the nineteenth century is directly related to the fact that the city, incorporated in 1788, encompasses a major source of water power and has access to Lake Champlain via Otter Creek. With a descent of 37 feet, the falls were tapped from the earliest settlement of the region as a mill site. The establishment of the Monkton Iron Works on the west bank in 1807 and the militarily strategic location of the falls were factors contributing to the defeat of the British at Plattsburg. After 1814, as the threat of the British invasion subsided, Vergennes' commercial and industrial productivity developed and reached a peak in the second half of the nineteenth century. This expansion and prosperity is reflected in the several different building types and styles, spanning the entire nineteenth century, which comprise the district.

As early as 1765 a saw mill was built at the falls, but it was seized the following year by Colonel John Reid who claimed it under a New York land grant. A struggle ensued between Reid and the Green Mountain Boys who sought to protect the falls from the New York invader. Reid's efforts were thwarted, and a small fort under the command of Ebenezer Allen was erected above the falls.

In 1787 a boost to trade was given by the procurement of a reciprocity agreement with Canada allowing duty-free importation of timber, lumber, and potash. Although this was later prohibited, it proved a great stimulus to the early development of industry along the falls.

The Monkton Iron Works was organized in 1807 by two Bostonians: Francis Bradbury and James Perkins. Iron ore beds were discovered in Monkton, and ore was transported via mule to the forges and nail factory that were first established on Bradbury's land on the west bank of the falls. The company expanded slowly, generating both jobs and many smaller industries to support it. By 1809 a new ore bed had been purchased on the New York shore of Lake Champlain, and boats were being built and obtained by the company for transporting the ore to and from beds in Troy, New York, and Swanton and Highgate. The iron works reached its height of development in 1810, operating nine forges, blast and air furnaces, a rolling mill, wire factory, and grist mill. In addition, a waterworks tunnel was blasted through the rock ledge of the west bank, and extended from the falls to the iron works.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 8-1)



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9 - 1

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 84 acres The Vergennes Historic District  
 UTM REFERENCES is included in two adjacent USGS Quadrangles  
 (See Continuation Sheet 10-4)

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet 10-1)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Miriam Trementozzi, Researcher

APR 1 1976

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

April 1, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William B. Pinney*

William B. Pinney

TITLE

Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 23, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Wm J. Murtha*

DATE

9/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

*Robert B. Ketting*

DATE

9/2/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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With the increasing imminence of the British invasion, Commodore Thomas MacDonough took command in the summer of 1813 of a small naval force on Lake Champlain, and during the winter he made his headquarters in Vergennes where he began to build up a fleet. The site of his shipyard was on the east bank of the creek opposite the iron works. The company was important to the building of the fleet, supplying cannon balls, shot, fittings etc. At the shipyard, the U.S.S. Saratoga was constructed in forty days.

In April, 1814 before the fleet was completed, Governor Chittenden and General Wilkinson, commander of the U.S. troops at Champlain, N.Y., met with MacDonough in Vergennes to decide upon the site for a battery to protect the ships. It is highly likely that this site is on the east side of MacDonough Drive where the Jackman House is located since the hillside is studded with boulders and is designated as "Battery Hill" in an 1871 atlas. The hill affords an excellent view of the falls and is close to the shipyard site.

MacDonough's fleet was prepared for the British advance up Lake Champlain, and in September the invasion was thwarted at Plattsburg. Volunteers from all over Vermont including Vergennes answered the governor's call for assistance for the troops stationed there. Among them was Samuel Strong, mayor of Vergennes, who was made commander-in-chief of the volunteers.

After a lull in Vergennes from about 1816 to 1823, activity increased with the opening of the Champlain Canal. A towpath from Fort Cassin at the mouth of the Otter Creek to Vergennes was constructed and used for a number of years until steamboats began towing boats up the creek. The city became increasingly important to surrounding towns such as Waltham and Panton as a commercial, industrial, and social center. The Monkton Iron Works, however, decreased in prominence, and after changing hands once, was sold to the Vergennes Iron Company in 1836. Other businesses arose on the creek including a short-lived marble sawing mill, a blast furnace and a hemp factory.

In 1866 the Vergennes Water Power Company purchased the Vergennes Iron Company and leased water power and buildings to several other industries; among them was the National Horse Nail Company which was the most important concern on the falls in the late nineteenth century. J. P. Flanders who had designed a new water pump in 1871 for the city, started a business to manufacture his invention. Other late nineteenth-century concerns on the falls were several producers of doors, sash, and blinds; a grist mill; a lumber business; the Vermont Shade Roller Company; a manufacturer of wagon hubs and spokes; and a furniture factory. Norton's Grist Mill and the Pumphouse are among the few buildings remaining on the falls.

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The district which progresses from a residential, to commercial, to industrial area records in a visually cohesive manner this activity in Vergennes from the late eighteenth through the nineteenth centuries. The residential section has four elaborate Italianate and French Second Empire Houses which, built from the 1860s through the 1870s, attest to the prosperity that the community enjoyed at this time. A much simplified version of the Italianate figures predominately in the streetscape; basically it is a square or rectangular, two-story, clap-boarded building with a hipped roof, wide frieze, paired brackets, and two/two windows. There is a wide range of architectural styles, however: Greek, Gothic, Colonial and Neo-Classical Revival style buildings are all intermixed. The carpenter Gothic style is represented by one good example, while the Federal style shows a more widespread influence in both domestic and commercial architecture. Attempts at "modernizing" many of the buildings in the commercial core during the Italianate and Queen Anne periods is evident in the applique of brackets, Queen Anne posts and pilasters, and other ornamentation.

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Richard Adams (2/76, 2/76, 3/76; 8/75)

Mrs. Ruth O'Connor (3/76; 8/75, 7/75)

Mrs. Ralph Ryan (8/75; 7/75)

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Vergennes Boundary Description: The district begins at a point (A) at the intersection of the center line of the pavement of Main Street and the southeastern extension of the northeast property line of the 68 Main Street property; thence it proceeds in a southwesterly direction along said center line to a point (B) at the intersection of the western extension of the center line of the pavement of Monkton Road; thence in an easterly direction along said center line to a point (C) at the intersection of an extension in a northeasterly direction of the southeast property line of the 69 Main Street property; thence in a southwesterly direction along the southeast property lines of the 69, 73, 75, Willow Cottage, 83, and 87 Main Street properties to a point (D) at the intersection of said line with the center line of the pavement of School Street; thence in a northwesterly direction along the center line of the pavement of School Street to a point (E) at the intersection of the northeastern extension of the southeastern property line of the 97-101 Main Street property; thence proceeding in a southwesterly direction along the southeastern property lines of the 97-101, 103-105, 107, 111, 115, 119 and 125 Main Street properties to a point (F) at the intersection of an extension in a southwesterly direction of said property lines and the center line of the pavement of East Street; thence in a southeasterly direction along said center line to a point (G) at the intersection of the extension in an easterly direction of a line running parallel to and 17 feet from the southeast (rear) wall of the First Methodist Church; thence in a westerly direction along said line to a point (H) at the intersection of the center line of the alley on the east side of the Ryan Block; thence in a southeasterly direction along said center line to a point (I) at the intersection of an extension in a northeasterly direction of a line running parallel to and 24 feet from the southeast (rear) wall of the Ryan Block; thence in a westerly direction along said line to a point (J) at the intersection of an extension in a northwesterly direction of the northeast property line of the 9 Green Street property; thence in a southeasterly direction along said line to a point (K) at the southeast corner of said property; thence in a southwesterly direction along the southeast property line to a point (L) at the intersection of an extension of said property line in a southwesterly direction and the center line of the Green Street pavement; thence in a northwesterly direction along said center line to a point (M) at the intersection of an extension in a northeasterly direction of a line running parallel to and 10 feet from the southeast (rear) wall of the 185 Main Street property; thence in a southwesterly direction along said line to a point (N) at the intersection of the center line of the pavement of Maple Street; thence in a southeasterly direction along said center line to a point (O) at the intersection of an extension in a northeasterly direction of the southeast property line of the 229 Main Street property; thence in a southwesterly direction along the southeast (rear) property lines of the 229-235, 245, 249, 253, 257, and 263 Main Street properties to a point (P) at the intersection of an extension in a southwesterly direction of said line and the center line of So. Water Street; thence in a northwesterly direction along said

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center line to a point (Q) at the intersection of an extension in a northeasterly direction of the southeast property line of the Mobil Gas Station (corner of Main and So. Water Streets); thence in a southwesterly direction along the southeastern (rear) property lines of the 281 and 299 Main Street properties to a point (R) at the intersection of an extension in a southwesterly direction of the southeast property line of the 299 Main Street property and the east bank of the Otter Creek; thence in a northerly direction along said bank to a point (S) at the intersection of the extension in a northerly direction of a line from the east bank of said creek with the center line of the pavement of Main Street; thence in a southwesterly direction along said center line over the Otter Creek Falls to a point (T) at the intersection of an extension in a southeasterly direction of the southwestern property line of the Vermont Roller Shade Co.; thence in a northwesterly direction along said property line to a point (U), 170 feet on said line from the center line of the pavement of Main Street; thence in a northeasterly direction to a point (V) at the intersection of the center of Canal Street; thence in a northwesterly direction along said center line to a point (W) at the intersection of an extension in a southwesterly direction of the center line of Mechanic Street; thence in a northerly direction along said center line to the termination of said street at a point (X) at the intersection of the extension of a line in a southerly direction across the Otter Creek from a point (Y) at the southwest corner of the Myers Warehouse property; thence in a northerly direction along said line to said point (Y); thence in a northerly direction along the west side of said property to a point (Z) at the intersection of an extension of said property line in a northerly direction and the center line of the pavement of MacDonough Drive; thence in a southeasterly direction along said center line to a point (A1) at the intersection of the extension in a southwesterly direction of the center line of the pavement of North Maple Street; thence in a northeasterly direction along said line to a point (B1) at the intersection of the center line of the pavement of Maple Street; thence in a southeasterly direction along said center line to a point (C1) at the intersection of the extension in a southwesterly direction of the center line of the pavement of North Street; thence along said center line in a northeasterly direction to a point (D1) at the intersection of the center line of the pavement of Green Street; thence in a northwesterly direction along said center line to a point (E1) at the intersection of an extension in a southwesterly direction of the northwest (rear) property line of the 34 North Street property; thence in a northeasterly direction along said property line and the northwest (rear) property lines of the 30 and 26 North Street properties to a point (F1) at the north corner of the 26 North Street property; thence in a southeasterly direction along the northeast property line of said property to a point (G1) at the intersection

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of an extension in a southeasterly direction of said property line and the center line of the pavement of North Street; thence in a northeasterly direction along said center line to a point (III) at the intersection of an extension in a southwesterly direction of the northwest property line of the 94/96 Main Street property; thence in a northeasterly direction along said property line and the northwest (rear) property lines of the 92, 90, 86, 82, 80, 76, 72, and 68 Main Street properties to a point (II) at the north corner of the 68 Main Street property; thence in a southeasterly direction along the northeast property line of said property to the point (A) at the intersection of an extension in a southeasterly direction of said property line and the center line of the pavement of Main Street.



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The Vergennes Historic District is included in two adjacent USGS Quadrangles.

EASTERN PORTION: Monkton Quadrangle (7.5' series) 1963

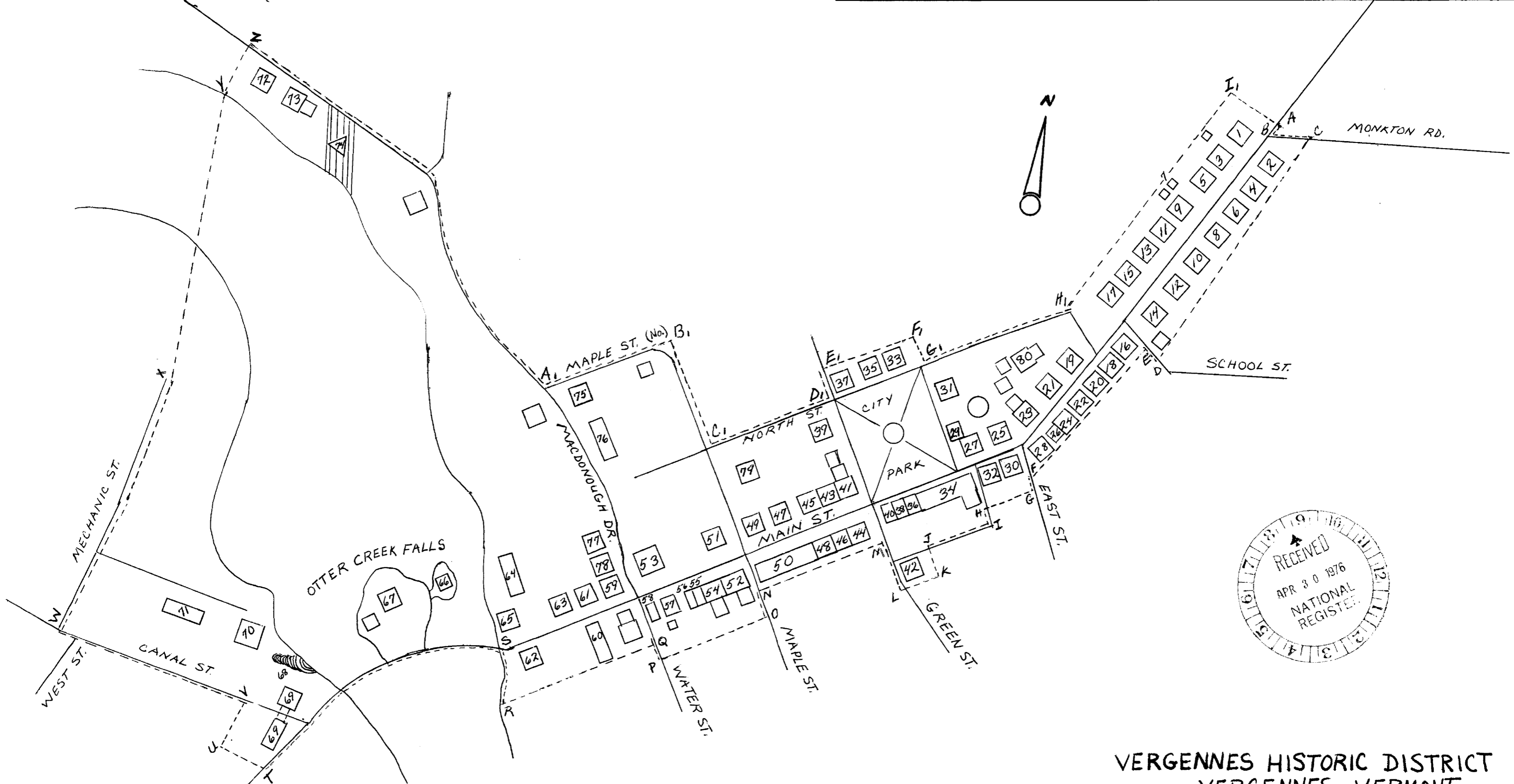
UTM References:

-A: 18/640080 4892230  
-B: 18/640080 4891840  
C: 18/639890 4891840  
D: 18/639900 4892230

WESTERN PORTION: Port Henry Quadrangle (15' series) 1945

UTM References:

A: 18/629900 4892050  
B: 18/629950 4891450  
-C: 18/629150 4891450  
-D: 18/629150 4892050



VERGENNES HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 VERGENNES, VERMONT  
 MAP NOT DRAWN TO SCALE