

PH 0500895

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 12 1977

DATE ENTERED

JAN 9 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Martin Chittenden House

AND/OR COMMON

Chittenden - Martin House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 117

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jericho

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Vermont

 VICINITY OF

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Chittenden

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Stuart Martin

STREET & NUMBER

Box 213

CITY, TOWN

Jericho

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Town Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jericho,

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1970/1977

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCALDEPOSITORY 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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chittenden Martin House is a 2 1/2 story brick house, 5 bays wide and three bays deep with a central entrance. It is articulated in the Federal style and is thought to have been built between 1790 and 1797, possibly in 1796¹. Its most distinguishing exterior features are its Palladian window which lights the central bay of the second story, and its Flemish Cross bonding which embellishes the side elevations of the main block and rear ell. The front (or north) elevation is laid in Flemish bond and the gables in running bond. There are two interior chimneys, each containing four flues. The foundation and water table are stone.

Windows contain 12 over 12 sashes which were reconstructed in the 1940's from originals found in the barn. The french doors on the southwest elevation were also added at that time. Window openings are supported by granite splayed lintels. A wide freeze, probably added ca. 1850, supports a molded boxed cornice and continues into the pedimented gable ends, which are pierced by triangular louvers.

The central entrance is recessed with sidelights and is encompassed by a broken pediment door surround, added in the 1940's. At one time an ornate Italianate entrance porch sheltered the doorway. When it was removed in the 1920's a rectangular lintel with a full entablature below it was revealed. It is possible that it still remains beneath the present surround.

The interior contains a central hall flanked by two rooms on each side. Wide arches with keystone motifs separate front from rear rooms. The central hall contains a stairway with two squared balusters per step, and a narrow, square newel post. Each step end is decorated with covered brackets. Walls of the hall were once stenciled, but this has been covered with wallpaper. Chair rails and ceiling medallions and moldings remain. Doors are hung on HL and strap hinges and most are of the 6-panel type.

The two interior end chimneys are lined with cut granite blocks and have granite slab hearthstones. The fireplace in the northeast (or front left) parlor is more elaborate than the others, incorporating an overmantel with a finely carved rope molding and a broken pediment cornice. In addition, the overmantel contains a patriotic wall painting depicting the coat of arms of Vermont with that of the United States above it. Attributed to a workman named Sprague, the painting, which dates from 1796, was covered by a later painting on canvas attributed to Noble Croff, an eccentric painter from Richmond, Vt. A small river scene is painted on the frieze below the mantel in the smaller front room across the hall, and could also have been done by Croff.

The large room above the northeast parlor was used as a ballroom. It contains two fireplaces and wainscoting. Formerly, this room had a rear entrance with steps leading outside.

In the attic is a complete hewn frame for a hip roof. The existing gable roof has sawn rafters and boards, rather than hewn. These roofs are supported by large, hewn corner and intermediate posts built into the brickwork. Inside walls are

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horizontal planks, 2 inches thick and varying in width up to 20 inches. Over these are lath and plaster. It is therefore possible that the original house was plank with a hip roof and later encased with brick. Whether this was the case or not, the roof change seems to have occurred later than the brickwork of the first two stories, since there was no attempt to match the brick bonding of the gable ends with that of the lower section. Other features, such as the triangular gable louvers and wide frieze might indicate a ca. 1850 date, when the Greek Revival style was popular in Vermont. Other possible additions during this period are a porch with squared posts added to the ell and grain bins for domestic use in the upper room of the ell.

In 1922 this porch was enclosed to provide a dining room. The bay window was added at that time and a downstairs bedroom was made into a bathroom and pantry adjoining the present kitchen. At the same time, the upstairs section of the ell, which housed the grain bins, was converted to bedrooms. *

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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This outstanding Federal style house is said to have been built by Vermont's first governor, Thomas Chittenden, as a wedding gift for his son, Martin. In addition to its large size and elegant interior, more formal than most early Vermont houses, the Chittenden-Martin house is distinguished by its fine Palladian window and intricate brickwork laid in a Flemish cross bond. Of particular interest to the history of building technology is the hewn frame for a hip roof which remains intact under the present gable roof.

The interior, which has been maintained in an excellent state of preservation, is notable for its wide, arched openings with keystone details, original moldings and fireplaces lined with cut granite blocks. Many original, 6-panel doors remain which are hung on HL or strap hinges.

An outstanding overmantel with a broken pediment containing an early wall painting is located in the northeast parlor. Its gilded rope molding surround is said to be the finest example existing in an old Vermont home.² Placed around the painting and at the corners of the chimney breast, the rope molding not only frames the painting, but also serves to unify the painting with its architectural setting.

The painting itself is, according to McGrath, "one of the finest examples of this particular genre of patriotic painting in early America."³ Among the objects represented are the Federal eagle, a liberty cap, and an American flag containing sixteen stars, placing its date at 1796. Other patriotic symbols include a cow and three sheaves of wheat, both of which still appear in the Vermont seal. Other representations of local significance are an oversized spruce tree and a conventionalized view of the Green Mountains.

In addition to its importance in art and architecture, the Chittenden-Martin house is also historically significant through its association with Martin Chittenden, who lived in the house for over 40 years and was Vermont's eighth governor from 1813-15. Active in public service for almost 30 years before his election to the office of Governor, he represented Jericho in the General Assembly for eight years, was Clerk of the Chittenden County Court for four years, Assistant Judge of the County Court for ten years, Judge of the Probate Court for two years, delegate in the Constitutional Conventions in 1791 and 1793 and a member of Congress for 10 years (1803-1813). While Governor during the War of 1812, he became a controversial figure for his unprecedented action to recall Vermont militiamen from the scene of action at Plattsburg.**

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Congdon, Herbert W. Old Vermont Houses, Noone House: Petersborough, N.H. 1968
 Hayden, Chauncey, The History of Jericho, Vt., Free Press Printing Co: Burlington, Vt. 1916
 McGrath, Robert C., Early Vermont Wall Paintings, 1790-1850. University Press
 of New England, Hanover, N.H.
 Rann, William S. History of Chittenden County. D. Mason & Co: Syracuse, N.Y. 1886

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	6 5 7	5 1 0	4 9 2 4	4 0 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Coextensive with the Stuart Martin property lines.

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

Adele Cramer Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Vt. Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

March 2, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion

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 6-15-77

TITLE William B. Pinney

DATE

Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

1.9.78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles Adams

DATE

1.6.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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- * 1 Herbert W. Congdon, Old Vermont Houses, Peterborough, N.H. 1968,
p. 69.
- 2 Robert L. McGrath, Early Vermont Wall Paintings, Hanover, N.H. 1972
p. 25
- 3 Ibid, p. 25

**

The house is thus significant for its high-style aspirations, unusual at such an early date in Vermont. This is seen in the interior treatment, and in the patterned brickwork apparently added at a later date. It is doubtless the most imposing house of its period in the area, if not the county.