

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 17 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAY 15 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Strong House

AND/OR COMMON

General John Strong Mansion

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

SW of Addison on VT A

Vermont Route A

CITY, TOWN

Addison

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Vermont

STATE

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Addison

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vermont State Society, NSDAR, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

General John Strong Mansion

CITY, TOWN

Addison

VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Addison

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey

DATE

June 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 John Strong House is located between West Addison and Chimney Point on Vermont Route 17 in the Champlain Valley. Overlooking Lake Champlain, it is a highly impressive house today and must have awed most when it was built in 1795-6. Combining elements of the Georgian and Federal styles, the presence of the house is enhanced by the solid appearance of brick. In turn, the massing is counterbalanced by refined details such as the Palladian window, a fanlight, a molded cornice with modillions, windows with 12/12 lights, and the entrance porch.

With 5 x 2 bays and two stories, the house presents a symmetrical facade which is capped by a hipped roof. A large brick chimney anchors each side of the roof though the one on the north side is an interior chimney. The central gable pediment, which emphasizes the rooflines as well as the facade, has a semi-elliptical fanlight with radiating muntins and a raking and horizontal molded cornice with modillions which is continued along the entire cornice line of the house. The Palladian window also emphasizes the central bay as does the entrance. The doorway is flanked by 9/9 sidelights and is protected by the 1-bay gabled porch which is supported by columns and pilasters and repeats the modillion cornice like that of the house. The windows are 12/12 double-hung sash² and have jack arches of rubbed brick. Further brick articulation is seen in the high water table of brick and native red stone, the brick stringcourse delineating the first and second floors, and the glazed brick patterns on the two rear walls.

The Palladian window is the most exquisite feature of the facade and exhibits an unusually high degree of craftsmanship. Four fluted pilasters support the window's entablature which repeats the molding profile of the roof cornice on a smaller scale. The arch above the window is composed of brick headers which further define the window.

The interior of the Strong House reflects the same degree of quality as the exterior. The Georgian floor plan revolves around the wide central hallway whose size is magnified by a large wooden keystone arch and a stairway with two runs and a central landing which extends the width of the hall. Many of the original details and hardware remain intact; particularly fine are several fireplace mantels which have molded cornices, rope moldings, and dentils. The two chimneys serve five fireplaces including the large kitchen fireplace which has a bake oven on the side. Somewhat odd is that there is only one principal bedroom and yet because Strong was about 58 years old when he built the house, it is conceivable that all of his children had left home by that time. On the south side of the second floor opposite the bedroom is a large bathroom, a reminder that this house was not only the finest in the area but also an important social and civic meeting place.

¹This porch is a 1930's reproduction of the original porch.

²These windows were restored in the 1930's.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1795-96

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Strong House is one of Vermont's more significant structures because it was built by an eminent Revolutionary War leader and exhibits outstanding architectural features. Built by General John Strong in 1795(6), this house is an elegant interpretation of the Georgian and Federal styles and ranks as one of the state's grandest examples of early domestic architecture.

John Strong (1738-1816) moved to Vermont from Connecticut in 1765 and built a house near the "Salt licks" which were known for attracting wild game. The site, near the present structure, had the cellar remains of an old French house and it was on top of this cellar that Strong built his house.

In February 1766, Strong brought his family to Addison and worked his farm until British troops threatened the safety of residents in this area during the Revolution. Strong and his family fled to Dorset, Vermont, for the duration and from 1779-82, Strong represented Dorset in the legislature. In 1781, he was elected assistant judge of Bennington County. When the war ended, the Strong family returned to Addison and found that their house had been burned by British troops. So a second house was built and slowly Strong reclaimed his farm land. This house has since been destroyed. By 1795, his prosperity allowed for the construction of the brick house which, in a way, reflected Strong's standing in the community. Throughout his life, Strong was actively involved in civic affairs.

Architecturally, the John Strong House ranks as one of the most outstanding structures in the state. The design is unusually sophisticated and, considering its early date, is enhanced by the use of brick, only sporadically employed at this time in Vermont. While wood has always been the predominant building material in Vermont, settlers in the Champlain Valley sometimes built stone and brick houses because of numerous quarries and the abundance of clay deposits in the region. The Strong House is one of the earliest brick houses in Vermont and is particularly distinguished by the quality of its brickwork. Undoubtedly laid by a skilled mason, the brick's Flemish bond, the favorite choice of 18th century masons, contributes to the stylishness of the house. The inherent checkered pattern of the bond is enhanced by the highly decorative use of glazed headers that form distinctive diamond-shaped patterns in the rear walls. This type of brickwork, while relatively common during the 18th century in the mid-Atlantic region and Virginia, is extremely rare in Vermont. Only two other examples are known to exist: the Federation Building

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Congdon, Herbert W. Old Vermont Houses, (Peterborough, N.H.: Noone House), 1968 reprint.

Hosley, Wm. N., comp. Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey, Addison, Book I, 1977.

Smith, H.P., ed. History of Addison County, Vermont, (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co.) 1886.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Port Henry, N.Y. - VT

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 118 627200 4878950
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The John Strong House is situated on one acre of land bounded on the east by Vermont Route 17 and on the north, south and west sides by the DAR State Park which is owned by the State of Vermont.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margaret N. DeLaittre, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

March 1980

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 X

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. Priddy

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4-11-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally G. Oldb

DATE

5/15/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Patrick Andrews
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

5/13/80

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received APR 17 1980

date entered MAY 15 1980

Continuation sheet 8-2

Item number 8

Page 2

in Middlebury, 1804 (entered on the National Register November 13, 1976), and the Chittenden-Martin House in Jericho, 1796 (entered on the National Register January 9, 1978).³

The details, forms, and massing of the house suggest that either Strong or his builder were familiar with 18th century pattern books and a particularly strong correlation seems to exist between Batty Langley's Practical House Carpenter (London, 1754) and the house. In turn, the Strong House appears to have influenced the designs of other buildings in the area yet none attained the same level of architectural distinction.⁴

The John Strong House is important not only for its regional impact, but because it shows the quality of design and workmanship which could be attained during Vermont's early years.

³These three examples of glazed-brick design refer to full-length wall patterns. Others may exist. Glazed designs of a smaller scale may be more or less prevalent. One example is the Spencer House (1830) in Addison (Vermont State Survey: 0101-61) which incorporates a small glazed diamond design in each gable pediment; odd is that the date is relatively late for glazed brick, and the diamonds are set into 7:1 American bond.

⁴Similarities can be seen in the Clemens House (c. 1800) in Shoreham (Vermont State Survey: 0118-4); Page House (c. 1798) in Shoreham (Vermont State Survey: 0118-20); Buck-O'Connor House (c. 1805) in Bridport (Vermont State Survey: 0102-23); and Audett-Gray House (c. 1810) in Bridport (Vermont State Survey: 0102-36).