

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 23 1979  
DATE ENTERED APR 11 1979

## 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

Naulakha

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*off U.S. 5*

CITY, TOWN

Dummerston

--- VICINITY OF

VT

STATE

Vermont

CODE  
50

COUNTY  
Windham

CODE  
025

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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

Mrs. F. Cabot Holbrook

STREET & NUMBER

19 Terrace Street

CITY, TOWN

Brattleboro

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dummerston

STATE

Vermont

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey

DATE

1971

---FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Naulakha, the home built for Rudyard Kipling in Dummerston, Vermont, is one of the finer examples of the Shingle style in the state. Located on eleven acres off a town road, at the edge of a meadow with a hillside behind, the estate is ideally situated in its naturalistic setting, with its view of mountains and valleys which spread before it to the east. Kipling often referred to the view of the Wantastiquet mountain range and Mount Monadnock peaking through the clouds and rising "like a giant thumb-nail pointing heavenward" (#3, p. 148). To Kipling, Naulakha came to symbolize all the positive qualities of rural Vermont, with its peacefulness and solitude, which have attracted writers and artists to the state for years.

The Kipling estate is entered at the northern end of the property. After passing through the stone gate posts, which support iron gates, the road winds westerly through pines and birches. The site is oriented north and south, with the eastern portion being generally flat. It rises sharply to the west, creating a wooded backdrop to the buildings and structures. Located at the southerly turn of the gravel drive is a large carriage barn (#5). This is an "L" shaped building with a gabled and jerkinhead roof sheathed in slate. The barn is 1½ stories, wood frame, sheathed in shingles and surmounted by a large cupola. The building was constructed ca. 1915 for the subsequent owners (the Holbrooks) when Kipling's original carriage barn (#7) was converted to a coachman's house. To the northeast of the carriage barn is a long narrow greenhouse, also ca. 1915, (#6) with a high brick foundation and an ornate entrance on the southern gable end. A wood frame, shingled, gable roofed heating plant for the greenhouse is connected to the north end.

Continuing southerly, the original coachman's carriage house (#7) is located on the westerly side of the drive. This building was constructed for Kipling as both a carriage and coachman's house; it was converted by the Holbrooks to servant quarters. It is a 2½-story, wood frame, shingled building with a high stone foundation; it has a hipped roof pierced by dormers and chimneys. Just to the south of this coachman's house is a small well house (#8).

The landscaped grounds of the estate contain a sunken formal garden off the broad veranda of the main house. Above the garden, on an upper terrace, is a swimming pool surrounded by a dry-laid stone wall. The pool is fed from a large spring house (#1), which is located higher on the hillside to the west and is clad in wood shingles and capped by a hipped roof protecting a 2-story round wooden cistern. To the north of the spring house is a 1-story, shed roofed bath house (#2) divided for men and women. Leading to the south, off the formal garden, is what was known by Kipling as the "long walk." The walk, now overgrown by a luxuriant growth of rhododendron, leads to a "summer house" (#3) which is located on the Dummerston-Brattleboro town line. Constructed on a polygonal fieldstone terrace, the summer house has a pergola of six concrete Doric columns connecting to end pavilions constructed of fieldstone with round arched openings supporting clipped gabled roofs which are clad in wood shingles. Above, and to the northwest of the summer house, is a small fieldstone terrace with a brick fireplace for informal outdoor cookouts. Below the summer house, to the east, is a tennis court with a wood frame observation gazebo (#4) capped by a conical roof and sheathed in wood shingles.

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The elliptical walled entrance of the main house (#9) is approached by the drive on the west side of the house. Kipling referred to his house as a ship; he said it rode the hillside like a boat on a wave with its propeller, or the furnace and kitchen, at the stern, and Kipling's study at the bow (#5, p. 366).

It is a Shingle Style house fashioned after an Indian bungalow and was originally 70 feet long by 22 feet wide. Circa 1915 the original architect, Henry Rutgers Marshall of New York (see vita: Dictionary of American Biography), made additions and slight alterations to the house for the Holbrook family. The house rises 2½ stories from a rough stone foundation, is clad in shingles, and is capped by a hipped roof sheathed in dark slate and punctuated by dormers.

The main entrance to the house is on the west facade and is protected by a gabled porte-cochere. Cut granite serves as steps and as the carriage stepping stone. This side of the house was the most altered by the Holbrooks; gabled, cantilevered additions were made at the north and south ends to provide rooms at the second floor hall level.

The south end of the house has a 2-story shingled piazza which is off Kipling's first floor study and his second floor bedroom. This piazza leads to the sunken formal garden, planned by the Kiplings, and the "long walk."

The east side of Naulakha is the main facade. Although the main entrance to the house is on the west side, the door enters a corridor which runs the length of the west side and from which rooms open off. All rooms in the house face east towards the Connecticut River valley, New Hampshire, Wantastiquet and the mysterious Mount Monadnock which "shuttles" in and out of the clouds as it did Kipling's imagination (#5, p. 36). A 2-story bay window projects from the southern end of this side to provide light and scenic views from Kipling's study and bedroom. The room directly north of Rudyard Kipling's study was his wife's study and was known locally as the "dragon's den." Mr. Kipling jealously guarded his privacy and disliked unnecessary invasion while he worked. Mrs. Kipling's study had to be entered before her husband's which made her the brunt of the unexpected callers' criticism. North of Mrs. Kipling's study was a recessed loggia with a small projecting porch. The Holbrooks enclosed this loggia, flush with the surface of the house, removed the partition between it and Mrs. Kipling's study and created a large, inviting living room. Continuing north of the former loggia is the dining room lighted by a large plate glass window with a slag glass transom. North of this is a recessed and angled porch which opens off the dining room and former kitchen. The north end room was originally a kitchen, however, ca. 1915 the Holbrooks converted it into a breakfast room and added an end porch of the same style as that on the south end. The kitchen was relocated in the basement and food raised to the first floor on a dumb waiter. The original butler's pantry remains behind the dining room to the west.

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The roof is punctuated by dormers which light a large billiard room and storage rooms. These storage rooms were probably added by the Holbrooks for originally there would have been no dormers to light them. The west side of Naulakha has two hipped roof dormers with clipped corners flanking a centrally located gabled dormer with a Palladian window. The south end of the house has a triangular shaped dormer, added by the Holbrooks, which is right (east) of center; it reproduces in style the two original dormers on the front (east) roof. The dormers on the east were relocated and increased in number by the Holbrooks. Originally two small triangular dormers, similar to that now on the south end, were to the right and left of center and lighted the billiard room. The Holbrooks had these dormers moved more towards the ends of the building and added two hipped roof dormers with clipped corners, similar to the two on the west side. The north end slope has a dormer, left of center, with a hipped roof and, although of the period, is unlike the other dormers.

An additional change made by the Holbrooks was the addition of a canvas covered deck along the east side of Naulakha. The deck has a rustic railing of cedar logs and is supported on stone piers.

The shingled house is stained a gray color and originally had olive green louvered shutters. A flared course of shingles is at the first floor window head level and saw tooth bands of shingles is at the second floor window sill level and at the meeting rail level of the second floor windows. These horizontal bands, besides giving Naulakha architectural detailing, accent the horizontal massing of the structure.

Many of the original Kipling furnishings remain, although the more personal items were removed before 1903 when the house was sold to their friend, Miss Mary Cabot of Brattleboro. Remaining are the plaster statuettes of Bagherra and Grey Brother which were presented to Kipling by William Chandler Harris, the author of the Uncle Remus stories; Kipling's golf clubs; bedroom, dining room and study furniture including the desk at which Kipling wrote the Jungle Books; and an interesting handcarved teakwood sideboard from India. Among the more interesting interior architectural features are a teakwood carved valance in Kipling's study and the plaster relief work by his father, John Lockwood Kipling, a professor in the British School of Art in India and director of the Lahore Museum. The elder Kipling made an interesting leaf detail in the plaster around the call bell in Mrs. Kipling's study and a bird and animal plaster relief in Rudyard Kipling's bedroom. The most noted however, is the applied script on the brick of the fireplace in Kipling's study: "The night cometh when no man can work" (St. John: IX, 4).

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The Holbrook family have added possessions of their own, both from their travels in the Orient and historic family pieces. Frederick Holbrook II, who purchased Naulakha from his sister-in-law (who had purchased the estate from Kipling for them) was the grandson of Vermont Governor Frederick Holbrook (1813-1909) and many of the Governor's possessions are here. The Holbrook items are mingled with the original Kipling possessions and furnishings and, for the most part, are undistinguishable from them.

Naulakha, its furnishings, the related buildings, and the landscaped grounds create an image of an upper class rural estate from the turn of the Century. Vermont had many private estates during this period; Naulakha is one of the few remaining and one of the best preserved from this pre-Colonial Revival period.

The eleven-acre site being nominated is the same tract purchased by Kipling at the time he was planning Naulakha. The entire parcel retains its significance in architecture and literature, as the grounds are substantially as originally designed and conveys the same feeling as when Kipling was living and working here.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1892-1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Rutgers Marshall

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rudyard Kipling, the author of British imperialism and the story teller of British India, lived in Vermont during the years 1892-1896. Naulakha, his estate in Dummerston, Vermont, is the only house ever built by Kipling and remains today much as it was when he left it. As a relatively small but intact late 19th century estate, the property would be significant for its architecture alone, even without the literary association. Kipling, however, as an architect's client, added his personal style to the design, based on his experiences in India. It is thus a dramatic cross-cultural expression, spanning two continents stylistically.

Rudyard Kipling was born in 1865, the son of English parents living in Bombay, India. His father, John Lockwood Kipling, was a professor at the British School of Art at Lahore. Rudyard was sent to England for schooling and it was there he met Wolcott Balestier, an American publisher and writer. Jointly they wrote Naulakha, A Novel of East and West, the story of a priceless Indian jewel. Wolcott died (1891) shortly before the completion of the book and Kipling, "a captive of the Balestier charm," (#7, p. 3) soon married Caroline Balestier, the sister of his friend and literary collaborator. The couple began their wedding journey by visiting her widowed mother, grandmother, and younger brother Beatty at their home in Brattleboro, Vermont. The Kiplings spent three days in the area and Rudyard, like his in-laws, enjoyed the solitude. The Kiplings decided to purchase some acreage in Dummerston from Beatty, and then continued on their wedding journey around the world. Before the journey was completed, however, their bank failed and Kiplings were forced to return to America. They rented a small cottage, "The Bliss Cottage," near the site of their 11 acres and began to plan for the future.

While at "Bliss Cottage" their first child, Josephine, was born and Rudyard began to write the first Jungle Book.

Royalties from past publications began to come in and the Kiplings hired Henry Rutgers Marshall (1852-1927) to design a house. Marshall, a friend of the Balestier family, had designed many large suburban residences in New England and New York as well as the library at Rutgers College. The Kiplings worked closely with Marshall on the plans of their new house and the result resembles an Indian bungalow. Marshall's plans for the house appeared in the Catalogue of the 8th Annual Exhibition of the Architect's League of New York, January 2-25, 1893.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9-1

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA <sup>18</sup>

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11

Brattleboro, VT - NH

Scale: 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 | 6,9,8,9,0,0 | 4,7,5,2,4,2,5  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1,8 | 6,9,9,0,5,0 | 4,7,5,2,0,5,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 | 6,9,8,8,2,5 | 4,7,5,2,0,5,0

D 1,8 | 6,9,8,7,5,0 | 4,7,5,2,4,0,0

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of the original 11 acres purchased by Mr. & Mrs Rudyard Kipling from the Balestier family; located in Dummerston along the Dummerston-Brattleboro town lines and on the road presently known as "Kipling Road."

### 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

John P. Dumville, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Office 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. Priney*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-19-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles R. Brown*

DATE

4-9-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

*Tom M. Dwyer*

DATE

7/11/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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In the fall of 1893 the Kipling family moved into Naulakha. It should be noted that the title of the Kipling-Balestier novel has always been spelled "Naulakha" while the house in Vermont is spelled "Naulakha." The novel's title was misspelled from the beginning and never corrected by Kipling, perhaps out of memory of his good friend.

While at Naulakha the Kiplings' second child was born and Rudyard wrote five of his better known books: the two Jungle Books, Captains Courageous, The Seven Seas, and The Day's Work as well as numerous poems and short stories. Before final editing he read many of his Jungle Book stories to neighborhood children to obtain their reactions.

Unfortunately Kipling is known in Vermont for his ironic family feud which led to a widely publicized lawsuit and shattered his cherished privacy.

When the Kiplings decided to build on their 11 acres in Dummerston, Beatty Balestier, Caroline Kipling's brother, was hired as supervisor of the construction. Beatty was locally known as a spendthrift, always in debt, party-going, and a heavy drinker. Although the Balestiers (originally "Vermont summer-people") and the Kiplings were "resident outsiders", the neighbors liked Beatty; he was entertaining -- one remarked, "No matter what scrap he was in, he was real amusin' 'bout it." (#1, p. 109). The Kiplings, on the other hand, were not popular; they would not mingle, were sometimes uncivil, and were resented because of Mrs. Kipling's affectations.

At first Beatty and his brother-in-law got along well, but Mrs. Kipling couldn't tolerate her younger brother and in time influenced Rudyard and in 1896 the bitterness became open war.

A disagreement over the use of the pasture in front of Naulakha, where Caroline wanted to plant a formal garden, was the catalyst. Disparaging remarks made by Kipling in public about Beatty became widely dispersed, and the inevitable confrontation resulted. Beatty, in an informal manner, went to see his brother-in-law about the stories going around, and Kipling told him to speak with his lawyers. Beatty immediately replied, "By Jesus, this is no case for lawyers. You've got to retract the Goddamned lies you've been telling about me. You've got to retract them in a week or by Christ I'll punch the Goddamned soul out of you." (#1, p. 118).

Kipling, under pressure from his wife, visited his lawyer the next morning and two days later Beatty was arrested. Kipling soon realized his mistake but it was too late; Beatty had contacted all the newspapers which Kipling had spurned. The trial, held in the Brattleboro Opera House, was blown out of proportion, shattered Kipling's privacy, and made a spectacle for the reporters, the metropolitan newspapers, and readers. Although Kipling won the trial, on a personal level he had lost. Kipling and his family fled Vermont and returned to a grateful England.



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In 1903, after having personal items removed, the Kipling family ended their connection with Vermont and sold Naulakha to a friend, Miss Mary Cabot of Brattleboro, who purchased the estate for her sister Mrs. Frederick Holbrook. The Holbrooks hired the original architect, Henry Rutgers Marshall, to make slight changes to the house and grounds.

In Kipling's conversations with friends he spoke fondly of India and Naulakha; India he had to leave because of his health and Vermont because of ill will. He told callers, "There are only two places in the world where I want to live -- Bombay and Brattleboro. And I can't live at either." (#1 p. 123) The house and grounds at Naulakha have changed slightly over the years, but still evokes the feeling and image of Kipling in setting, furnishings, and architecture.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

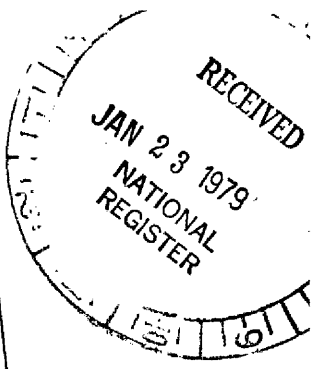
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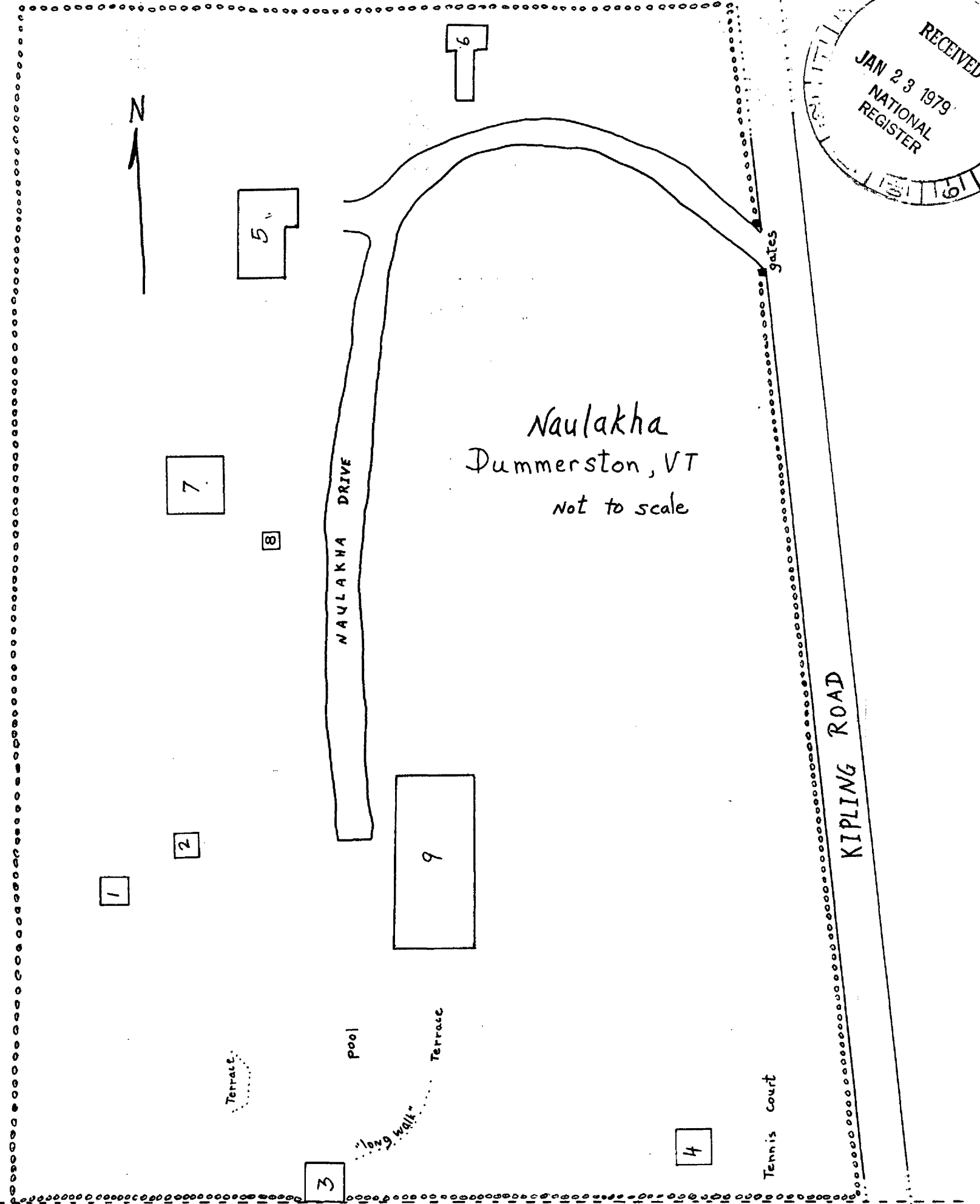
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2. Craig, David W. "Two Steps and One Step Beyond" in Yankee, Feb. 1973, Vol. 37, #2, pp. 76-82, 110-117.
3. Kipling, Rudyard, "In Sight of Mount Monadnock" in The Vermonter, April 1899, Vol. 4, #9, pp. 145-150.
4. Rice, Howard C. "Kipling's Winters in Vermont" in Up Country, Feb. 1974, Vol. 2, #2, pp. 8-9, 14-15, 26.
5. Rice, Howard C. "Rudyard Kipling's House in Vermont" in Vermont Life, Spring 1952, Vol. 6, #3, pp. 34-39.
6. Rice, Howard C. "Rudyard Kipling in New England" in The New England Quarterly, Sept. 1936, Vol. 9, #3, pp. 363-377.
7. Stefansson, Vilhjalmur. Kipling and Vermont, reprinted from Vermont History, Oct. 1954 by the Vermont Historical Society.
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Naulakha  
Dummerston, VT  
not to scale



DUMMERSTON - BRATTLEBORD TOWN LINE