

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 10 1979  
DATE ENTERED SEP 10 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 Tudor House  
AND/OR COMMON Potvin House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER VT 8

CITY, TOWN Stamford VICINITY OF Vermont  
STATE Vermont CODE 50 COUNTY Bennington CODE 03

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Robert Potvin  
STREET & NUMBER State Route 8-100  
CITY, TOWN Stamford VICINITY OF Vermont STATE Vermont

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Town Clerk  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Stamford STATE Vermont

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey  
DATE April 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 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		

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

In its basic form, this Queen Anne style house, with Colonial Revival elements, is a rectangular box with a ridged hipped roof. The bay windows, corner turrets with conical roofs, cross gables and dormers, however, give the box the complex massing typical of the Queen Anne style. The clapboarded, 2½-story house rises from a coursed rock faced granite foundation and is capped by an asphalt clad roof. The windows, of varying sizes, are primarily 1/1 with simple molded surrounds. Encircling the house is a simple sill course, which in combination with the regular fenestration and the denticulated cornice, give the house a general horizontal appearance which contrasts with the soaring lines of the roof.

Centrally located on the main (south) facade is a 2½-story projecting cross gable pavilion. The pavilion has monumental fluted Doric pilasters supporting an entablature and cornice returns. There is a Palladian window in the gable peak and a recessed first floor which forms a porch joining with the recessed porch on the right (east) side. There is a 2-story corner turret with a conical roof on the left (southwest) corner and a pedimented dormer between it and the cross gable pavilion.

The right (east) side (facing State Route 8) contains a swept cross gable with a recessed first floor corner porch on its southeast side. A Doric column on a pedestal supports the corner and a balustraded deck extends from the porch. In the gable peak is a recessed round-arch porch with a wooden torch in the keystone position. A 2-story semi-hexagonal bay window is below this recessed porch, its roof forming part of the porch floor. The right (northeast) corner has a 2-story turret with a conical roof.

The rear (north) facade has a 2-story semi-hexagonal bay with a hipped roof on the right (northwest) corner. The main roof of the house, between the turret and the bay, has a large gabled roof dormer with a Palladian motif triple window which has a stylized sunburst above the central window.

The rear (west) facade has a pedimented gabled dormer and a 1-story, hip-roofed enclosed porch which extends around to the north facade. There is also a 2-story, 1 x 2 bay flat roof ell on the northwest corner which is a later addition.

On the interior, each of the three first floor rooms around the center chimney is paneled in a different wood and executed in a different version of the Colonial Revival style. A parquet-floored entrance hall leads to the main hall with oak paneling and a fireplace with Greek ornament which has an iridescent tile surround and a beveled mirror in the overmantel. The living room has maple paneling, a pressed plaster cornice with a frieze of acanthus leaves below the denticulated cornice with egg and dart and bead and reel moldings. The fireplace is flanked by fluted Ionic columns with a broken pediment overmantel containing a beveled mirror above the fireplace surround and hearth of glazed tiles. A sliding door separates the living room from the front parlor which is finished in cherry with a Gothic style fireplace with drops below the mantel and a Tudor arched mirror in the overmantel. There are original chandeliers in the front hall, dining room, bathroom, stairway and upstairs bedrooms.

To the northwest of the house is a 2½-story, clapboarded carriage barn with a large front gable wall dormer and a hipped cupola.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Social history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900-1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This residence derives its importance both from its elegance of design and craftsmanship, and as a symbol of the social structure of rural, small town New England.

Architecturally, the Tudor house displays the transition from the late Queen Anne period to the Colonial Revival. All the variations in exterior surface typical of Queen Anne - tower, overhangs, porches, balconies, bay windows and dormers-are combined harmoniously resulting in a rational, functional interior plan. The interior is a showcase of the woodworking skills and fine woods of the owner's profession. Yet, in limiting each style and wood to a single room the architect has avoided the gaudy eclecticism of earlier Victorian styles.

The exterior uses Colonial Revival motifs and details but in a highly stylized, individual manner. The Palladian form is employed in the two gabled roof dormers, and the monumental fluted pilasters of the south side are so massive and deeply fluted that they evoke colonial architecture without copying it. Unfortunately, research has failed to identify the architect or builder.

The quality of the design is even more impressive when seen in its social and physical context. Stamford is a small mountain town whose principal industries were lumbering and farming. Its population had declined from 1840 to 1890 and John Tudor (b. 1858 in Cardiff, Wales; d. 1909 in Stamford) was one of very few persons to immigrate to the town. A successful upstate mill owner and state legislature at the age of 32 when he moved to Stamford, Tudor was by far the wealthiest and most important resident. His house was a statement of this. Built on a curve on the main road at the southern entrance to the village, the house occupies the most visible location in the village. Few new buildings had been constructed since 1860 and those had been conservative in style. John Tudor's house in its ostentatious size and using the newest style and materials was clearly meant to set him apart from the rest of the community. This it did, a contemporary account stating, "He had but recently established his home on a scale of magnificence consistent with his financial status in the community, his palatial residence considered one of the finest in Souther Vermont, constituting one of the conspicuous features of the Town of Stamford."<sup>1</sup>

The house has been expertly restored and maintained by the present owner who also owns the largest mill in Stamford. The addition on the northwest corner does not detract from the overall design.

<sup>1</sup> Arthur F. Stone, The Vermont of Today, Vol. IV, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1929), p. 838-839.



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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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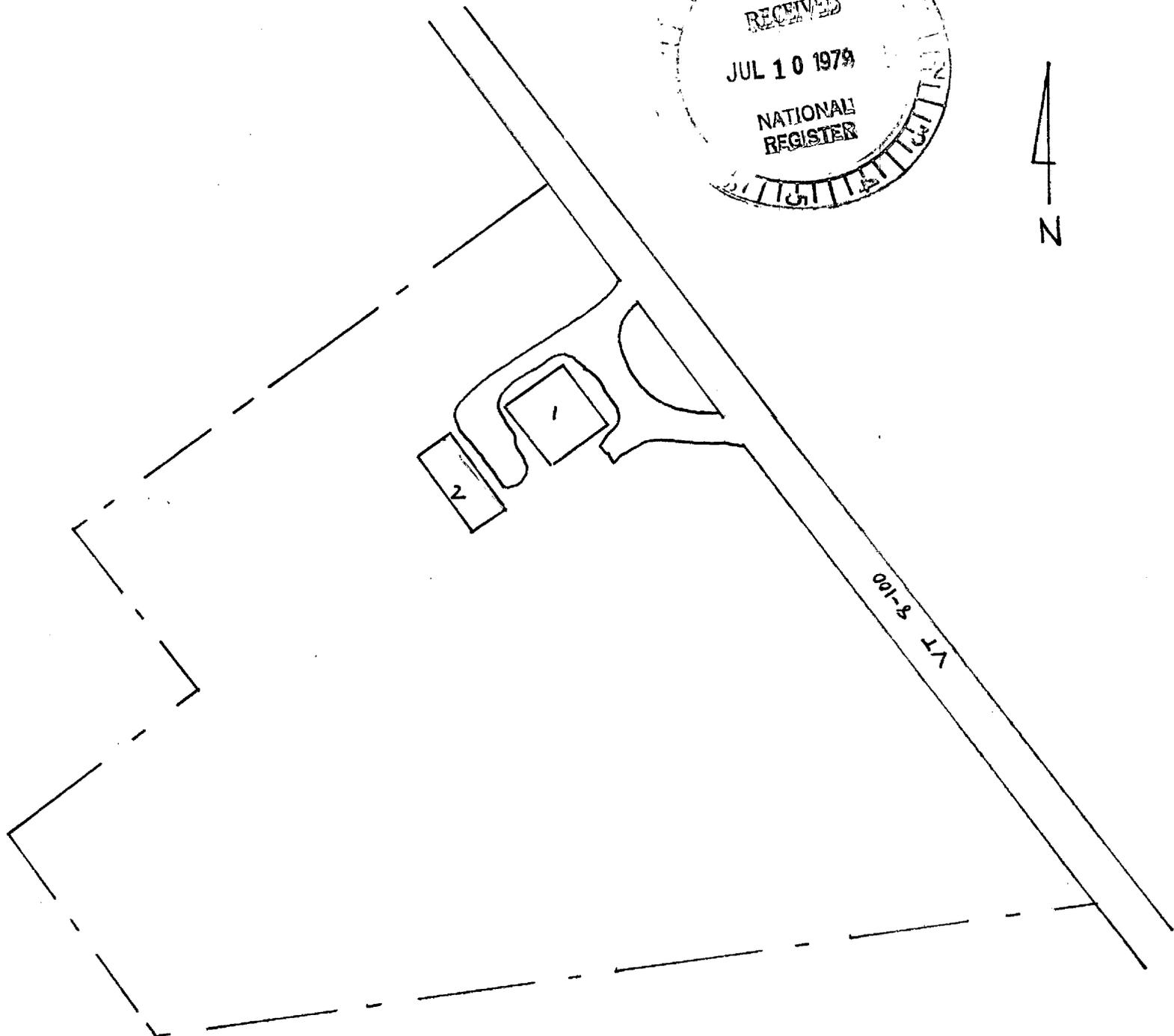
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 8-1

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

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The property included with this nomination consists of the house, carriage barn and related grounds of 10 acres, all currently owned by the Robert Potvin family. This property is a portion of the original 40-acre tract traditionally associated with the house, and presents an image appropriate to the style and demeanor of the structure.



POTVIN HOUSE  
STAMFORD, VT

APPROXIMATE SKETCH  
OF PROPERTY  
± 10 ACRES

- 1 HOUSE
- 2 CARRIAGE BARN

NOT TO SCALE