

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **JUL 19 1988**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic William Henry House

and or common Henry House

**2. Location**

street & number River Road (Town Highway 19) N/A not for publication

city, town Bennington N/A vicinity of

state Vermont code 50 county Bennington code 003

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Preservation Trust of Vermont

street & number P.O. Box 1777

city, town Windsor N/A vicinity of state Vermont 05089-0021

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Town Clerk

street & number 205 South Street

city, town Bennington state Vermont

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 William Henry House is a large, 2½ story, wood frame, gable-roofed building on a fieldstone foundation with three clapboard-sided sections: the 1769 five bay wide center hall block, on its north end a projecting three bay wide section added c.1797, and across the back of the original section a one story shed-roofed addition that may have been the original porch enclosed at a later date. The east side of the main wood shingle roof was rebuilt with a shallower pitch c.1797 to frame in a two story porch distinguished by monumental wooden posts. This porch roof spans both the front of the main block and south end of the north addition, suggesting a major renovation of the house c.1797. The interior of the house is notable for its nearly intact floor plan in the main block, original woodwork and trim, and an intact second floor ballroom. Outbuildings include a c.1840 carriage shed, a c.1840 corncrib, and a guest barn remodeled in the late 1930s. The house is located on approximately ten acres of land along River Road (Town Highway 19) in the Riverside or Irish Corner section of Bennington, Vermont. It is about 100 feet south of the 1840 Henry Covered Bridge (listed on August 28, 1973 in the National Register of Historic Places), which spans the Walloomsac River.

The main block of the house, which has beaded edge cornerboards and many of its original sash and plank frame windows with moulded surrounds, is five bays wide (38 feet, 8 inches) across the front (east) wall and two bays (29 feet, 4 inches excluding the front porch) deep. First floor front windows have twelve over twelve sash, while those on the second floor are six over six. In the center of the main facade is the entry: a door with four raised panels and hung with strap hinges, and framed by a three part surround (a beaded inner edge, ovolo and cove middle step, and a large ovolo backband). Outside the surround are plank frame sidelights with two over two sash. Running across the front wall on each side of the door are simple, built-in wooden benches. The imposing front porch, believed to date from the same time as the north addition, is supported by four monumental posts, which have beaded edges and complex moulded bases and capitals. The northmost "post," in fact a pilaster, is a cornerboard for the north addition, providing further evidence of a common building date.

The south facade has on the first floor one twelve over twelve window in the right bay, a paired six over six window in the left bay (perhaps dating from the 1932 work on the house), and a six over six window lighting the addition, which is about twelve feet wide with a brick foundation. The two second floor windows are six over six, and the two fixed attic windows have six lights each. Some of the clapboards siding the gable peak area under and near the porch roof slope are narrower than the original wide clapboards and are set somewhat irregularly.

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date entered

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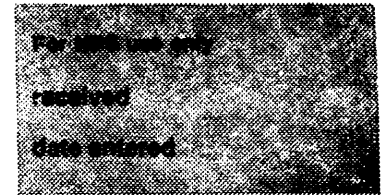
Running across the rear (west) wall is a one story section with 20th century windows and a shallow-pitched shed roof that terminates under the sills of the three six over six second floor windows of the main block. The first floor fenestration, from left to right, consists of two paired six light casement windows, a door, two paired six over six doublehung windows, and to the right a six over six doublehung window.

The north gable end of the facade of the main house, whose left half is abutted by the large two story addition, has on the first floor two six over six doublehung windows lighting the shed addition; paired 20th century, six over six doublehung windows in the west half of the main block; on the second floor one six over six doublehung window whose east casing is buried in the north addition west wall; and a fixed six light window lighting the attic.

The main outside entrance to the north addition (21 feet, 6 inches wide and 25 feet, 1 inch deep) is through a door on the south wall that opens onto the east porch. Above it is a six over six window. The front (east) wall has three evenly spaced twelve over twelve windows on the first floor and two evenly spaced twelve over eight windows on the second floor. The north wall windows, all twelve over eight, are located in the east and west bays of the first floor and just to the east of center on the second floor. A modern hatch door near the middle of the wall leads to the cellar. The rear (west) wall has three side by side, six light windows to the north of a door located slightly off center. On the second floor of this elevation are two nine over six windows.

The entire house has three tall brick chimney stacks: in the main block there is one just to the west of the roof ridge in the southern third and another to the rear of the western third, and in the addition a chimney stack is located to the west of the roof ridge and abutting the north wall of the main block. The tops of the chimneys are corbelled.

The interior plan of the first floor of the main block has a center hall that extends back half the depth of the house and is flanked by two front parlors. The southeast parlor shares a chimney mass with the smaller southwest room. Extending across the back of the center hall and northeast parlor is the original kitchen. The one story shed to the rear has been remodeled to house two rooms flanking a central bathroom. A number of the doors and hinges, reused from another old house, were installed during the 1932 restoration.

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Notable features in the center hall are the long strap hinges of the front door, its simple moulded surround, cased center hall girts and posts framing the hallway, and a straight run of stairs on its north wall. These stairs probably date from c.1797 according to a 1938 article that describes the removal of the original central chimney.<sup>1</sup> Running under the stair treads are unusual cove and astragal mouldings. The moulded railing, which frames into a simple, square newel post, has no balusters. The stair ends are enclosed by a skirtboard with an applied ovolo moulding. The stair wall underneath is made up of wide, vertical planks with beaded feather edges.

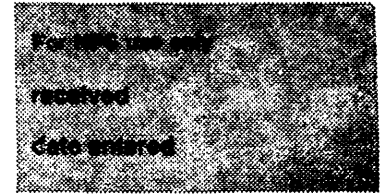
A south wall hall door, which has four raised panels, thumbnail beading on the stiles and rails, and H and L hinges, leads to the south-east parlor, which has plastered walls and ceilings, a shallow but wide summer beam running north/south, and on the exterior south wall encased corner posts and plate. The baseboard is topped by an ovolo moulding. Window surrounds are simply moulded and perhaps date from the 1932 restoration of the house. In the center of the west wall is the marble fireplace, which has a moulded surround (bead, intermediate fillet, and cove and astragal backband). It is flanked on the left by a cupboard with a raised panel door below, three curved shelves above, and a simple moulded surround, and on the right by a batten door leading into the southwestern room.

The southwest room, with plastered walls and ceilings, shares the southeast parlor chimney mass, which projects into the room and has a soapstone lintel, jambs, and hearthstone, and a simple surround that is beaded on the inside and has a large ogee backband. There are two side by side cupboards with single board doors in the upper half of the north chimney wall. To the right of the fireplace are two narrow vertical cupboards in the southeast corner, and shelving stretching between them and the south chimney wall. This work has been added.

A door, with six flat panels and H and L hinges in the north wall of the hall leads to the formal northeast parlor (measuring 14 by 15 feet), which is exceptional for its south wall raised paneling. A wide summer beam stretches north/south across the ceiling. Trimming all the cased beams in this room is a large crown moulding consisting of a cyma recta profile and an unusually large ogee moulding underneath. During the 1932 restoration of the house the south wall paneling was uncovered, revealing a space that showed the location of the original fireplace, which utilized the house's central chimney mass (likely removed by William Henry c.1797).<sup>2</sup> The present marble fireplace, the most elaborate in the house, is located in the center of the north wall and shares a chimney stack with the addition. It has a surround with a large ogee and astragal backband, and a mantel shelf supported

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by a cove molding. It is flanked by doors with four raised panels and H and L hinges that lead into the addition.

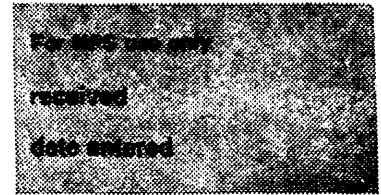
The original kitchen, in the northwest corner of the main block, is reached from the hall and southwestern room by doors with six flat panels and Norfolk latches, and from the northeast parlor by a door with four raised panels. Its western wall is made of wide vertical boards (some as much as 26 inches wide), which had been plastered over and uncovered in the 1932 restoration. A large batten door, made of two vertical planks, hung by strap hinges, and located just to the north of the door from the hall, led to the original cellar stairs. The eastern wall has another but narrower batten door with yet different strap hinges that leads to a closet. In the center of the west wall is the kitchen fireplace with a floating mantel shelf (with a fillet, stepped ovolo, cove, and astragal moulding). To the right is an unusual older door, perhaps reused from another old house, that leads into the back shed addition. At the north end of the wall is an attractive built-in cupboard, which has a raised panel door below, three shelves above, and is framed by a moulded, round arched surround.

The room in the southwest corner of the shed extension, has an encased gunstock post and plate. Between it and the north shed room is a bathroom, and a small hallway, which has a door with six flat panels and H and L hinges leading into the kitchen.

The second floor of the main block has two bedrooms to the south of the hallway that are separated by stairs running on a north/south axis to the attic. The small room at the west end of the hall was once a lined smokeroom, sharing the kitchen chimney stack. During the ownership of the McCulloughs it was converted to a bathroom. The entire northern end of the second floor is devoted to a ballroom that measures 14 by 28 feet. All main doors have six flat panels and Norfolk latches.

As in the downstairs, the upstairs hall has encased girts and posts on the east and west walls and along the side walls. Cuts in the hall baseboard and other marks are evidence of what may have been the original boxy staircase near the central chimney. The small southwest room has on its east wall a batten door that leads to a closet, which abuts the chimney mass. Also visible are encased gunstock posts. The front, south-east bedroom is notable for its wood detailing. The ceiling framing with its wide summer beam and quirk beaded joists has been exposed. The attic floorboards, also exposed, have beaded joints. The girts, plates, and gunstock posts are exposed and uncased. Wide vertical planks form the west wall, which along with the ceiling was plastered over at a later date and uncovered during the 1932 restoration. Near its southern end is a door, made of one vertical board with strap hinges that leads into a closet, which it shares with the southwest bedroom. The east and south exterior walls are plastered.

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The ballroom, stretching across the northern end of the house, has plastered ceilings and walls. The outside walls are built out to cover the plates and posts for a finished surface, indicative of a formal room and, perhaps, a later (c.1797) refurbishing. The ceiling is higher in here than in the other second floor rooms, extending up into the attic, so that the western wall is sloped under the roofline. Near the center of this wall is a marble fireplace that shares the kitchen chimney stack and has a simple surround with a cove and astragal backband. The windows have matching surrounds and aprons with a fillet, ovolo, cove, and astragal moulding under the sill, and a beaded bottom edge. A door in the north wall leads to the second floor of the addition.

The attic, reached by stairs between the two south bedrooms, has handhewn rafters that are lap-jointed and pinned together. The front porch rafters, which have a shallower slope, are fastened to the original front rafters by large, hand-forged nails, one indication for a c.1797 date for the construction of the porch. The south chimney is corbelled forward (to the east) to reach the ridge-line and is supported by a large handhewn plank. Running north/south about four feet from the floor and just above the ceiling of the ballroom is a longitudinal girt, which is tenoned and braced into the center gable posts and the posts that frame each side of the center hallway. This girt is notched with rafter seats, indicating that it is a plate that was reused or miscut and reassigned.

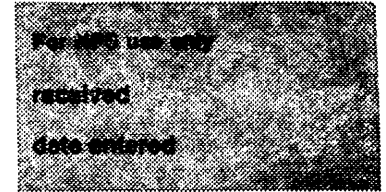
The north addition rafters have been removed on the east side. The west side rafters with lap joints have been sistered to and attached at a new peak height to the shallow-pitched east rafters, which are contemporary to those on the main house block that frame the east porch.

The cellar, approximately six and one half feet high, encompasses the north addition, the main house block 28 feet wide (excluding the east porch), and the west shed addition. The framing under the shed, with sloping joists that are let into the rear (west) plate of the main house block, indicates that this shed may have been an original porch. Under the south chimney is a small room, which may have been a smokeroom or cistern. The cellar walls are rubblestone and brick. The west wall of the north addition has been rebuilt with concrete. The cellar stonework and chimney foundations suggest that the north addition was original to the 1769 construction and was rebuilt with the main roof and east porch c.1797.

Rooms in the north addition have been considerably altered. The first floor, which has a small fireplace in the south wall, was originally

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the Henry store and tavern,<sup>3</sup> and now is a large kitchen. This part of the house was not used in the early 20th century and was in serious disrepair by the time the property was bought by the McCulloughs. The kitchen and the upstairs were remodeled in the 1930s and several times since then. The kitchen has extensive wooden paneling and cabinetwork. The upstairs, reached by a tightly winding staircase, has two bedrooms, a hallway, and a bathroom.

Behind the William Henry House is a well-preserved, c.1840, one story wood frame, gable-roofed carriage shed, with weathered clapboard siding and a fieldstone foundation. Two open carriage bays with angled profiles at the top span the front (western eaves side) of the building. The roof is covered with wooden shakes, applied in the 20th century. Inside, the floor is of brick, laid in a herringbone pattern, and the braced frame is exposed.

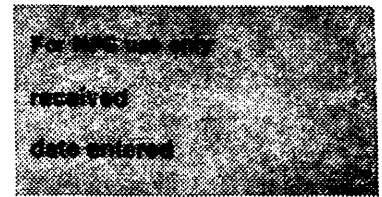
To the north of the carriage shed is a c.1840 wood frame corncrib with a fieldstone foundation and wooden shake-covered gable roof. Walls are clapboard sided except for the south wall, which is covered with vertical planks. The door, in the gable front, has strap hinges and a large Suffolk latch.

Located to the north of the Henry House and just to the southwest of the Henry Covered Bridge is a guest barn. Once a barn of uncertain date, it stood approximately fifteen feet from the north side of the house. It was moved to its present location in the 1930s by the McCulloughs and remodeled as a guest house. It has since been renovated several times. Wood framed with clapboard siding, the building is two stories tall with a fieldstone foundation, a wood shingle-covered gable roof, and a slightly off-center fieldstone chimney. Its windows, most of which have six over six sash, are somewhat irregularly placed. Those on the south and east walls are grouped in threes. Projecting from the lower half of the east wall is a shallowly pitched shed roof that covers a high, exposed basement wall. The north eaves side has a two bay wide, one bay deep projection on the left, and on the right a shallower, one story addition with a central door flanked by a set of three adjoining six light windows. Underneath one part of the building is a garage.

To the south of the Henry House is a small pond bordered by wildflowers and reed grasses. The immediate property is distinguished by tall maples, mature lilacs, fruit trees, and flower beds. A driveway south of the Henry House circles behind the carriage shed, corncrib, and guest barn. Between these outbuildings and the road are extensive stone walls serving both as retaining walls and foundations for the buildings.

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ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Mabel W. Mayforth, "Henry House," Modern Health Crusader of Vermont,  
vol. 21, n. 6 (1938): 4.

<sup>2</sup>Mayforth, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup>Mayforth, p. 4.



## 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**    1769/c.1797                      **Builder/Architect**    Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The well-preserved William Henry House, built near the Walloomsac River in 1769 for Elnathan Hubbell and extensively rebuilt c.1797 for William Henry, is significant as one of the oldest standing houses not only in Bennington but all of Vermont, and is an excellent and rare example in the state of Georgian period vernacular architecture. Among its outstanding features are its central doorway with sidelights and moulded surround, imposing front porch supported by monumental posts, and a number of original plank frame windows. Inside, much of its original woodwork and trim and a second floor ballroom are intact. The house, built eight years after settlement commenced west of the Green Mountains in Vermont, was the home of the prominent Henry family for approximately 130 years. William Henry was a lieutenant during the Revolutionary War, fighting in the Battle of Bennington. His son, William Henry II, was a longtime town officeholder. His grandson, Bertine T. Henry, ran the prosperous late 19th century Riverside Mill across the river. His granddaughter, Mary Howe Henry, wrote numerous books under the pen name Howe Benning. The house is linked to another Henry House (the Henry-Matteson House), a c.1820 Federal style building across the Walloomsac River, by the c.1840 Henry Covered Bridge (listed on August 28, 1973 in the National Register of Historic Places).

The William Henry House is of great architectural significance for the state of Vermont. This large two story house was originally built in 1769 and extensively rebuilt c.1797. Evidence of the original construction and the early changes that were made are readily accessible today, making the building an extremely important artifact for the study and better understanding of early Vermont settlement, and period building practices, styles, and technology.

The original 1769 block remains remarkably intact and is noteworthy for its Georgian period detailing. Although the exterior is relatively plain, it has beaded edge cornerboards, a paneled central door with a moulded surround and sidelights, and a number of original plank frame windows. The sloping floor joists of the shed addition that spans the rear of the main block indicate that this was originally a porch, an exceedingly rare feature of 18th century houses. The interior, with its nearly intact floor plan, fireplaces, and moulded door and window surrounds, looks much as it did when built. The second floor southeast bedroom, with its feather-edged paneling, has exposed beaded ceiling joists and beaded ceiling boards (the attic floor), suggesting that much of the house structure was exposed when first built.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property + 10 acres

Quadrangle name Hoosick Falls, NY

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Townsend H. Anderson, Director for Historic Properties, and Elsa Gilbertson,  
Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Mill Bridge Construction date September 8, 1986

street & number Box 564 telephone (802) 388-3169

city or town Middlebury state Vermont 05753

# 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 Elsa Gilbertson

title Vermont Director/State Historic Preservation Officer date 09/30/88

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Savage date 11-9-88  
for Keeper of the National Register

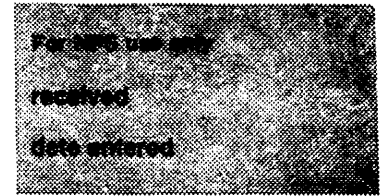
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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Significance

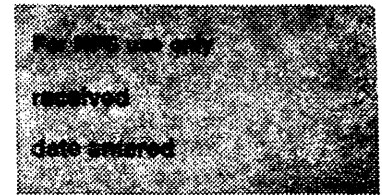
Item number 8

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About 1797 William Henry rebuilt the house to accommodate his large family and his business--a tavern and a store--by adding the front porch and remodeling the two story section on the north end of the main block. There is some evidence in the paneling of the south wall of the northeast parlor that also indicates the house may originally have had a central chimney. If so, Henry would have removed it at this time. The front porch he added, like the original back porch, is highly unusual for the period. It is impressively scaled, rising a full two stories in height and is supported by monumental posts, which are notable for their well-resolved bases and capitals, excellent examples of late Georgian period mouldings. To frame in the front porch, the east roof pitch of the main block was altered, and the new porch rafters were fastened to the original house rafters by large hand-forged nails. At this time much of the exposed interior framing--posts, plates, girts, and summer beams--were probably encased and in the formal northeast parlor finished with contemporary mouldings. The walls were also plastered. The outside walls of the second floor ballroom were also probably built out at this time for a finished surface desirable for a formal room.

The first permanent settlement in Vermont west of the Green Mountains was begun in the spring of 1761 in the town of Bennington. Growth proceeded rapidly, and by 1765 the town had about 1,000 residents. By the time of the first Federal census in 1791 there were 2,350 inhabitants, making Bennington the second most populous town in the state. The town retained its position as one of Vermont's wealthiest and most populous throughout the next century.

Among the early residents of Bennington were the Hubbell and Henry families. Elnathan Hubbell, born in 1717 in Stratford, Connecticut, moved to Bennington with his wife, Mehitable Sherwood, shortly after settlement had begun. In 1766 he bought about 50 acres on the Walloomsac River in the northwestern corner of town from James Breakenridge. Three years later, according to a 19th century history,<sup>1</sup> Hubbell had built the main portion of this house, a two story, wood frame structure with a central, sidelit doorway. Hubbell, a farmer, was a member of the Vermont Council of Safety. On March 21, 1772, he was one of ten Vermonters who took part in the rescue of noted Green Mountain Boy, Remember Baker. Baker had been captured in the dispute over conflicting New York and New Hampshire land grants by a band of New Yorkers that was taking him to jail in Albany. When Hubbell died in 1788 his property passed on to his widow and son Almerin.

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The house and land were then sold to William Henry, who was born about 1734 in Ireland and moved from Colrain, Massachusetts, to Bennington with his wife Isabella (1739-1823) in the 1760s. There were several families of Scotch-Irish descent living in the area around the old Hubbell house, and soon it came to be called Irish Corner. The Henrys had eight children, born between 1760 and 1780. During the Revolutionary War, Henry held the title of lieutenant and fought in the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777.

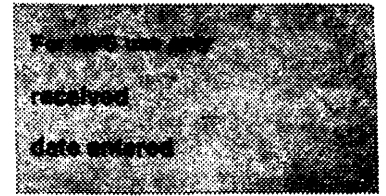
In 1797, according to several early 20th century histories, William Henry remodeled the house.<sup>2</sup> Documentation for this date is not provided in any of the sources, but architectural evidence as described in Section 7 suggest that this is a likely date. Mabel Mayforth notes in her article of 1938 a 1798 coin found under a first floor baseboard in the northern section of the house during restoration work in 1932.

In the house the Henrys ran a tavern and a store (believed to be in the first floor of the north section<sup>3</sup>), probably the tavern and store noted in Irish Corner in Zadock Thompson's 1842 Gazetteer of Vermont. William Henry died in 1811. His oldest child, William Henry II (1760-1845), continued to live in the house, while his other three sons moved to other houses in town. William Henry II was a prominent figure in Bennington, serving as the town representative to the General Assembly from 1805 to 1812, a justice of the peace for 39 years, and a judge of probate for two years. He was, according to an early town historian, "a man of sound judgment and of undoubted integrity and was universally respected."<sup>4</sup>

After his death in 1845 the property passed to his son Eli B., to whom he had given a c.1820 Federal style house (the Henry-Matteson House) just to the north across the Walloomsac River in 1832. The two houses were linked by the c.1840 Henry Covered Bridge (listed in the National Register of Historic Places). The 1869 F.W. Beers map of Bennington shows E.B. Henry living in the Henry Homestead. Eli is listed in the 1880 business directory of Bennington as a farmer with 200 acres. In 1884 he deeded interests in his farm to his children: Elias Morris, Bertine T., and Mary Howe Henry. Elias lived with his wife in the c.1820 house his father owned, while Mary and Bertine remained in the old homestead. Mary wrote a number of books, including Historic Bennington (c.1891), under the pen name Howe Benning. Bertine operated the Riverside Mill, established with his brother in 1885, which was located on the Walloomsac River just north of the house and just to the east of the Henry Covered Bridge. Produced at the mill were rye, buckwheat, and graham flours, meal, and cattle and poultry feed. They also sold farm tools, fencing, grain, hay, grass seed, commercial fertilizers, wheat goods, and linseed and cottonseed meals. After Mary died in 1914, Bertine held full interest in the property.

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When Bertine Henry died in 1932 the property was sold to Hall Park McCullough, who was the son of John McCullough, elected governor of Vermont in 1902 and owner of the 1864-65 Park-McCullough Mansion (listed on October 26, 1972 in the National Register of Historic Places) in nearby North Bennington. The old William Henry House was used as a summer house. In 1953 McCullough conveyed the house to his daughter and son-in-law, Ethel and William Scott, who in 1985 gave it to the Preservation Trust of Vermont, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Vermont's architectural heritage.

Although there were about 1,000 residents in the town of Bennington by 1766, five years after settlement commenced, extremely few houses from the period still remain. The William Henry House is one of the only houses still standing in Bennington that was constructed during the town's first decade of settlement.<sup>5</sup> It is also one of the oldest buildings in the entire state of Vermont, and in its well-preserved condition stands as a rare survivor and an important artifact for the study of pre-revolution era Vermont settlement history.

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ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Hamilton Child, ed., Gazetteer and Business Directory of Bennington County, Vermont, for 1880-81, (Syracuse, New York: Hamilton Child, 1880), p. 106. The information is based on extensive research on the early buildings of Bennington that was done much earlier in the century.

<sup>2</sup>Mabel Mayforth, "Henry House," Modern Health Crusader of Vermont, v. 21, n. 6 (1938): 4; Melvin H. Robinson, ed., Bennington Souvenir, (Bennington, Vermont: Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association, 1904), p. 98; and Herbert S. Wallbridge, The History and Development of North Bennington, Vermont, (no imprint, 1937), p. 52).

<sup>3</sup>Mayforth, p. 4.

<sup>4</sup>Isaac Jennings, Memorials of a Century, (Boston: Gould & Lincoln, 1869), pp. 294-295.

<sup>5</sup>Perhaps the oldest is the 1763 Rev. Jedediah Dewey House in the Old Bennington Historic District, listed on October 4, 1984 in the National Register of Historic Places.

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date entered

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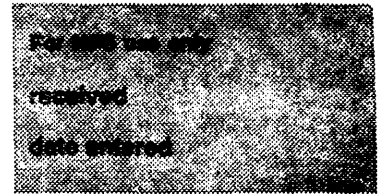
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Verbal boundary description and justification:

The property herein nominated is the lot presently associated with the William Henry House. It is approximately ten acres in size and is located on River Road (Town Highway 19). The property retains its historic continuity with the Henry Covered Bridge (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) spanning the Walloomsac River, and is sufficient to convey the historic context of the William Henry House. The current deed for the land, dated December 30, 1985, is recorded in volume 0-255, page 147 of the Town of Bennington Land Records.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88001302 Date Listed: 11/09/88

Henry, William, House Bennington VT  
Property Name County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Sgt* Beth R. Savage  
Signature of the Keeper

11-9-88  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Accompanying Documentation:

Since the acreage is ten or more acres, three UTM's are required. The following three UTM's are applicable:

- A 18 642340 4752360
- B 18 642500 4752150
- C 18 642340 4751220

This information was confirmed with Elsa Gilbertson, VTSHPO, by telephone.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)