

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hamilton, John, Farmstead

other names/site number Arkmont Farm, St. George Farm

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route 125 N/A not for publication

city or town Bridport N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Addison code 001 zip code 05734

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Eric DeLuker PSH 5/18/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

Aileen Byers

6/17/93

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
11		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Agricultural Resources of Vermont

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Animal Facility

Agriculture/Agricultural Field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Agricultural Field

Agriculture/Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Ground Level Stable Barn

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Weatherboards

roof Slate

other Wood

Metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Hamilton, John, Farmstead
Bridport, Addison County, VT

On the western slope of St. George's hill in the town of Bridport, Vermont, sits the John Hamilton farmstead, now known as the Arkmont farm, belonging to Bette and Pete Horton. Two miles east of Bridport village, on Vermont Route 125, the 115 acre farm contains ten historic buildings, flat pastures, and a forested hill. In 1804, John Hamilton started construction on the farmhouse, which is one of the oldest homes in Bridport. The farm consists of a group of closely related buildings clustered near the crest of St. George's hill. Centered around the farmyard, the structures include the 1804 farmhouse, a c.1910 dairy barn, a c.1890 horse barn, a c.1860 early barn, a c.1900 pumphouse, a c.1900 milkhouse, a c.1900/c.1940 shed-garage, a c.1890 corn crib, a c.1940 sugar house, and a c. 1890 privy. Although the property possessed an early 20th century silo, it was torn down in the 1972 for safety reasons. Taken together, these buildings illustrate Vermont's agricultural heritage from the early 1800s to the present.

1. Farmhouse, 1804

The Cape Cod farmhouse is a one and half story, five bays long by two bays wide, post and beam frame structure covered with clapboards, resting on a concrete foundation and topped with slate shingles. An ell approximately forty feet long, created from a c. 1840 addition and a c. 1890 carriage house, extends to the south from the Cape Cod, also rests on a concrete foundation and is capped with slate shingle roof.

The original Cape Cod portion of the house was built in two sections. First, John Hamilton built a small three bay by two bay Cape Cod with large hand-hewn beams. Around 1820, the owner, expanded the Cape Cod to its present configuration of five bays by three bays with smaller hand-hewn beams. An ell extending to the south was added c. 1840, while a carriage house containing a tool shed, further elongated the ell to its present dimensions about 1890. To unify the exterior appearance, the current owner replaced the wooden shingles and covered all the components with slate shingles.

The windows on the Cape Cod section are Italianate two-over-two sashes which probably replaced the original multi-pane windows in 1890. Two windows are symmetrically placed in the front facade of

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Bridport, Addison County, VT

the original section of the Cape Cod, while the newer section contains a door and another window. The current owner moved the c. 1890 six panel door from the original section and switched it with the Italianate window in the c. 1840 section of the Cape Cod. The first floor of the western side of the Cape Cod contains three Italianate two-over-two windows in an asymmetrical pattern, while the half story contains a single two-over-two window in the center of the wall. The first floor of the east side of the Cape Cod contains two paired Italianate two-over-two windows, while the half story contains a single two-over-two window in the center of the wall. The enclosed porch on the east side of the c. 1840 addition possesses groups of two and three six-over-six windows surrounding the storm door. The glassed-in sun porch, built in 1973, on the west side of the c. 1840s addition is composed of three glass (approximately twelve feet high by nine feet long) sections long and one glass section wide. The carriage house, with its tool shed, now contains a c. 1980s bay window on the west and a triplet of six-over-six windows on the eastern side. The rear of the carriage house retains its c. 1890s doors; one on the first floor in the third bay and one on the half story floor just slightly to the right of center.

Because the clapboards on the carriage house were crooked compared to the clapboards on the kitchen ell, the owners removed them in 1971. Unfortunately, the boards were stolen during the night. The siding was then replaced with weathered boards and battens. Weathering created rot in the western clapboards, which were replaced in 1972, while the north side clapboards were replaced in 1991. Solar panels were added in 1979 on the southern side of the roof of the main portion of the house. Because the field stone foundation was failing, a concrete foundation was poured in 1972. The stones are currently piled in front of the ell. Vermont farm structures were altered frequently to serve the farmer's purpose. Likewise, the John Hamilton farmhouse has been changed over time. Both the interior and exterior have undergone renovations by the different farming families who lived there.

Interior: As mentioned above, the John Hamilton Cape Cod farmhouse was built in four different sections. The floorplan reflects this growth; the front part of the two Cape Cod sections have been made into a large room, while the two sections towards the south remain separate, with a twelve foot bathroom in between. The kitchen in

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the c. 1840 addition had been turned into one large room; the separate smaller bedroom to the south, where Guy St. George was born, has been dismantled. The c. 1900 carriage barn had a tool shed, with a stove, in the northern section which was dismantled in the 1970s. The carriage house remains a distinct entity, but can be clearly seen from the kitchen window. The hand-hewn wooden beams are visible throughout the house, along with the twelve" and sixteen" floorboards. Like other early Vermont houses, the brick foundation for the original fireplace in the Cape Cod section possesses arches.

2. Ground Level Stable Barn, c.1900/c.1940

Built in the early 1900's by Maxime St. George for his dairy operation, the southern section is the oldest part of the current structure. Expanding in the early years of World War II, Kenneth St. George built the northern portion. Located approximately twenty-five feet south of the farmhouse sits the dairy barn today, a one and a half story, rectangular structure used to house the dairy cows and pigs of the St. George family. Situated on the bank of a hill, the concrete foundation and floor support a wooden frame with both metal and clapboard siding, while the entire entity is covered by a corrugated sheet-metal gable roof. The two round metal air ventilators on the roof ridge and bands of stable windows on the north and east sides indicate dairy purposes. From the 1940s addition, a small attached milkhouse extends to the west, while the two pig sties extend to the east.

Interior: Inside, the manure gutters and hayloft still run the entire length of the building, while the vertical metal pipes of the stanchions and two wooden pig sties remain as well.

3. Early Barn, c. 1860

Beside the Bank Barn, and closet to the pastures, this barn is a gable roofed, rectangular, eaves-front, post and beam wooden framed structure with one floor plus hayloft, resting on a fieldstone

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Bridport, Addison County, VTSection number 7 Page 4

foundation. The building is three bays long by one bay wide, sheathed in wooden clapboards and has two openings in the second and third bay, near the center, for eaves-front double-leaf doors. The single doorway for humans in the first bay completes the tripartite organization. This arrangement suggests its designation as an "Early Barn" which was used for general farm purposes; livestock, equipment, and farm chores. A small window in the gable end hayloft punctuates the horizontal clapboarding, directly above another double-leaf door opening.

Interior: The interior of the barn is separated into three areas by the three eaves-front doors. The northern end was used for as a shed for equipment, while the remaining two areas housed livestock.

4. Bank Barn, c. 1890:

Built across the farmyard from the farmhouse, this three level barn, used to house horses, sheep, cows and chickens, is built into an earthen bank. Resting on a field stone foundation, the structure is covered with vertical siding and is capped by a slate gable roof and a square louvered cupola. Four bays long by three bays wide, the structure contains, on the northern eaves-side lower level, three small stable windows in the first bay, two door frames (no doors) in the second and third bays and another smaller window in the fourth bay. The second story level contains a single door, used by humans, and capped by a transom window. On the western gable end, a single door is flanked by two small windows, while the hayloft is pierced by a single rectangular window. The horses drove directly through the sliding eave-side doors, and the pulley system was used to unload the hay into the hayloft.

Interior: Separated by the hay drive, the east and west sides served different functions. The front room on the east side possesses a trap door that led down into a small, windowless room in the lower level. The rear room on the east side was plastered and may have been used a tack room or a bedroom for the field hands. The west side probably contained stalls for the horses and cattle, but the floor of the hayloft and the floor of this livestock area has been removed because of rotting wood. The sheep remained in their pens below next to the chickens.

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Bridport, Addison County, VT

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5. Milkhouse, c. 1900:

Covering the wooden frame structure, approximately two feet wide by three feet long, the vertical wooden boards rest on a stone foundation and are capped by a wooden shed roof. Next to the Bank Barn, the Milkhouse served as a convenient place to cool the milk.

Interior: The circular field stone cistern took up three-fourths of the interior space. The cistern cooled the milk carried from the nearby Bank Barn.

6. Pump House, c.1900:

Exterior: The approximately six feet square structure, used to pump water for the livestock, is a one story wooden frame building with vertical siding and an asphalt shingled roof resting on a concrete foundation.

Interior: The concrete floor inside the single space held a water pump.

7. Shed/Garage, c. 1900/1940:

The clapboarded wooden frame building, approximately twenty-two feet wide and eighteen feet long, incorporates a c.1900 single story shed with a gable roof that was altered for use as a milk truck garage at the beginning of World War II, c. 1940, by the addition of separate section for the truck and a gambrel roof. The sheet metal gambrel roof has been placed over the western eave of the wooden shingle gable roof. The eastern eave side of the gable roof retains its original wooden shingles. All sides of the building are clapboarded and rest on a concrete foundation.

Interior: The interior of the shed portion retains its original spatial configuration; the original western-eaves wall, containing two square, wooden window surrounds, became the interior wall separating the garage from the shed. The shed interior contains a dirt floor and is entered through a plain wooden door that opens inward. The early 1940s garage also retains its spatial

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arrangement. The high ceiling for the fluid milk truck remains, as well as the 1940s overhead garage door with its sixteen glass panes.

8. Corn Crib, c. 1890:

This twelve feet wide and fourteen feet long, one story building sits on a stone foundation and is topped by a gable roof of sheet metal. The vertical wooden boards on the western eaves side are placed approximately 1/2" apart, while the vertical boards on the three remaining sides are placed approximately 1/4" apart. The wooden door on the southern gable end remains operable and opens inward.

Interior: The large single space inside the building stored corn, directly on the dirt floor, to feed the livestock. The slats in the vertical boards allowed air to circulate in the building and helped prevent the corn from rotting.

9. Sugar House, c. 1940:

This one story structure, approximately four feet wide and twelve feet long, rests on a concrete foundation with clapboarded sides, capped by an asphalt shingled gable roof, with a two feet long louvered ventilator in the center. The entrance doorway on the gable end is missing, but the simple doorway surround remains. A stovepipe hole breaks through the roof to the north of the ventilator. The building is oriented in a north-south direction and is on the east side the corn crib.

Interior: The interior is a single room with a poured concrete floor. The boiler used to make the maple syrup remains, and has rusted in places.

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Bridport, Addison County, Vermont**10. Privy, c. 1890:**

Located approximately 25 feet south of the c. 1890 Bank barn, the 6'5" x 5'5" rectangular privy, has a frame of 4" square hand hewn beams and is sheathed with weather boards, while the gable roof is covered first by wooden shingles, and second by composition shingles. It was found on the southern side of the farmhouse at the time of purchase, but was moved to its present location by the owners in 1969. Like other farm structures, the privies were also moved around the farmstead.

Interior: The privy contains three holes for adults (22" off the floor) and two holes for children (11" off the floor). The interior has its original plaster, which was later covered by decorative newspapers.

11. Farm Pastures, Fields and Forested Hill:

Understanding how the farmers transported their goods to market is important to place the farmstead in its historic context. Both Vermont Route 125 and "Market Road" connected Bridport farmers with Middlebury and the interior Vermont markets, as well as the Lake Champlain waterway to New York and the western states. By the early 1800's, Bridport had become a tavern stop on the road to the lake, as well as serving travellers on the north-south path, now known as Vermont Rt. 22A. Currently, Vermont Route 125 supplants the older "Market Road" and travels over St. George's hill as the northern boundary of the John Hamilton farmstead. These roads gave the Hamiltons and the St. Georges access to many markets for their wool, cheese, butter, and fluid milk.

With sixty acres currently pastured by a neighboring farmer, the landscape not only retains vestiges of earlier agricultural activities, but continues to appear much like it did in when John Hamilton and Maxime St. George farmed here. To place the individual building descriptions in their proper context, the farmstead site must be understood. The hill, with all of the buildings clustered near the ridge, rises steadily towards the east and then falls off sharply at the crest. While the precipice precluded plowing on the eastern slope of St. George's hill, it provided the owners with the maple trees to make maple sugar products. The bottom land of the

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Bridport, Addison County, Vermont

eastern slope was plowed; the 1978 OrthoPhoto Base Map, Series 5000, shows the north-south orientation of the historic crops. The western side of St. George's hill slopes gently towards the lake and was used for pasture. The flat land around the bottom of the hill became a prime area for growing corn, hay and other small grain crops. To the south of St. George Hill flows a small creek which provided a handy water source before they dug their wells. When they started dairying in the 1890s, the St. George family made two ponds on the western slope below the farmhouse. Today, the currants, roses, lilacs planted by the St. George family thrive around the farmhouse, while the apple tree planted probably by John O. Hamilton still lives at the top of St. George hill. Two dumps have historically been used; one is near the brook on the southern slope of St. George hill and the other one is at the top of the hill.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1804

c.1860-1942

Significant Dates

1804

c.1860

c.1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

HAMILTON, JOHN, FARMSTEAD
Name of Property

Addison County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 115

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,8	6,3,8,5,2,0	4,8,7,2,3,0,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1,8	6,3,8,6,2,0	4,8,7,1,5,2,0

3	1,8	6,3,7,9,6,0	4,8,7,1,4,8,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1,8	6,3,7,9,0,0	4,8,7,1,9,6,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Helen Renee Viers

organization University of Vermont Historic Preservation date 12/22/92
Program

street & number 109 South Prospect telephone (802) 656-3180

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Pete Horton

street & number 1 Arkmont Road, P.O. Box 101 telephone (802) 758-2300

city or town Bridport state Vermont zip code 05734

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Bridport, Addison County, Vermont

The John Hamilton farm retains its integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association, and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for its contribution to the broad pattern of Vermont agricultural history and under Criteria C for being a good example of a farmstead. The farmstead is being nominated under the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Agricultural Resources of Vermont" and meets the registration requirements for the property type farmstead. The farm, settled in 1795, remained in the family for nearly one hundred years and has been used for raising sheep, cattle and horses, along with subsistence farming, diversified agriculture, and dairying.

In 1795, three Hamilton brothers, Michael, James and John, migrated from Barre, Massachusetts, to Bridport, Vermont. The brothers bought adjacent farmland and began a farming tradition in Bridport. In Bridport Land Records, Vol. I, the clerk recorded on May 1st, 1802 that John Hamilton bought a parcel of land from Samuel Hemenway for \$120.00 "current money of the United States "on the fifth day of December 1797 ... Shoreham, December 25, 1797. The deed stated "Drawn to the original right of William Crawford being the second division #14 excepting five acres and sixty rods on the north side of the highway deeded this day to James Hamilton excepting also the uncertain for highway, as voted by the proprietors containing ninety-four acres more or less."¹

The farm passed to John Orrin (J.O.) Hamilton on July 10, 1851 in a deed which said "... lot #14 second division and drawn to the original right of William Crawford excepting five acres and sixty rods on the north side of the highway deeded to James Hamilton and is my home farm."² The "home" farm, according to H.P. Smith in his 1886 History of Addison County, Vermont, was built by John Hamilton's brother James c. 1796, a year after the three brothers settled in Bridport.³ Along with the farmstead, J.O. also received

¹Land Records, Vol. I, Bridport, Vermont. pg. 427.

²Land Records, Vol. 12, Bridport, Vermont, p. 570.

³H.P. Smith, History of Addison County, Vermont (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason and Company, 1886) p. 391.

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twenty-eight acres and four rods of land, part of the Glebe lot leased by John from the town until February 26, 1844, and twenty-three acres on Basin Harbor Road.⁴

On March 10, 1894, Maxime St. George and his wife purchased the farmstead from J.O. Hamilton and his wife Charlotte A. for \$3500.00.⁵ The farm passed from Maxime St. George, Sr. to Maxime St. George, Jr. on December 13, 1913 and remained in the St. George family until Guy and Ada St. George sold the farm on November 19, 1964 to Ian and Teresa McKeown.⁶ Unfortunately, Mr. McKeown died and the farmstead was purchased by Pete and Bette Horton on August 29, 1969.⁷

According to H.P. Smith in his History of Addison County, Vermont, "In 1804, John (Hamilton) built a portion of the house now occupied by J.O. (Hamilton) ... (and is) still in fair condition."⁸ The 1871 Beers Atlas map also shows J.O. Hamilton as the owner of the farmstead.⁹ The small three bay wide farmhouse referred to by Smith was built by John Hamilton in 1804 and was enlarged c.1830 to a five bay wide Cape Cod structure. An ell was attached c.1840 to the southern facade to meet the family's additional need for space. From this residence, J.O. Smith furnished substitutes to fight in the Civil War, according to Smith.¹⁰ Around the beginning of the

⁴Land Records, Vol. 12, p. 570.

⁵Land Records, Vol. 16, Bridport, Vermont, pp. 572-573.

⁶Land Records, Vol. 18, Bridport, Vermont, p. 438. Land Records, Vol. 22, Bridport, Vermont, p. 225.

⁷Land Records, Vol. 23, Bridport, Vermont, p. 112.

⁸Smith, p. 391.

⁹F.W. Beers, Atlas of Addison County, (Rutland, VT: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1971 reprint, originally published in 1871 by F.W. Beers, New York)

¹⁰Smith, p. 395.

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twentieth century, the c. 1900 carriage house was placed at the southern end of the ell by the St. George family.

When John Hamilton farmed the site between 1804 - 1851, agriculturists in Bridport were expanding their home-use only farming to include raising sheep, horses and cattle.¹¹ In 1850, John Hamilton's farmstead included 100 acres of improved land and 30 acres of unimproved land, with a cash value of \$2500. His livestock, valued at \$500, consisted of 1 horse, three milch cows, two working oxen, six other cattle, one hundred sheep and one swine. His farm produced 425 lbs of wool, 150 lbs of butter, 75 lbs of cheese and several hundred bushels of wheat, corn, oats, peas/beans, hay, and Irish potatoes.¹² The 1850 federal census of Addison County records that John Hamilton was 75 years of age, while his son, J.O. Hamilton was 29 years old.¹³

By 1860, the sheep industry in Vermont went into decline, and following this state-wide trend, J.O. Hamilton retained only 60 sheep, compared to his father's 100 sheep only ten years prior. Despite the drop in the number of sheep, J.O. increased the amount of wool produced to 500 lbs. With the development of the dairy business in Vermont, J.O. Hamilton increased the number of milch cows from three to seven. Like the other dairy farms, Hamilton used his milk to produce butter -- 700 lbs of butter in 1859 compared to the 175 lbs produced by his father's cows. Although he possessed the same number of acres as his father, J.O. Hamilton's stock value increased to \$1120, while the overall cash value of the farm rose to \$3500.¹⁴ Around the time of the census, J.O. Hamilton erected the c. 1860 early barn to house his growing number of livestock.

¹¹Smith, p. 393.

¹² U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Census - 1860, p. 49.

¹³Juliet Lesley Smith, 1850 Federal Census of Addison County, Vermont, (Chillicothe, MO: Juliet Lesley Smith, no date).

¹⁴U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Census - 1860.

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By 1870, J.O. Hamilton had bought an additional fifty acres, for a total of 180 acres, and increased the farm value to \$8000. The value of his livestock rose to \$1670, wool production rose to 800 lbs from his eighty sheep, while his butter production remained stable at 700 lbs. His fruit trees produced \$30 worth of orchard products, while he continued harvesting Irish potatoes, beans/peas, hay, Indian corn and wheat and expanding to harvest oats and rye. Like farmers around the nation, he used more mechanized machinery to farm his land. Previously in 1860 he had valued his farm implements and machinery at \$100, while in 1870 he valued them at \$250.¹⁵

In 1880, J.O. Hamilton tilled fifty acres, owned 33 acres of woodland, and possessed a permanent 100 acres of meadows, pastures and orchards. Unfortunately, the value of the farm fell to \$6000, while the value of the machinery fell to \$200. The value of livestock rose to \$2370 with an increase of cattle and sheep. The number of sheep, one hundred, now equalled that of his father's sheep herd in 1850. Wool production fell to 700 lbs, while his butter manufacturing rose to 1000 lbs. The orchard produced \$25.00 worth of fruit, while Hamilton also earned \$15 for cut wood. Overall, the estimated value for all farm products in 1879 was \$1685.¹⁶

While specific data on the St. George farm is unavailable from U.S. Census records, the statistics continue to exist for 1910-1940. Throughout the early 20th century, the dairying business in Vermont continued to expand as the industry switched from butter and cheese to fluid milk production. The St. George family built a Ground Level Stable Barn c. 1900 and expanding it c. 1940 to increase their production of fluid milk. Kenneth St. George expanded the c. 1900 shed into a garage for his milk truck by expanding the roof height and the footprint of the building to the north approximately 20 feet. The c. 1890 bank barn, c. 1890 privy, c. 1890 corn crib, c. 1900 pump house, c. 1900 milkhouse, c. 1900 carriage house

¹⁵U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Census - 1870.

¹⁶U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Census - 1880.

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addition to the farmhouse and the c. 1940 sugar house all remain as testimony to the St. George dairy farm.

By 1960, the Hamilton/St. George farm had fallen into disrepair. The farmhouse itself had been boarded up and used for grain storage. In 1969, when the Hortons purchased the farmstead's remaining 115 acres, the buildings had been unoccupied for approximately ten years. Because the farm had been neglected for years before the Horton's purchase, many of the older buildings remained intact although in a deteriorated condition.

The John Hamilton farmstead has grown to incorporate new agricultural trends and provides a good example of Vermont's agricultural heritage. The 1804 Cape Cod farmhouse together with the farm outbuildings, a c.1910 dairy barn, a c.1890 horse barn, a c.1860 hay barn, a c.1900 pumphouse, a c.1900 milkhouse, a c.1900/c.1940 shed-garage, a c.1890 corn crib, a c.1940 sugar house, and a c. 1890 privy, tells the story of transition from home-use only farming to sheep raising to dairying. These changes represent the broad patterns of agriculture that have contributed significantly to Vermont's history and are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A.

Because the farm embodies distinctive characteristics of a nineteenth and twentieth century Vermont farmstead with examples of post and beam constructed farm buildings and farmhouse, pastures, and a sugar bush for maple sugaring, the farm is also being nominated under Criteria C. The farmstead relates to the context of "Dairying 1850-1941" because it retains its Ground Level Stable Barn, late Bank Barn, Shed/Garage, and currently retains sixty acres of active pasture.

The farm also contains archaeological artifacts. Guy St. George found twelve Indian points when plowing the fields of the farmstead in the 1920's and 1930's, while Mrs. Bette Horton has found historic buttons, bottle glass and pottery shards when digging her summer garden to the southeast of the farmhouse.

Today the landscape retains components of its earlier agricultural heritage, while the sixty acres that are currently pastured by a neighboring farmer allows the farm to appear much like it did in when John Hamilton and Maxime St. George farmed here. Barbed wire

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fences separate the pastures from the barnyard and the farmhouse. The individual components that survive combine to create a relatively intact farmstead.

The "St. George" hill, topped by the farmstead buildings near its ridge, rises steadily towards the east and then falls off sharply at the crest. The hill provided the owners with the maple trees to make maple sugar products, while the bottom land of the eastern slope was plowed probably in a north-south orientation as shown on the 1978 Orthophoto Base Map. This land became a prime area for growing the crops mentioned in the agricultural census: oats, Indian corn, peas, beans, etc, with the western side of St. George's hill becoming historically and currently pasture land. The St. George family, when they started dairying in the 1890s, created two ponds on the western slope below the farmhouse.

Vegetation survives from both the farming families: the currants, roses, lilacs planted by the St. George family grow near the farmhouse, while the apple trees planted probably by John O. Hamilton still bloom at the top of St. George hill. Two dumps have historically been used; one is near the brook on the southern slope of St. George hill and the other one is at the top of the hill.

Compared to other Bridport farms, the John Hamilton farmstead remains relatively intact. Other early farms in Bridport have incorporated their original Cape Cod sections as ells behind later Greek Revival or Queen Anne additions. The Cape Cod, with its c. 1840 ell would be recognizable to the Hamilton family, while the c. 1900 addition of the carriage house to the ells would be familiar to the St. George family. Because the farmstead retains its workmanship, setting, locations, feeling and association, the date of significance is both 1804 and 1850-1941 under the historic context, "Dairying 1851-1941."

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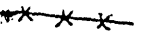
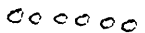


JOHN HAMILTON FARMSTEAD
BRIDPORT, VERMONT
Addison County
RESEARCHER: RENEE VIERS

SCALE 1:500

VERMONT HIGHWAY #125

PASTURE
HAYFIELDS

HAYFIELDS
PASTURE

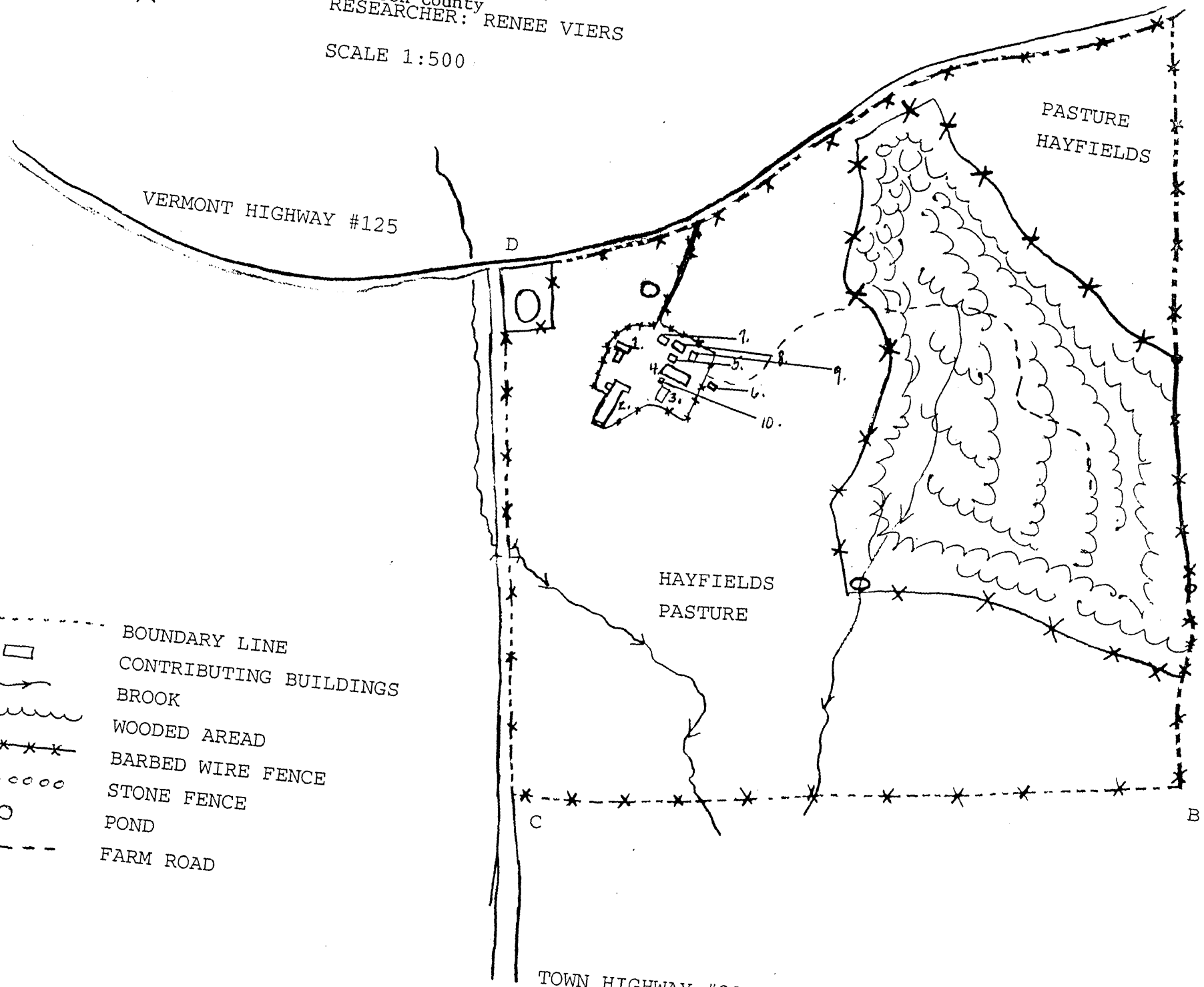
- KEY:
-  BOUNDARY LINE
 -  CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
 -  BROOK
 -  WOODED AREAD
 -  BARBED WIRE FENCE
 -  STONE FENCE
 -  POND
 -  FARM ROAD

D

C

B

TOWN HIGHWAY #22



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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATAVerbal Boundary Description

The John Hamilton Farmstead is a 115 acre lot, roughly rectangular in shape. Its irregular northern border follows the south side of Vermont Route 125, its western border follows the east side of Town Highway 32, its southern border follows the northern edge of the Edward and Richard Payne property line, and the eastern border follows the western edge of the Clarence Deering farm. The parcel begins at point D (shown on the USGS map), which is the southeastern corner of the intersection of Town Highway 32 and Vermont Route 125. The boundary thence proceeds in a generally easterly direction along the southern right of way of Vermont Route 125 approximately 2500' to point A; thence proceeds southerly approximately 2500' to point B; thence proceeds westerly approximately 2300' to point C; and thence proceeds northerly along the easterly right of way of Town Highway 32 to the point of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all buildings and the surrounding open fields and forested hill associated with the John Hamilton Farmstead. This is the lot of land historically associated with the property.