

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	MAY 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	

## 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

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HISTORIC

Clarendon House

AND/OR COMMON

Clarendon House

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

State Aid Highway No. 3

CITY, TOWN

Clarendon Springs

STATE

Vermont

VICINITY OF

CODE

50

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Vermont

COUNTY

Rutland

CODE

021

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leon Dion

STREET & NUMBER

102 Pleasant Street

CITY, TOWN

West Rutland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clarendon Town Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Box 68

CITY, TOWN

No. Clarendon

STATE

Vermont

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Clarendon House is a large brick structure with a gable roof and wood-framed, clapboarded gable ends. On the east and west elevations the third-story walls have wood framing and are sheathed with clapboards. The high gable roof is lit by double rows of five dormers on the east slope and three dormers at the west.

In overall dimensions, the main structure is approximately 80 feet by 42 feet. The sides of the building are five bays deep and the front and rear walls extend to a width of nine bays. There are center entrances at each level, flanked by sidelights on the first two stories. An interior cross-axial hall on the ground level is lit by floor length windows with 6/6 sash, located in the center bay of the side elevations. The building's fenestration dates from before the Civil War and much of its 12/12 glazing is intact.

The hotel's most distinctive feature is a three-story balustraded veranda that extends across three of its elevations. At the front, or east elevation, an overhanging eave is supported by six columns with Doric dossier capitals at both of the two upper levels. This porch projects around the corner to the south face of the building, where monumental Doric columns appear under a flat, shelf-like roof extending from the lower section of the end gables. It is continued along the rear (west) wall, where the eaves overhang is supported by Doric columns.

The building now appears essentially as it did in the 1860's. Although no illustrations of the original Clarendon House exist, it is apparent from both exterior and structural evidence that the building was initially only two stories high. Before the early 1850's the roof was raised and a third level, with brick end walls, was added. The three-story veranda probably dates from this remodeling. The attic was lit by skylights until about the 1860's, when tiers of dormers were installed. A wood-frame wing, attached to the north wall, has been demolished.

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variety of ailments, including rheumatism, cancer, gout, and digestive complaints, as well as induce fertility. Invalids were brought to Clarendon Springs for an entire summer season for treatments with mineral water, baths, and the clay mud surrounding the springs.

By the 1820's a small village had clustered around American House, located several hundred feet east of the springs. Capitalizing on the success of the earlier hotel, about 1835 Thomas McLaughlin built a larger, brick building, which he called Clarendon House. His operation eventually expanded to include a tree-lined park and fountain, several smaller boarding houses, a store, livery, and large wood-frame addition to the original hotel.

McLaughlin's business was greatly increased by the arrival in the early 1850's of the Rutland and Washington Railroad (now the Delaware and Hudson line) through West Rutland, about three miles north of Clarendon Springs. The rail lines improved access to the spa from large Eastern cities and brought a corresponding increase in the number of guests. The clientele of the Clarendon House at this period was drawn from the Southern states, primarily Virginia and the Carolinas. As a consequence, the business faltered during the Civil War and McLaughlin was forced to sell out at a loss in 1866.

The entire resort complex, including American House, a large farm, and rights to the four springs at the site was purchased by Byron Murray, a wealthy New Jersey speculator who was originally from Vermont. The property was managed by the Clarendon Springs Company, which Murray incorporated with his two sons, George and Robert. At its height the resort had some 15 buildings, including a spring water bottling plant, and could accommodate 200 guests.

After Murray's death in 1881, the operation was continued by his son George for ten more years and then leased to various managers, until it finally closed in 1898. Although the Murrays attempted to expand the focus of the spa, it ultimately fell victim to the increased popularity of larger, more fashionable resorts that offered a variety of activities beyond mineral water cures. The Clarendon Springs Company property was subsequently divided for private residential use; the main building, Clarendon House, continued to function as a restaurant until well into the present century.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES c. 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clarendon House is the finest example of an early mineral springs resort hotel in Vermont. It is, in addition, one of few such hotels that survive from an era when over 20 health spas in the state attracted visitors from all over the Eastern Seaboard.

The building is an excellent example of pre-Civil War resort architecture. Erected during an early phase of the development of this new American building type, Clarendon House recalls the simple, rectangular proportions of early 19th century coach stops and public houses. Its relatively large scale and multi-story veranda, however, follow the standard for opulent American hotels first introduced by Isaiah Rogers at the Tremont House (1828-29) in Boston.

Both the setting and architectural detailing of the building have been well preserved. The hotel is located in a small, tree-shaded park dating from the 1840's and forms the central landmark of the village of Clarendon Springs, a small cluster of contemporaneous buildings associated with the development of the spa.

### HISTORY

Although the exact date of their discovery is unknown, the Clarendon Springs are reputed to be the first mineral waters of recognized medicinal value found in Vermont. According to tradition, in 1776 Asa Smith, a noted Clarendon mystic, was led to a site on the west bank of the Clarendon River by a dream and cured of rheumatism by the mineral waters there.

The property in the vicinity of the springs was first settled in 1781 by George Round, who boarded visitors to the site beginning in the early 1790's. He erected American House, the first hotel at the springs in 1798.

In the decades just prior to the Civil War, long rest cures were frequently prescribed by doctors, a fact that, coupled with the increased wealth and leisure of the upper and middle classes, led to the popularity of health resorts like Clarendon Springs. The waters contain carbonic and nitrogen gas, moriate of lime, and sulfate of soda, and were thought to cure a

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Child, Hamilton, ed. Gazetteer and Business Directory of Rutland County, Vermont (1881-82), (Syracuse, 1881), p. 116.

Hemenway, Abby Maria, ed. The Vermont Historical Gazetteer, Vol. III (Claremont, N.H., 1877), pp. 569-70.

Continued on Continuation Sheet 9-1.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	65,98,50	4,82,35,2,0	B	1,8	65,99,2,0	4,82,33,90
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	1,8	65,97,3,0	4,82,33,6,0	D	1,8	65,97,3,5	4,82,34,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the west by State Aid Highway No. 3; on the north by a fence running in an east-west direction across a small hill; on the east by the western bank of the Clarendon River; on the south by a small road, extending east to west and leading to the Clarendon Springs.

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

Kathlyn Hatch, Historic Resource Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

DATE

September, 1975

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*William B. Pinney*

William B. Pinney

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 9, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Ray L. Rogers*  
*Charles A. ...*

DATE

5/12/96

DATE

5.14.76

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Hope, James (attributed). "Clarendon Springs," ca. 1853. A painting in the Webb Gallery Collection of the Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT.

Lee, William Storrs. The Green Mountains of Vermont (New York, 1955), pp. 182-83.

Pinney, Mrs. Rena, Clarendon Springs, Vermont. Interview, August 27, 1975.

Thompson, Zadock. History of Vermont (Burlington, 1842) pp. 7-8; 56.