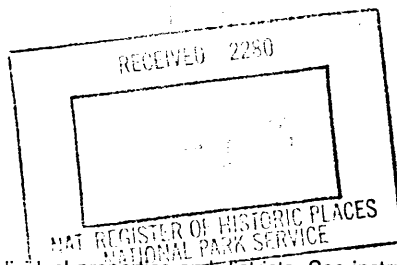


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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 DORSET VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT (BOUNDARY INCREASE)

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Church Street and West Road  N/A not for publication

city or town Dorset  N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Bennington code 003 zip code 05251

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.)

Ewa M. Madsen National Register Specialist January 2, 1997  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

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 commenting 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

2.7.97  
Date of Action

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	
27	6	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
27	6	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

80

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/secondary structure
- Agriculture/storage
- Agriculture/animal facility
- Landscape/natural feature

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/secondary structure
- Vacant/Not in Use
- Landscape/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Federal
- Greek Revival
- Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation stone
- walls weatherboard
- synthetics
- roof slate
- other glass
- asphalt

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 1

---

DESCRIPTION

Blending open fields and interspersed woods along with a former millpond, this boundary increase of the Dorset Village Historic District encompasses the west part of Dorset village on the west side of the Mettawee River valley. Church Street and intersecting West Road form east-west and north-south axes, respectively, through this residential area. Scattered along the two streets, sixteen primary buildings - all houses in type - and seventeen outbuildings of several types occupy informally landscaped lots of various sizes. The thirteen historic houses show the influence of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Colonial Revival styles although only the latter appears in high-style expression. The buildings are entirely wood-framed and mostly clapboarded, and their gable roofs are mostly slate- or asphalt-shingled. Stylistic or decorative features are present only in limited variety. While some houses have been substantially altered during the pre-1945 period, the historic district retains general integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

This boundary increase of the Dorset Village Historic District lies on the west side of a relatively narrow, largely open valley aligned in a general northwest-southeast course. The valley is drained by the Mettawee River flowing toward the northwest. Currently active or former agricultural fields occupy much of the valley floor. Forested hills and mountains of the Taconic Range ascend steeply 2,000 feet or more above both sides of the valley.

The area included in this boundary increase adjoins the west edge of the existing Dorset Village Historic District. It follows Church Street, the single street leading westward from the village center, to the intersection with West Road. The area then extends both northward and southward for short distances along the road. West Road continues outside the historic district along the valley in both directions.

Trees of various heights stand in highly irregular ranks along Church Street and more densely along West Road. Deciduous species - especially maple - constitute the majority while some coniferous species are interspersed. These trees provide both shade and screening for the buildings. Open fields separate some of the buildings along Church Street and expand behind them. The

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 2

---

forested lower east slope of a hill reaches to the edge of West Road between houses #8 and #11.

Both the street and the road have relatively narrow paved two-lane roadways and lack sidewalks or shoulders. A small triangular island exists within the intersection of the street and road; it is dominated by a utility pole from which multiple wires extend in the four quadrant directions.

Fences of various types follow the edges of the street and road along the grounds of several houses. These range from plain vertical-board (#2) to formal post-and-pale (#5) versions in wood. A shaped and mortared stone wall (#10) contrasts with remnant stretches of historic dry-laid fieldstone wall nearby along West Road.

A former millpond, Prentiss Pond, adjoins the south side of Church Street in the southeast corner of the historic district (boundary increase). During the 19th century, the pond supplied water to a grist mill (now gone) situated on the north side of the street next to the northward-flowing brook. Fringed by mixed woods around its south half, the pond now serves primarily recreational uses such as fishing and ice-skating for local residents.

The 33 primary and secondary buildings in the historic district (boundary increase) are arrayed in an irregular pattern along both sides of the street and road. The houses are set back varying distances and surrounded by informally landscaped grounds. The deeply recessed West-Beyers House (#13), aptly named "The Spruces," possesses the most formal approach along a driveway closely arbored by tall blue spruce trees.

The historic district (boundary increase) is now almost entirely residential in character. Among the 16 primary buildings, the only building type represented is the house, although one example (#1) was converted from another type (barn). Some of the original main blocks, such as #2 and #8, have been heavily encrusted by added wings and ells to form a kind of residential connected architecture.

In contrast to the primary buildings, the 17 secondary buildings represent a variety of types. These range from a simple shed such as #15A through garages (e.g., #3B) to a studio (#13B). The secondary buildings also include a farmstead cluster of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 3

---

agricultural outbuildings dominated by a dairy barn (#7B) with attached wood-stave silo and milkhouse.

The buildings exhibit several architectural styles although generally in vernacular expressions with few decorative features. The highest-style interpretation is achieved in the 20th-century late Colonial Revival of the West-Beyers House (#13). Three other houses (#5, 15, and 16) display the influence of that style in alterations or additions. The single example (#3) of Italianate influence indicates how little building activity occurred here during the latter half of the 19th century. And a single example (#15) of Greek Revival style indicates the same about the first half of that century. Two houses (#7 and 12) represent the Federal period of the late 1700s-early 1800s in varying stylistic degree.

The buildings almost universally share the gable-roofed form and domestic scale of one-and-one-half or two-and-one-half stories in height. The dairy barn (#7B) is the single exception of larger scale although the same basic form. One house (#1) differs by having a hipped main roof interrupted by a gabled ell.

A relatively limited variety of materials appears on the buildings in the historic district (boundary increase). All are wood-framed and most are sheathed with clapboards; shiplap is used to a minor extent. Synthetic siding has been applied over the clapboards of one house (#12). Most foundations are built of stone, in some cases that being blocks or rubble of the locally abundant marble. The roofs of several primary buildings are shingled with slate, but asphalt shingles are most common among the buildings overall.

Fully three-quarters of the houses and several outbuildings are painted white or near-white with contrasting colors limited to trim and/or window shutters. The outbuildings of agricultural type are mostly painted the traditional red color or left unpainted. The slate shingles applied to several house and outbuilding roofs display generally blue-gray color.

The buildings generally are being maintained in good to excellent condition; indeed some of the houses exhibit an especially high standard of maintenance. The only exception involves the agricultural outbuildings (#7B and 7C) in the farmstead cluster that are showing the effects of deferred maintenance since the cessation of commercial dairy farming.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 4

---

Only two primary buildings (#4 and 11) have been constructed since the late 1940s, and therefore are considered noncontributing to the character of the historic district (boundary increase) owing to their ages of less than fifty years. Another primary building (#1) has been altered since the late 1940s to the extent of losing its historic character, and for that reason is also considered noncontributing. These three noncontributing primary buildings (plus the three noncontributing secondary buildings) are interspersed among the thirteen historic primary buildings such that they have only minor effect on the overall character of the historic district.

There follow individual descriptions of the 33 primary and secondary buildings in the Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase):

1. Edith Snare House (off Church Street); c. 1850?, c. 1960

Deeply set back from the street, this 19th-century barn was converted about 1960 to a house for Edith Snare by a local contractor, Webster Wilkins. It is the nearest primary building to the boundary of the existing Dorset Village Historic District. Previously the barn related to a house located a distance outside the historic district to the northwest.

The one-and-one-half-story, clapboarded house consists of a main block with an expansive slate-shingled hip roof and a smaller gable-roofed (also slate-shingled) west ell with a one-story, shed-roofed west wing. A gabled dormer with a large multi-light fixed sash emerges from both the south and east slopes of the main roof. Atop the intersection of the main and ell roofs, a wood-shingled square cupola with a diamond opening on each face rises to a slate-shingled pyramidal cap with flared eaves.

A three-bay porch with square posts shelters the main block's main (south) facade under an extension of the main roof slope. The house's somewhat irregular fenestration includes multi-light fixed sash and coupled six-over-sixes. A massive fieldstone fireplace chimney ascends the left side of the ell's south gable facade, and an oculus lights its gable peak.

The Snare House is considered noncontributing to the character of the historic district owing to the extensive alterations that were made during its conversion from a barn to a house, largely

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 5

---

masking its historic appearance, and to its age of less than fifty years in its altered appearance.

1A. Garage; c. 1960

Placed to the right (southeast) of the house, a one-story, one-by-one-bay, clapboarded garage has a slate-shingled gable roof. A paneled overhead door enters its west gable front.

This garage is considered noncontributing to the character of the historic district owing to its age of less than fifty years.

2. House (Church Street); c. 1850

Now largely concealed by attached appendages, the one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed main block of this clapboarded house has existed since at least the 1850s. Several wings and ells have subsequently been added to create the present rambling vernacular house. Trees, shrubs, and a high vertical-board fence screen the house from the closely adjacent Church Street.

Oriented parallel to the street, the main block is visible mostly as a half-story above the roofs of east, south, and west appendages. A simple molded cornice with gable returns follows its eaves. An added continuous shed dormer with quadruple six-over-six sash and clapboarded cheeks displaces most of the south roof slope. Flanked by single six-over-six sash (the prevalent sash type on the house) with plain surrounds, an exterior brick chimney ascends the west gable above the roof of the west wing.

Centered on the main block's west facade, the one-story, two-by-one-bay west wing carries a slate-shingled gable roof. A large multi-light window illuminates its west gable facade. Projecting from the left (west) half of the main block's south eaves facade, a small one-story ell has a gable roof covered with standing-seam sheet metal; a yet smaller shed-roofed wing emerges from its west side. Attached to and concealing the main block's east end, a one-and-one-half-story ell has a slate-shingled gable roof that intersects the main block's roof but with somewhat higher eaves and ridge lines. Triplet six-over-six sash light its south gable.

Connected as an ell to the east eaves facade of the last-described section, a one-story appendage with an asphalt-shingled

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 6

---

gable roof follows the orientation of the main block. Finally, connected as an ell to the east end of the one-story appendage, a one-story, two-by-two-bay, clapboarded garage has an asphalt-shingled gable roof oriented perpendicular to the street. Twin paneled overhead doors enter its south gable facade.

### 3. Roberts House (Church Street); c. 1850

This house has become the only building in the historic district that continues to show its original (albeit vernacular) Italianate stylistic influence. Apparently built for other owners, the house belonged to members of the Roberts family between at least the 1860s and the 1920s.

The clapboarded house possesses a two-story, five-by-two-bay, eaves-front main block oriented parallel to the street. It carries a slate-shingled gable roof that is steeply pitched above high blind gables. Scrolled brackets support both the horizontal and raking eaves. An interior stove chimney of white-painted brick with a corbeled cap straddles each end of the ridge.

Flush with the main block's side-gable facades, a two-story rear (north) ell extends only two bays in depth. The ell contrasts by having a much lower and shallower pitched gable roof, also slate-shingled, plus a shed extension on the west side. A chimney like those on the main roof straddles the rear end of the ridge.

The five-bay main (south) eaves facade is arranged symmetrically around a central entrance with double-leaf doors; each leaf has a single square-headed vertical light above three molded panels. The entrance surround is plain except for the canted upper corners with drip molding. The other bays contain the single two-over-two sash predominant on the house; they have surrounds matching the entrance and louvered wood shutters. The second story of the rear ell differs by having coupled sash, two-over-twos on the west facade and reduced one-over-ones on the east.

A Queen Anne, flat-roofed veranda spans the main facade in four bays and wraps around the east gable facade in four additional bays. The porch incorporates turned posts, pierced brackets, and a lattice skirt below its low deck. On the east gable facade, the first story projects outward under the porch roof. The single-bay diagonal south end of this projection contains a multi-light French door while the adjacent middle bay has a two-



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 7

---

over-two sash and the right (north) bay coupled six-over-six sash. The northern-most bay of the porch shelters an entry on the ell's east eaves facade.

### 3A. Shed/Studio; c. 1870, c. 1955

Although adapted about 1955 to a rug-hooking studio for Esther Knipe, this former shed retains much of its historic character. It stands to the rear (northeast) of the house, also oriented parallel to the street. The clapboarded outbuilding rests on a mortared rubble foundation, and rises one and one-half stories to an asphalt-shingled gable roof. A tiny cupola with louvered faces and a hipped cap straddles the center of the ridge.

The south eaves facade now has openings only on the left side; however, joints in the clapboards indicate a former opening on the right side. Providing entry at the left corner, a vertical-boarded door is mounted on iron strap hinges. On the right of the door, a large six-over-six sash illuminates the first story. Both have plain surrounds with peaked lintel boards. Directly above the window, an horizontal eight-light fixed sash with a single vertical-boarded hinged shutter punctuates the kneewall.

The four-bay west gable facade also has a vertical-boarded, hinged door at the left corner but six-light fixed sash in the other three bays. Both the west and east gables are lighted by single six-over-six sash.

### 3B. Garage; c. 1945

Sited west of the house and nearly matching its facade line, this small one-car garage is oriented perpendicular to the street. The one-story, one-by-one-bay, clapboarded garage carries an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

The south gable front is entered by double-leaf, vertical-boarded vehicle doors mounted on iron strap hinges. A single six-light fixed sash is centered on the west eaves facade.

### 4. Wendall Cram House (Church Street); c. 1970

The second most recently built house in the historic district, this two-story house of simple rectangular plan is banked against the sloping ground on its main (south) eaves facade. The house

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 8

is sheathed with wide clapboards below its asphalt-shingled gable roof. A massive exterior brick fireplace chimney ascends through the shed roof of the two-bay entrance porch with box posts on the left half of the main facade. The window treatment consists mostly of short eight-over-eight sash with vertical-board shutters.

Constructed for Wendall Cram, this house is considered noncontributing to the character of the historic district owing to its age of less than fifty years.

5. Kellogg-Chapin-Sykes House (Church Street at West Road);  
1854, c. 1916, c. 1930

Occupying the northeast quadrant of the Church Street-West Road intersection, this house consists of the original (1854) main block built for Dolly Farwell (Mrs. William) Kellogg, a slightly reduced east wing added c. 1916 for Mary M. (Mrs. Edward) Chapin, and a northeast ell added c. 1930 for James G. Sykes. This house stands on the site of the house/tavern built by Asa Farwell in 1777 and "moved back" when the present house replaced it. The current appearance of the main block and east wing reflects a c. 1916 Colonial Revival "restoration" designed by the architect Henry J. McGill for Mrs. Chapin. A recently rebuilt wood fence with square posts and pointed square pales follows the edges of the streets to protect the informally landscaped south and west grounds.

The two-story, three-by-two-bay, eaves-front main block rests on a low foundation of irregular marble blocks. The present narrow clapboards were applied about 1990 to replace the wide clapboards dating from the c. 1916 "restoration." Paneled pilasters ascend the corners and support a molded cornice along the overhung horizontal eaves; the raking eaves contrast by being closely cropped. Oriented parallel to Church Street, the gable roof is shingled with slate. A broad exterior fireplace chimney of white-painted brick bisects the west gable facade; small quadrant sash flank the chimney in the gable.

The main (south) eaves facade presents a symmetrical three-bay arrangement around a central entrance; only a single bay occurs on each side despite sufficient length for the typical pair of bays. The nine-panel door is flanked by sidelights of two-thirds length with curvilinear muntins above vertical panels, the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 9

---

sidelights themselves being flanked by pairs of slender reeded pilasters. This ensemble is crowned by a semielliptical fanlight with radiating muntins. The entrance is sheltered by a one-bay, Colonial Revival porch with paired slender columns supporting a simple entablature along the eaves of the slate-shingled gable roof; the porch ceiling repeats the arch of the fanlight.

The main facade's fenestration differs by story. The two first-story bays contain six-over-six sash with plain surrounds, the prevalent sash type on the house. On the second story, triplet four-light fixed sash occupy the central position while the side bays (placed outboard of the first-story counterparts) are fitted with six-light casement sash.

The three-by-three-bay, clapboarded east wing is slightly reduced in scale and recessed from the main block's south facade. The wing's slate-shingled gable roof is asymmetrical with a lower rear (north) slope. A broad brick chimney rises from the joint between the main block and east wing on the north side of the ridge. A central shed wall dormer with six-light casement sash breaks the horizontal cornice of the south facade.

The one-and-one-half-story ell projects from the north side of the east wing. Intersecting the wing's north roof slope, a perpendicular slate-shingled gable roof carries a continuous shed dormer with twin triplet six-light casement sash on its east slope and a broad interior brick chimney straddling its ridge. The north end of this roof intersects the south slope of a perpendicular asymmetrical gable roof like that on the east wing.

The balancing east gable facades of the wing and ell share the treatment of three-part, multi-light windows in the gables and closely cropped raking eaves while their first stories differ somewhat. A four-bay recessed veranda occupies the ell's entire first story; it incorporates paired slender square columns (with intermediate lattice) and a stick balustrade, and the northernmost bay and end are enclosed with large multi-light sash.

Photographs taken about 1900 record the original (or at least pre-"restoration") appearance of what was then known as the Kellogg Homestead. The house was sheathed with clapboards of medium exposure. The arrangement of openings on the main block's south facade corresponded to the present but the sash types differed. The recessed main entrance was flanked by full-length

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 10

---

sidelights and enframed by heavy paneled pilasters. Narrow corner boards supported a full entablature along the horizontal eaves; only the projecting cornice continued along the raking eaves of the gable facades. The second-story window openings interrupted the horizontal architrave and frieze. A central gabled dormer emerged from the roof slope. A multi-bay porch with paneled posts, scrolled brackets, and a pierced skirt spanned most of the main facade and continued across the recessed south facade of a one-story, flat-roofed east wing. The latter facade included a left entrance and three closely spaced windows plus a canted right corner with a single sash.

### 5A. Garage/Apartment; c. 1925

Sited to the rear (northwest) of the house, this garage and apartment outbuilding stands closely adjacent and perpendicular to West Road, facing southward toward the Church Street intersection. The peastone driveway, however, curves abruptly to join West Road.

The one-and-one-half-story, three-by-one-bay main block is sheathed with shiplap, and its gable roof is shingled with slate. Continuous shed dormers with slate-shingled roofs displace most of both the south and north slopes; each shiplapped dormer has two bays of six-light casement sash with paneled wood shutters having cut-outs in the form of birds. A round-headed, multi-light sash marks the west gable. An exterior brick chimney ascends the east gable facade.

The main (south) eaves facade is dominated by twin semielliptical-arched vehicle bays within a continuous flush-boarded surround. Each bay has double-leaf, semielliptical-headed, vertical-boarded, hinged doors, and each leaf has a four-light fixed sash. At the right corner of this facade, a small entry vestibule with a vertical-boarded door projects outward under a downward extension of the south roof slope. A larger one-story, one-bay-deep, shiplapped, shed-roofed wing is attached to the rear (north) facade.

### 6. Walter Manley House (West Road); 1924

Clearly influenced by nearby 19th-century houses (#5 and 12), this early 20th-century counterpart displays similar scale, form, and materials but its exterior appearance lacks stylistic

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 11

---

features. The house was constructed for Walter Manley by a local builder, Dee Kinney, who also resided on West Road. Subsequently the house has remained in the possession of the Manley family.

Oriented parallel to the road, the two-and-one-half-story, five-by-three-bay, clapboarded house rests on a mortared fieldstone foundation. Narrow corner boards support a box cornice along the eaves. The gable roof is shingled with slate. An interior brick chimney rises from the rear (east) slope near the center of the ridge.

The five-bay main (west) eaves facade shares the symmetrical arrangement typical of Federal period houses with a central entrance and pairs of window openings in the side bays. The multi-light door (plus a combination wood storm door) with a plain surround is sheltered by a plain one-bay porch with box posts, lattice skirt, and slate-shingled gable roof. The window openings are fitted with the six-over-one sash (plus wood storm sash on the first story and metal on the second) and plain surrounds common to the house.

On the rear (east) eaves facade, a three-bay, screened, shed-roofed porch spans the central bays.

Attached to the three-bay north gable facade and recessed from the main facade, a one-story, two-by-one-bay, clapboarded wing carries an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

6A. Garage; c. 1950

Placed north of the house and oriented perpendicular to the road, this small one-story, one-car garage is sheathed with wide clapboards below its asphalt-shingled gable roof. A paneled overhead door enters its west gable front, and a four-light fixed sash is centered on the north eaves side.

Added c. 1970, a one-story, plywood-sheathed south wing has an asphalt-shingled shed roof. A vertical-boarded pass door enters the center of its south side.

This garage is considered noncontributing to the character of the historic district owing to its age of less than fifty years.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 12

---

7. John Farwell Farmstead (West Road); c. 1779 and later

The cluster of buildings belonging to the John Farwell Farm occupies an area on the west side of the road at the northwest corner of the historic district. Built by/for John Farwell, the c. 1779 house stands next to the road, and the c. 1880 carriage barn connects perpendicularly to the house's northwest rear corner. The primary outbuilding, a c. 1900 dairy barn, stands to the rear (west) of the house; connected to this barn are several appendages, including a silo and a milkhouse. Closer to the road, a disused c. 1930 two-car garage is sited south of the house.

Commercial dairy farming ended here about 1990. The outbuildings are now showing the effects of inadequate maintenance; generally they are in deteriorating condition. Apart from the informally landscaped east and south grounds of the house, the farmyard and former pastures that surround the buildings are reverting to brush and trees.

Oriented parallel to the road, the one-and-one-half-story, five-by-three-bay, clapboarded vernacular house rests on a rubble foundation. Medium-width corner boards support a plain frieze below the molded cornice along the low horizontal eaves with short returns on the gable ends; only the cornice follows the raking eaves. The high gable roof of relatively steep pitch is shingled with slate. A short interior brick chimney emerges from the rear (west) slope at the ridge.

The five-bay main (east) eaves facade is arranged symmetrically around the central entrance. The recessed six-light-over-two-panel door (plus a metal storm door) is flanked by six-light sidelights of three-quarters length. The entrance opening is enframed by heavy smooth pilasters whose capitals support the soffit of the cornice. Massive granite slab steps lead to the entrance. The window openings are fitted with the six-over-nine sash (plus metal storm sash) and plain surrounds common to the house.

The south gable facade is arranged regularly with two bays on each story, those on the first being spaced farther apart. The opposite (north) facade contrasts by having a three-bay second story, clapboards of wider exposure below the second-story lintel level, and a half-gable with only an east slope. The peak rises above the main ridge to the perpendicular horizontal frieze

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 13

---

and cornice of an intermediate half-hip roof that connects to the south roof slope of the attached carriage barn below the ridge.

7A. Carriage barn; c. 1880

The awkward connection between the house and the perpendicular carriage barn conceals most of the left half of the latter's east gable facade. The clapboarded barn rises two and one-half stories to a slate-shingled gable roof. Its three-bay east facade now lacks an entrance, being lighted mostly by two-over-two sash with plain surrounds; the left first-story bay was originally occupied by a pass door. A plain frieze and box cornice follow the raking eaves.

The south eaves facade of the carriage barn contains its main entrance in the form of central double-leaf, vertical-boarded exterior sliding doors. These are flanked by single bays of two-over-two sash, and a pedestrian entrance occupies the right corner next to the house. The opposite (north) facade contrasts by being punctuated with seven smaller openings; these include a central vertical-boarded, hinged pass door and four small four-light stall windows on the right (west) side. Roughly centered above the stall windows, a vertical-boarded, hinged hay door provides access to the loft.

7B. Dairy Barn; c. 1900

The only dairy barn in the historic district is banked along its rear (west) eaves facade at the foot of a formerly pastured hillside. Several added wings and a silo encrust the east and north facades of the imposing three-and-one-half-story main block. A large square ventilating cupola straddles the ridge at the center of its expansive gable roof.

The barn rests on a fieldstone foundation that is partly exposed on the south gable facade. The clapboarded barn is trimmed with corner boards and a wide fascia below the projecting eaves. The gable roof is shingled with slate, and spiral metal lightning rods with glass balls rise from the metal-capped ridge. The central clapboarded cupola has a vertical rectangular louver on each face, and is capped by a slate-shingled cross-gable roof also topped by a lightning rod.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 14

---

The fully exposed south gable facade is entered at ground level in the right-central position by a vertical-boarded exterior sliding door and at the rising ground level on the left side (corresponding to the second story on the east and north facades) by a vertical-boarded, hinged pass door. A now-covered opening to the right of the pass door and a multi-light sash at the gable peak are the only other openings on this facade. The east eaves and north gable facades are concealed by added wings below the third-story level. The north facade has three window bays on the third story and another at the gable peak but all are now covered.

Spanning the lower north facade, a two-story, three-bay-deep wing is sheathed mostly with shiplap below its asphalt-shingled shed roof. Two bays of nine-light fixed sash punctuate the second story on the wing's north side. The latter is exposed only above the shed roof of a collapsing one-story wing with two bays of six-light fixed sash on its buckling north wall.

Connected to the north end of the barn's east facade, a deteriorating c. 1910 cylindrical silo rises to the height of the horizontal eaves. The tongue-and-groove, wood-stave silo is bound by iron hoops and capped by a polygonal gambrel roof covered with rolled asphalt. A full-height, vertical-boarded hyphen joins the silo to the barn; its slate-shingled gable cap intersects the barn roof at eaves level. A second silo of the same type that stood adjacent on the north has been removed.

Abutting the silo on the south, a c. 1970, one-story, milking parlor wing spans most of the barn's east facade. This plywood-sided wing rests on a high concrete deck (corresponding to the barn's ground floor level), and has an asphalt-shingled shed roof reaching to the second-story level. Its east front is fenestrated with multiple nine-light fixed sash, apart from a large opening now cut into the left side. The wing's south end stops short of a vertical-boarded, hinged pass door that enters the left (south) corner of the main east facade.

Connected perpendicularly to the southeast corner of the barn, a c. 1940, one-story, one-by-two-bay milkhouse lacks an exterior entrance. The milkhouse is constructed of poured concrete and concrete blocks below the clapboarded gables, and has an asphalt-shingled gable roof. A nine-light fixed sash marks its east gable facade.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 15

---

7C. Garage; c. 1930

Oriented parallel to the road, this deteriorating one-story, two-car garage is sheathed with shiplap; its gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The north gable front now lacks doors. The east eaves facade is lighted by two bays of two-over-two sash with plain surrounds.

8. Franklin Warren House (West Road); c. 1946; c. 1985

This somewhat altered house consisted originally of the modest vernacular main block and a connected garage (now the west block) that were built c. 1946 by or for Franklin Warren, whose father then owned the adjacent farm (#7). During the 1980s, the main block was renovated and the garage was adapted to residential use, echoing the form and scale of the main block.

The one-and-one-half-story, clapboarded main block carries a slate-shingled gable roof oriented parallel to the road. A box cornice with short gable returns follows the eaves. A short interior brick chimney straddles the ridge.

The original main (east) eaves facade includes a central entrance with a multi-light door (plus a wood storm door) and a plain surround. Sheltering the entrance but lacking steps to the ground, a one-bay, shed-roofed porch has paired slender square columns (with intermediate lattice) and a turned balustrade. Outside the porch, the right bay contains a twelve-over-twelve sash (plus one-over-one storm sash) with a plain surround and louvered wood shutters, the prevalent window treatment on the house. On the left, the porch abuts a one-story, one-by-one-bay ell with a slate-shingled gable roof that projects from the east facade. The ell's east gable front is lighted by coupled twelve-over-twelve sash (like the prevalent gable treatment).

On the three-bay north gable facade, a three-sided bay window with six-over-six sash and a slate-shingled hip roof emerges from the left position. The opposite (south) facade also includes in the left position a rectangular bay window with nine-over-nine sash and a slate-shingled gable roof.

A one-story, gable-roofed hyphen links the west eaves facade of the main block and the east eaves facade of the parallel west block (the former garage). The hyphen contains the present main

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 18

---

entrance on its south eaves front; the six-panel door is flanked by half-length, four-pane sidelights. The clapboarded west block's gable roof is asphalt-shingled; spanning the north gable facade, a one-story, one-bay-deep, shed-roofed wing is illuminated by multiple sash.

## 8A. Garage; c. 1985

Sited southwest of the house and built to replace the original garage, this one-story, two-car garage is sheathed with wide clapboards and has an asphalt-shingled gable roof oriented perpendicular to the road. A broad paneled overhead door enters the south eaves front. The two-bay east gable side is fenestrated by horizontal six-light fixed sash.

This garage is considered noncontributing to the character of the historic district owing to its age of less than fifty years.

## 9. Miner Gilbert House (off West Road); c. 1935

Set back from and above the level of West Road at the foot of the hillside, this clapboarded vernacular house was built c. 1935 by the original owner, H. Miner Gilbert, who lived here only a few years. Several minor differences in appearance indicate that the main block and the north wing were built at different times.

Oriented parallel with the road, the three-by-two-bay main block has a half-height second story on the eaves facades. A box cornice follows the horizontal eaves while the raking eaves are closely cropped. The shallow-pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An exterior brick chimney ascends the north gable facade at the interior corner next to the north wing.

The three-bay main (east) eaves facade is arranged somewhat irregularly around a right-center entrance. Smooth pilasters flank the doorway and support a cornice cap. A recent one-bay, gable-roofed entrance porch incorporates square posts, an eaves entablature, stick balustrade, lattice skirt, and a flight of exterior steps on each side of the deck. The varied fenestration includes coupled six-over-six sash (plus one-over-one storm sash) on the right side of the first story and a single on the left; both have plain surrounds and paneled wood shutters with bird cut-outs. The half-height second-story sash abut the soffit;

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 17

---

triple four-light sash occupy the center and coupled horizontal six-light sash the side bays.

The recessed north wing rises two stories from a lower ground level to the lower ridge of its slate-shingled gable roof. Its east eaves facade has a single window bay on each story in offset positions; the two-over-two sash on the second story is taller than its counterparts on the main block.

### 10. House (West Road opposite Church Street); c. 1850

The visual terminus of Church Street, this distinctive vernacular house consists of what may have been two originally separate halves that share form, scale, and materials. The two-story, five-by-two-bay, clapboarded, eaves-front house carries a slate-shingled gable roof of shallow pitch, replacing the original flat roof. A wide frieze encircles the house below the horizontal molded cornice; the latter continues across the north and south gables to enclose pediments on those facades.

The main (east) eaves facade is subdivided into two sections, each having an entrance. The three-bay south section has its entrance (now the primary) in the middle bay, moved from the original right-bay position; the six-light-over-three-panel door (plus a wood screen door) is sheltered by a shed hood above a lattice enclosure and a marble-slab landing. The flanking window bays are fitted with the two-over-two sash (plus one-over-one metal storm sash), plain surrounds, and paneled wood shutters common to the house. The two-bay north section has its entrance in the left bay, enframed by slender smooth pilasters supporting a cornice cap. Coupled two-over-two sash occupy the right position in place of two originally separate sash; on the second story, the left bay contains original coupled sash and the right a single sash.

The two-bay south gable facade includes coupled sash in the left bay of the first story. Both the south and north gables are pedimented with flush-boarded tympanums. An exterior brick fireplace chimney bisects the south facade, and small triangular louvers flank the chimney within the tympanum. The uninterrupted north tympanum contrasts by having a single large triangular louver. The north facade also differs by having triplet reduced four-light fixed sash on the first story in place of the original single full-size sash.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 18

---

A two-story, clapboarded, shed-roofed rear wing extends one bay in depth from the main block's west facade. Attached to the first wing's north side, a one-story, shed-roofed wing also extends one bay in depth.

Photographs taken around the turn of this century show that the house then displayed a vernacular Italianate character and was apparently a duplex. The typical scrolled brackets supported the eaves of the flat roof. Centered on the main facade, a two-bay, flat-roofed porch with bracketed, slotted posts sheltered the twin central entrances; an open deck continued from the roofed porch to the left corner.

11. Dorothy Gilbert House (West Road); c. 1975

An example of the ranch type popular in the third quarter of the 20th century, this one-story, clapboarded house has an asphalt-shingled gable roof oriented parallel to the road. The three-bay east eaves facade includes a right-center entrance with a six-panel door, a bow window on the left, and a three-part picture window on the right. A massive riverstone fireplace chimney dominates the two-bay south gable facade.

A slightly reduced, gabled north wing combines on its east facade a pedestrian door flanked by jalousie windows on the left and a paneled overhead vehicle door on the right.

This house was built for Dorothy L. Gilbert, who lived here until her death in 1986. The Dorothy Gilbert House is considered noncontributing to the character of the historic district owing to its age of less than fifty years.

12. Eliphalet Farwell House (West Road); 1813

Defining the southwest corner of the historic district, the Eliphalet Farwell House exemplifies the Federal style and Georgian plan expressed in an early 19th-century house. The main block was built in 1813 by one Judge Southworth for Eliphalet Farwell, son of John who settled the adjacent farm to the north. (Thomas, the original settler of this farm, probably built a modest house here but, not married, he returned to his native state of Connecticut.) The house was "remodelled" to a limited

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 19

---

extent for Eliphalet's son, George W. Farwell, who owned it at least from the 1850s to the 1880s.

The house now consists of the two-story, five-by-two-bay, eaves-front, gable-roofed main block oriented parallel to the road; a one-and-one-half-story, gabled rear (west) ell (possibly predating the main block); and a c. 1975, one-story, gabled north ell attached to the first ell. Period photographs indicate that the "remodelling" involved primarily the addition of a three-bay Italianate porch centered on the main facade; that porch has been removed during the 20th century.

Resting on a fieldstone foundation, the house has been covered with vinyl siding over the original clapboards but most stylistic features appear to have been left exposed. The narrow corner boards contrast with the full entablature that follows the horizontal eaves with returns on the gable ends; only the cornice continues along the raking eaves. The shallow-pitched gable roof is shingled with slate, and a metal cap protects the ridge. An interior brick chimney straddles each end of the ridge.

The five-bay main (east) eaves facade presents a symmetrical arrangement around a central entrance approached by broad marble slab steps. The slightly recessed, vertically paneled door (plus a combination wood storm door) is flanked by five-pane sidelights of three-quarters length that are enframed by pairs of slender paneled pilasters. The entrance opening is enframed in turn by wider smooth pilasters supporting an entablature like that along the eaves except for its fasciated architrave. The paired side bays contain nine-over-nine sash on the first story and six-over-sixes on the second; both have one-over-one metal storm sash, plain surrounds, and louvered wood shutters.

Recessed from both the north and south facades of the main block, the rear (west) ell also carries a gable roof shingled with slate. A three-bay shed wall dormer lighted by six-over-nine sash replaces the right (east) two-thirds of the south slope. The ell's five-bay south eaves facade includes an entrance with a recent three-sided hood in the second-from-right bay, flanked by six-over-six sash. At the left end, a 24-light fixed sash has been installed in place of an original shed entrance. Two small fixed sash punctuate the kneewall below the left third of the south roof slope.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 20

---

Projecting from the west half of the first ell's north facade, the smaller north ell also has a slate-shingled gable roof; an interior brick fireplace chimney rises from the north end of its ridge. This ell extends two bays (of nine-over-nine sash) in length on its east eaves facade, and a shed-roofed porch spans its opposite facade.

12A. Barn/Garage; c. 1875

Standing to the rear (southwest) of the house and oriented parallel to the road, a small one-and-one-half-story barn has been adapted to a garage. The main (east) eaves and north gable facades are clapboarded while the south facade is sheathed with shiplap. The gable roof is shingled with slate.

The four-bay main facade is entered by two vertical-boarded exterior sliding doors in the left-central and right bays plus a vertical-boarded, hinged pass door at the left corner. A nine-light fixed sash is set between the sliding doors. Above the right sliding door, a vertical-boarded, hinged loft door enters the kneewall. The two-bay south facade is fenestrated by multi-light fixed sash on the first story and a loft door in the gable.

13. "The Spruces"/West-Beyers House (off West Road); 1937-38

The most formal approach in the historic district leads from West Road to the highest style house, known as "The Spruces." The straight paved driveway is flanked by the namesake tall blue spruce trees, and terminates in a roundabout with a central raised flower bed in front of the West-Beyers House. The expansive grounds surrounding the house are landscaped with cultivated lawns, perennial flowers, and both deciduous and coniferous shrubs and trees.

The house was designed by H. Leslie Walker, an architect from New York, for E. L. West, who purchased the site in 1937. Walker created an elaborate late Colonial Revival counterpart of the Federal style Eliphalet Farwell House (#12) on the opposite side of the road. The property was transferred in 1947 to West's daughter, Bernice West Beyers, a sculptress who used it primarily as a summer residence during the succeeding four decades.

The house's two-and-one-half-story, eaves-front, gable-roofed main block is appended by a two-story, gabled rear (northeast)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 24

---

ell and a one-story, flat-roofed south wing. A gable-roofed pergola links the house's north facade and the one-and-one-half-story, gable-front garage/apartment (#13A) to the north. Standing to the south of the house, the one-and-one-half-story, gable-front studio (#13B) balances the garage in the building cluster without being physically connected to the house. The three buildings are visually unified by common materials, including clapboard sheathing and slate roof shingles, and white paint treatment with black shutters.

The high-style Colonial Revival design of the house culminates in the colossal Ionic entrance portico centered on the main facade. The studio echoes this by its own central entrance portico with single-story Ionic columns. And the pergola with Tuscan columns leads to the utilitarian but at least corner-pilastered garage.

The house's five-bay main (west) eaves facade exhibits a formal symmetry dominated by the central pedimented portico. The paired colossal Ionic columns rise from a mortared marble deck to support the enriched entablature that encloses the shallow pediment; its flush-boarded tympanum is lighted by a lunette with radiating muntins. Engaging the wall, heavy smooth square columns enframe the flush-boarded surface around the central entrance. The six-panel door (plus a wood storm door) is flanked by two-thirds-length sidelights with curvilinear muntins that are enframed by pairs of slender fluted pilasters. The latter support the semielliptical molded surround of the semicircular fanlight with radiating muntins that surmounts the doorway. Heavier quoined pilasters enframe in turn the entrance ensemble and rise to the consoles that carry the second-story balcony with an iron diamond balustrade. French doors open onto the balcony.

The main facade's side bays are fitted with oversized eight-over-twelve sash on the first story and eight-over-eights (the house's prevalent type) on the second. The first-story openings are surmounted by entablature caps with triglyphs; all the windows have backbanded surrounds and louvered wood shutters. Heavy smooth pilasters ascend the corners to support the enriched eaves entablature.

The rear (east) eaves facade differs primarily by having a first-story sunporch that spans four-fifths of its length, abutting the northeast ell. Tuscan columns support a simple entablature along the eaves of the flat roof. The individual bays are enclosed with multi-light windows.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 22

---

The south gable facade is bisected above the one-story wing by a massive exterior brick fireplace chimney; quadrant sash flank the chimney in the gable. Recessed from the main facade, the two-by-three-bay wing is distinguished by the smooth wall pilasters that articulate the individual bays of eight-over-eight sash. An enriched entablature encircles the wing's flat roof.

The opposite three-bay, irregularly fenestrated north facade includes two entries; the right one has French doors and the left one is sheltered by the pergola. A lunette punctuates the gable. Only the enriched cornice follows the raking eaves. Flush with this facade, the rear (northeast) ell extends one bay in depth.

Linking the north facade's left entry and one on the garage/apartment's south eaves facade, the pergola extends five bays in length. Tuscan columns support a simple entablature along the eaves of its slate-shingled gable roof.

### 13A. Garage/Apartment; c. 1938

Although primarily utilitarian, this four-by-two-bay outbuilding reveals its garage identity only on the north eaves facade that is not visible from the front grounds and driveway. The other facades appear residential in character. Smooth corner pilasters support a simple entablature along the horizontal eaves with short returns on the gable ends; only a molded cornice continues along the raking eaves.

The north facade is entered by four paneled overhead vehicle doors. The two-bay west gable facade is lighted by eight-over-eight sash with louvered shutters like those on the house. The south eaves facade includes twin left-center entries sheltered by the pergola extending to the house. Near each end of the main roof's south slope is a gabled dormer with an eight-over-eight sash, clapboarded cheeks, and a slate roof. Four such dormers are spaced regularly along the opposite (north) slope.

### 13B. Bernice Beyers Studio; c. 1940 and later

The only specially built studio in the historic district displays a simpler Colonial Revival design than the house. The one-by-four-bay building shows evidence of having been extended by the addition of the rear (east) bay albeit with the same materials at the same scale. The joint in the north and south eaves facades is marked by a smooth wall pilaster like those at the corners.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 23

---

The pilasters support diamond frieze blocks below the denticulated cornice that follows all the eaves with short returns on the gable ends. A massive rubblestone fireplace chimney with a concrete cap straddles the ridge at the joint in the building, indicating that it was originally exterior and existed before the addition.

The one-bay main (west) gable facade contains the central entrance. The multi-panel door (plus a wood storm door) is flanked by five-pane sidelights of half length and crowned by a multi-light transom. A shallow one-bay, flat-roofed portico shelters the entrance; its two Ionic columns support an entablature enriched with fretwork. Directly above the portico, a lunette with radiating muntins punctuates the gable.

The north eaves facade is illuminated in the central portion of the three-bay original section by a multi-part, multi-light wall window; it reaches from the sill level common to the window bays upward to the eaves cornice. The other window openings contain the eight-over-eight sash (plus one-over-one metal storm sash), backbanded surrounds, and louvered wood shutters used also on the house and garage/apartment.

14. Elsie McCartee House (West Road); c. 1920

This vernacular house was built c. 1920 probably as a summer residence for Elsie E. McCartee (later Mrs. George M. Hoeger) of Brooklyn, New York. Its basic form suggests that the design of this house may have been influenced by the late 18th-century John Farwell farmhouse (#7) to the north. The McCartee House is recessed from West Road amidst broad cultivated lawns with scattered shrubs and trees.

Oriented parallel to the road, the one-and-one-half-story, clapboarded house carries an expansive slate-shingled gable roof with low horizontal eaves. A box cornice follows all the eaves. An interior brick chimney emerges from the west roof slope near the middle of the ridge.

The main (west) eaves facade contains a central entrance with a multi-light door flanked by four-pane sidelights of half length and sheltered by a one-bay, gabled porch with box posts. A three-part window with a six-over-one central sash and four-over-one side sash occupies a shallow projection on the right side and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 24

---

coupled six-over-one sash the left side of this facade. These and the single six-over-ones (plus one-over-one storm sash) elsewhere on the house have plain surrounds and louvered wood shutters.

The four-bay south gable facade includes at its right corner the end bay of the recessed screened porch that extends in four bays across the rear (east) facade.

Slightly recessed from the main facade, a one-story north wing with a slate-shingled gable roof extends four bays along its west eaves facade. Two bays of six-over-one sash light the left half and two bays of six-light casement sash the right half of this facade.

14A. Garage; c. 1940

Sited north of the house, a one-story garage is sheathed with shiplap below its slate-shingled gable roof with exposed rafter tails. A broad overhead door opens its west gable front. A four-panel pass door enters the left end of the south eaves side.

15. Farwell-Herrick House (Church Street at West Road); 1849, enlarged 1912

Oriented perpendicular to Church Street in the southeast quadrant of the intersection, this gable-front house was constructed in 1849 for Gurden Farwell and then enlarged in 1912 for Dr. James Herrick. Informally landscaped grounds surround the house behind a screen of deciduous trees (mostly maples) along the street and road. A row of four small gable-roofed outbuildings (#15A-15D) extends along West Road to the southwest of the house but they face toward the house rather than the road.

The original (1849) Greek Revival style, two-and-one-half-story, three-by-four-bay house of sidehall plan was appended by a one-and-one-half-story, gabled east ell. The house was largely transformed by the Colonial Revival style additions of 1912. The east ell was raised to two and one-half stories, and a two-story south wing plus a one-story secondary south wing were added; all are sheathed with clapboards. A nearly square Colonial Revival entrance pavilion was appended to the main block's west facade during the same period, possibly in 1914.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 25

---

The house's main block rests on a marble rubble foundation. The corner boards support a simple entablature along the horizontal eaves with short returns on the front (north) gable facade; the cornice and frieze continue along the raking eaves. The gable roof is shingled with slate. An interior brick chimney rises from the east slope.

The three-bay main (north) facade is arranged with the entrance in the left bay. The recessed broad door with two vertical molded panels is flanked by four-pane sidelights of three-quarters length that are enframed by pairs of slender paneled pilasters. The opening is enframed in turn by wide smooth pilasters that rise from a marble sill to support a heavy entablature. A flight of three marble-slab steps approaches the entrance. The other bays are fitted with the six-over-six sash (plus one-over-one storm sash), plain surrounds, and louvered wood shutters prevalent on the house.

Dominating the four-bay west eaves facade, the three-by-three-bay, flat-roofed, Colonial Revival entrance pavilion incorporates paired square columns with molded capitals supporting a fasciated eaves entablature, a stick balustrade with molded hand rail, and a roof balustrade with multiple square newels and "Union Jack" stickwork. The pavilion shelters a contemporary three-sided entrance embayment; it has central fourteen-light French doors (plus a wood storm door) flanked by reduced six-over-six sash on the partly clapboarded diagonal sides.

The east ell rests on a marble ashlar foundation. An entablature like that on the main block follows the eaves of its slate-shingled gable roof. Facing toward the mountains east of Dorset village and spanned by an open porch with a marble-slab deck and iron railing, the east gable facade is entered by central French doors flanked by multi-light casement windows. All three openings are surmounted by a wood-shingled pent roof on consoles. The second story is fenestrated by triplet multi-light casements.

Rising to a slightly lower eaves line than the main block, the two-story, one-by-three-bay first south wing carries an asphalt-shingled shallow hip roof. An original second-story sleeping porch has been enclosed with multiple eight-over-eight sash above a clapboarded apron. The one-story, three-bay-wide second south wing has a slate-shingled shed roof. The left half of this wing consisted originally of a screened recessed porch; that porch has

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 26

---

been enclosed with clapboards, and a downward extension of the shed roof now projects over a two-bay porch with box posts.

Gurden Farwell owned this house until his death in 1867, after which it was sold to Amasa Perry Chapman. The Chapman family retained possession until 1911, when Dr. James B. Herrick, a cardiologist from Chicago, acquired it for a summer residence. Dr. Herrick and his family spent many summers here until 1957. The house then passed to his daughter, Helen, and her husband, George H. Gilbert, Jr., and subsequently to their son, James H. Gilbert and family.

15A. Shed; 19th century, moved c. 1913

The oldest outbuilding in this group stood originally across the road to the southwest; it was moved about 1913 to its present site as the northernmost in the row of four. The one-story, one-by-one-bay, clapboarded shed has a gable roof shingled with slate. The east gable front is entered by a central vertical-boarded pass door hung on strap iron hinges. A six-light fixed sash is centered on the north eaves side.

15B. Chicken coop/Shop; c. 1913

Originally used as a chicken coop and now a shop, this one-story, one-by-two-bay, clapboarded outbuilding carries a distinctive asymmetrical gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The north slope rises to the ridge above a quasi-clerestory over the south slope.

The single-bay east gable front is entered by a central vertical-boarded, hinged pass door. The south eaves side is illuminated by two large horizontal twelve-light fixed sash while two small two-light hinged sash punctuate the clerestory.

15C. Garage; 1928

The two-by-two-bay, clapboarded garage is the only two-story outbuilding in the row. A molded cornice with gable returns decorates the eaves of its asphalt-shingled gable roof.

Twin sets of double-leaf, hinged doors - each leaf having eight lights over four vertical panels - enter the east gable facade while coupled eight-light casement windows light its second story. The south eaves facade is fenestrated by six-over-six

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 27

---

sash on the first story and a single three-light fixed sash on the kneewall.

15D. Woodshed; 1936

The southernmost of the four outbuildings, the one-story, two-by-one-bay, clapboarded woodshed differs from the others by its eaves-front orientation. A molded cornice with gable returns follows the eaves of the asphalt-shingled gable roof.

Twin sets of double-leaf, vertical-beadboarded, hinged doors enter the east eaves front; their semielliptical heads correspond to the form of the openings. Vertical rectangular louvers ventilate both the north and south gables.

16. Chapman-Herrick House (Church Street); 1904, enlarged 1923

Colonial Revival stylistic influence and a unique array of architectural features distinguish this modestly scaled house of simple rectangular plan. The original main block was constructed in 1904 for Albert Chapman, the contemporary Dorset postmaster. Dr. James Herrick, owner of the adjacent Farwell-Herrick House (#15), purchased this house in 1918, and then enlarged it in 1923 with the south extension that includes a solarium. The New York architectural firm of Murphy, McGill, and Hamlin designed the extension, the main entrance vestibule, and other changes in a Colonial Revival manner. The house has remained in the possession of the Herrick-Gilbert family to the present.

The one-and-one-half-story, four-by-three-bay, clapboarded house carries an asphalt-shingled gable roof oriented perpendicular to the street. Corner boards support a horizontal frieze below the molded cornice with gable returns; only the cornice continues along the raking eaves. An interior brick chimney emerges from the west slope next to the ridge.

The asymmetrically arranged main (east) eaves facade is marked by a one-story, one-by-one-bay, gabled entrance vestibule at the second bay from the right (north) end. Contrasting with the main block, the vestibule is sheathed with wide clapboards and its gable has closely cropped raking eaves while the horizontal eaves have a molded cornice. The round-headed solid door is overlaid with X-braces that create diamond and triangular panels. Each side of the vestibule is punctuated by a six-light fixed sash.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 28

---

The flanking window bays contain the twelve-over-twelve sash (plus four-light storm sash), plain surrounds, and paneled wood shutters with candlestick cut-outs common to the first story. Nearly centered on this facade, a hipped wall dormer has coupled twelve-over-twelve sash (plus one-over-one metal storm sash).

Occupying the left end of the east facade, the three-bay recessed solarium is illuminated by a central thirty-light fixed sash and flanking bays of twelve-light casement sash; the central fixed sash has been installed in place of an original entrance. These openings are separated by smooth pilasters that support a continuous frieze and cornice cap. Above the solarium, a three-part window with a reversed arrangement of central casement and flanking fixed multi-light sash punctuates the kneewall.

The three-bay north gable facade faces the street but lacks an entrance. Unique in the historic district, an oriel window supported by curved brackets emerges from the center of its upper story. The three-sided, hip-capped oriel has a central twelve-over-twelve sash and nine-over-nines on the sides. A small four-light sash hinges open at the gable peak.

Photographs taken about 1920 show that the house displayed originally a transitional Queen Anne-Colonial Revival stylistic influence. The north gable facade then included the right-central main entrance, and was spanned by a two-bay Queen Anne porch with turned posts and balustrade plus a roof balustrade with ball-headed newel posts. The first-story left corner was canted and fenestrated by one of the six-over-six sash without shutters then common to the house. Already in place above the porch roof, the oriel window was crowned by another balustrade. Both the front and rear gables were clad with wood shingles. The hip-capped wall dormer also existed on the east facade. A one-story, shed-roofed wing projected from the rear (south) facade; a hip-roofed porch was recessed into its east end.

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.)

- [x] 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.
[x] 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)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

c. 1779-c. 1946

Significant Dates

1813

1849

1938

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Murphy, McGill, and Hamlin

Walker, H. Leslie

Primary location of additional data:

- [] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[x] Other

Name of repository:

Dorset Historical Society

Dorset Village H. D. (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Bennington County, Vermont  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property approximately 75

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	65	3	15	0	4	7	90	5	50
	Zone		Easting				Northing			
2	18	65	3	87	0	4	7	90	5	50

3	18	65	3	90	0	4	79	0	22	0
	Zone		Easting				Northing			
4	18	65	3	33	0	4	78	9	87	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 Hugh H. Henry, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization N/A date July 1995

street & number Route 2, Box 226 telephone 802-875-3379

city or town Chester state Vermont zip code 05143-9418

**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 See continuation sheets.

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 8 Page 1

---

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase) holds primary significance for retaining the distinctive architectural characteristics of a rural Vermont village developed between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. The historic district is being expanded to include additional resources (mostly houses exhibiting the influence of Federal, Greek Revival, and Colonial Revival styles) dating from the same time span and sited along the west half of Church Street (the east half being within the existing boundary) and the intersecting West Road. A group of these resources surrounding that intersection relates to the Farwell family, whose members were among the earliest (c. 1770) settlers of Dorset and occupied four contiguous farms. The historic district within the boundary increase holds additional significance for being associated with events that have contributed to a broad pattern of both local and Vermont history, specifically the transition from year-round agricultural to seasonal (summer) recreational activities and occupancy of buildings that occurred here mostly between 1910 and 1940. Two of the four farmhouses relating to the Farwell family illustrate that shift by having been altered in a Colonial Revival manner during the 1910s after their acquisition by urban residents. Indeed the Colonial Revival, expressed by several out-of-state architects such as H. Leslie Walker, became the dominant architectural style in the historic district as the result of that transition.

The basic plan of Dorset village was already fixed by the late 18th century. Like the majority of small Vermont villages, the center of Dorset village has linear form along a single street, named Church instead of the usual Main Street. This primary street, however, does not follow the principal travel route as generally occurs in Vermont villages; instead it serves as a perpendicular link between two parallel roads (now Route 30 and West Road) about a mile apart along each side of the valley.

A small commercial nucleus (including two taverns) emerged around the intersection of Church Street and Route 30 to become the village center. (See the National Register nomination for the Dorset Village Historic District, listed in the National Register on April 18, 1985.) At the opposite (West Road) end of Church Street, Asa Farwell's early tavern was never joined by other commercial enterprise in what remained a residential and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 8 Page 2

---

agricultural neighborhood. A grist mill existed about half-way along the street during the 19th century; it was the only industrial enterprise within the area of the boundary increase.

The greatest agent of change in many Vermont villages during the 19th century never directly reached Dorset village. Instead, when the railroad came in the early 1850s, it passed through East Dorset village several miles away in a separate valley. Subsequently industrial enterprises were concentrated there while Dorset village remained largely agricultural in its economic activity through the remainder of the 19th century. Similarly during the present century, not being situated along a major travel route has spared Dorset village from the highway expansion that has adversely affected many other villages.

Relatively convenient access to the railroad in nearby Manchester, however, enabled summer recreational activity to develop in Dorset village during the latter 19th and early 20th centuries. Already by the 1860s, Manchester village became the regional center of such summer travel and sojourns by wealthy urbanites, who came by train from New York to stay at the elaborate hotels. The proximity of the bucolic Dorset landscape soon aroused interest, and that increased after the opening of the first golf course here in 1886. Lacking the grand hotels of Manchester and other resorts, Dorset tended to attract summer sojourners who purchased or built their own houses. This occurred especially along Church Street and West Road, where three of the Farwell farms and other houses were adapted or newly built for summer residences.

The first member of the Farwell family reached Dorset only a year after the initial settlers in 1768. Thomas Farwell came from Mansfield, Connecticut in 1769 to find suitable land for settlement. He marked his choice by building a primitive cabin near the present intersection of Church Street and West Road, and then returned to Connecticut for the winter. The next year, an immigrant party comprised of Thomas and his three brothers, Isaac, Asa, and John, together with their families and belongings made the difficult trek to Dorset to establish their residency.

Two houses are known to have been constructed during the late 1770s for two of the Farwell brothers along a quarter-mile portion of what became the first road through the valley, West Road. A house for Asa (1757-1815) and family was built about

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 8 Page 3

---

1777 at the northeast corner of the intersection of West Road and Church Street. That house was apparently replaced in 1854 by the present house (#5) on the site.

The earliest extant Farwell house (#7) was built about 1779 for John (1742-1823) and his family; their first house in Dorset had been built across the road. The northernmost in the Farwell group, John's house stands on the west side of the road north of the Church Street intersection. This vernacular house gives a strong visual impression of its early vintage, most notably by the simple classical surround of the central entrance under the low horizontal eaves. (A markedly similar house was built c. 1780 about one mile north for Amos Field, who also came from Mansfield; it was severely altered during the early 20th century.)

Thomas settled on the southernmost farm in the Farwell group, located on the west side of West Road south of the Church Street intersection. However he was not married, and later returned to Connecticut. Apparently he built a modest house for his own use, although it is not known to survive.

By the late 1700s, West Road became a link in the north-south post road along the west side of Vermont between Bennington and Vergennes. Asa Farwell took advantage of the opportunity to serve the traveling public by securing a license in 1792 to keep a tavern at his house.

The next extant Farwell house (#12) was constructed in 1813 for Eliphalet (1772-1862), another son of John, on Thomas's farm. Its Federal style main block exhibits a much higher degree of architectural sophistication than John's earlier house. Furthermore, it indicates that at least Eliphalet's agricultural enterprise was increasingly successful by that time.

In 1849, Asa's second son, Gurden Farwell (1782-1867) contributed the third extant Farwell family house (#15) to the neighborhood. His Greek Revival style house was built across Church Street from his father's house. It consisted originally of the sidehall-plan main block with classical stylistic features concentrated around the entrance and along the eaves plus an east ell. This house would receive a substantial Colonial Revival transformation during the 1910s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetDorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, VermontSection number 8 Page 4

The Seventh Census of the United States recorded the Agricultural Productions of the four Farwell-related farms in 1850. By that time, a grandson, Henry, was operating John's farm; it covered 150 acres and was worth \$3,000. Some confusion exists in the listing for Eliphalet's farm; entries appear for both Eliphalet and his son, George, while another entry for Eliphalet indicates that he owned another farm in southwest Dorset. George is credited with a 135-acre farm worth \$3,000; furthermore, he kept the most milch cows (7), sheep (120), and swine (6) among the four Farwell farms. Gurden's farm was smaller in area (100 acres) but worth the most (\$4,000) among the four, probably reflecting the value of his new house. Across Church Street, Asa's farm then belonged to William M. Kellogg; it was the smallest (70 acres) and least valuable (\$1,000) among the four, and Kellogg kept the fewest animals (including 3 milch cows, 3 sheep, and 2 swine).

Five years after the construction of his own house, Gurden Farwell provided for the fourth and last extant Farwell-related house (#5) across the street. Gurden's daughter, Dolly (1810-84), married William Kellogg (1810-1902), and, in 1854, Asa's house/inn was "moved back" and a new house was built on its site for Dolly and her husband. In the manner of Gurden's house, this house would also undergo a Colonial Revival renovation during the 1910s.

The Bennington County map published in 1856 by Rice and Harwood provides a record of most primary buildings (and the names of their owners) that existed in Dorset. Along with Gurden's own house and his daughter's house, the two other Farwell houses remained in the possession of family members at that time. The 1856 map shows that Eliphalet's son, George W. Farwell (1813-93), had become the owner of the Federal style house on West Road; Eliphalet had moved to a different farm in southwest Dorset. The fourth Farwell house, John's, then belonged to his son, Isaac.

Meanwhile other extant houses appeared in the historic district east of the Farwell houses on Church Street near the millpond. One (#3) belonged to the Roberts family during most of the latter half of the 19th century. Although essentially vernacular in character, this house evinces contemporary Italianate stylistic influence by the scrolled brackets along its main eaves.

In 1869, F. W. Beers presented in his Bennington County atlas more detailed Dorset town and village maps showing buildings and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetDorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, VermontSection number 8 Page 5

their occupants. The buildings within the historic district were grouped in two distinct clusters, separated probably by farm fields. One cluster extended mostly along West Road while the other flanked Church Street at the north end of the millpond adjacent to Dorset village.

Members of the Farwell family then retained possession of two farms along what was labeled West St. at the southwest and northwest corners of the historic district. George W. Farwell continued to reside in the house built for Eliphalet; George is listed in the business directory as a farmer. He also owned another house (probably for tenants) diagonally across the road to the east; this house was later removed. A quarter mile north, Isaac Farwell's son, Henry I., had assumed ownership of his grandfather John's farm, although "Uncle Isaac," then 90 years of age, continued to live there.

Meanwhile Gurden Farwell died in 1867, and the ownership of his house had passed to [Amasa] P[erry] Chapman when the Beers atlas appeared. Across the street, W. M. Kellogg retained the house built for Dolly. Their son, George Farwell Kellogg (1837-1917), then owned the modest house (#10) across the intersection on West Road. Next to the north of G. F. Kellogg's house, a house (possibly half of #10) owned by E. Towsley completed the development in this part of the historic district.

The Beers map of Dorset village records a cluster of five buildings, including a small water-powered industry, along Church Street at the north end of what later became known as Prentiss Pond. A building symbol identified as a grist mill straddles the brook on the north side of the street. An unidentified building symbol on the east side of the grist mill presumably represents the extant house (#2) without most of its current appendages. West of the mill, the map shows two houses along the street where only the house (#3) then owned by E. Roberts now stands. The second house (then occupied by D. Chapman) stood closer to the mill, and thereafter was removed. Directly across the street from the Roberts House and west of the pond, a house belonging to B. Ladd stood where only open field exists now.

The Dorset directory included in Child's Bennington County gazetteer of 1880 records some of the activities then being pursued by the residents of the historic district. Albert D. Roberts then operated the grist mill for its owner, Rev. Dr. G. L. Prentiss; Roberts also kept an apiary of 39 hives at his

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 8 Page 6

---

Church Street house (#3). At the west end of the street, Margaret Chapman, widow of Amasa P., kept eight hives at her house (#15); presumably her son, Albert A. Chapman, then leased the 80-acre farm. Across Church Street at the corner of West Road (house #5), George F. Kellogg is listed as a farmer with 100 acres and a dairy herd of 11 cows; William M. Kellogg is listed as living with George F. (In 1897, William would transfer the title to the farm to George for the amount of \$2.)

Child's directory records that members of the Farwell family occupied two farms along West Road. Isaac, the patriarch then 101 years old, continued to live on his father John's farm. (Isaac would surpass the century mark by two years before his death in 1881.) His son, Henry I., had died and the latter's widow, Helen E., remained on the farm; their son, another John, then leased the 120-acre farm from Henry's estate. The southwestern Farwell farm continued to belong to George W. (listed erroneously as George H.); it covered 200 acres, the largest of the four Farwell-related farms at that time.

A birds-eye photograph looking east along Church Street toward Dorset village, taken by Bertha Pratt in 1901, documents the cluster of buildings around the north end of the millpond. The Roberts House is clearly visible in the foreground, little different than its present appearance aside from a reduced rear ell. Across the street, the small one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed Ladd House had an ell plan; set back behind the house, a one-story, gable-roofed shed stood at the edge of the pond.

East of the Roberts House and set farther back from but also paralleling the street, a one-and-one-half-story, probably clapboarded, gable-roofed building may have been the D. Chapman house shown on the Beers map between the Roberts House and the grist mill. The wood-framed grist mill itself appears in the Pratt photograph with its broad asymmetrical gable roof oriented perpendicular to the street. East of the grist mill, the adjacent house (#2) then consisted of the present one-and-one-half-story central block oriented parallel to the street and the slightly taller east ell block.

The Pratt photograph records architectural evidence of the economic and social changes that began during the last third of the 19th century as Dorset attracted wealthy urban residents to spend summers in this bucolic setting. The first house to have been built expressly for a summer residence appears in the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 8 Page 7

photograph east of the grist mill. That picturesque Gothic Revival house belonged to the Rev. Dr. George L. Prentiss from New York; his family name was later applied to the millpond diagonally across the street from his house. (The Prentiss House was listed in the National Register on April 18, 1985 as part of the Dorset Village Historic District.)

Three years after the Pratt photograph showed its site as an open field, the first new house in a half-century was added to the historic district in 1904. The Chapman-Herrick House (#16) was placed along the south side of Church Street about half-way between Gurden Farwell's house and the pond. Built for Albert Chapman, Dorset village postmaster, its original block incorporated only the north two-thirds of the present house.

The transition of the Farwell neighborhood from its original agricultural to seasonal recreational character started during the early 1900s. In 1911, Dr. James B. Herrick, a cardiologist from Chicago, purchased Gurden Farwell's house and proceeded to transform it for summer residency. The house was enlarged by raising the east ell and adding the south wings. The most formal Colonial Revival appendage sprouted from the west side in the form of an entrance pavilion surmounted by a roof balustrade.

A few years later, a second Farwell-related house, Dolly's, underwent a similar metamorphosis for use as a seasonal residence. In 1916 (the year before his death), George Kellogg sold the farm to Mary M. (Mrs. Edward) Chapin of Brooklyn, New York. Later the same year, an architect, Henry J. McGill, designed a Colonial Revival remodeling of the house's main block (including the present entrance portico) and an enlarged east wing. The Chapins in turn sold the house in 1925 to Elizabeth Wells Sykes of New York; her father, James Sykes, then added the northeast ell with its mirror-image east facade.

Meanwhile across Church Street, Dr. James Herrick purchased Albert Chapman's house in 1918. Five years later (1923), the house was extended to its present length during yet another Colonial Revival remodeling project. The architectural firm of Murphy, McGill, and Hamlin from New York designed the alterations, most notably the distinctive entrance vestibule with its round-headed plank door. Both this house and the adjacent Farwell-Herrick House have remained in the possession of the Herrick-Gilbert family to the present (1995), and both have been returned to year-round occupancy.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number   8   Page   8  

---

Two other buildings along Church Street were removed during the late 1920s or 1930s, and never replaced. In 1927, Albert B. Roberts sold to Clarence M. Blackmer a two-story frame building (presumably the D. Chapman house on the 1869 Beers map) sited next to the east of Robert's house; the terms of sale included removal of the building. Blackmer had been using the building to store ice cut from Prentiss Pond across the street. The following year, Roberts sold the small house "lately occupied by Clarence M. Blackmer" (the B. Ladd house on the Beers map) next to Prentiss Pond and across the street from Roberts' house; this house was removed some years later.

The increasing interest among wealthy urbanites in Dorset summer residences brought into being during the latter 1930s the most elaborate house in the historic district if not the entire town. In 1937, a member of the locally prominent West family and resident of Bronxville, New York, E. L. West assembled a 17-acre tract of land including Prentiss Pond. Another New York architect, H. Leslie Walker, then designed an impressive late Colonial Revival style house (#13) for the site. Colossal Ionic columns dominate the main facade of the house, known as "The Spruces," that stands deeply recessed from West Road at the visual terminus of a spruce-arbored driveway. A daughter of E. L. West and sculptress, Bernice West Beyers, owned the property for four decades after 1947; her Colonial Revival studio (#13B) flanks the house on the south grounds.

The picturesque setting of Dorset village also began to attract artists by the early 20th century. An informal group held summer exhibits during the 1920s under the name of The Dorset Artists. In 1933, they joined other regional artists to organize the Southern Vermont Artists based in nearby Manchester. The onset of the Second World War disrupted their activities somewhat but it also brought from Paris to Dorset two other artists, David Humphreys and Beatrice Jackson. In 1940, the couple purchased the Kellogg-Chapin-Sykes House for a summer residence. Both became well-known for their landscape paintings and being active members of the Southern Vermont Art Center. Outliving David by two decades, "Bea" Humphreys would continue to use the house for a half-century, its longest-term owner yet.

The earliest of the extant Farwell houses ultimately served the longest as the farmhouse of an active agricultural enterprise. Unlike the two Farwell houses adapted to summer residences, John's house has never been much altered except by one curious



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 8 Page 9

---

addition. Probably during the last quarter of the 19th century, a substantial carriage barn (#7A) was erected perpendicular to the northeast rear corner of the house. The larger-scaled barn was linked to the house by an awkward hyphen whose form clearly reflects practical function rather than architectural nicety.

A yet-larger dairy barn (#7B) was erected on this farmstead probably around 1900, indicating the commercial success of contemporary dairying. The banked barn provided a larger ground-level stable for the expanding herd of cows and a cavernous loft for storing the greater quantities of hay necessary for winter feeding. The proportionally large cross-gabled cupola atop its gable roof allowed the essential ventilation to avoid spontaneous combustion. A decade or two later, two wood-stave silos were erected next to the barn's northeast corner. One silo was later removed; the extant silo represents the technological shift in fodder storage from loose hay in the barn loft to chopped ensilage in the attached cylindrical structure.

Already by the early 20th century, this farm was probably the last one among the four original Farwell farms to continue in active operation. Ultimately it remained in the possession of descendants and relatives-by-marriage of the Farwell family for more than two centuries. During the middle 1940s, a member of the family, Franklin Warren, built the most recent historic house (#8) in the neighborhood on a site south of the farmstead; his father, Thomas, operated the farm during that period. Franklin later succeeded his father, and continued dairy farming here until the middle 1980s. Active dairying ceased about 1990 after a short period of rental by another farmer.

The demise of commercial agriculture on John Farwell's farm reflects the ongoing decline of such enterprise to the verge of extinction in Dorset (and southwestern Vermont). This trend has brought about marked changes in the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the historic district. Former hillside pastures are reverting to brush and trees while formerly cultivated fields are being subdivided into building lots. The historically distinct edge between the closely settled village and the agricultural countryside has largely disappeared, especially along West Road south of Church Street.

Only two houses (#4 and 11) have been constructed within the boundary increase of the historic district since the late 1940s, the close of the historic period. A 19th-century barn converted

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number   8   Page  10 

---

about 1960 to a house (#1) constitutes a third noncontributing primary building. The two houses share modest scale and unobtrusive design while the former barn is deeply recessed from the street. Overall they exert only a minor effect on the sense of architectural significance conveyed by the historic district.

At the present (1995), the architectural character of the area within the boundary increase conveys most strongly the feeling of the early 20th-century period (1910-40) when the so-called "summer people" adapted or built several houses for their seasonal use. The urban architects involved in these projects chose the Colonial Revival style then in national architectural fashion for their designs. The earlier houses retain the hybrid stylistic character that resulted, and the houses newly built during that period have not yet been renovated in a different manner.

Although dominant in number of examples, the Colonial Revival summer houses complement the other historic houses not so altered. The latter generally exhibit the basic form and classical features of the Federal and Greek Revival styles or echo such characteristics. The interweaving of these similar stylistic expressions coupled with virtually universal wood framing and sheathing of the buildings yield an unusually cohesive architectural environment in the historic district's area of boundary increase.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 9 Page 1

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Armstrong, L. B. "Dorset." in Hemenway, Abby Maria, ed., The Vermont Historical Gazetteer (Vol. I). Burlington, Vt.: Miss A. M. Hemenway, 1867.
- Beers, F. W., et al. Atlas of Bennington Co., Vermont. New York: F. W. Beers, A. D. Ellis, and G. G. Soule, 1869.
- Child, Hamilton, comp. Gazetteer and Business Directory of Bennington County, Vt. for 1880-81. Syracuse, N. Y., 1880.
- "Farwell Line." Unpublished typescript of genealogical notes regarding Farwell family. [1946.] Collection of James H. Gilbert, Dorset, Vt.
- Gilbert, Anna E. "Stories of Uncle Isaac." January 1965. Unpublished typescript available at Dorset Historical Society, Dorset, Vt.
- Gilbert, Arthur W. [Sr.] "Descendants of Isaac Gilbert and Jerusha Bowen Settle and Resettle in Dorset's West Side." 1994. Unpublished typescript available at Dorset Historical Society, Dorset, Vt.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Dorset Industries and Mills." Paper presented before the Dorset Historical Society on November 18, 1976. Unpublished typescript available at Dorset Historical Society, Dorset, Vt.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Turning wheels: Water power in Dorset." Supplement to Manchester [Vt.] Journal, 1976.
- Harwood, Edith V. "Farwell Houses." Paper presented June 8, 1964 to the Dorset Historical Society. Unpublished typescript available at Dorset Historical Society, Dorset, Vt.
- Humphrey, Zephine. The Story of Dorset. Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1924.
- Pratt, Rev. Parsons S. Manuscript genealogical notes regarding Dorset families compiled during his pastorate at Dorset Congregational Church, 1855-1896. Collection of Dorset Historical Society, Dorset, Vt.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number   9   Page   2  

---

Resch, Tyler. Dorset: in the shadow of the marble mountain. West  
Kennebunk, Me.: Phoenix Publishing for the Dorset Historical  
Society, 1989.

Seventh Census of the United States. Fourth Series.  
Agricultural Productions. Washington, D. C., June 30, 1850.

Viall, George M. "History of the Town of Dorset." in Aldrich,  
Lewis Cass, ed. History of Bennington County, Vt.. Syracuse,  
N. Y.: D. Mason & Co., 1889.

Photographs of historic district buildings and setting. Latter  
19th and early 20th centuries. Collection of Dorset Historical  
Society, Dorset, Vt.

Gilbert, James H. and LaReine, Dorset, Vt. Personal interview by  
Hugh H. Henry on May 19, 1995.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 10 Page 1

### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase) being nominated begins at a Point A located at the northeast corner of Lot 16, Block 20, Map 22 of the Dorset Tax Map. The boundary extends in a generally westerly direction, enclosing Lots 16, 15, 14, 13, 12.1, and 11, to a Point B located at the northwest corner of Lot 11, Block 20 in the east edge of the West Road right-of-way. The boundary then crosses said right-of-way to a Point C located at the northeast corner of Lot 7, Block 20 in the west edge of said right-of-way. The boundary then extends northerly along the west edge of said right-of-way to a Point D located at its intersection with the south edge of the Nims Road right-of-way. The boundary then extends westerly along the south edge of the latter right-of-way 510 feet to a Point E located at a property corner of Lot 6.1. The boundary then extends southerly in a straight line across the interior of Lots 6.1 and 6.2 to a Point F located at the northwest corner of Lot 10. The boundary then continues in a generally southeasterly and then northeasterly direction around the west and south sides of Lots 10 and 35, and crosses the West Road right-of-way on an extension of the last course to a Point G located at the southeast corner of the latter lot in the west edge of the West Road right-of-way. The boundary then extends northeasterly along the southerly property line of Lot 4, Block 21 to its southeast corner and continues northeasterly across the interior of Lot 5 to a Point I located at the southwest corner of Lot 6, said point also being identified as Point O in the west boundary of the existing Dorset Village Historic District. The boundary then extends in a generally northerly direction, coinciding with, and passing through Points P, Q, and R of, the existing historic district boundary, and continuing from Point R along the east edge of Lot 16 to Point A, the point of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase) encompasses, with one exception, the lots of land now owned in common with the buildings. The single exception involves the John Farwell Farm (#7) where the boundary encloses the cluster of farmstead buildings but excludes most of the predominantly forested land not used for agricultural purposes

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number 10 Page 2

---

that ascends the hillside behind the buildings. The boundary also encloses Prentiss Pond owing to its visual proximity and historic association as the source of water for the grist mill that formerly stood on the opposite side of Church Street east of the Roberts House (#3).

The boundary increase adjoins the existing Dorset Village Historic District along the east sides of Lot 16, Block 20, Map 22 (Snare House, #1) north of Church Street and Lot 5, Block 21, Map 22 (Prentiss Pond) south of Church Street.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number      Page 1

---

### PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information applies to all photographs except where noted:

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont  
Credit: Hugh H. Henry  
Date: July 1994  
Negative filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photograph 1  
Setting of Church St., House (#16) in left-center; view looking northeast.

Photograph 2  
Frentiss Pond, House (#13) on right; view looking southwest.

Photograph 3  
Date: May 1995  
West Road-scape at Church Street intersection; Houses (#10) on left, (#5) on right; view looking north.

Photograph 4  
Edith Snare House (#1) - south facade; view looking north.

Photograph 5  
House (#2) - west and south facades; view looking northeast.

Photograph 6  
Roberts House (#3) - south and east facades; view looking northwest.

Photograph 7  
Shed/studio (#3A) - south and east facades; view looking northwest.

Photograph 8  
Wendall Cram House (#4) - west and south facades; view looking northeast.

Photograph 9  
Kellogg-Chapin-Sykes House (#5) - west and south facades; view looking northeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number      Page   2  

---

Photograph 10

Kellogg-Chapin-Sykes House (#5) - south and east facades; view looking northwest.

Photograph 11

Garage/apartment (#5A) - south facade; view looking north.

Photograph 12

Date: May 1995

Walter Manley House (#6) - west and south facades; view looking northeast.

Photograph 13

John Farwell Farmhouse (#7) - south and east facades; view looking northwest.

Photograph 14

John Farwell Farmhouse (#7) and carriage barn (#7A) - east and north facades; view looking west.

Photograph 15

Carriage (#7A) and dairy (#7B) barns - east and north facades; view looking southwest.

Photograph 16

Garage (#7C) and dairy barn (#7B) - east and south facades; view looking west.

Photograph 17

Franklin Warren House (#8) - east and north facades; view looking southwest.

Photograph 18

Miner Gilbert House (#9) - east facade; view looking west.

Photograph 19

House (#10) - south and east facades; view looking northwest.

Photograph 20

Eliphalet Farwell House (#12) - east and north facades; view looking southwest.

Photograph 21

Driveway to West-Beyers House (#13); view looking northeast.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Section number      Page 3

---

Photograph 22

West-Beyers House (#13) - north and west facades; view looking east.

Photograph 23

West-Beyers House (#13) - main entrance portico on west facade; view looking northeast.

Photograph 24

Garage/apartment (#13A) - west and south facades; view looking northeast.

Photograph 25

Bernice Beyers Studio (#13B) - north and west facades; view looking southeast.

Photograph 26

Elsie McCartee House (#14) and garage (#14A) - west and south facades; view looking northeast.

Photograph 27

Date: May 1995

Farwell-Herrick House (#15) - north and west facades; view looking southeast.

Photograph 28

Woodshed (#15D), garage (#15C), and chicken coop/shop (#15B) - south and east facades; view looking northwest.

Photograph 29

Chapman-Herrick House (#16) - east and north facades; view looking southwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

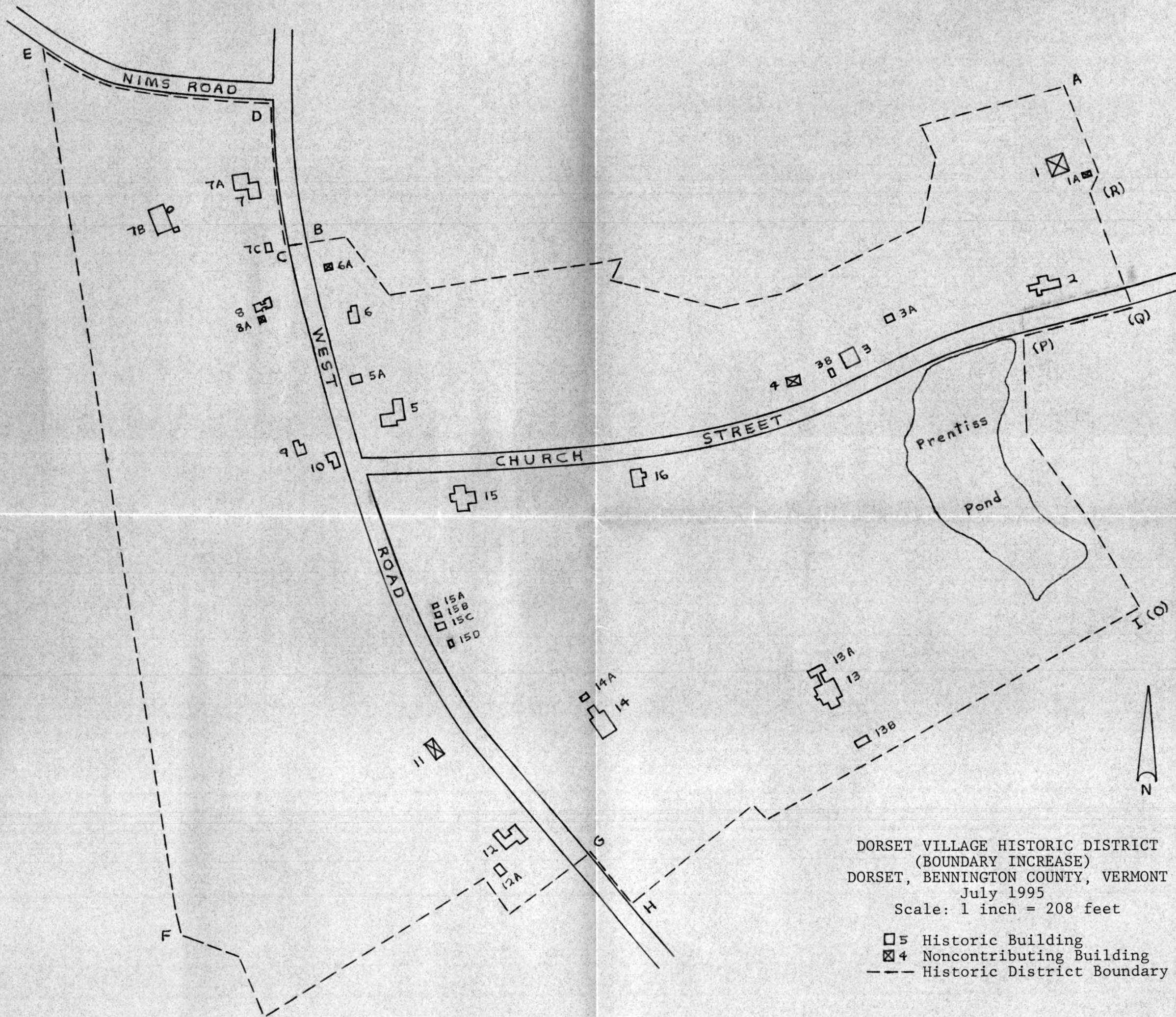
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Dorset Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Dorset, Bennington County, Vermont

Owners  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

Property Owners:

- |        |   |     |  |
|--------|---|-----|--|
| 1.     | Marina Svetlova<br>PO Box 206<br>Dorset, VT 05251                                       | 11. | James H. Gilbert (Trust)<br>RR #1, Box 28<br>Dorset, VT 05251-9703           |
| 2.     | Olivia Mithoefer<br>PO Box 121<br>Dorset, VT 05251                                      | 12. | Alvin Schlesinger<br>Dorset, Vt 05251  |
| 3.     | Kenneth C. & Joanne Davis<br>Dorset, VT 05251   | 13. | Ralph E. & Bettye J. Bailey<br>15 North Stanwich Road<br>Greenwich, CT 06831 |
| 4.     | Frederick H. & Martine P. Dulles<br>Avenue de L'Elysee 40<br>1006 Lausanne, Switzerland | 14. | Sandra S. Bennett<br>PO Box 753<br>Dorset, VT 05251                          |
| 5.     | John R. & Lois S. Harding<br>2199 Divisadero St.<br>San Francisco, CA 94115             |     | Map 22, Block 20, Lot 6.2<br>Anita H. Pomerance<br>Pawlet, VT 05761          |
| 6.     | David Bogonovich<br>Dorset, VT 05251  |     | Prentiss Pond<br>Dorset Fire District No. 1<br>Dorset, VT 05251              |
| 7.     | Robert G. Nims, et al.<br>520 Payne Drive<br>Cheshire, CT 06410                         |     |  |
| 8., 9. | H. Brewster Atwater<br>274 South Beach Road<br>Hobe Sound, FL 33455                     |     |  |
| 10.    | Thomas Ward<br>Dorset, VT 05251   |     |  |



DORSET VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 (BOUNDARY INCREASE)  
 DORSET, BENNINGTON COUNTY, VERMONT  
 July 1995  
 Scale: 1 inch = 208 feet

- 5 Historic Building
- ⊠ 4 Noncontributing Building
- - - Historic District Boundary