

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **SEP 29 1986**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Ritchie Block

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 465-473 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Bennington

N/A vicinity of

state Vermont

code 50

county Bennington

code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Su-Be Realty

street & number 439 Main Street

city, town Bennington

N/A vicinity of

state Vermont 05201

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 205 South Street

city, town Bennington

state Vermont 05201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Surrounded by commercial development near the center of Bennington village, the Ritchie Block incorporates a three-story, flat-roofed, rectangular main block erected in 1895-96 and a contemporary one-story rear extension. The yellow brick, granite-trimmed main facade is arranged symmetrically with four storefronts on the first story and thirteen bays on the upper stories, and displays Classical Revival stylistic features, principally a heavy stamped-tin entablature at roof level and a reduced storefront counterpart. The other elevations contrast by their red brick masonry and irregular arrangement of segmental-arched openings. The storefronts have been substantially altered but original cast-iron pillars remain in one case. The interior contains offices on the second floor and former meeting rooms on the third floor; the latter include a Masonic hall with remnant classical features, e.g., stylized Ionic columns. Apart from the storefronts, the Ritchie Block retains a high degree of historic integrity.

The Ritchie Block is located on Main Street within the central business district of Bennington village. The building stands on the south side of the street opposite the intersecting School Street, and forms the visual terminus of the latter street. Closely spaced or attached commercial buildings generally of shorter height and length surround the Ritchie Block along Main Street. To the rear (south) along the parallel Union Street, houses predominate although most have been adapted to contain offices.

The Ritchie Block consists of a three-story, flat-roofed main block of rectangular plan and an original one-story, flat-roofed rear (south) extension of ell plan. The main block extends thirteen bays (103 feet) along its Main Street (north) facade by four bays (53 feet) in depth along its east and west elevations. The one-story rear extension corresponds to the building's overall length but its east half (actually 50.7 feet) projects 30 feet southward from the plane of the main block's upper-story south elevation while the west half (52.3 feet) projects 60 feet.

The main (north) facade of the Ritchie Block is distinguished from the other elevations by its Classical Revival stylistic features and glazed yellow brick sheathing laid in stretcher bond. Four variously altered storefronts are arranged in pairs on each side of the central upper-story entrance, and are flanked at the outer corners by terminal piers also of glazed yellow brick. A low granite foundation underlies the facade, although interrupted by the rebuilt storefronts on the right half. Granite steps lead to the upper-story and left storefront entrances.

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The central upper-story entrance is marked by a round-arched opening framed by piers of glazed yellow brick (gauged in the arch). The double-leaf paneled doors have rectangular clear glazing in their upper halves. The semicircular transom consists of a recently uncovered original fanlight.

The storefront immediately to the left of the upper-story entrance retains nearly its original appearance. Slender rectangular cast-iron pillars with molded bases and capitals enframe the approach to the recessed central entrance (now fitted with a modern metal-framed glass door). The flanking full-bay, plate-glass display windows are surmounted by sign panels at transom level. A broader cast-iron pillar separates the left-central storefront from the extensively altered left-end storefront. The latter has been rebuilt with metal framing of its display windows and partial wood sheathing.

The two storefronts to the right of the upper-story entrance were created circa 1936 by the unequal longitudinal subdivision of the original double storefront. The right-central storefront occupies about two-thirds of the original space; glass-block piers enframe its recessed central entrance and a large metal sign band extends its entire width above the display windows. The right-end storefront differs markedly from the others. Offsetting the storefront's narrow width, its display windows have a splayed plan flanking the approach to the deeply recessed central entrance (now fitted with a modern metal-framed glass door). The floor of the approach rises gradually from the sidewalk to the doorway, and has a checkerboard-pattern tile surface. An enameled metal sign panel surmounts the front display windows. The low panels beneath the display windows are now sheathed in wood, possibly in place of original Carrara glass.

An attenuated stamped-tin entablature extends the full length of the building's facade above the storefronts, supported by the cast-iron pillars and stopped at each end by a terminal bracket. The frieze band bears a foliated pattern in contrast to the molded cornice above it.

The second and third stories of the main facade share virtually identical appearance. The window bays are arranged in recessed panels delineated by brick piers with molded edges. Two three-bay panels flank each side of a single central bay, thereby reflecting the original arrangement of the first story. The window openings possess granite lugsills and are headed by splayed flat arches of gauged brick. The openings are fitted with one-over-one sash (enlarged in each central bay) except for the right-end panel of the third story. In the latter case, replacement sash (installed circa 1912) consist of a tall main light below an eight-light integral transom.

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A massive stamped-tin entablature crowns the entire facade. Its broad frieze band bears a foliated pattern similar to that of the storefront counterpart. The denticulated modillion cornice is embellished with rosettes on the soffit. A low brick parapet appears above the prominently projecting cornice.

The other three elevations of the Ritchie Block display a substantially different appearance. They are sheathed with red brick laid in seven-course American bond. The openings are relieved by segmental rowlock arches. The windows are generally fitted with two-over-two sash.

The west elevation abuts a two-story building, leaving only the third story exposed. Its original four-bay arrangement has been altered by the infilling (with brick) of the two middle windows, and the replacement left-end window matches those in the right-end panel around the corner on the main facade. An added central interior chimney rises flush from the wall plane.

The fully exposed east elevation retains four irregularly spaced bays on the upper stories. The yellow brick of the main facade penetrates the right (north) end in the form of quoins. At the rear, the first story extends two additional bays to the south.

The ell-plan rear extension of the Ritchie Block possesses a south elevation (of offset halves) arranged repetitively in four three-bay subdivisions corresponding to the (original) storefronts on the main facade. Each subdivision includes a central transomed service entrance flanked by room-height windows of two-over-two sash (now partly covered). The entrances of the two subdivisions on the right half retain double-leaf paneled doors while the other doors are replacements.

The upper stories of the main block's south elevation display irregular fenestration. An engaged central chimney bisects the wall surface. Next to the left of the chimney on the third story, a wood fire escape serves a functional doorway. Farther to the left, two isolated doorways remain to indicate the two-story porch that formerly was attached to this half of the elevation. The isolated doorways flank a large plate-glass oriel with vertically boarded spandrel.

The original appearance of the Ritchie Block's main facade differed significantly in the case of the storefronts. Although the first story presented a balanced arrangement, each storefront was marked

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by a slightly distinct treatment of the common elements, principally cast-iron pillars and full-height, plate-glass display windows. The left-end storefront had two plates and intermediate pillars in its display window next to a recessed right entrance. The display windows of the left-central storefront matched the others in height.

The right half of the first story consisted of a mirror-image double storefront designed to accommodate A. K. Ritchie's dry goods business. This storefront was distinguished by its immense display windows whose single plates of glass were fully twice the size of those in the other storefronts. One such plate flanked each side of the recessed central entrance with dual doorways framed by three cast-iron pillars (the enlarged central member being aligned with the upper-story pier).

The interior of the Ritchie Block has been considerably altered in appearance and partly in plan by various remodelings. The storefronts are the most extensively reworked. The double right storefront was subdivided longitudinally circa 1936 into two storefronts occupying about two-thirds and one-third of the original space. The west half of the second floor originally contained a hall used by a fraternal group; that hall was converted circa 1910 to salesroom(s) and later subdivided into offices. The original offices continue to occupy the east half of the same floor.

A central stair ascends in two flights with an intermediate landing from the building's main entrance to the second floor. The walls along the stair and on the second floor are generally plastered above high beaded and matched wainscoting. The door and window surrounds of both upper floors are reeded and have bullseye corner blocks. Some of the paneled doors possess rectangular glazing and are surmounted by transoms.

A dog-leg stair against the south wall ascended to the third floor until being replaced early in 1986 by a central stair. Two large meeting rooms formerly used by fraternal groups dominate the plan of this floor, occupying the southeast quadrant and west end. A smaller northeast meeting room and service rooms complete the plan.

The southeast hall of about 30 by 54 feet was designed for the local Masonic lodge, and retains some of the original symbolic elements. Two unfluted columns stand near the south wall. Their stylized Ionic capitals support short perpendicular projections of the heavy denticulated ceiling cornice that encircles the room. Ten other

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identical projections of the cornice are spaced regularly around the perimeter of the room, marking the positions of other columns in the original colonnade. Linking the cornice projections, a crisscross pattern of reeded ribs creates a paneled effect on the ceiling.

The smaller northeast room has been subdivided transversely by a partial partition. Its central opening is supported by two columns identical to those in the southeast hall and presumably shifted from original positions there. A molded ceiling cornice encircles this room. A bracketed shelf provides horizontal articulation at the level of the window divisions.

Another hall of about 26 by 50 feet occupies the west end of the third floor, reaching the full depth of the building behind the three bays of replacement windows on the main facade. The most prominent decorative features of this room date probably from the 1930s, including the cosmetic boxed beams that crisscross the ceiling to give the appearance of coffering, the curvilinear wood forms applied to the ceiling panels, and a massive fireplace of rough-cut brick with room-height breast centered on the west wall. An earlier cornice/shelf encircles the room at the level of the window divisions. The lower wall surfaces are subdivided into rectangular panels by applied moldings.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1895–96 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ritchie Block constitutes a prominent turn-of-the-century commercial block exhibiting Classical Revival stylistic features. The building represents the economic optimism that prevailed in Bennington during a period of rapid expansion in business activity and building development. The Ritchie Block is distinguished from other commercial buildings in the surrounding business district by a glazed yellow-brick facade crowned with a massive stamped-tin entablature. Complementing the storefronts and office space of the lower stories, the original interior plan provided third-floor rooms specifically designed with classical elements for a Masonic Lodge and later used by other fraternal groups. An extensive rehabilitation of the building has been undertaken in 1985 to enhance its architectural character and to improve its economic vitality.

Born in Perth, Scotland in 1852, Alexander Kenneth Ritchie immigrated to the U. S. at the age of 21. Initially he was employed at a dry goods store in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, about 40 miles south of Bennington, and later became partner in a firm there. Ritchie moved to Bennington about 1883 and established his own dry goods business in the Putnam House block at the center of the village. In 1887, he shifted the enterprise to a new storefront on Main Street owned by W. D. Newton but built specifically for Ritchie's occupancy (it remains standing a short distance east of the Ritchie Block).

In 1891, A. K. Ritchie purchased for \$6500 the house and lot on the south side of Main Street opposite the intersection of School Street. Commercial redevelopment had progressed to that point from the center of Bennington's business district one block to the west (see the nomination of the Downtown Bennington Historic District, entered in the National Register on April 1, 1980). The village was expanding rapidly together with its various textile industries, and business prospects must have been highly encouraging to the local merchants. Ritchie's dry goods business had apparently increased to the extent that he anticipated the need for substantially larger quarters.

The house occupying Ritchie's lot, however, was not one to be considered readily expendable. The two-and-one-half story, clapboarded, gable-roofed house took the form of a Greek temple with a two-story, tetrastyle Doric portico. The house's imposing appearance undoubtedly influenced the decision to have it moved deeper into the lot and turned 180 degrees to join the facade line along Union Street, the next parallel street south of Main Street (where it remains

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 0.25

Quadrangle name Bennington, Vt.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

118	647	3180	4748	5910
Zone	Easting		Northing	

B

Zone	Easting		Northing	

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hugh H. Henry

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date February 1986

street & number Green Mountain Turnpike telephone 802-875-3379

city or town Chester state Vermont 05143

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

DEPUTY State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earl Silka*

title DIRECTOR, DIV. FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION date 9/22/86

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

for Nelson Byer date 11-6-86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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extant although now in separate ownership). The house was fitted closely between its medium-sized, board-and-battened, slate-roofed carriage barn (later to be moved in the opposite direction) and a one-and-one-half story, wood-framed dwelling (now demolished) next to the west.

A. K. Ritchie clearly shared the economic optimism then prevalent in Bennington. His new building would be one of the largest commercial blocks in the village center, introducing a broad three-story facade distinguished by glazed yellow brick and a crowning stamped-tin entablature. That massive feature, its storefront counterpart of reduced scale, and the brick piers that articulate the wall surface give the facade a Classical Revival character, reflecting the contemporary trend in architectural fashion. The other elevations differ markedly in appearance, their plain red brick and segmental-arched openings suggesting an Italianate Revival design of a quarter-century earlier. The identities of the architect (if any) and contractor are not known.

Construction of the Ritchie Block began probably in 1895. The Sanborn insurance map of July 1896 records the building in its ultimate dimensions but with the notation, "Not Completed." That map proves that the one-story rear extension of the building was integral to the original plan rather than a later appendage. The original uses of the interior spaces are also identified. A. K. Ritchie occupied a double storefront in the west half of the first floor (including the longer half of the rear extension) with his dry goods and carpet business. The Bennington municipal offices took the left of the two single storefronts in the east half. On the second floor, the Knights of Pythias occupied a hall above Ritchie's store while there were offices in the east half.

The third floor was entirely devoted to the local Masonic Lodge, and was apparently designed to complement the Masonic ritual. The main hall in the southeast quadrant presently displays a remnant of the colonnade that originally encircled the perimeter of the room. Two smooth columns with stylized Ionic capitals remain in place beneath short perpendicular projections of the heavy denticulated ceiling cornice. Ten other regularly spaced cornice projections indicate the positions of other columns. Two identical columns now stand in the adjoining northeast room, probably moved there from the main hall.

The 1901 edition of the Sanborn map reveals the beginning of the longest-term occupancy by any tenant of the Ritchie Block. The Burt Brothers had opened their clothing store in the storefront to the

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left of the central upper-story entrance where the firm would remain for eighty years. The longevity of that firm served to preserve the original storefront design, including its cast-iron pillars, to the present. (The other storefronts have been substantially altered.) The 1901 map also notes that the carriage barn had become a storehouse, presumably for A. K. Ritchie's own business.

A photograph of the Ritchie Block published in 1904 shows the main facade in its original appearance. The arrangement lacked symmetry only in the position of one doorway - that centered in the Burt Brothers storefront instead of being placed at the left side. Virtually the entire first story was glazed between the terminal piers and the central round-arched upper-story entrance. Ritchie's own storefront consisted of two immense plates of glass flanking the twin entrance openings with cast-iron pillars. The building thus represented the ultimate development of the display window, opening the entire storefront to exhibit both the merchandise and the salesroom.

Significant changes in the Ritchie property occurred between the publication of the 1906 and the 1912 editions of the Sanborn map. The Ritchie Block received its first and only addition, a two-story, wood-framed porch attached to the rear of the west half, surmounting the roof of the first-story extension. (The porch was later removed, but upper-story doorways survive to indicate its position.) The first change of fraternal-group tenants occurred circa 1907 when the Knights of Pythias departed the second floor after a dispute with A. K. Ritchie over damage caused by a water leak. The third floor remained the quarters of a fraternal lodge, but the original Masons departed in 1911 to a new Masonic Temple diagonally across Main Street and were replaced by the Elks; the latter group marked their occupancy by changing the windows of the west hall. Behind the Ritchie Block, the carriage barn/storehouse was moved to its present site nearer the building and turned 90 degrees so that its double-leaf carriage doors opened westward. (An extant two-story, clapboarded, gable-roofed house was then built on the barn's original site.)

Apart from his dry goods firm, A. K. Ritchie became active in local financial and civic affairs. He served both as selectman of the Town of Bennington and as member of the Board of Trustees of Bennington Village. After being a director for several years, he was chosen president of the Bennington County National Bank in 1907. He was also an officer of the Bennington Gas Light Co. These activities, however, came to an untimely end on March 27, 1911 when A. K. Ritchie succumbed to pneumonia.

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One of Ritchie's two sons, Harry McGregor, clerked for his father and he assumed management of the store for the estate. In 1914, Illustrated and Descriptive Bennington noted that the "large and prosperous business" occupied about 9,000 square feet on the first and second floors of the building, the space being equipped with "beautiful fixtures of modern design." The stock featured printed and woven cloth, toilet articles, ribbons, women's shoes and ready-to-wear gowns, carpets, linoleum, and wallpaper. A full-page advertisement in a 1916 Bennington directory proclaimed Ritchie's "a store of reliable merchandise, reasonable prices and courteous service."

By 1919, however, the Ritchie business had been taken over by M. Lurie and Co., probably as a result of settlement of A. K. Ritchie's estate. An architect named Henry P. Jones rented an upper-story office in the Ritchie Block circa 1920 but it is not known if he was ever involved in work on the building (he departed around 1936). Between 1923 and 1927, the Henry Charles Co.'s department store replaced the Lurie firm in the double storefront, and the Bennington municipal offices were removed from the building. The Henry Charles Co. was succeeded by a Ben Franklin chain store in 1933 or 1934.

The first substantial alteration of the Ritchie Block's main facade occurred probably circa 1936 after the removal of the Franklin store. To create two smaller storefronts, the double storefront was subdivided longitudinally in a visually awkward manner unrelated to the upper-story articulation. The new storefronts occupied about one-third and two-thirds the width of the original, and both the framing and glazing were altered in the process. The narrower west-end storefront was designed in a contemporary manner incorporating splayed display windows flanking a deeply recessed central entrance. (This storefront survives essentially intact, and possesses period architectural interest.)

The next change of third-floor fraternal groups occurred in the middle 1940s, when the Elks were succeeded by the American Legion. Then in 1959, the Bennington Club, a locally formed successor to the Knights of Pythias, moved into the west hall. Its decorative treatment, including cosmetic boxed beams across the ceiling, wall surfaces paneled by moldings, and a massive brick fireplace suggests the appearance of the club's previous meeting room in the Opera House Block, a nearby building destroyed by fire in 1959. The Bennington Club used the third floor until circa 1980. The Burt Brothers clothing firm stayed in its original storefront until the demise of the firm in 1981. Other long-term storefront and office tenants remained in the building, which, however, began to show the effects of deferred maintenance.

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The present owners acquired the Ritchie Block in 1985, and have undertaken a thorough rehabilitation. The most significant change will involve conversion of the third floor to residential use, specifically apartments for the owners; the distinctive architectural features will generally be preserved. The west half of the second floor is being adapted to legal offices with new interior partitions. A pair of large paneled pocket doors has been discovered there within a wall cavity, probably a remnant of the original Knights of Pythias hall; the doors are being remounted in a visible position. The first floor of the building will retain its present storefronts.

The Ritchie Block ranks among the finest representatives in Vermont of turn-of-the-century brick commercial buildings decorated in the Classical Revival manner. Although the building's storefronts have been subjected to varying degrees of alteration, one retains its original cast-iron pillars while another exemplifies the next generation of 1930s storefront design with splayed display windows and minimal framing. The original stamped-tin entablature at roof level and the reduced storefront counterpart survive intact and constitute exceptional applications of that type of building technology. The current (1986) rehabilitation of the Ritchie Block will enhance its status as one of the most fully preserved examples among the rather small number of similar buildings in a predominantly rural state.

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1. "A. K. Ritchie Died This Morning Aged 60." Bennington Evening Banner VIII (March 27, 1911), 1.
2. Bennington Directory. Springfield, Mass.: H. A. Manning Co., various years between 1908 and 1967.
3. Corliss, Theodore A., and Robert L. Weichert. A History of the Bennington Club. Bennington, Vt., 1960. (Mimeographed typescript.)
4. Goodkind, Milt., ed. "Bennington." Supplement to the Bennington Semi-Weekly Banner. Bennington, Vt., March, 1895.
5. Nunn, Paul Henry. Illustrated and Descriptive Bennington, Vt. Boston: Board of Trade Publishing Co., 1914.
6. Robinson, Melvin H., ed. Bennington Souvenir. Bennington, Vt.: Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association, 1904.
7. Resch, Tyler, ed. The Shires of Bennington. Bennington, Vt.: The Bennington Museum, 1975.
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1. Sanborn Map of Bennington, Vt. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd., October, 1891. Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet.
2. Sanborn Map of Bennington, Vt. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd., July, 1896. Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet.
3. Sanborn Map of Bennington, Vt. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd., September, 1901. Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet.
4. Insurance Maps of Bennington, Vermont. New York: Sanborn Map Co., June, 1906. Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet.
5. Insurance Maps of Bennington, Vermont. New York: Sanborn Map Co., June, 1912. Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet.
6. Bennington, Vermont. New York: Sanborn Map Co., March, 1921. Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet.

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The property being nominated consists of the Ritchie Block and a portion of its rectangular lot adjoining the south side of Main Street. The lot corresponds to the building's footprint along its north, east, and west elevations, extending 103 feet, 83 feet, and 113 feet respectively. The south boundary of the nominated property follows a line parallel to, and ten (10) feet south of, the south elevation of the building's one-story south extension. The former carriage barn stands a short distance south of the Ritchie Block but is excluded from the nomination owing to damage caused by fire and its forthcoming removal. The deed to the property is entered in Book 0-251, Page 30 of the Bennington Land Records. The nominated property is sufficient to protect the historic resource.