

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

140668541

FOR NPS USE ONLY		DATA SHEET	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1978		
DATE ENTERED	NOV 3 1978		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Hawley's Ferry House
AND/OR COMMON
Ecole Champlain

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Kingsland Bay
CITY, TOWN
Ferrisburg
STATE
Vermont
VICINITY OF
Vermont
COUNTY
Addison
CODE
50
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
001
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<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
State of Vermont, Department of Forests and Parks
STREET & NUMBER
Court Street
CITY, TOWN
Montpelier
STATE
Vermont
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Office of the Town Clerk
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Ferrisburg
STATE
Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey
DATE
1975
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
CITY, TOWN
Montpelier
STATE
Vermont
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

Located on MacDonough Point, overlooking Kingsland Bay on Lake Champlain, Hawley's Ferry House is a two-and-one-half story structure of Panton stone and red sandstone, five bays on the front and rear (northwest and southeast) elevations, three bays on the side elevations, with a gabled roof. It was built c. 1790.

Attached to the main facade is a three-story central entry tower, constructed c. 1900, sheltering what is now the principal doorway. The first two tiers of the tower have exposed stone pillar supports, while the third story is wood-shingled, as is part of the second tier. The third story terminates in four small corner projections with wooden crenellations along the parapet above paired 2/2 windows set in round-arch surrounds. The tower has a stone plaque reading, "Villa Elmire", referring to the name of the building when used as a monastery during the first quarter of the 20th century. A one-story wooden veranda with an asphalt-shingle shed roof is connected to the tower and extends around the southeast, southwest, and half of the northwest elevations.

On both the northwest and southeast (front and rear) elevations, the first story entries contain small semi-circular fanlights with stone relieving arches. Some of the voussoirs in the arches are wooden. Detached double hung three-quarter length sidelights of two panes frame the doorways, and have unornamented surrounds. The sidelights are repeated on the southeast (rear) elevation in the central bay of the second story, indicating that that facade was originally the front of the building. The veranda on this elevation (presently the rear) is marked by a peaked gable roof over the entrance with an imbricated shingle roof. Paired interior end stone chimneys are contained in the northeast and southwest gable end elevations. The roof is covered in wood shingles.

The interior plan is a two-room, central hall plan with a fireplace in each of the first floor rooms. An original mantle is preserved in the southwest parlor; the remaining mantles have been removed. On both floors, the interior jambs of the windows are splayed and have unornamented wooden panels, allowing more light to enter the rooms. (The walls of the building are two feet thick throughout the house.)

The second floor, originally an unpartitioned ballroom on the south side, has been divided into smaller rooms. The original central staircase has been replaced.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1790

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gideon Hawley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hawley's Ferry House, a striking early stone building, is one of the last extant remains of the 18th century history of the Lake Champlain region. It was built shortly after 1790 by Gideon Hawley, one of the first settlers of Ferrisburg, to serve lake traffic.

When the close of the Revolutionary War opened the Champlain valley up for settlement in 1784, the density of the woods, the roughness of the terrain, and the distance from the nearest roads made efficient water travel a necessity. This situation put a premium on lakeshore property and land which was adjacent to tributaries of the lake; Ferrisburg had a surplus of both, and was thus very popular among the earliest pioneers of the region.

The need for water transportation led to the creation of ferries all up and down the lake. McNeil's Cove in Charlotte was the site of the first one in 1790; the ferry between Hawley's (Kingsland) Bay, Vermont and Grog Harbor, New York must have begun operation shortly after that. As the ferry was powered by sail, and was thus at the mercy of the weather, its passengers were no doubt often kept waiting for hours, overnight or even days.

Thus, there was a real demand for an inn, and, in keeping with the entrepreneurial spirit of the day, an inn was built. It also served as a tavern for local residents to pass cold winter nights and the ballroom upstairs was undoubtedly put to use for dances and other social events by all the people in the neighborhood. A horse ferry (propelled by horses on a treadmill) replaced the sail ferry at some point, but the trade which had supported the ferry in the initial period of settlement had gone as the population grew, roads improved, and the orientation of lake commerce became north/south rather than east/west. The ferry and the inn were probably both out of business by 1830.

During the War of 1812, the U.S. Navy under Commodore Thomas MacDonough, built a fleet at nearby Vergennes (See Vergennes Historic District entered on the National Register April 28, 1976) on Otter Creek. Apparently Commodore MacDonough feared that the British might land a force near the mouth of Otter Creek and attack the unfinished fleet by land. (The creek itself was guarded by Fort Cassin.) He stationed militia units up and down the lake to prevent this, and several companies were garrisoned at Hawley's ferry house. Later, as the decisive Battle of Plattsburg approached, the local militia gathered there before their departure to the fight.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews with: Janet Cole, Ferrisburg, Vermont
Fred Menzies, Ferrisburg, Vermont

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.5

QUADRANGLE NAME Port Henry, NY-VT U.S.G.S.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15' quad; 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES 9 25

A 18 | 6315 | 91510 | 4899 | 91610

B [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

C [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

D [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

E [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

F [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

G [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

H [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Cote, John Dumville, John Page and Terry Winters, Architectural Historians

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Pavilion Building

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Montpelier

Vermont

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Finney

TITLE

Director, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

JF

William Lebourch

DATE

4/2/78

DATE

10/23/78

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Although the stone inn, the point it is built on, and the bay it faces have all been called, respectively, MacDonough Lodge, MacDonough Point and MacDonough Bay, there is no evidence whatsoever that Commodore MacDonough ever did more than pass through the harbor. As that famous name does not appear in connection with the building until the 20th century, it seems plausible to suggest that the girls' camp, which used the building and surrounding acreage, applied these names to romanticize the setting. There can be little doubt that Commodore MacDonough, who was as competent a naval commander as the country had, brought his fleet in here at least once. It is possible that he did spend time in the stone inn, but this is undocumented.

The building was used as a farmhouse by the Hawley, Satterly, Kingsland, Keeler, and other families in the 19th century. At the start of the 20th century, it was purchased by a Father Pierre Campeau for use as a Catholic monastic retreat. The belltower was built on the portico over the northwest doorway at that time. Ecole Champlain, a girls' summer camp which specialized in teaching French to the campers, used the building from c. 1924 and constructed the many surrounding cabins and camp buildings. The area is now owned by the State of Vermont, Agency of Environmental Conservation, which is in the process of converting the land area for use as a State Park.

The real importance of this building lies not so much in its ties to the War of 1812 or its possible associations with Commodore Thomas MacDonough. Rather, it tells us something about life on Lake Champlain when the Champlain Valley was a true frontier, and the lake was a vital means of transportation, commerce and communication. The worth of the structure has been recognized over the centuries, as attested to by its changing use, from inn to farmhouse to religious retreat to summer camp to executive retreat to (in the future) wildlife interpretive center.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The property submitted for nomination is described as follows: a circular tract, with a diameter of five hundred feet (500), whose center is at the point of intersection of two diagonal lines drawn through the building, from its northeast to southwest corners and from its northwest to southeast corners. This tract has an area of 196,340 square feet (4.5 acres) and includes the remains of the dock on Lake Champlain. Due to the nature of the site's historic use, this tract is also likely to yield archeological data, both buried and submerged. Hawley's Ferry House is the only building included in this nomination.

Note: The circle on the enclosed U.S.G.S. map is not the circle described here; it serves only to locate the center of the nominated circle.