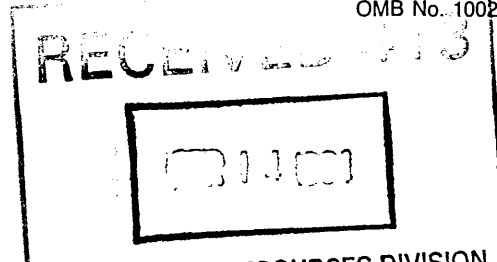


474

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 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 Rockledge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route 207 (St. Albans-Highgate Road) N/A not for publication

city or town Swanton N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Franklin code 011 zip code 05488

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.)

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Edgar H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the
National Register 5-19-94

Rockledge

Franklin County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
3	2	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

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**

Section number 7 Page i Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin County, Vermont

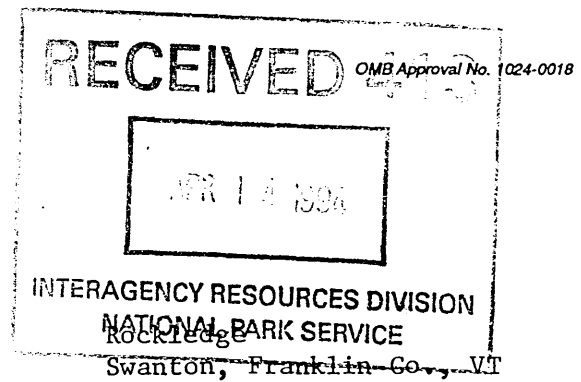
Located atop a low knoll about 120 feet west of the St. Albans-Highgate Road (Vermont Route 207) in Swanton, Vermont, the Jennison House stands as the centerpiece of Rockledge farm. The east-facing building was originally an early 19th century two story, Georgian plan, Federal style wood frame house with a one story kitchen ell. Between 1918 and 1922 Montreal architect Charles Saxe transformed the house for Clark Jennison into the Colonial Revival style summer state house that stands today. The main block was enhanced by symmetrical wings, and an enclosed shed-roofed porch was added to the rear along the main block and north wing. Other enhancements made during this time period are a stone wall with driveway entry piers, the planting of more maple trees in front of the house, and the construction of barns (burned 1988), a caretaker's cottage, and a pump house. The property retains its integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 1



At the time of the summer estate remodeling, the grounds were landscaped. Rows of sugar maple trees were planted in front of the house, continuing a line of maples planted much earlier. A stone wall was built parallel to the road in front of the house. This wide, dry-laid stone wall is punctuated by stone piers flanking a walkway to the front door of the house and both entrances of the driveway. This U-shaped, gravel driveway runs behind the house. Several smaller outbuildings, including a caretaker's cottage, a pump house, and agricultural outbuildings, were added to complete the estate.

Directly opposite the house on the east side the St. Albans-Highgate Road, Jennison added to a complex of agricultural buildings for dairying and training horses. He moved an early 19th century horse barn from behind the Jennison House. The hay barn was originally the Swanton Center meeting house which was sold at auction by the Congregational Church and moved and converted into a barn in 1868. The entire complex of barns burned to the ground in 1988.

The central portion of the Jennison House sits atop a foundation of exposed local redstone, while the wings are built on poured concrete foundations. The foundations are partially masked by a wide wooden splash-board. The 5-bay wide front facade is symmetrical. The central front entrance is composed of the original doorway with fluted tapered pilasters carrying a full entablature, all flanked by 6/6 sidelights. The entrance sits within a circa 1918 porch sheltered by a pedimented gable roof on a full entablature, which is carried by two pairs of square, fluted, tapered columns and matching pilasters. The windows on the main block have 12/12 sash. The tops of the second story windows engage a molded cornice, which is carried by corner pilasters with molded capitals. The roof of the main block is painted, corrugated steel. From the ridge rise two interior brick chimneys.

The north and south facades of the main block have pedimented gables with semicircular attic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 2

Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

windows. Inspection from the interior suggests these fanlights were added during the circa 1918 renovations. Two bays of 12/12 windows fill the front halves of the north and south facades, while 4-by-3 bay, Colonial Revival style wings extend to the north and to the south. From the center of the western roof plane of the south wing rises a brick chimney.

The front, east-facing facades of the north and south wings are identical in their fenestration and ornamentation. The four bays on these facades are delineated by pilasters which stand in pairs at both ends and as singly between the bays. The pilasters carry a full entablature at the first story ceiling level. The first and fourth bays have 14-light paired casement windows. Above these windows are coffered, solid-panel transoms which engage the entablature. The second and third bays have French doors. Above these doors are small transoms bearing a semi-circular, rayed motif. Above the entablature, the wall is clapboarded and trimmed with a corner pilaster which mimics the pattern of those on the main-block. Twelve-over-twelve windows engage the roof-line entablature in the first and fourth bays of the second stories.

The ornamentation of the pedimented gable ends of the two wings is similar to that on the front facades with paired pilasters at the corners and single pilasters between each of the bays. Each of the three bays contains a casement window on the first story, with the exception of the center bay of the north wing which has no window but is clapboarded instead. Above each bay are coffered, solid-panel transoms, except for the center bays which have the same semi-circular rayed design as used on the front. The first story entablature of the north and south ends of the wings is an extension of the entablature found on the front facades of the wings. There are two 12/12 windows on the second story of the north and south facades of the wings.

The rear facade of the south wing is similar to the front facade, except that the second and third bays have been clapboarded, instead of containing French doors. The second story wall is clapboarded, with a 12/12 window engaging the cornice in the first and fourth bays.

A single-story, shed-roofed, clapboarded, addition extends along the rear facade of the north wing and the main block. Three irregularly spaced 12/12 windows line the north third of the west wall of this rear addition. A small clapboarded enclosure extends from near the center of the north third of the addition. This gable-roofed enclosure shelters stairs leading down to the basement of the house. Near the center of the rear addition is an enclosed screened porch with a door just left of center. A 12/12 window is located on the rear facade south side of the porch opening. The addition has an 8/8 window centered in the south-facing wall.

The interior of the Jennison House reflects the Colonial Revival styling evident on the exterior. On

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 3

Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

entering the house from the front entrance, one is greeted by a formal entry hall which extends through the building to a broad, two-stage stairway. This grand stairway pauses at a wide landing before reversing and continuing to the second floor. The first two steps of the staircase have a gentle curve. The skirt boards of the staircase are decorated with an ornate fanning feather motif. The newel-post is turned in a spiral pattern, and square balusters support a polished walnut hand-rail. The dominant feature of the center hallway is the circa 1918 Palladian window above the landing on the west wall of the house. The walls are decorated with molding fields laid out to give the effect of panels.

To the south of the central hallway is a formal parlor which extends the full depth of the main block. Centered on the north wall of the room is a fireplace, decorated with ornate Colonial Revival style moldings and pilasters and a firebox surround made of glazed encaustic tiles. The walls in the parlor have the same faux-panel treatment as the entrance hall. The window trim appears to be circa 1918, but the muntins and sash bars of the windows may be original. The Colonial Revival style doors have six panels with circa 1918 trim that matches the windows. Most of the hardware in the house also probably dates from the early 20th century. A cornice molding encircles the entire ceiling.

From the parlor, bi-fold French doors lead to the south wing, which is a single large, tile-floored, garden room. A large fireplace similar in styling to the parlor fireplace is centered on the west wall. Large casement windows and French doors lead to the slate patios on the east side.

Through an archway at the rear of the parlor, is a small study situated in the shed roofed addition on the west facade of the main block. This room was reportedly used as the farm office. A door in the north wall of the study leads to a small mud room, with a door in its north wall leading to the rear porch. A door in the west wall of the main block, leads back into the house, into a back hall connected to the main entry hall.

To the north of the central hallway, through a door opposite that which leads to the parlor, is the formal dining room. Its decoration is similar to the parlor, although the molded fields stop at a chair-rail which caps a wainscoting of raised panels. There is a large fireplace on the west wall, also with a tiled fire-box surround. Like the parlor, a cornice molding encircles the dining room at the ceiling.

To the west of the dining room, through a door to the right of the fireplace is a butler's pantry with a circa 1918 sink, and built-in, glass-fronted, cupboards. The chimney from the fireplace in the dining room is exposed on the east wall of the pantry. A window at the west end of the butler's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Page 4

Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

pantry looks out over the area of the back porch enclosed with louvers. A passage to the south of this pantry leads to the main entry hall. A closet opens off the east side of this passage, while a bathroom opens off the west side.

A passage door on the right side of the north wall of the pantry leads to a sun room extending along the east side of the north wing. The walls of this room have the molded fields common throughout the first floor. The east wall is comprised predominantly of casement windows and French doors that lead to a slate patio.

A door located in the center of the north wall of the butler's pantry leads to the kitchen which has been recently renovated with glass fronted cupboards, new counters and modern appliances. On the east wall of this room is a circa 1918 call-box for summoning servants. To the right of a plastered chimney which presumably once vented the cook stove, a door leads to two rooms which originally served as quarters for servants.

The main staircase leads to a central landing on the second floor from which an axial hallway runs north and south through the length of the main block of the house. A small hallway off the east side of the main hall leads to a small bedroom room. A door in the south side of this hall leads a bedroom which occupies the south east corner of the second floor.

Two bedrooms flank the upstairs hall in the main block. The east room has a fireplace on the west wall, and a door in the south wall leads to the small bedroom room in the central bay which was mentioned above. The upstairs hallway extends into the north wing where it is flanked by a linen closet on the east side and a full bath on the west. This hall continues to a bedroom at the north end of the house which has built-in stained wooden bench seats in the north-west corner and a small bathroom in the south-west corner.

The south section of the upstairs hall has one door on the west side which leads to a full bath and dressing room. The hall terminates at a doorway leading to the master bedroom which occupies the entire top floor of the south wing. A fireplace with tile surround dominates the west wall, and a door on the north wall leads to the dressing/bathroom. A retractable staircase leads from the upstairs hall to an unfinished attic.

Outbuildings

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 5

Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

Located to the north of the Jennison House stands a small, clapboarded, gable roofed caretaker's cottage. This was built as a residence for staff around 1918, when the major renovations were made to the main house by Clark Jennison. Later it was occupied by guests. Constructed on concrete piers, skirted with wooden lattice, the two-by-two bay structure has a shed-roofed extension spanning the entire width of the rear and continuing north of the building approximately 10 feet, creating a third bay. The cottage has raking eaves and corrugated roofing. From the ridge of the gable roof, just forward of center, rises a brick chimney. The gable-end, front facade has a hipped-roof, one story porch which spans the entire width of the building. This porch shelters a 2/2 window on the left and a door on the right. In the gable peak is a small vent.

The south facade of the caretaker's cottage contains three windows, one in each bay of the central block, and one in the end-wall of the rear addition. The east facade contains a square, unglazed opening in the gable-peak, below a small louvered vent. The shed addition contains a window in the first and third bays. The north facade contains only a small, square, four pane window in the left bay, and a smaller, square window in the right bay. The east facing wall of the extension of the rear addition contains a 2/2 window set slightly right of center.

Inside the caretaker's cottage, on entering from the porch, is a small kitchen which spans the width of the building. A door to the left of the west wall of this room leads to a living area which stretches to the east end of the building. To the north are two doors, one leading to the small addition which holds a single room, and the other leading to a small bathroom. The walls of the cottage are finished with hardboard, while the ceiling has fiber-board tiles over tongue and groove boards. The trim has simple flat board casings.

A circa 1918 pump house located in the rear yard behind the Jennison House is built of poured concrete walls bermed with earth to just below the eaves. The below grade building is accessed by ladder through a trap door in a shallow, gabled, corrugated metal roof. Inside, the walls and floor are of poured concrete. Much of the original equipment for pumping and storing water remains. Two large storage tanks of riveted iron or steel, measuring approximately 5 feet in diameter and 30 feet long protrude about 5 feet into the pump house from the east wall. These tanks, with their gauges intact, are connected with iron pipes to a large belt driven water pump which is no longer in use. Nearby, on a concrete pedestal is an early 20th century 10 horse power gasoline engine which once powered the pump. Water is now supplied by a modern electric pump.

A two-bay garage with a gable roof of corrugated metal stands next to the driveway to the north of the Jennison House. Resting on a block foundation with a poured concrete floor, this circa 1955 building is clapboarded, with vertical novelty siding in the gables. The front facade has overhead

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7Page 6Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

doors, with hardboard panels. The rear facade is blank with the exception of a small square 1/1 window in the center of the wall just below the eaves. The east facade contains a door on the left and a 1/1 window on the right. From the center of the wall, protrudes a rough, shed-roofed, plywood woodshed. The garage has a concrete floor and the interior walls are paneled with hardboard. This building does not contribute to the significance of the property due to its age.

An octagonal wooden gazebo which was built around 1975 is located in the back yard next to a small garden pond approximately 250 feet west of the Jennison House. Roofed in cedar shingles, with a small octagonal lantern at the apex, the building is open on all sides. A low railing with ornamental woodwork beneath fills 7 of the 8 sides, with the eighth open as an entrance. Inside this railing is a built-in bench. The entire structure is trimmed with spindle work valances supported by small brackets at each post. The gazebo rests on a foundation of eight short concrete piers. This building does not contribute to the significance of the property due to its age.

A gambrel-roofed horse barn which was built in 1981, stands north of the garage and caretaker's cottage. With its gable end facing the St. Albans - Highgate Road, the clapboarded, 3-by-7 bay structure has raking eaves and a small cupola with a copper finial centered on the roof-ridge. The roof is covered with corrugated metal, flared at the eaves. The center bay of the east, front facade, contains a pair of hinged doors. These are flanked by small one-over-one, horizontally oriented windows. The same design windows are used throughout the building. The second story contains a single door in the center bay, flanked by a second pair windows. The gable peak contains a small vent.

The north facade contains a window in the first bay, a door in the second bay, windows in the third through sixth bays. Extending north from the seventh bay is a small shed. The first floor of the west facade contains a pair of doors flanked by windows; the second floor, a pair of hay-loft doors; and the gable peak, a louvered vent. The two bay equipment shed is open to the west. The south facade contains windows in the first three bays, a pair of doors in the fourth, a window in the fifth, a passage door in the sixth, and a pair of engaged windows in the seventh.

The interior of the horse barn is accessed by a dirt-floored central aisle which runs longitudinally through the entire structure. A side aisle leads to double doors in the south wall. Entering from the west end, the first two thirds of the structure is comprised of ten dirt-floored stalls. The eastern third of the barn contains an office on the north side, and a tack room on the south. A scuttle in the ceiling leads to a second floor hay loft, which extends the length and width of the building.

This barn does not contribute to the significance of the property due to its age.

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1918 - 1922

Significant Dates

1918

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Saxe, Charles

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Rockledge
Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 652320 4971000
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

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 Thomas Visser, Coordinator

organization ACES, University of Vermont date December 23, 1992
Historic Preservation Program

street & number Wheeler House telephone (802) 656-0577

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Andrea Forrest and Randolph Brock

street & number Rockledge, Highgate Road telephone (802) 868-2300

city or town St. Albans state Vermont zip code 05478

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

Section number 8Page 1Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

8. Statement of Significance

Rockledge Farm in Swanton, Vermont, qualifies for local and statewide significance under National Register Criteria C as a significant representative example of an early 20th century adaptation of an existing farm into a summer estate. The architectural characteristics of the main house and the landscaped grounds strongly reflect the historic context of "Seasonal Residents" identified in the "Tourism" theme of the Vermont State Preservation Plan. Rockledge Farm was the summer estate of Clark Jennison, a nationally recognized financier and descendant of the farm's original settlers. Mr. Jennison modified the original Federal style farmhouse into a Colonial Revival style summer house with the professional assistance of Montreal architect Charles Saxe between 1918 and the early 1920s.

As an example of the "summer estate farm" property type, Rockledge Farm illustrates how the historic context of "Seasonal Residents" identified in the "Tourism" theme of the Vermont Preservation Plan is closely linked with the "Model Farm" historic context of the Vermont Preservation Plan's "Agriculture" theme. As the agricultural base of Vermont's economy waned during the late 1800s and early 1900s and the populations of many towns decreased as men and women left for better opportunities, a surplus of farms developed in many areas of the state. At the same time, the rapid growth of industry and commerce in the nation's urban areas produced many new jobs. For upper levels of management, the standard of living of successful entrepreneurs, industrialists and financiers increased dramatically. With convenient railroad connections to the major east coast urban areas, affluent urban families seeking to escape from the heat and congestion of the cities could purchase attractive Vermont farm properties for their summer use. While the state actively encouraged the redevelopment of existing farms by seasonal residents, many towns sponsored summer "Old Home" days of activities to help lure successful family members back to their childhood homes. Indeed some wealthy individuals did purchase the homesteads of their ancestors. With the husband often commuting from the city by train for the weekends, the wife, children, and domestic help would often move to the farm for the entire summer. Although some built new summer houses, many adapted existing older homes for the new uses. Often the houses were enlarged; plumbing, lighting and heating systems were added, and new outbuildings were constructed. Farm managers were often hired to care for the property and to farm the land. Neighboring farms were acquired to boost the land holdings and to provide housing for the farm managers and other workers. Many of the farms became "model farms", using modern scientific farming techniques and breeding programs to develop high quality livestock and crops. The summer residents also often became patrons to local artistic, cultural and charitable activities.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 2

Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

Rockledge Farm in Swanton, Vermont, serves as an excellent example of the summer estate farm property type described above. Its significance is at least comparable to such other Vermont examples with statewide significance listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Mountain View Stock Farm (circa 1795, 1907, & 1929) in Benson, "Broadview" (circa 1865, 1904) in North Danville, and the Owen Moon Farm (1816, 1937) in South Woodstock. All these properties were developed as summer estate farms for the families of successful individuals between 1900 and 1940. With the downturn of the national economy associated with the Great Depression, the era of summer estate farms had generally come to a close in Vermont by 1940.

Rockledge Farm substantially reflects the circa 1920 summer estate farm created by Clark Jennison, who after graduating from the University of Chicago and law school, became a successful financier and president of the Knox Hat Company, Simplex Automobiles, and Wright Aeronautics. Although he grew up in Illinois, Clark Jennison was born on Rockledge Farm in Swanton, Vermont, in 1883. His mother and father, Mabel and Nahum Edward Jennison (1855-1906) had moved to Illinois in the 1870s, but they maintained ownership of the family farm and occasionally returned to oversee its operations. Clark Jennison's great-grandfather, William Jennison (1758-1819), settled the farm in 1803 after moving north from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

The exact date of construction of the original Federal style farmhouse is uncertain. Tradition suggests that the house was built shortly after 1803 by William Jennison. Such construction details as type-B cut nails in the attic gable walls suggest major work was done on the building after 1819, however, when the house was passed to William's son Nahum. Surviving Federal style features include the two-story massing on the main block with its shallow-pitched gable roof, five-bay wide front fenestration, and sophisticated Federal style cornices and exterior trim.

Between 1918 and 1920, Clark Jennison greatly enlarged the house with wings on the north and south. Several years later, a shed-roofed addition was added to the rear and an entrance portico on the front. Montreal architect, Charles Saxe, carried the design themes of the original Federal style cornice and trim to the additions with Colonial Revival style embellishments. By carefully comparing the profiles, the Colonial Revival moldings can be distinguished from the earlier work. Physical evidence in the attic suggests that the fanlights in the gables of the main block may also be twentieth century, Colonial Revival style alterations. The Palladian window on the west facade probably also dates from the Clark Jennison era.

Inside, the farmhouse was extensively rebuilt for Clark Jennison in the Colonial Revival style with a new wide central hall graced by a formal stairway, new chimneys and fireplaces with encaustic tile surrounds, and bolection moldings defining decorative panels on the plastered walls of the dining room, living room and hall. Nearly all the doors and door hardware were replaced with Colonial

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 3

Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

Revival style elements. New electrical wiring and fixtures, plumbing and heating systems were installed. The house also received new tiled bathrooms with porcelain fixtures, a kitchen, butler's pantry. Jennison's work on the house was said to cost \$100,000.

As with other notable Vermont summer estates of the period, the grounds of Rockledge Farm were landscaped during Clark Jennison's ownership with stone walls, a U-shaped driveway, fences, planted trees and perennial gardens. Numerous outbuildings were added, including a two-car garage, and a small caretaker's house was built northwest of the main house. By the 1930s the caretaker's house was used mainly as a guest cottage rather than for summer staff. A large subterranean pump house with water storage tanks and pumps was built in the back yard.

During the 1920s, Clark Jennison acquired a small farm bordering on the south and the former Honsinger farm located north of the neighboring farm. The farm to the south housed the farm manager, while the Honsinger Farm was rented to two families who worked at Rockledge Farm.

Rockledge Farm also became a model farm under Clark Jennison's ownership, specializing in registered Holstein dairy cattle. To support the dairy herd, a large complex of barns was assembled opposite the house on the east side of the St. Albans-Highgate Road. This complex included a hay barn, two silos, a cow stable, pens, a garage, an equipment shed, a horse barn (moved from west of the main house), and three small outbuildings. These were all destroyed by fire in 1988. Only a small concrete walled storage building survives.

Clark Jennison died at the age of 48 in 1931. His wife, Louise, continued to summer at the farm until 1940. She then lived all year around at Rockledge Farm until her death in 1963. Howell Sabourin, who served as farm manager from the 1920s through 1963, continued to live at the south farmhouse until his death in 1970. After Louise Jennison's death, the dairy operation and 300 acres of land, including the Honsinger farm, were sold to Normand and Martha Tarte. The main house and 100 acres of Rockledge Farm were leased by the Jennison family until 1975 when the entire property was sold. The present owners, Randolph Brock and Andrea Forrest, purchased the farm in 1987.

While the loss of the barns is unfortunate, the integrity of Rockledge Farm as a Colonial Revival style summer estate is intact and legible. The non-contributing, recently constructed, horse barn located north of the house and the gazebo in the backyard do not detract from the legibility or significance of the farm.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9/10 Page 1

Rockledge
Swanton, Franklin Co., VT

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the west side of the St. Albans - Highgate Road in Swanton, Vermont, at the north property line of land currently owned by Andrea Forrest and Randoiph Brock, thence proceeding in a westerly direction along said property line a distance of approximately 600 feet to a northerly extension of a fence line which separates the rear yard associated with the residence currently owned by Andrea Forrest and Randolph Brock from the cedar woods and pasture; thence proceeding in a southerly direction along said fence line a distance of approximately 600 feet to an intersecting fence line which separates a meadow from the south yard of the residence currently owned by Andrea Forrest and Randolph Brock; thence proceeding in an easterly direction along said fence line to a stone wall which parallels the St. Albans - Highgate Road; thence proceeding in a northerly direction along said stone wall to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses approximate 8 acres of land surrounding the buildings and landscaped yards which have historically been associated with Rockledge Farm summer estate. Although the total size of the farm has varied in size through its history to include surrounding fields, pastures, and wooded areas, these eight acres represent the core of the estate. The northern boundary is the property line. Land more directly associated with a neighboring residence lies a short distance beyond. The west and south boundaries are marked by fence lines which separate the landscaped yards historically associated with the summer estate from the overgrown pastures and cedar groves beyond. The east boundary follows the stone wall which separates the front yard from the right of way of the St. Albans - Highgate Road. This boundary is sufficient to convey the historic context of Rockledge Farm and to protect its architectural character.

ROCKLEDGE FARM SWANTON, VERMONT (FRANKLIN COUNTY)

