

PH0358371

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 19 1976
DATE ENTERED	AUG 19 1977

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC ******
 Nye Block
 AND/OR COMMON
 Nye Block

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
 Main Street at Railroad Street
 CITY, TOWN
 Johnson
 STATE
 Vermont

--- VICINITY OF
 CODE
 50

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 Vermont
 COUNTY
 Lamoille
 CODE
 015

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
 Charles Hoag
 STREET & NUMBER
 Railroad Street
 CITY, TOWN
 Johnson
 STATE
 Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
 Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey
 DATE
 1970
 --- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS
 Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Pavilion Building
 CITY, TOWN
 Montpelier
 STATE
 Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nye Block visually dominates the commercial section of Johnson Village at its western edge. The ornate, 2-story clapboarded structure with full mansard is in good condition and remains unaltered from its 1868-69 date of construction. It is presently painted in ochre and brown hues, with the decorative details highlighted in a manner appropriate for a building of this era. The commercial building, which houses a gift shop, restaurant, apartments, and a woodworking shop, rests on a granite block and rock foundation and is of post and beam construction. The building measures 40 feet on the main (northeast) facade and 126 feet on the Railroad Street (southeast) facade. At the rear (southwest), the building measures only approximately 20 feet, because of its unusual angled construction on the Railroad Street (southeast) and northwest sides. At the southeast, the rear portion of the building narrows at an approximate 25° angle from the front section of the building, and at the northwest, the angle is only about 10°.

A four-bay, 2-story porch with a wood floor extends across the main (northeast) elevation. At both stories chamfered square posts rest on square pedestals with applique' and elaborately sawn and polychromed brackets spring from the brackets. A turned balustrade extends around the porch at the second story; the second story brackets are different from those on the first story.

Above the second story posts are large, polychromed brackets supporting the deep cornice of the mansard. In turn, polychromed brackets, again of a different pattern, and flanking the windows in the mansard, support the uppermost cornice of the mansard, marking its intersection with the slate-sheathed hipped roof which surmounts it. The mansard is sheathed with imbricated bands of polychromed slates; the lower edge of the slope is covered with metal flashing to facilitate the melting of snow. The slate replaced original wood shingles in 1877. There are 3 stove chimneys ornamented with recessed rectangular panels.

A flight of cement stairs leads to the recessed storefront consisting of two plate glass windows on a polychromed paneled base flanking a centrally recessed door with a transom. Pilasters with bases decorated with applique', similar to the porch posts, line the outer edges of the display windows.

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There are two regularly spaced 2/2, double-hung sash windows with bracketed sills and simple entablatures in the second story, and two similar windows directly above in the mansard. Except for the storefront windows at the northeast and southeast, all windows are identical.

The easternmost bay of this facade is recessed one bay and contains entrances at both stories - a panelled door with twin round-headed lights at the first story and a vertically and horizontally panelled door at the second story.

At the Railroad Street (southeast) facade, the division in bays marked by the porch posts continues with bracketed pilasters of similar design to the posts, for four bays along the front portion of the building to the intersection of the angled walls, also marked by bracketed pilasters at both stories. Within three bays is a window at both stories; at the south center bay are recessed porches at both stories. A hinged, garage type door at the first story indicates probable use as a loading dock. Panelled and polychromed doors similar to those on the main (northeast) elevation lead from each porch. The cornice of the first-story porch continues around this section of the southeast elevation, dividing it horizontally. In axis with the bays below are five windows in the mansard.

Fenestration at the rear section of this elevation is irregular. Immediately adjacent to the angle of intersection is the storefront of the former grocery store, now a restaurant. Transomed double doors with twin round-headed lights over panels are recessed between large 6-light windows. A single window and another panelled door with a bracketed flat hood are also located at the first story. In the second story are five irregularly spaced windows, and four in the mansard.

At the rear (southwest) is a sliding service door at the first story. A single window is centered at the second story and in the mansard.

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On the first story of the northwest elevation is a single panelled door with twin 2/2 lights, flanked by bracketed pilasters and surmounted by a bracketed hood, similar to those found on the rest of the building. A simple gable-roofed wooden porch is a later addition. A single window immediately to the north of the doorway is the only other fenestration at the first story. At the second story are eight, regularly spaced windows. Six windows in the mansard are in axis with those in the first six bays of the second story. The remaining section of the mansard is not punctuated by fenestration or brackets.

The interior of the building remains largely intact. The front section of the first story, which was originally a dry goods store, is now a gift shop. In the 1950s an asbestos tile floor was laid over the hardwood floor. The office behind has walnut doors with denticulated entablatures and a walnut dado with applique. In the ceiling is an ornate iron grille through which the office safe was guarded from the bedroom above. At the rear, the original grocery is still lined with the balustraded shelves and jigsawn ornament crafted is the woodworking shop in the third floor. The original apartment on the second floor has now been subdivided into three. Besides the woodworking shop which still remains on the third floor, there is a small apartment and storage.

Except for needed foundation stabilization, the building is in a good state of preservation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1868-69

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nye Block is one of Vermont's outstanding examples of vernacular French Second Empire architecture and is Johnson Village's outstanding architectural landmark. Although it is still well-represented in domestic architecture throughout the state, the French Second Empire style in commercial buildings has all but disappeared. The heavily bracketed posts and pilasters with applique, the use of five different bracket patterns, skillfully painted in contrasting hues to highlight their ornate surfaces and the polychrome slate mansard are an ambitious interpretation of the French Second Empire style in a rural village.

Speculatively built in 1868-69 by Leonard Knight, when Johnson was being considered as a junction of a proposed railroad from Lowell, Massachusetts, to Newport, Vermont, the Nye Block was the most ornate building in Johnson Village; it retains that distinction today. Although the railroad was never constructed, the store nevertheless served customers from a wide area with dry goods and groceries. The jigsawn trim for the grocery shelves was crafted in the third-story woodworking shop.

At the turn of the century W. H. Nye, from whom the commercial block acquired its name, purchased the building and continued its operation as a store. In the 1950s most of the first floor was occupied by a grocery store until the present gift shop was established there in the late 1960s.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hagerman, Robert, comp., Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey for Johnson, 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	6, 8, 3, 8, 7, 5	4, 9, 4, 4, 8, 5, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jane A. McLuckie, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

November 30, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building, 109 State Street

TELEPHONE

(802)-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Pinney

TITLE

William B. Pinney, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

8/19/77

8.18.77