

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

12.8.

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 8 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 29 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC (Thomas H.) Palmer House
AND/OR COMMON
1832 House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Route 7
CITY, TOWN Pittsford VICINITY OF Vermont
STATE Vermont CODE 50 COUNTY Rutland CODE 021

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 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 Mr. and Mrs. William A. Dall
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Pittsford VICINITY OF Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Situated on Vermont Route 7 in Pittsford, Vermont, the Thomas H. Palmer House is a two-and-one-half story, five-bay brick structure with a gable roof, set on a marble foundation. The main rectangular structure is laid in seven-course American bond. A small, two-story, two-bay wood frame ell with a gabled roof projects from the left (east) elevation. The ell is a 20th century addition.

In the central bay of the main (north) facade is a two-story bay with a pedimented cross gable; a bay window is at the second floor level with a full bracketed entablature. This is supported by square wooden posts at the first floor level forming an open entry porch. The paneled treatment at the base of the posts, together with the treatment of the brackets, would stylistically date this bay to the Italianate Revival period, circa 1870. Within the open porch is the main entry to the house, which includes a segmental louvered fan with sidelights flanking a large, double-leaf paneled door. The fenestration on the main facade contains 6/6 sash with marble splayed lintels. Wooden louvered shutters frame each window.

Besides the aforementioned ell, the east elevation contains two bays; the central bay contains a side entry, characterized by a segmental louvered fan, similar in treatment to that found on the main elevation. The windows on the east elevation are identical to those found on the north elevation.

The west elevation consists of three bays containing 6/6 sash with identical windows to those found on the north and east elevations.

The rear elevation consists of five bays, the lower story of which consists of a large 20th century bay window which runs the length of three bays. The remaining windows are identical to those found throughout the rest of the building; the continuity, unfortunately, broken by the modernization.

A full cornice graces the eaves of the building and dates from the date of the house's construction.

On the interior, the house is planned around a central hall. The original hall and four-room floor plan is extant throughout the house. Original wood trim and mantles are preserved in a double parlor on the west side of the first floor and are elaborately treated with Greek Revival motifs, original to the initial construction of the house.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1832

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Palmer house derives from the career of its first owner, Thomas H. Palmer, and from its design. Palmer was an influential educator in Vermont, and his house reflects a refined taste which was probably influenced by his experiences in Philadelphia.

Palmer was a native of Scotland and came to Vermont from Philadelphia where he had originally settled in 1801 and established a printing business. Palmer moved to Pittsford in 1828, and became school superintendent. He immediately began a reform program for the Pittsford schools, which resulted ultimately in Palmer's working toward a program of educational reform throughout the entire state. Palmer's role in Pittsford's schools is noted in an early history of the town, which notes:

"Mr. Palmer became distinguished throughout the state for his interest and effectual labor for the improvement of the schools. He held the office of town superintendent, and finding the condition of the schools anything but what it should have been, he set vigorously to work for their improvement. In this work he was eminently successful, and he was soon persuaded to extend his labors and hold educational meetings in other towns. In 1844, he was invited by Governor Slade to visit Middlebury to explain his views to the college faculty, and it was there determined that the school laws of the state should be remodeled. After this Mr. Palmer canvassed the state in the school interest and started the scheme which resulted in memorializing the legislature and the passage of the necessary laws." Smith & Rand, History of Rutland County-Pittsford, p. 750-751.

In Pittsford, Palmer was the leading impetus for the establishment of a free public library, c. 1838, and was also instrumental in the town's active role in the National Peace Movement of the 1850's. Through Palmer's work in this direction, the town sent a memorial to United States President Fillmore, requesting him,

"To propose to all nations with whom we have intercourse, a provision in our treaties with them for referring to the decision of umpires all misunderstandings that cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by amicable negotiation." Hemenway, Vol. III, p. 960.

Architecturally, the Palmer house is an excellent example of a transitional Federal-Greek Revival house, and is stylistically more elaborate than most found in the Rutland-Pittsford area. Perhaps because of Palmer's former residence in Philadelphia, the first owner lavished a good deal of expense on the interior, as evident in the southwest parlor and dining room, the only rooms remaining relatively unaltered. The house's site remains

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. A. M. Caverly. History of the Town of Pittsford, Vermont. Rutland, Tuttle & Co. 1882
2. Smith, H. P. & Rann. History of Rutland County, Vermont. Syracuse, N.Y.; D. Mason & Co., 1886.
3. Hemmway, A. M. Vermont Historical Gazetteer. Vol. III, Claremont, New Hampshire, Claremont Manufacturing Co., 1877.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Proctor, VT

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 660360 4840320

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet 10-1.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard C. Cote, Architectural Historian

1977-1978

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

802-828-3226

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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. Timney

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/31/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. M. ...

DATE

12/29/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Mary ...

DATE

12.29.78

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

relatively unaltered and currently functions as horse pastures and riding rings.

The nominated property consists of the house and one acre of land, out of a total parcel of 17 acres under the same ownership.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The nominated property consists of the Palmer House and one acre of land, defined as a square which is 208' on each side, the diagonals of which (connecting opposite corners of the square) intersect at the intersection of the diagonals connecting opposite corners of the main block of the house.