

Photo pulled by Publications, 1/30/75

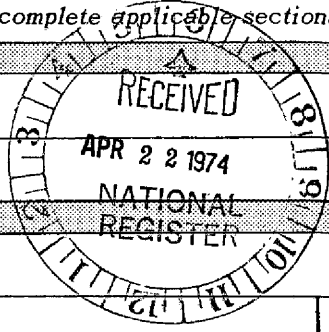
Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont
COUNTY:	Windsor
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 20 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Indian Stones

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Vt. Rte. 106

CITY OR TOWN:  
Reading

STATE: Vermont

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District Rep. Richard Mallary

COUNTY: Windsor

CODE: 50

CODE: 027

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Commemorative Marker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Division of Historic Sites, State of Vermont\*

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Montpelier

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Town Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
(no street number)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Reading

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973

Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Montpelier

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 20 1974

DATE:

\*The Town of Reading owns the property on which the stones are located.

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)  
 Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)  
 Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)  
 Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "Indian Stones" consist of two cut slabs of slate. Originally, each of the slabs was freestanding. In 1918 the slabs were set into a single block of granite measuring 5'7"x5'7"x8".

The smaller of the two slate slabs measures 2'8"x1'3½" and is, basically, rectangular in shape with stepped shoulders and a semi-circular top. This slab is inscribed with the following statement:

"On the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1754, Cap<sup>t</sup> James Johnson had a Daughter born on this Spot of Ground, being Captivated with his whole Family by the Indians."

Representations of different kinds of tools and weapons are incised in the slab above the inscription. The figure of an infant is incised within a rectangle below the inscription.

The larger of the two slate slabs measures 4'0"x2'4" and is, basically, rectangular in shape with scalloped shoulders and top. This slab is inscribed with the following statement:

"This is near the Spot that the Indians Encamp<sup>d</sup> the Night after they took M<sup>r</sup> Johnson & Family, M<sup>r</sup> Labarree & Farnsworth, August 30<sup>th</sup> 1754, and M<sup>rs</sup> Johnson was Delivered of her Child Half a mile up this Brook."

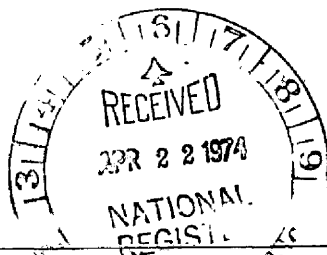
"When trouble<sup>s</sup> near the Lord is kind,  
 He hears the Captives crys.  
 He can subdue the Savage mind,  
 And learn it sympathy."

Representations of a human figure, a tree, and different kinds of tools and weapons are incised in the slab above the inscription.

The granite block into which these two slate slabs are set is inscribed in the upper left-hand corner above the smaller slate slab with the following statement:

"- In 1918 - These stones were placed in their present Position by a Descendant of - Captain James Johnson and Susannah, his Wife."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Vermont	
COUNTY	Windsor	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 20 1974

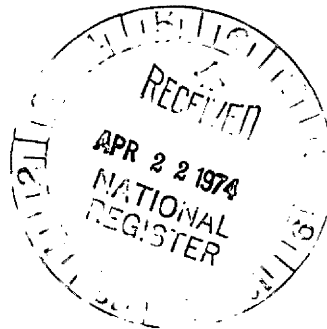
Section 7

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

LOCATION:

Before 1918 the "Indian Stones" were located on their original site near the northeast corner of the intersection of Vt. Rte. 106 and Knapp Brook, Reading, Windsor County, Vermont. In 1918 the "Indian Stones" were removed by a descendant of Susannah Johnson, set into a single block of granite and re-erected on their original site. Because of a state highway improvement project on Vt. Rte. 106 in 1947, the Vermont State Highway Department moved the "Indian Stones" to a new location near the southwest corner of the intersection of Vt. Rte. 106 and Knapp Brook. In the spring of 1974 the "Indian Stones" will be removed from their present location and will be re-erected on a site near their original location.



## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) circa 1799

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>Commemorative</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>marker</u>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |   | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Indian Stones" are the oldest historic site markers in the State of Vermont and, possibly, in the United States of America. The erection of the "Indian Stones" marks the first known time in the history of the State of Vermont that an individual regarded a past event of sufficient historic significance to be worthy of a commemorative marker.

HISTORY:

On the 29th of August 1754 a band of eleven Abnakis Indians, a subdivision of the Algonquin Indian Confederation, sympathetic to the French attacked the English settlement at Charlestown, New Hampshire, known as Number Four. The Indians took captive James Johnson; his wife Susannah; their three children Sylvanus, Susan and Polly; Susannah Johnson's sister Miriam Willard; Peter Labarree and Ebenezer Farnsworth. Following the attack the Indians set out on a forced march across Vermont to St. Johns, Canada, by way of Crown Point, New York, arriving in St. Johns on the 16th of September 1754. On the second day of the march, the 31st of August 1754, Susannah Johnson gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth Captive Johnson. With the exception of Sylvanus Johnson, the captives were sold in Montreal, Canada, to French residents. By various means each of the captives returned to New England by 1760.

In 1787 and again in 1790, Susannah Johnson returned to the area of the August 31st, 1754 Indian encampment to determine its exact location and the location of her daughter's birthplace. In 1796 Susannah Johnson published an autobiographical account of her family's and her friends' capture, captivity and eventual release with background material placing the event in proper historic perspective. In 1799, accompanied by Peter Labarree, she again returned to the sites which she had identified in her two previous visits to confirm their locations. Satisfied that the locations were correct, she hired a stone cutter to cut and erect two commemorative markers, one on the site of the Indian encampment and the other on the site of her daughter's birth.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Gilbert A. Centennial Celebration Together With a Historical Sketch of Reading, Windsor County, Vermont. Bellows Falls, Vermont: 1874. Pp. 47-50.

French, Mary Billings. A New England Pioneer: The Captivity of Mrs. Johnson. The Sun Tree Press; Woodstock, Vermont: 1926.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

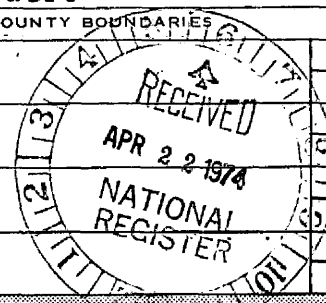
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 26' 50"	72° 32' 08"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

18/699450  
4813130  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Courtney Fisher, Historic Sites Surveyor; Louise Roomet, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historic Sites DATE: 2/28/74

STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: William D. Pinney

Title: Director of Historic Sites  
State Historic Preservation  
Officer

Date: 3/15/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Richard A. Montross  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/20/74

ATTEST:

Shirley A. Sturges  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.14.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

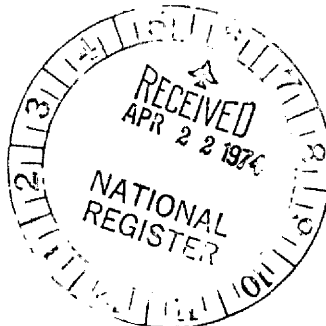
STATE		Vermont
COUNTY		Windsor
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	1074	DATE
	20	1974

Section 8

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The exact date of the erection of the "Indian Stones" is not documented but took place between Susannah Johnson's third visit in 1799 and her death in 1810. The markers were probably erected in 1799 or 1800, shortly after her third visit. Contrary to her instructions, the two markers were set next to each other on the site of the Indian encampment.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Vermont	
COUNTY	
Windsor	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 20 1974

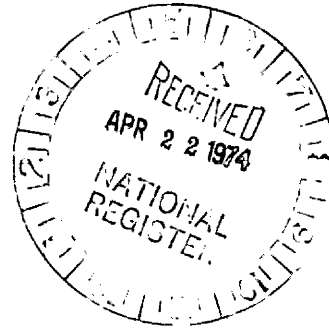
Section 9

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Johnson, Susannah. A Narrative of the Capture of Mrs. Johnson: Containing an Account of Her Sufferings, During Four Years, With the Indians and Friends. Windsor, Vermont: 1807 (second edition).

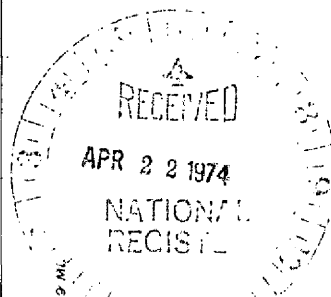
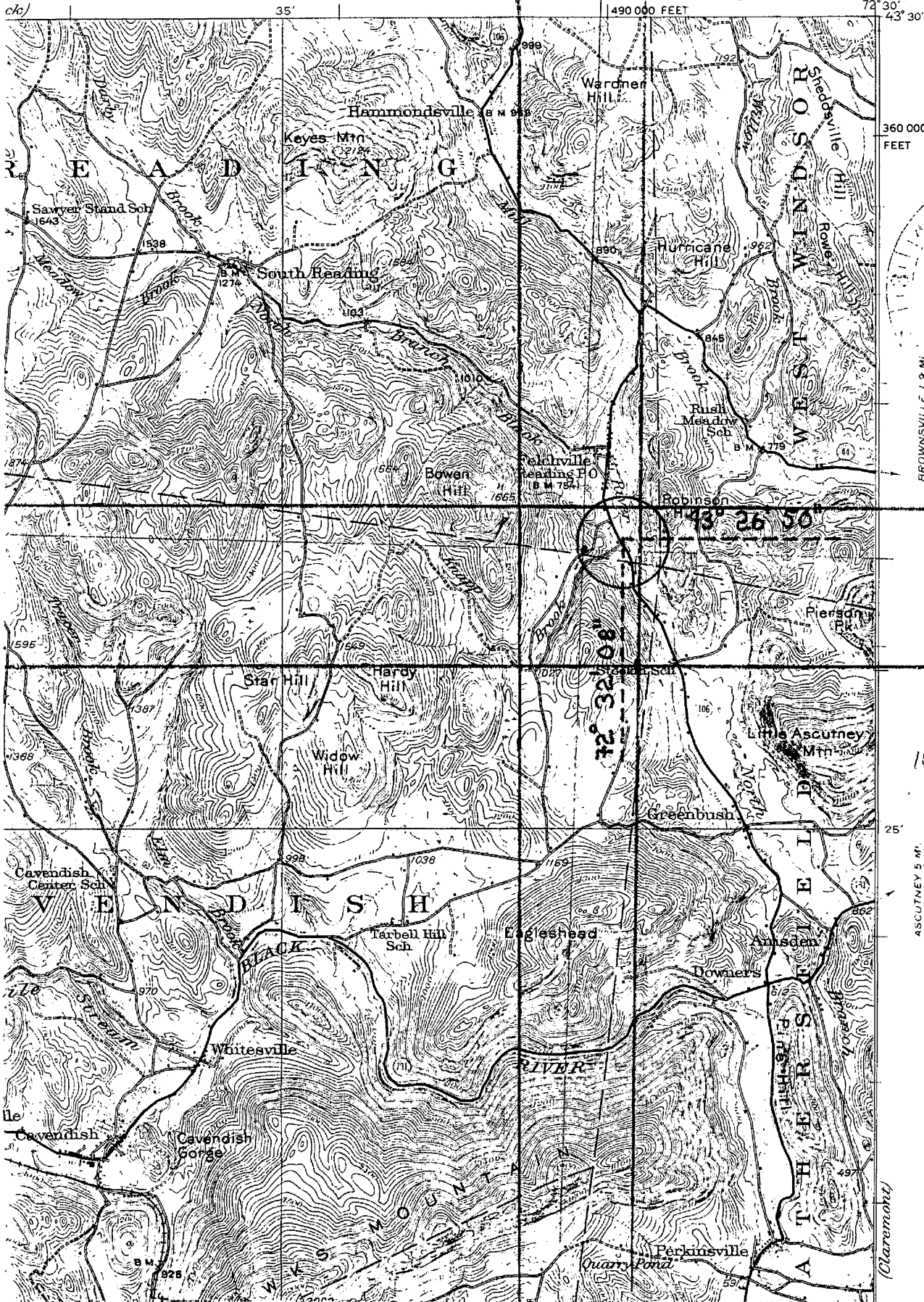
Saunderson, Henry H. History of Charlestown, New Hampshire. The Claremont Manufacturing Company; Claremont, New Hampshire: 1876. Pp. 445-458.



ERMONT  
BY THE  
LOGIST

WOODSTOCK JUNC. U.S. 41 10 MI.  
SOUTH WOODSTOCK 7.3 MI.

VERMONT  
LUDLOW QUADRANGLE



BROWNSVILLE 1.9 MI.  
WINDSOR 7.7 MI.

11/699450  
4812 130

ASCUTNEY 5 MI.  
CLAREMONT 9.8 MI.

Claremont



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE		Vermont	
COUNTY		Windsor	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	
100 20		1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: "Indian Stones"			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Vt. Rte. 106			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Reading			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Windsor	027
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 15 minute series (topographic) - Ludlow, Vermont			
SCALE: 1:62500			
DATE: 1929			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

