

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Vermont</b>
COUNTY: <b>Washington</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUN 13 1974</b>

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: <b>Athenwood and Wood Studio</b>	<i>Thomas W.</i>
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>41 &amp; 39 Northfield Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Montpelier</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>Vt. District</b> <b>Rep. Richard Mallary</b>	
STATE <b>Vermont</b>	CODE <b>50</b>	COUNTY: <b>Washington</b>	CODE <b>023</b>

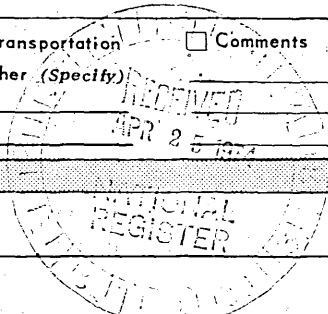
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: <b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. John Weaver</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>41 Northfield Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Montpelier</b>		STATE: <b>Vermont</b>	CODE <b>50</b>

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <b>Montpelier City Hall</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Main Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Montpelier</b>		STATE: <b>Vermont</b>	CODE <b>50</b>

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1970</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Vermont Division of Historic Sites</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Pavilion Building</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Montpelier</b>		STATE: <b>Vermont</b>	CODE <b>50</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Vermont  
COUNTY: Washington  
ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 13 1974  
DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Not far from its origin at Memorial Drive, Northfield Street rises southward up a steep rocky hill away from downtown Montpelier. On the western side of the gorge which this road ascends, overlooking the city, are perched two small structures.

Athenwood, the most striking and architecturally significant of the buildings, sits at the top of the hill. This small, one and a half story structure built upon a flat stone slab foundation and sheathed in board and batten is representative of "Rural Gothic" cottage building in its design and its relationship to the "rustic" setting.

Although the main block of the structure is essentially rectangular, a one story, enclosed entrance porch projects far enough from the front (east) elevation to suggest a cruciform plan. A window bay, similar in size and proportion to the porch, truncates the northern front corner. The main block is flanked by two wings, one extending north and one south from the rear of the side elevations.

Three large gables (one on the front (east) and one on each side elevation) define Athenwood's silhouette and dominate its form. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Originally a four gabled cupola sat at the point where these three gables intersect.

The entrance porch identifies the eastern elevation as the building's front. The door, constructed of diagonally set flush planks, bears the name of the house in carved Gothic letters. ("Athenwood" is derived from the synonym for Minerva Wood - the builder's wife.) Above this door is a carved ogee hoodmould in the form of two symmetrically arranged tulip leaves. The carver's penchant for animated and full bodied forms is also exhibited in the grape leaf and vine motif of the eaves underhanging the porch roof. The edge of this flat roof is adorned by an elaborately carved railing which was restored in 1973. Vertically aligned with the front door and tucked beneath the gable are French doors which open from the second floor onto the porch roof. This door is topped with a hoodmould identical to the one above the front door.

A pair of double-hung diamond paned windows, identical in size, proportion and ornamentation to the French doors, flank the porch. The exaggerated length of these windows and the door and their triangular arrangement within the steeply pitched gable accentuate Athenwood's "Gothic" characteristics of verticality and angularity. The emphatic triangular format of windows within gable is reflected in the structure's north and south elevation, although, in both cases, the wings interrupt the triangles. On the southern elevation a small lattice-work porch is

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Vermont	
COUNTY	Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUN 13 1974

Section 7 p. 2 (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

found at the intersection of the main body of the house and the kitchen-barn wing.

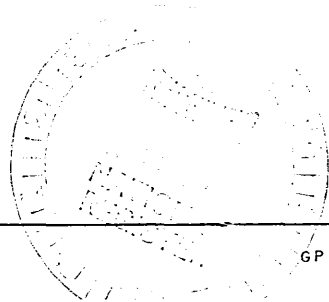
On both side elevations small diamond shaped windows pierce the gable just below its peak. The highly organic tulip leaf pattern and the plastic carving of the large barge boards on these gables are Athenwood's most distinctive features. This same motif is repeated in the dormer gables in the wings as well as in the hood-moulds of the windows and door.

The long, narrow second floor room contained within the central gable is the structure's most significant interior space. The design principles exhibited in Athenwood's exterior are reflected in the flattened gothic or "Tudor" arched ceiling which is punctuated at regular intervals by wooden ribs. At either end of each rib is a small (c. 6" high) marble head of Athena. The room terminates in the French door at the front of the house. Two smaller rooms, corresponding to the two side gables and set at right angles to the first, have similar ceilings.

The building and its setting have been somewhat altered since 1850. Approximately half of the arcaded barn wing (southern) is a later addition, and a fireplace and chimney have been removed from the northern wing. More significantly, Athenwood's front yard has been reduced in order to widen Northfield Street. It was after the front wall was cut back that the door was cut through the retaining wall to the cellar.

Proceeding north down the Northfield Street hill toward Montpelier, one encounters the structure which Wood built as his studio in the 1880's. This building has a more asymmetrical elevation than that of Athenwood. The one and a half story rectangular structure, set with its long axis parallel to the road, terminates in a three story tower at its southern end. A dormer fills the intersection of these two levels. A chimney breaks through the asphalt shingle roof of the lower section at the mid point, while a second exterior one rises along the southern wall.

Wooden lattice-work--the height of one story--skirts the base of the structure between the main floor and the rugged terrain, creating an uneven line where it meets the ground on the eastern elevation. On the north this screening meets the rubble foundation wall.



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

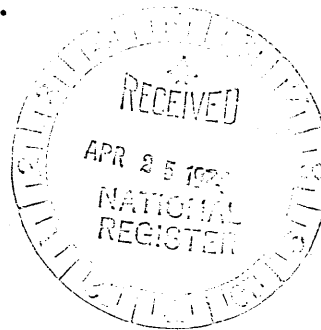
STATE	Vermont	
COUNTY	Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

Section 7 p. 3

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

While the studio is sheathed in clapboard, the two gables which are visible from Northfield Street are finished in board and batten and infilled with tulip leaf barge boards identical to those at Athenwood. Elaborate finials adorn the peaks of the gables. The pine and star pattern of the porch railing balances this elaborate carving on the first floor. The barge boards are such dominant features of Athenwood and the studio that they minimize the considerable differences in form and massing between the two buildings and cause them to appear to be very closely related. The impact of the design and detailing of Athenwood is also visible on numbers 31-33 and number 29 Northfield Street. These two earlier dwellings were both owned by Wood during the second half of the 19th century and were remodeled to include foliated brackets and eave mouldings.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1850 (Athenwood) 1880s (studio)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

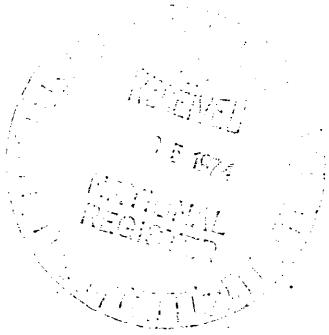
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Athenwood is an excellent example of mid 19th century suburban building in the "Rural Gothic" mode. Designed as a summer cottage by its owner Thomas Waterman Wood in 1850, the building strongly suggests a composite of pattern book illustrations by popular designers such as A. J. Davis and A. J. Downing. The highly plastic carved ornament, the most distinctive feature of Athenwood and the studio, is most probably attributable to Wood, who was trained as a cabinet maker, or to Franklyn Hoyt, a local carpenter.

Athenwood and the studio are an important part of Montpelier's visual and historic fabric. The two structures along the gorge provide a visually coherent and dramatic gateway to the city. Further, they serve as continuing evidence of the role Montpelier once played as a summer resort.

Athenwood and the studio are also significant for their association with Thomas Waterman Wood, a native and great benefactor of Montpelier, President of The National Academy and of The American Water Color Society, and one of the most popular painters of his time. Athenwood served as Wood's studio until the 1880s when he erected the separate building next door. Montpelier's citizens, from all walks of life and all strata of her society, served as the subjects and models for his paintings. In the late 19th century the artist and his cottage were so much a part of Montpelier's consciousness that legends, and even a poem, grew up around them.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Andrew Jackson, Cottage Residence, New York, 1848.

Colton, Mrs. Willard C. "Local Color in the Wood Art Gallery", reprint from the Montpelier Evening Argus, February 11, 1936, including a copy of "The Legend of St. Minnie".

Lipke, William C. Thomas Waterman Wood, exhibition catalogue, Wood Art Gallery, Montpelier, Vt., 1972.

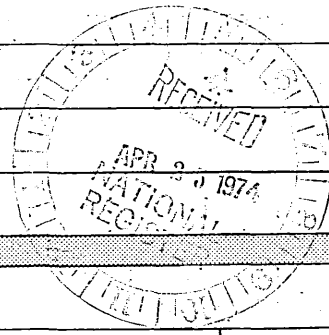
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	° ' "	° ' "	°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	44	15	22
SE	° ' "	° ' "	72	34	45
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



18/693220  
4902920  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Louise Romet, Research Assistant**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **3/15/74**

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 B. Pimey

Title Director of Historic Sites  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 4/18/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Auret A. Connally  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
Professional Services

Date JUN 13 1974

ATTEST:

Charles R. Henry  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-12-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Vermont	
COUNTY	Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUN 13 1974

(Continuation Sheet)

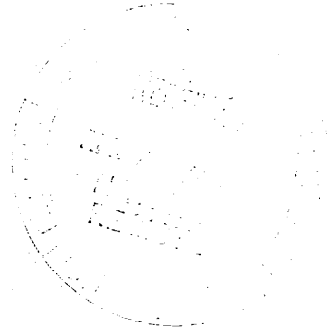
Section 9

(Number all entries)

Walker, G. H., lith., Montpelier, view, G. E. Norris, Brockton, Mass., 1884.

Wheelock and Dawley, Wheelock's Real Estate Business, Residence and Street Director for the City of Montpelier, Vt., Montpelier, 1898.

Wood, Thomas W., Account Book for 1850, Wood Art Gallery, Montpelier, Vt.



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

STATE	
Vermont	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1974

(Continuation Sheet)

**Section 4**

(Number all entries)

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Skerrett  
39 Northfield Street  
Montpelier, Vermont

50

