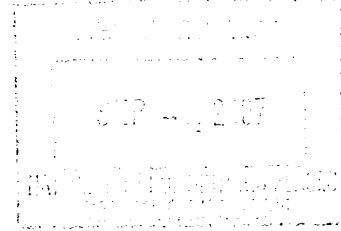


1095

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 by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 Billado Block

other names/site number Merchant's Bank

2. Location

street & number 371 Main Street not for publication n/a
city or town Enosburg vicinity _____
state Vermont code VT county Franklin code 011
zip code 05450

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne C. Gamble National Register Specialist 8-31-07
Signature of certifying official Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Late Victorian

Subcategory: Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

roof _____

walls Brick

other Storefront: Cast Iron

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce
Economics

Period of Significance c. 1885 to 1956

Significant Dates 1885
1905

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: Enosburg Public Library, Main Street, Enosburg Falls, VT; Enosburg Historical Society, Enosburg Falls, VT

Name of repository: University of Vermont, Bailey – Howe Library, Special Collections; Enosburg Public Library, Enosburg Falls, VT; Office of the Town Clerk, Enosburg Falls, VT; Enosburg Historical Society, Enosburg Falls, VT

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .26

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	673270	4975069	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	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 Elizabeth M. McGinnis
organization _____ date 10 December 2006
street & number 66 Ondaora Parkway #5 telephone (845) 446-1013
city or town Highland Falls state NY zip code 10928

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Merchant's Bank
street & number 371 Main Street telephone (802) 933-4386
city or town Enosburg state VT zip code 05450

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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on

the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

Exterior:

The Billado Block is an Italianate style, flat roofed, three story, four-by-six bay, rectangular plan, brick, commercial block, built c. 1885 as a general store at the north end of Main Street, on the northwest corner of Bismarck Street, in the village of Enosburg Falls, Vermont. With a granite foundation, the structure is constructed of American or Stretcher Bond pattern red brick. The Billado Block retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association. Main Street runs north/south in the center of the Enosburg Falls Downtown Historic District. Main Street extends from the railroad crossing on the north end to the junction of St. Albans Street and VT Route 108 on the south end. It is flanked on either side by an assortment of brick and frame, mostly two and three-story, buildings with storefronts on the first level and apartment dwellings on the upper floors.

The east, north, and south elevations of the Billado Block have identical, equally spaced, two-over-two, Italianate style windows. The windows on the west elevation are identical except for the placement on the upper two stories, which differs on the second story where two windows are paired at the third bay, and on both stories, where the first three bays are placed closer together, allowing a windowless wall expanse, and then the fourth bay at the corner. This wall expanse matches the placement of the interior staircase. The upper two stories, on all four elevations, have large, two-over-two, Italianate style, segmentally arched windows, with projecting brick hood moldings. The hood moldings crown from a central keystone, with slightly arching brick segments, and slight drip extensions, culminating in vertical capping with four-step drip molds. The wood frame windowsills are footed with two-step brick drip molds. Glass in the windows is largely original, especially on the upper floors. Other brick embellishments include stepped corner quoins.

The front, or east, elevation is perfectly symmetrical and retains its original detail. The foundation is composed of rough faced granite, above which rests a narrow brick water table beltcourse, not evident on this elevation due to the placement of entry steps. The cast iron storefront rests above, and has four main street-front plate glass windows, with rounded corners, and two recessed entries, each flanked by two large plate glass windows with rounded corners, corner columns with Doric shafts, and composite capitals. The framing of the windows, the doors, and the columns are of original cast iron. The doors and windows glass are replacements, and railings at each entrance were introduced to comply with safety code requirements. A corbelled and incised brick beltcourse sets above the storefront façade. A centered, equally segmented, quoined brick wall pilaster, echoing the corner pilasters, culminates at the top with a granite plaque inscribed *Billado Block 1885*. The smooth granite inset is embellished by a decorative brick surround. Set above this is an elaborately corbelled banded cornice. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

uppermost rows are two bands, of two layers each, of brick, the upper row projecting. The next row, receding the upper, is of indented brick resting upon a receded row of flat brick. Following, by another step back, is a band of alternating horizontally spaced brick corbels, consisting of two and four bricks alternating in triangular patterns, uniformly spaced as drip molds. The cornice drip molds are echoed in the design of the window drip molds and windowsill footings.

The south elevation fronting on Bismarck Street was originally entirely bricked on the first level. The narrow brick water table beltcourse sits atop the rough faced granite foundation. A projecting molded beltcourse appears on early photographs above the first story, but is now evidenced by a flat layer of narrow bricks. First story windows were introduced, most likely when the First National Bank of Enosburg Falls leased the corner of the storefront in 1905. The light was required for the transaction of business, as opposed to the previous shelving and displays employed by the general goods store operated by Mr. Billado. The later-introduced windows mirrored the two-over-two configuration of the original windows, however, their placement was irregular, numbered three (as opposed to the six bays on the upper two floors,) and replicated the Italianate style of the upper story windows without the hood detail. It should also be noted that as street paving was introduced to the roads, and sidewalks along the buildings, the granite foundation was less visible over time, as the street levels elevated. A tall side entry door in the first bay, with a segmental arch and glass transom remains, still on grade, but is sealed and unused. Basement transom windows are evident, however, they are mostly replacements.

The rear, or west, elevation has a covered ADA accessibility ramp and drive-through ATM for banking, composed of painted white wood, which is adjacent to the rear parking lot. The original rear door opening has been bricked over, and a new, wider door, compliant with ADA requirements, has been added. The upper two story windows, as previously described, had their fenestration due to the inner staircase. A narrow brick chimney rises near the center of the roof.

The north elevation is partially attached to a c.1965, single story, brick storefront, directly adjacent and fronting on Main Street. This structure was originally built c. 1940 by J. Henry Bouchard who owned the historic Darragh House directly next door to the Billado Block, and erected this structure, a restaurant, on his front lawn, directly adjoining the Billado Block. Though having changed hands, the business remains a restaurant. Its interior was remodeled in the late 1970s. The north elevation of the Billado Block is bricked on the first story with two-over-two, Italianate style, windows on the upper two stories, identical to the original fenestration of south elevation. The Darragh House is a contributing structure to the Enosburg Falls Downtown Historic District. Built by Dr. A.J. Darragh c.1869, it is a 2-1/2 story, 3 by 2 bay, gable front, brick Greek Revival/ Italianate structure that served as the office of Enosburg Falls' first resident physician.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

The intricately corbelled cornice is composed of a top level of two layers of narrow bricks, slightly overhanging a second level of two layers, above an incised layer of perfectly pointed edge-outward bricks laid at regular small intervals. The incised layer sits atop a lateral layer of equally sized narrow bricks. Below that layer, the corbelling is evident, in that the bricks establish a pattern of alternating two level, and four level, decreasing, triangular, projecting, stepped, corbels spanning the entire roofline of the Billado structure. The cornice culminates on the bottom with a slightly projected narrow brick band upon which the graduated narrowest level of the larger, four brick corbels appear (from street level) to touch. However, the ends of the corbels are above the band, and the band appears to serve as a drip mechanism. The carefully crafted cornice is a marvel of architecture in brick. It has remained a solid element of the Billado Block since it was built. Equally so, the crowned segmental brick hoods of the numerous windows on all four elevations were also carefully crafted with arches culminating in a keystone with brick steps on either side, and stepped brick feet under the wooden window sills.

Interior:

The first story interior is currently the branch office of the Merchant's Bank and has been substantially altered with interior applications. These include acoustical tile ceilings, wall covers, and area dividers, however, preserved elements of the original interior are evident in the rear hallway, including a tin ceiling and vertical wainscoting.

The apartments on the second floor are accessed by way of a rear staircase that enters from a central, wide, L-shaped hallway. Distinctive features of the apartments include wood panel doors, original hardware, storage cupboards (both attached and recessed, including shelves on the upper portions and drawers on the lower portions), period wallpaper, moldings, and wood floors. The north side apartment appears to have had a relatively large kitchen on the north west corner of the floor. The apartments are light and airy, due to the great number, height, and regular spacing of the large, two-over-two windows. Aside from access from the hallway, the apartments appear to have been enlarged or made smaller, by way of adding or subtracting a room from each other, over time, depending upon the needs of the inhabitants. The rooms, some quite large, and others smaller, generally elaborate on the window sides of the floor, with the main hall and stair landing serving as the anchor. There appears to have been two apartments on the second floor. A portion of the South side apartment was used, at one time, as office space by the bank. The office set-up is still evident, however, it was a retrofit on the apartment space without materially affecting the interiors of the rooms

The third story is a vast, mostly open, area, which may have served as storage, packaging and organizational area for the original general store. The walls and ceiling are paneled with horizontal narrow wooden wainscoting. The rear wall (the west elevation) has a *Morse Elevator Works* iron grain elevator, open on this (3rd) floor, but in wooden housing on the first and second floors. Supplies were presumably loaded on the lift on the first floor, and taken to the third floor for storage, sorting and packaging.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 8 Page 1Billado BlockEnosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

The Billado Block is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an individual site for its historic (criterion A) and architectural merit (criterion C) as an emblem of the commercial prosperity and growth of Enosburg Falls in an era that experienced the arrival of the railroad, the growth of the milling and farming businesses, and the production of medicines, notably the Kendall's Spavin Cure. It is currently listed in the Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey as a contributing building (site # 3) in the Enosburg Falls Downtown Historic District. The Billado Block is the oldest standing brick commercial building in the village, built c. 1885 by general store operator William H. Billado. The building's significance is underscored by the loss to fire of the Depatie Block, located across the street on the opposite corner of Bismarck Street and Main Street, on the morning of February 2, 2005.¹

Long a center of agriculture, Enosburg Falls is located in Franklin County in northwestern Vermont on the Missisquoi River, at the Falls. The development of Enosburg Falls was dramatically enhanced when the Missisquoi Valley Railroad reached the town, and a major depot in Enosburg Falls became operational in 1871. The heart of commerce, during that time, shifted from Enosburg Center (a neighboring town) to the Falls. Regional farming had shifted from sheep raising to dairy farming by the 1850s. The "go west" movement of the 1840s to 1850s, and the Civil War had depleted the labor force considerably, as large numbers of the population left. The population of the Town of Enosburg numbered 2,077 in 1870, and rose to its highest level in the 19th century in 1890, with a population of 2,299.² The advances in design of horse drawn machinery, in addition to the means (by railroad) of transporting such machinery, enabled the farming industry to continue to grow, despite labor shortages. The dairy industry, by way of the railroad, was now equipped with the means to transport goods, particularly fluid milk³, to the markets of the large cities, such as Boston and New York. Production could be sent on the Missisquoi Valley Railroad to the depot at Richford to the east, and St. Albans to the west, where the major north-south railroad lines joined it. The agricultural labor force was generally housed on the farms on which they worked.

Many creameries were located in the Enosburg Falls area, and in the 1870s this section of the state was known as "the Buttertub of America." Today, Enosburg proudly calls itself the "Dairy Center of the World."⁴

The railroad development, and ensuing commerce, prompted a business building boom along Main Street, and many new side streets and houses were built. The original businesses and major structures in Enosburg Falls were:

a woolen factory, tannery, saw and grist mill, harness shop, three stores, tin shop, shoe shop, hotel, Catholic Church, and Union Church.⁵

¹ *County Courier* (Enosburg Falls), 3 February 2005, page 3.

² Janice Fleury Gerau, *Enosburgh, Vermont*, (Enosburg Falls, Vermont: The Enosburgh Historical Society, Inc., 1985), p. 220.

³ Gerau, p. 28.

⁴ Robert C. Jones, *Railroads of Vermont, Volume II* (Shelburne, Vermont: The New England Press, 1993), p. 66.

⁵ Gerau, p. 137.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

The village became a major retail center, and many of the new buildings included storefronts on the street level, with employee or owner apartments on the upper stories. The many retailers in Enosburg Falls included an “artist, designer, and wood engraver”, a “photographer and dealer in fancy dry goods...and Butterick’s patterns”, a “watchmaker and jeweler”, a “milliner”, a “teacher of vocal and instrumental music, and agent for organs”, a “manufacturer and retailer of wagons and sleighs”, and general merchandisers who sold boots and shoes, ready-made clothing, dry goods, crockery, hardware, agricultural instruments, grain, flour, groceries, trunks, sewing machines, etc. Services for a variety of needs were also provided by many businesses, among them: sewing and laundry, shoemaker, cooper, carriage repair, auctioneer, butcher, and pharmacy. In addition, many of the residents of the town were well-educated professionals such as bankers, lawyers, doctors, and business owner-investors.⁶ Many residential streets became populated with houses to accommodate this constituency. Businesses related to construction and manufacture thrived, producing doors, sashes, and:

all kinds of job work, and the manufacture of boxes for the spavin cure works and other patent medicine factories of the village and vicinity.⁷

The acquisition of horses increased dramatically in the 1870s with the utilization of farm machinery and the greater possession of individual carriages for transportation by an increasingly prosperous population. Enosburg Falls, also became known as a center for the production of patent medicines, notably, Kendall’s Spavin Cure for horses, widely sold beginning in the early 1880s, and elixirs and tonics for humans to treat afflictions of throat, chest, kidney, liver and lungs. Dr. B.J.Kendall developed the cures and was, when his developments were recognized, quickly invested in the late 1870s by local interests, including successful farmer Carmi L. Marsh (for whom Lake Carmi is named), and local businessmen Olin Merrill, and M.P Perley⁸. The partnership was not an agreeable one, and by 1884, Dr. Kendall had resigned his position in the company, having had divergence with the investors. In 1889, Kendall sold his stock back to the other proprietors and retired from any connection with the company.⁹ His remarkable medicine production included:

Kendall’s liver and kidney cure, Kendall’s sarsaparilla and iron, elixir, cordial, pain cure, pills, soothing syrup, condition powders, and, lastly, superior healing oil, and the Kendall’s Spavin Cure.

The products were distributed nationwide, and to Canada and Australia.¹⁰ The company continued its operation for a hundred years, when the remaining heirs of the original investors sold it to a Boston veterinary medicine producer in 1957.

⁶ Hamilton Child, *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, VT for 1882-83*, p. 312 - 318.

⁷ Lewis Cass Aldrich, *History of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, Vermont* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., 1891), p. 445.

⁸ Aldrich, p. 442.

⁹ Ibid. p. 442.

¹⁰ Gerau, p. 151.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

In 1876, William H. Billado (born 1848, died 1925) moved to Enosburg Falls from Canada, and, with his wife, Jennie (nee Willard, born 1851, died 1931,) began a retail business on South Main Street. In the *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, VT, for 1882-83*, Billado was listed as follows:

BILLADO WILLAM H., (Enosburgh Falls) dealer in dry goods, groceries, ready-made clothing, hats, caps, boots, shoes, painter's supplies, crockery, hardware, agriculture implements, trunks, traveling bags, New American sewing machines, etc. Main.¹¹

Having moved his business to various locations along Main Street for several years, Billado bought a lot of land on North Main Street from A.B. and Mary M. Harris on October 18, 1884 for fifteen hundred dollars.¹² Billado proceeded to build the brick commercial block, known as the Billado Block, which would remain the location of his general goods store, even after his death. In June of 1905, when the First National Bank of Enosburg Falls was established, it leased an office in the south corner area of the first floor of the Billado Block.¹³ The bank had a net worth of \$ 467,000 and its president was Olin Merrill,¹⁴ an original investor in Kendall's Spavin Cure, among many others.

The proximity to the source of cash (i.e. the bank) was a great advantage to the General Goods Store. Billado frequently advertised that he "offered his entire stock at cost,"¹⁵ such as the ad in the *Enosburg Falls Opera House Program* of 1897. Another large advertisement was under the banner of "The Cash Store", listing goods "in endless variety at wholesale and retail."¹⁶

A circa 1902 advertisement for the W.H. Billado General Store in the *Supplement to the Enosburg Standard Newspaper* shows an illustration of the commercial block with metal cresting along the roofline. The elaborate cresting also is visible in an early, c. 1890, photograph¹⁷, however, it appears to have been removed in the early 20th century. A later photograph (c.1915 – 1920) of the Billado Block shows a square cupola centered on the roof, and a one-story covered projecting balcony centered on the second story of the front elevation¹⁸. These features were not original, appearing to have been introduced for only a short period, and ultimately removed. The 1970s façade, which covered the original cast iron entries, has been removed to reveal their remarkably preserved condition.

¹¹ Child, p. 313.

¹² Recorded Volume 24, p. 504, Land Records of Town of Enosburg.

¹³ Recorded Volume 30, p. 160, Land Records of Town of Enosburg.

¹⁴ Annual Report of the Inspector of Finance, State of Vermont, June 30, 1905, p. 38-9.

¹⁵ Gerau, p. 177.

¹⁶ *Supplement to the Enosburg Standard*, 1902, unpagued.

¹⁷ Collection of the Enosburgh Historical Society.

¹⁸ Gerau, p. 143.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

The second floor of the Billado Block was clearly used for residential purposes. The floor appears to be originally used as two apartments. It is possible that Mr. and Mrs. Billado occupied one apartment, with the second occupied by their daughter Frances Billado Burt and her family. The rooms are large, and well appointed, with hardwood floors and decorative molding. The wallpaper is stylish and has not faded, which leads one to believe that it was of a superior quality. It is clear that the banking operation used two rooms on the second floor (closest to the staircase in the rear.) In all likelihood, this occurred after the bank acquired the entire space in 1960.

The third floor is entirely wainscoted and has the appearance to have always been used for inventory storage. There is a rare occasional division of space, and no interior doors. It is finely finished both in ceiling and floor.

Prior to W.H. Billado's death in December of 1925, he settled accounts with several mortgagors, primarily the bank, and the property transferred to the bank (First National Bank of Enosburgh Falls.) A lease arrangement for his daughter, Frances Billado Burt (born 1873, died 1955), allowed her to continue to run the General Goods Store. She sold her business in the early 1940s to furniture dealer F. Roy Fullington,¹⁹ who continued his retail establishment, primarily a furniture store, until 1960. In 1960, the Enosburgh Falls National Bank (successor to the First National Bank of Enosburgh Falls, which failed after the market crash of 1929) expanded to the entire first floor of the Billado Block.²⁰

Several bank successions have occurred over time in the Billado Block:

First National Bank of Enosburgh Falls	established	April	1905
Enosburgh Falls National Bank	established	February	1934
Sterling Trust Company	by merger	January	1976
Merchants Bank	by merger	April	1985

The Merchants Bank currently operates a branch utilizing the entire first floor of the building.

Principal artifacts of the General Store and of the successor banks remain in the archives of the Enosburg Historical Society. These artifacts include a tall, blackened tin with the name "W.H. Billado" printed on it, bills of sale, and advertising from the General Store. Bankbooks, medallions, banknotes and promotional materials of the banks are also in the collection.

The importance in historic merit (Criterion A) of the Billado Block in the period of history from 1885 to 1956 is evident in its continuous contribution to the commercial, economic, and financial livelihood of the community, spanning many eras of change. The General Store continued serving the community for a period of nearly sixty years, from the initial construction of the building by W.H. Billado for his business, and ancillary residential living space,

¹⁹ Gerau p.159.

²⁰ Gerau, p.159.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

until his daughter sold the business in the 1940s. The banking establishment, despite the setback of the bank failure in the 1930s, flourished, precipitating expansion to the entire first floor of the building in the 1960s, and its continuance in business to the present.

The north-south Main Street is the focus of the village of Enosburg Falls, with Church Street running parallel to the west, and both intersected by the east-west streets of Bismark Street, Pearl Street and St. Albans Street. The buildings on the south end of Main Street were primarily residential and included the Samuel Kendall House (# 29), a brick Federal style house built in 1829 situated close to the Kendall family owned woolen mill on the Falls and a frame Greek Revival style house (#71) built c. 1850 by a Kendall son. The H. Hall house (#27) is a c. 1840 brick Greek Revival dwelling. The commercial brick Aseltine-Greenwood Block was built c.1890 on the opposite side of Main Street from the Billado Block. The significance of the Billado Block in its architectural prominence on Main Street in Enosburgh Falls is especially felt in this time of great loss to fire on the morning of February 2, 2005²¹ of the neighboring Burt-Depatie Block, which had been located on the same side of Main Street, on the opposite corner of Bismarck Street from the Billado Block. The c. 1885-1900, frame, two-story, commercial structure stood next to the brick, Queen Anne style influenced, Merrill Block (c. 1889), which was saved from the fire. Aside from the six active commercial storefronts lost, there were eight fully inhabited residential apartments destroyed in the blaze. The building was deemed irreparable and the remains of the fire leveled.

The Billado Block is architecturally significant because of its design and durability. The structure is orderly and balanced in its fenestration, and its abundance of windows allow the infiltration of natural light throughout the structure, making it an ideal space for a store and permitting a gracious environment within the second story apartments and the third story inventory storage area. Its architectural merit (Criterion C) can be observed in its Italianate style, with well preserved architectural details including the original brick corbelled cornice on all elevations, segmentally arched decorative brick window hoods, and the cast iron storefront, solidly in place. The wood frame windows are original with few replaced panes of glass. Despite elevations of the (Main) street with paving along the years, the foundation has remained solid, made of granite, a Vermont quarried resource available in the 1880s. The Billado Block is unique in origination, built by a successful merchant for his own use, and remains unique in its ability to withstand the test of time and taste, now returning to its original state. W.H. Billado, a man of experience, commercial acumen, and determination conceived of and oversaw the exceptional craftsmanship of the finely laid brickwork creating the Billado Block. Unlike most of the builders of commercial buildings in the town, Billado was self-made as a merchant and is highly symbolic of the era of his greatest success.

Perfectly balanced in massing and in decorative elements, the structure has a level of quality that was a source of pride in workmanship in the 1880s, and is virtually a lost art in the execution of brick buildings in the present. Sited on a corner of the Main Street of Enosburg Falls, the Billado Block is visually strong and beautiful, and remains a remarkably stalwart example of the refined building arts of its day. It is a tribute to the individuals and institutions with the foresight to maintain it, and its stately presence has encouraged preservation by all of its owners.

²¹ *St. Albans Messenger* (St..Albans, VT), 03 February 2005, Page 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Billado Block

Enosburg, Franklin County, Vermont

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Billado Block form an irregular lot beginning at the southwestern corner of the grantors garden lot in the easterly line of Main Street, thence northerly following in said street a distance of twenty-three feet, thence in a southeasterly direction eleven rods (181.5 feet) to a point just seventeen feet and six inches north of the grantors south line, thence in a northerly direction eleven rods to the beginning point. Refer to Deed (liber 24/ pp. 506-7) at the office of the Town Clerk, Main Street, Enosburg Falls, Vermont.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is the lot historically associated with the Billado Block.

