

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Governor Jonas Galusha Homestead  
AND/OR COMMON (Same)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Route 7  
CITY, TOWN Center Shaftsbury VICINITY OF Vermont  
STATE Vermont CODE 50 COUNTY Bennington CODE 03

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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. & Mrs. A. Ranney Galusha  
STREET & NUMBER R.R. 1, Box 101  
CITY, TOWN Shaftsbury VICINITY OF Vermont

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey  
DATE 1937  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN Washington, D.C. STATE (See Continuation Sheet 6-1)

# 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

The Governor Jonas Galusha house, a detached dwelling situated on the west side of the main north-south highway in Center Shaftsbury at the highest point on U.S. Route 7 between New York and Montreal, combines a 1783 1½-story rear section (20' x 30') and an 1805 2½-story rectangular front section (20' x 47'). The front, 5-bay Federal style building, of braced frame timber construction, sits on a marble block foundation quarried on the adjacent West Mountain, while the older rear section, plank-walled with an attached 20' x 40' braced-frame shed, rests on a dry-laid fieldstone foundation. A full basement extends under both sections of the house, the rear having a dirt floor and rainwater cistern, the front paved with slabs of marble.

Reputed to have been designed by the noted Bennington master-builder Lavius Fillmore, (See Bennington Congregational Church, entered in the National Register April 24, 1973) the front section is a one room deep I-house with inside end-chimneys, and a center entrance and stair hall flanked by one room on each floor. A Doric triglyph frieze (with no architrave), modillion cornice with full returns, and symmetrically paired windows flanking the finely-denticulated entrance porch and the Palladian window above it, present a serenely elegant front to the road. The Palladian window exhibits a characteristic Fillmore adaptation in the arched heads of the side-lights, a detail repeated in several local houses attributed to him in Old Bennington, North Bennington, and South Shaftsbury. In maintaining the horizontal proportions of the house, Fillmore, or perhaps Galusha, allowed the window's center arch to protrude up into the frieze, a violation of classical precedents which in no way detracts from the repose of the entire composition.

Blinds and a simple architrave enclose 1840's 6/6 sash in all but one window; the splayed lintels of the first floor windows have hand-carved reeded wooden keystones, unusual in a rural farmhouse. The modillions in the cornice and rake are simply but skillfully decorated with a regular pattern of drilled holes, with guttae properly carried beneath the triglyphs, a detail often omitted in American Doric applications. The whole is suitably proportioned to carry the slope of the eave. The roof of the main block is standing-seam tin-plate in two-foot pans, the chimneys corbelled and capped in marble, and flanked in the gables by pairs of lunette windows made by Jonas Galusha. Both front and rear sections are clad in bevelled siding stopped against plain, narrow cornerboards. The slate roof on the older rear section covers the original wood shingle roof, and the shared wall between the two sections is nogged with brick.

The floor of the central entrance porch is marble, also from West Mountain, on which rests the pedestals for Tuscan columns, one of which has been unskillfully repaired, leaving a noticeable bulge in contrast to the normal entasis. Framed by 12-light double hung side-lights and a molded architrave surround inside engaged Tuscan columns, the 9-panel front door boasts a wrought-iron tulip latch and strap hinges, made by the Governor, who also hand-crafted most of the hinges and latches throughout the house, including the ingenious hinges and flat spring-and-cam latch on the second floor south bedroom. As the door opens, the hinge automatically lifts the door over the rug.

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Originally two fireplaces on each of the two chimneys at each side of the house served to warm the four rooms. The north (right) side fireplaces were replaced with parlor stoves during the mid-19th century modernization. Beneath 19th century panelling and wide baseboard trim are remnants of a blue and red stencil pattern on the original plaster wall. The marble facings and soapstone backings of the fireplaces were materials readily available locally. Red and blue swag stencilling has been restored in the front hall, the design being common to several contemporary houses including the Hinsdill house in North Bennington and the Barrows House in Dorset, where members of the Hinsdill family also lived. The south (left) parlor has seen numerous changes, but retains the fireplace, fitted with a stove cast at the Bennington Furnace near Woodford, and a cuddy beside the chimney. The doorknobs are Bennington pottery. Until 1968, fireplaces and stoves provided the only heat in the house.

The open-string formal front stairs have tiger maple treads, risers and balusters, and a cherry bannister; the turned balusters and all slightly different, the stair-end brackets somewhat thick and clumsy. The second floor hall is flooded with light filtering through the hand-made glass set in a graceful, lightly-beaded frame with fluted pilasters and arched heads of the Palladian window. A full window seat conceals storage beneath.

The south bedroom has cased and beaded gunstock corner posts, plain chair-rail moulding, and a simple 4-panel fireplace frame, cheerfully violating classical design dogma with a stile falling on axis. Over the plain mantle is an elegant freehand-painted floral pattern with black 2-handled vase. A number of pieces of the Governor's furniture have returned to family service in this room. The entire wall surface of the bedroom is hand-decorated with deft floral arabesques, the creation of an unknown itinerant painter said to be liquidating a debt. More of his handiwork appears in the north bedroom, which has seen several remodellings, but is now restored, and boasts the only original 12/12 sash left in the house. Original wide floorboards remain intact throughout the house, but are covered by newer flooring in several areas. In the attic, 4 x 4 rafters are pinned together without a ridgeboard, and the whipsaw marks are visible on the undersides of the roofboards.

The hand-hewn framing of the rear portion (1783) is separate from but tied to the rough-sawn framing of the newer front structure by metal pins; the junction has been left visible behind a corner cabinet. The borning room and dining room downstairs, and 4 small bedrooms up a steep set of stairs, all exhibit characteristic 18th century features: narrow, pegged doors, low ceilings, spatter-painting, simple trim, wide floorboards and plastered plank walls. The kitchen area has been extensively remodelled and extended into the shed for modern convenience. Renovation work disclosed the fact that siding on the 1783 section was secured with screws, as hand-wrought nails bent in the hickory and chestnut framing and plank siding.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The house is situated near the southeast corner of the 174 acre property, originally granted in 1761 by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth to Phineas Nash. Galusha was, by turns, blacksmith, farmer, and carpenter, requiring a number of outbuildings, none of which remain today, although the continuous use of the land for farming for 200 years has resulted in a collection of newer (post-1870) barns and sheds, perpetuating the appearance of a self-sufficient farm unit. Currently, these consist of two hay barns, a garage barn, and four sheds, all detached and situated to either side of the lane running back to the mountain from just north of the house.

The front or eastern half of the property, adjacent to the highway, continues to produce row and field crops, while the rear portion, on the southeastern slope of West Mountain, is woodlot and turkey cover. A lawn and several handsome shade trees around the house are surrounded on three sides by farm fields that look much as they must have when Vermont's fifth governor lived and worked here. Newer residential structures to the south and across the road, the overhead utility lines, and the pavement with its increasing traffic are the only reminders that over two centuries have passed since this farm was cleared.

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After Jonas Galusha's death in 1834, his youngest daughter Abigail lived here until her death in 1865. The following year her husband sold the property to a Joel Harrington and moved west, taking with him much of the Governor's furniture. Two succeeding generations of Harringtons lived in the house, and in 1960 the homestead returned to a direct descendant of Jonas Galusha, Albert Ranney Galusha, the present owner and resident.

The property included with this nomination consists of 174 acres, more or less, and with the exception of four and one half acres which were sold off in the mid-20th century, is the same parcel which was owned and productively managed by Governor Galusha. The property was assembled by Galusha from smaller parcels over a three year period (1779-1782) directly preceding the construction of the oldest section of the house, and was associated with the Governor for the next 52 years, until his death in 1834. It is uncommon in the late 1970's for such a large parcel of land with direct historical associations to remain intact under single ownership, and it is because of its associations with the Governor that it is included in this nomination.

The Galusha homestead provides an excellent example of the pragmatic synthesis of frontier self-sufficiency and cultural refinement so characteristic of the State's early leaders. Drawing on the most advanced political and cultural ideas of his day, Jonas Galusha helped shape with his own hands both a fitting country seat and a remarkable political system, at the moment of the Nation's birth. It is to the able leadership of men such as Galusha that Vermont and the Nation owe many of their enduring humanistic qualities. The timely strength and beauty of his work is nowhere more evident than in the fine craftsmanship readily evident in the home he built in Shaftsbury.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION	
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE	
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE	
___1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	XMILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER	
X1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION	
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		___INVENTION			

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SPECIFIC DATES      1783 and 1805                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Lavius Fillmore

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Governor Jonas Galusha house and farm maintain a direct link between the present and the early years of the Nation and the State of Vermont, both in their appearance and in the association with their builder, the fifth Governor of Vermont. Jonas Galusha (1753-1834) was active in public service during his entire adult life. He served at the Battle of Hubbardton and as a Captain at the Battle of Bennington, both in the summer of 1777. As Bennington County sheriff from 1781 to 1787, he was responsible for preventing continuation of Shay's rebellion. Galusha served on Vermont's Council of Censors from 1793 to 1806, excluding the year 1800. From 1795 he was judge of the county court until appointed to the State Supreme Court in 1807. He resigned in 1809 to run for governor, serving nine terms (1809-12, 1815-19). Jonas Galusha was also a presidential elector in 1808, 1820, 1824, and 1828.

The son of Jacob Galusha and Lydia Huntington, he was born in Norwich, Connecticut on February 11, 1753. Twenty years later he settled in Shaftsbury, Vermont, from the iron working area of Salisbury, Connecticut. Here young Jonas fabricated nails and hardware when not helping on the family farm. He married Mary Chittenden, daughter of Thomas Chittenden who was president of the independent republic of Vermont until it was admitted to the United State in 1791 as the 14th state.

With the help of his three brothers, Jonas built this home which is noted for its dignified appearance and architectural refinement. It is reputed to have been designed by Lavius Fillmore, architect of the Congregational churches in Old Bennington and Middlebury, the Munro-Hawkins house in South Shaftsbury, the David Robinson house in Old Bennington and the Hinsdill house in North Bennington. Galusha forged much of the hardware for his house himself, and executed a number of the notable details, including fireplace panelling and the gable lunettes. Other than the replacement of original sash with 6/6 in the 1840's, and the remodelling of the kitchen area in 1968, all of the significant architectural features remain as they were originally constructed.

The architectural sophistication shows the taste of the Governor, and may relate to the fact that he was the leading exponent of the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson in Vermont. It is therefore not surprising that both of their homes include similar treatments of frieze, cornice and stairs in the Doric style, which is architecturally defined as "suitable for buildings dedicated to peace and tranquility - - home of men of martial quality".

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9-1.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY + 174

E: 18/ 646170/4761590

UTM REFERENCES

F: 18/646310/4761590

A | 18 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 47 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 18 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 60 | 7 | 4 | 0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 18 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 0 |

D | 18 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 0 |

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the Governor Jonas Galusha house and outbuildings, and the associated 174 acres (more or less) presently owned by Mr. & Mrs. A. Ranney Galusha, being the same property acquired by them from the estate of Joel P. Harrington through Alma E. Harrington, Administratrix, by deed of November 12, 1960, and recorded in the Shaftsbury Land Records, Book 45, page 461 A. Reference is made to the enclosed USGS map, Bennington quadrangle. The boundary of the nominated property thus corresponds exactly with the boundaries of said parcel as recorded in the Shaftsbury Land Records.

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

Thomas Keefe

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

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 P. Pinner*

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

9-18-79

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

*Charles Oshull*

DATE

11-30-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST *William P. Pinner*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/29/79

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey  
1973 State  
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation  
Pavilion Building  
Montpelier Vermont

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PAGE 1

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