

2069

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **SEP 26 1988**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Nathan Allen House (preferred)

and or common Batease-Mars House

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route 30 N/A not for publication

city, town Pawlet vicinity of

state Vermont code 50 county Rutland code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Max L. and Christine R. Crossman

street & number P. O. Box 56

city, town Pawlet N/A vicinity of state Vermont 05761

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Town Clerk

street & number N/A

city, town Pawlet state Vermont 05761

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont 05602

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Located on the hill-flanked bottomland of the agricultural Mettawee River valley, the Nathan Allen House and two related outbuildings form the nineteenth-century architectural core of a now-subdivided dairy farm complex. The transitional Federal-Greek Revival style (c. 1834), two-and-one-half story house of marble-trimmed brick construction carries a slate-shingled gable roof with rebuilt quadrant chimneys. The symmetrical five-bay main (east) eaves facade includes a sidelighted central entrance and enlarged first-story window openings. The entire three-bay south gable elevation was rebuilt in 1983. A smaller-scaled brick ell and a wood-framed wing are attached to the rear (west) and north elevations, respectively. Standing southwest of the house are an extended wood-framed, gable-roofed horse barn and a small shed. Although allowed to deteriorate in recent decades, the house retains essentially its historic character and is currently undergoing a comprehensive rehabilitation for adaptive use as medical offices.

The Nathan Allen House is situated about one mile north of Pawlet village in the valley of the northward-flowing Mettawee River. The relatively flat bottomland expands to about one-third mile in width in the vicinity of the house, which stands near its east margin while the river follows the west edge. Mostly forested hills rise above the 600-foot elevation of the valley; so-called Scott Mountain ascends steeply to 1600 feet on the west side and the gentler slopes of Town Hill reach 1300 feet on the east side.

The valley remains predominantly agricultural in character. A series of farmsteads occupies the bottomland, being mostly active commercial dairy farms. Their building complexes are comprised of both connected and detached buildings of various types. The buildings are surrounded by cropland and pastures, the latter extending onto the lower hillsides to the east. A two-lane paved highway, Vermont Route 30, links the farmsteads while traversing the valley; it serves as a principal route through the west-central region of the state.

The Nathan Allen House is associated with an historic farm complex bisected by the highway. In 1983, the house and two detached outbuildings on the west side of the highway were subdivided from surrounding farmland and the large dairy barn sited across the highway. The dairy barn, related outbuildings, and farmland continue in active operation under separate ownership, and therefore are excluded from this National Register nomination. A thorough rehabilitation of the nearly derelict Allen House undertaken by the current owners in 1986 will entail its adaptation to medical offices and an apartment.

The three buildings now being nominated to the National Register constitute a distinct middle nineteenth-century farm complex. The present dairy barn across the highway was constructed in 1903, and then altered and extended in 1957; the related silos and sheds are also twentieth century in origin. In contrast, the brick main block of the Allen House was erected circa 1834, and the wood-framed north wing was added probably circa 1870. A short distance southwest of the house stands a wood-framed horse barn of extended English type, built probably within a decade or so of the house and extended southward later in the century. To the rear (west) of the barn is a small nineteenth-century shed. Until its

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demolition circa 1955, a smaller-scaled north shed wing of the barn nearly connected to the west ell of the house. An English-type cow barn stood north of the house in the same alignment; it was dismantled after the new dairy barn was constructed across the then-dirt road.

Oriented parallel to the highway, the main block of the Allen House possesses a rectangular plan of 42 by 32.5 feet and rises two and one-half stories. Resting on a coursed rubble foundation, the red brick walls of the east (main), north, and west elevations are laid up in six-course American bond. The window and door openings are framed with dressed white marble lintels and reeded marble lugsills. A projecting molded cornice follows both the horizontal and raking eaves with returns on the north and south gable ends.

Rebuilt following damage by a circa 1940 fire, the shallow-pitched gable roof is framed with replacement common rafters and the charred original major purlins, and is shingled with mixed green and red slate. An interior end chimney with corbeled cap surmounts each quadrant of the roof. All four chimneys have been rebuilt in 1986 to match their appearance in a circa 1870 photograph. Two of the original chimneys had been removed earlier this century and the other two were in deteriorated condition.

The main (east) eaves facade presents to the highway a five-bay symmetrical arrangement. The central entrance comprises a molded six-panel door flanked by pairs of slender smooth pilasters with unmolded paneled bases and simple molded capitals. Set within each pair of pilasters are half-length, three-over-three sidelights above molded lower panels. The entrance steps consist of a broad rectangular rough marble slab abutted on the three outer sides by a narrow lower step. The first-story window openings were enlarged probably in the 1870s by having their sills lowered to accommodate taller two-over-two sash, replacing the original twelve-over-twelve sash. On the second story, the two-over-two sash were installed in the original openings.

The three-bay south gable elevation contrasts with the historic fabric of the other elevations. In 1983, the original south wall was demolished (pulled down by cable) owing to severe structural deterioration. It was then reconstructed as a veneer of salvaged mixed-color brick (including incompletely fired brick not previously exposed) applied in stretcher bond to a concrete-block structural wall; some of the softer bricks have already begun to spall severely. Placed in the original arrangement, the window and door openings were framed with the original marble lintels but the window sills had been broken during the demolition and were not used; during the 1986 rehabilitation, new dressed marble sills have been installed. The two-over-two sash on the main stories match those on the east facade while a

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twelve-over eight sash has been restored to the gable window. The off-center doorway was reduced somewhat from its original dimensions during the 1983 reconstruction; in 1986, a new paneled door with large upper light (modeled on the previous door) was fitted to the opening.

Projecting from the rear (west) elevation of the main block, a one-and-one-half story, gable-roofed kitchen ell of 20 by 24 feet matches its historic materials. The ell's three-bay south eaves elevation is flush with the main block's south elevation. An off-center entrance retains marble lintel, sill (deeply cupped by wear), and steps but has a modern door. The rear (west) gable elevation is blank except for a reduced two-over-two sash in the gable.

On the north gable elevation of the main block, only the left-bay openings are exposed on the first and second stories next to the attached north wing. The first-story entrance incorporates a recessed replacement door and two-light transom below a marble lintel; the reveal is sheathed with beaded matched boards. The gable window of reduced size is fitted with a two-over-two sash.

The one-and-one-half story, wood-framed north wing of 28 by 25.5 feet was mostly reclapboarded in 1986. The gable roof is shingled with mixed-color slate of inferior grade. The downward slope of the ground exposes almost fully the north basement wall built of mortared slate blocks (probably scrap from a local quarry) with an off-center entrance.

The four-bay east eaves front of the wing is recessed seven feet from the facade line of the main block. An unsheltered entrance with modern door occurs between the left and central window bays, which retain the original six-over-six sash and plain surrounds common to the wing. On the three-bay north gable elevation, a small modern window has been installed on the right while a reduced two-over-two sash lights the gable. An open deck has been added in 1986 to serve an entrance on the rear (west) elevation.

The interior of the house's main block is arranged in a Georgian floor plan. On the first floor, the center stair hall is flanked by northeast and southeast parlors. The dining room occupies the southwest quadrant while a smaller room (with shifted east wall) adjoins on the northwest. The kitchen ell contains its namesake room, distinguished by beaded matched wainscoting; the northeast section is partitioned into a large pantry that replaced a massive fireplace whose brick foundation survives in the cellar.

The center hall is bisected by a partition (plastered like the walls and ceilings generally) that encloses the stair. A semielliptical arch with reeded intrados crowns the stair opening. Like those in the flanking rooms,

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the door openings have architrave surrounds; the six-panel doors have flush beading on one side only. The stepped-out baseboard carries a top molding.

The parlors share latter nineteenth-century window casings with smooth surfaces and bullseye corner blocks that were installed when the windows were enlarged. The north parlor retains a fireplace with marble hearth and reeded firebox sidewalls but its wood surround now lacks the original trim and mantelshelf below the plastered breast. The south parlor may have lost a counterpart fireplace when the original south wall was demolished in 1983 (its replacement is now being sheathed with gypsum board). The river-stone fireplace added against the north wall in the late 1930s was removed in 1986.

The second-floor bedrooms generally have architrave surrounds with quirk-beaded corners on their window and door openings while the doors have four flush-beaded panels. In the hall, wood-grained finish remains exposed on the woodwork and doors. The northeast room possesses a decorative fireplace with brick hearth and shallow firebox, original smooth pilasters and mantelshelf, and plastered breast.

Standing parallel to the highway a few feet behind the rear line of the house's west ell, the somewhat deteriorated horse barn fronts an open barnyard with a U-plan driveway. The original block of modified English type extends 60.5 by 32 feet. Its mortise-and-tenoned, post-and-beam frame has been augmented by studs especially in the north gable wall. The gable roof is framed with common rafters and major purlins, and is sheathed with local green slate of inferior grade.

The partly clapboarded east eaves front is dominated by four wagon bays on the mostly open ground story; two bays of six-over-six sash occur to their left. Two central loft doorways on the upper level are flanked by other rectangular openings, all of which now lack doors or windows. The left wagon bay enters the whitewashed stable with six box stalls along its south wall.

The nearly blank north gable elevation shows the shadow of a somewhat smaller-scaled, gable-roofed north wing (dismantled circa 1955) sheathed only with horizontal flush boards and outlined by partly missing clapboards. A small fixed window lights the gable. Also nearly blank, the barn's rear (west) elevation is sheathed with lapped horizontal boards, now partly missing.

Built for hay storage, the south addition of 44 by 25.5 feet shares the scale, form, and English type of the original block. A three-foot westward offset distinguishes the addition's east eaves front but the roof slopes of the two blocks are joined in the same planes and shingled with matching

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slate. The addition is framed in a combination of post-and-beam (including some recycled hewn timbers) and stud walls while its common-raftered roof lacks purlins. The exterior is sheathed with novelty siding.

The east eaves front is marked by three wagon entrances with double-leaf doors that occupy the entire ground story. The extra-height right pair consists of vertically boarded, diagonally braced sliding doors. The vertically boarded hinged doors in the center are probably the original set while the left pair of plywood sliding doors is clearly recent in origin. The rear (west) elevation is opened only by extra-height sliding doors on the left opposite the matching pair on the front of the building. The south gable elevation is blank.

Oriented perpendicular to the barn and built possibly circa 1880, the small one-story former hen house of 8.5 by 16.5 feet carries a gable roof also shingled with slate. The building is sheathed with novelty siding except for the vertically boarded north eaves elevation. A central vertically boarded door enters the east gable front. The two-bay south eaves elevation is lighted by twelve-light fixed windows.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1834 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nathan Allen House possesses the distinctive characteristics of a detached farmhouse expressing transitional Federal-Greek Revival style in marble-trimmed brick construction. Erected probably circa 1834 for Nathan Allen, the house reflects the success achieved on a superior farm located in the dominantly agricultural Mettawee River valley. The appearance of the house nearly matches that of a neighboring house built for Nathan's brother, Elisha Allen, indicating that the same unknown mason built both. Twentieth-century changes of ownership have separated Nathan Allen's house from the continuously active dairy farm. An ongoing rehabilitation, however, will enable the house to evoke strongly its historical association with a century of Allen family farm operation.

The charter for Pawlet township was granted by Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire to Capt. Jonathan Willard and others in August, 1761. Then a lumber dealer in Saratoga, New York, Willard personally acquired title to two-thirds of the township's 23,040 acres. In the summer of 1762, he brought a party of hired men to the Mettawee Valley where they made a clearing of several acres and planted wheat. Subsequent losses in his lumber business induced Willard to settle with his family on that clearing in 1764 or 1765, thereby joining the earliest settlers of the township.

Willard had previously kept a tavern in Albany after moving there about 1750 from his native Connecticut. He proceeded to apply his experience by opening the first tavern in Pawlet, probably using part of his house for the purpose. The building (apparently later demolished) also served as the site of town meetings and other public affairs. Following Willard's death in 1804, Capt. Timothy Strong continued running the tavern while Willard's grandson, George, inherited the farmstead.

In 1815, John Allen moved his family from a hill farm in Danby township adjoining Pawlet's east border and purchased the superior Willard farm in the valley. He became highly respected as a "substantial, thrifty farmer." During that period, agricultural activity in Pawlet was devoted especially to the raising of grain, sheep, and cattle. Surplus commodities were marketed principally in Troy, New York while cattle and sheep were driven overland to Boston. Presumably John Allen engaged in such production.

By about 1830, Allen's two sons, Nathan and Elisha, emerged as substantial farmers themselves. Nathan together with his wife, Julia (daughter of Jeremiah Leffingwell of nearby Middletown), and their six children — John, Charles, Isaac, Sarah, Lucy, and Henry — remained on the family homestead, and Nathan took over its operation from his aging father. Elisha moved only to an adjoining farmstead on the north, probably created by subdivision of the Willard property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.03

Quadrangle name Pawlet, Vt.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

18	647040	48024510
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hugh H. Henry

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date January 1987

street & number Green Mountain Turnpike telephone 802-875-3379

city or town Chester state Vermont. 05143

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 *Eric Yellat*

title Director, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation date 9/23/88

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

date 10-27-88

for Melissa Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Both farms were clearly successful, as represented by the virtually identical marble-trimmed brick houses that were erected for the brothers during the 1830s (it is not known which house came first). The Allen houses exhibit a transitional blend of Federal and Greek Revival stylistic influences, although dominated by Federal characteristics. The stylistic shift to the Greek Revival was already underway in southern Vermont, and these houses undoubtedly demonstrate the conservative tastes of an agrarian community somewhat apart from the state's principal routes of communication and travel. Their conspicuous similarity indicates that the same unknown designer/mason was involved in both projects. The bricks were probably made nearby as a clay bank used for the material lies a short distance east of Elisha's house.

The completed houses stand within sight of each other along the west side of the highway (now Vermont Route 30) through the Mettawee Valley. Their main blocks share orientation, form, scale, materials, and facade arrangement. One visible distinction involves the attic-story gable windows: Elisha's house has semi-elliptical-arched openings typical of the Federal style while Nathan's house has reduced rectangular windows like those on the lower stories. Also, Nathan's house possesses both an apparently original brick kitchen ell and an added wood-framed north wing; Elisha's house lacks such encrustations, other than a Queen Anne style side porch. In both cases, the surviving farm outbuildings stand detached and offset from the rear of the houses.

Beyond his farm, Nathan Allen participated actively in community affairs. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, whose Federal style brick building was erected at Pawlet village in 1826 or 1827. Nathan served the town as First Constable in 1819 and then as Selectman for two years, 1837-38. He was an amateur musician and played in the Pawlet Band; one of the first bands in Vermont, it performed for military musters and public festivities from the early 1780s until about 1840. Reflecting his financial success, Nathan became a director of the bank in Poultney (north of Pawlet) for several years.

The early 1850s brought a coincidence of events that profoundly affected both the Allen family and the agricultural community of the Mettawee Valley. John Allen's wife died in 1851 at the age of 71. The 91-year-old patriarch himself succumbed the following year. During those same years, the Rutland and Washington Railroad was constructed along the west edge of Pawlet township, linking adjoining Washington County, New York and Rutland, Vermont.

The opening of the railroad caused an immediate shift in the transport of agricultural products from Pawlet. The great markets of New York and

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Boston became readily accessible for commodities of any weight or bulk. Many farmers in Pawlet then undertook the cultivation of potatoes for metropolitan sale. Dairy products received a strong impetus from the availability of overnight delivery. Cheese production was increased substantially and butter became marketable on a much larger scale. The Allen family undoubtedly benefited from these trends.

By the 1850s, Nathan's advancing age must have transferred the more laborious responsibilities on the farm to his son, Henry. Most of the other siblings chose to follow the tide of emigration then flowing westward from Vermont. Henry remained on the homestead and married Sarah Shedd of Pittstown, New York. His father became seriously ill in September, 1861; apparently fearing that he would not survive, Nathan gave a statement to his doctor regarding the disposition of his property. At that time, he judged the value of the farm as \$12,000. Nathan actually lived two more years, dying in 1863 at the age of 72.

Succeeding to the family farm, Henry Allen presumably shared the agricultural prosperity enjoyed in Pawlet during the middle 1860s. The contemporary local historian, Hiel Hollister, wrote "that the agricultural interests of our town were never in a more flourishing condition than at the present time (1867). Labor is every where munificently rewarded and ... the value of farms has appreciated full twenty-five per cent on the gold standard within the last five years." One of the first cheese factories in Vermont was opened in 1864 at West Pawlet, location of the railroad station for the township. A second factory appeared the following year at Pawlet village. These enterprises provided a larger local market for fresh milk. Hollister noted that "the high price of cheese and butter ... has created a brisk demand for cows"

Cheese and butter then ranked, according to Hollister, among the principal commodities being shipped from Pawlet. Others were wool and potatoes together with lesser quantities of fruit (especially apples) and poultry. This dominance of agricultural products reflects the overwhelmingly large proportion of the town's inhabitants then engaged in agricultural enterprise. The total population of the township in 1867 was 1,363. Among the 370 men over 21 years of age, 283 (or 76 per cent) were then farmers. The next largest group were the 11 carpenters while all other vocations were represented by fewer than 10 men each. (The other categories of building tradesmen listed by Hollister were six masons and three painters.)

The agricultural prosperity of the 1860s probably enabled Henry Allen to renovate the family house. The original multi-pane windows were replaced by two-over-two sash in enlarged openings. Slate shingles were applied to the roof, undoubtedly obtained from slate quarries then being developed in

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northwestern Pawlet township. The wood-framed north wing was added either in the 1860s or 1870s, apparently for the purpose of accommodating a second family.

It is not known when Henry Allen decided to lease the farm. By 1881, however, Hamilton Child's Gazetteer and Business Directory reveals that John Mars was leasing the farm from Henry Allen. Child also records the size of the dairy farm at that point, 50 cows and 450 acres. These figures ranked the Allen farm among the very largest in Pawlet; none exceeded that number of cows and only a handful surpassed that acreage. For comparison, the average number of cows on Pawlet's 55 dairy farms with 10 cows or more (as listed by Child) was 23. Among the 125 farms of all types with 50 or more acres, the average acreage was 211. Hence Henry Allen's farm then possessed twice the average number of cows and land area among Pawlet's substantial farms.

Neither is it known how long John Mars' lease of the Allen farm continued. Presumably, however, Henry Allen and/or his son, Herbert, resumed operation prior to the next major building project. In 1903, a large gambrel-roofed dairy barn with eaves-front wagon entrance was erected on the east side of the road, adjacent to the principal pasturage. The new barn may have been required by an expansion of the dairy herd or a need to consolidate in one barn the activities then being conducted in two or three smaller barns on both sides of the road. Other outbuildings that existed during this period included a corn house, a hen house, a pigpen, an icehouse, and, directly behind the farmhouse's north wing, a small brick smokehouse.

Responsibility for the farm's operation must have passed to Herbert Allen by the time of the new barn's construction. Henry Allen was then 66 years old, and he died four years later (1907). Herbert, however, pursued the enterprise only four more years. In 1911, ninety-six years of Allen family ownership came to a conclusion when Henry's widow and Herbert sold the farm to an absentee owner in nearby Granville, New York.

During the succeeding four decades, ownership and occupancy of the Allen farm changed repeatedly. The house received a significant alteration in the late 1930s when a massive river-stone fireplace with interior chimney was built in the south parlor. Only a few years later, fire ignited in the attic and damaged the roof to the extent that it was completely rebuilt.

The grandson of John Mars, Merritt Mars, acquired the Allen farm in 1955 (the Mars family owned the adjoining property to the south). Two years later, Mars undertook major alterations of the dairy barn. Its roof was rebuilt into gable form, the main eaves-front wagon entrance was eliminated, and a lengthy smaller-scaled north wing was constructed. The ground level

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of both blocks was made a continuous milking stable to accommodate a yet larger herd.

The Allen house did not fare well during the next two decades. Becoming tenant quarters, it was allowed to deteriorate. By the early 1980s, the main block had reached the stage that its south gable wall was on the verge of collapse. In 1982, the house and the two surviving outbuildings on the west side of the highway were subdivided from the remainder of the farm and sold with a two-acre lot. The next owner proceeded to demolish (by cable and tractor) the house's south wall and hastily rebuilt it in an inappropriate manner.

The present owners, Max and Christine Crossman, purchased the cosmetically derelict house in 1986, and have undertaken a comprehensive rehabilitation. The project includes rebuilding of the four quadrant chimneys, removal of the river-stone fireplace and chimney, replacement of missing marble window sills in the south wall, repair or replacement in kind of all window sash, renewal of clapboards on the north wing, repair of all woodwork (reproducing where necessary the original moldings) and plaster, and renewal of utility services. The extant floor plan will remain unaltered as the main block is adapted to contain Dr. Crossman's medical offices. The north wing is being refurbished to remain in residential use.

The ongoing rehabilitation is intended to restore the house to an appearance approaching closely that shown in a circa 1870 photograph taken probably to record the completion of the north wing. One noticeable difference involves the now-historic two-over-two sash that replaced the original twelve-over-twelves not long after that photograph was made. Along with restored physical condition, the house will gain economic viability that will ensure its survival for the foreseeable future.

The Nathan Allen House, therefore, will continue to evoke its historical role as the residence on one of the largest and most successful nineteenth-century farms in Pawlet. This house together with its near-twin, the Elisha Allen House, constitute the only examples in the township of transitional late Federal-early Greek Revival stylistic expression in marble-trimmed brick construction with eaves-front orientation. While such residential architecture occurs elsewhere in Vermont, the Nathan Allen House represents the unique historical circumstances and accomplishments of four generations of the Allen family during a century-long pursuit of agricultural enterprise.

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1. Beers, F. W. Atlas of Rutland County, Vermont. New York, 1869.
2. Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer and Business Directory of Rutland County, Vt., for 1881-82. Syracuse, N. Y., 1881.
3. Hollister, Hiel. Pawlet for One Hundred Years. Pawlet, Vt.: Pawlett Historical Society, 1976 (reprint of 1867 edition).
4. Ruth Allen Lowerhouse and Agnes M. Allen Henegan. Pawlet, Vermont. Personal interview by Hugh H. Henry on January 8, 1987.

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The property being nominated consists of the Nathan Allen House and two outbuildings together with their 2.03-acre lot. This lot was subdivided in 1982 from the surrounding farmland historically associated with the house. The rectangular lot extends 400 feet along the west edge of the Route 30 right-of-way, 218 feet along both its north and south sides, and 399.8 feet along its west side. The deed to the property is recorded in Book 42, Pages 336-342 of the Pawlet Land Records. The nominated property is sufficient to protect the historic resources.