

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **MAR 26 1980**
DATE ENTERED **MAY 22 1980**

**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

Hand's Cove

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

SW of Shoreham

STREET & NUMBER

Hand's Cove

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Shoreham

vicinity of

VICINITY OF

Vermont

STATE

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Addison

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Maguire

STREET & NUMBER

Hand's Cove

CITY, TOWN

Shoreham

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Shoreham

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey

DATE

1975

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Hand's Cove is a marshy inlet associated with a shallow rise of land immediately north of it. Bounded on the west by Lake Champlain, the shoreline area is largely cleared land and provides a generous and scenic vista of the lake. There are two principal buildings on the property: a blockhouse, also known as the Herrick House, is situated near the shoreline while the larger brick house, built by Samuel Hand, is located further inland.

1. Blockhouse: Along with its picturesque location, the aesthetic qualities of the Herrick House are further enhanced by its spare detail and simplicity of line. Anchored by a large brick central chimney, the gable slate roof neatly caps the clapboarded sides with a simple box cornice and flush eaves. The house has 1½ stories and is two rooms deep and measures 38' x 30'. The most interesting feature is that the southern part of the house, measuring 38' x 20', is constructed of large, squared beams laid horizontally one atop the other. Three sides, extending to one room deep and a center partition are constructed this way whereas the northern part of the house (38' x 10') is constructed in the post and beam manner and has plank walls. While a combination of two different construction methods suggests two different stages of building, the sills and 2nd floor joists which run the entire 30' length seem to indicate that the house was indeed constructed at one time.

All of the logs are sawn except the 38' members. The corners have full, double-lock, dovetail joints.

Inside, rooms are arranged around the central chimney. Windows, asymmetrically placed, are mostly double-hung sash with 9/6 lights while several are four-paned (fixed) and one serving the attic is six-paned (fixed).

The right (west) side of the house has a fieldstone cellar approximately 28' x 12'. The foundation, of cut stone, suggests that the cellar may have been the remains of an earlier structure, but this theory has yet to be supported by definitive evidence. The foundation stone is very similar to the stone of Fort Ticonderoga.

The small, four-pane fixed window on the north side appears original; perhaps all windows were this size at first befitting the defensive nature of the blockhouse.

Recent restoration work has involved sensitive repairs such as repointing the chimney, replacing the sill on the north side, and new clapboard siding. Inside, the stairway has been restored to its original dimensions which are awkward yet accurate.

Though the roof has a slate sheathing, underneath are old, perhaps original, cedar shingles.

2. Brick House: Built in 1841-42 at a cost of \$1,200 the brick house is a relatively standard Greek Revival farmhouse whose design has been respected throughout the years. The 2½-story building is 3 x 3 bays with the entrance on the right side of the gable-front (south) elevation. The brick pattern is 7-course American common bond. The shallow pitched slate roof has a molded box cornice with short returns; the eaves overhang slightly. The gable pediment has a semi-elliptical, multi-paned window with marble sill; other windows are 6/6 and have distinctive marble sills and lintels. The doorway

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also has a marble lintel, and the door is flanked by two pilasters on each side which, in turn, are separated by 3/4 sidelights.

Originally served by two inside end chimneys, the house now has a large outside chimney on the west side which was added around 1955. The one-story, 2-bay porch next to the chimney was built at the same time yet is compatible with the design of the house; large Doric-like posts support a wide entablature.

The 1½-story ell on the east side has gabled dormers and clapboard siding, and antedates the main house, having been constructed c. 1820. At that time, this portion was referred to as "the east house". Two other ells project from this ell and are similar in scale, design, and use of material. The ell on the north side was built in 1965; the south ell was built in 1978-79.

To the east of the ells is a detached horse barn, c. 1820 or 1841 with two bays and a hayloft opening. It has a slate roof and clapboard siding as does the newer two-bay garage connected on the east side (1955).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9-1

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \pm 160

QUADRANGLE NAME Orwell, VT-NY

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,8	6,3,2	2,7,0	4,8	5,8	6,7,0
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B

1,8	6,3,1	6,0,0	4,8	5,7	6,9,0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

1,8	6,3,0	7,1,0	4,8	5,7	6,7,0
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D

1,8	6,3,0	7,1,0	4,8	5,8	5,8,0
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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

See Continuation Sheet 10-1

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

Margaret DeLaittre

ORGANIZATION

Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

February 1980

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 B. Vinney

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-14-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally G. Olden

DATE

5/22/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Patrick Andrews*

DATE

5/13/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hand's Cove, located on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain near Shoreham, Vermont, is a site which has important architectural and historical significance. Architecturally, the buildings on this land represent two examples of early Vermont architecture, each radically different from the other. A blockhouse, c. 1775 or 1783¹, reflects spartan shelter typical of an early settler's farmhouse then located in a sparsely populated region while a large brick house, built in 1841-42, illustrates the more prosperous and refined lifestyle succeeding generations enjoyed at Hand's Cove.

Historically, Hand's Cove is attributed as having been the location where Ethan Allen assembled his Green Mountain Boys in May of 1775 for the famous capture of Fort Ticonderoga, situated on the opposite side of Lake Champlain approximately two miles away. The cove is also distinguished for having been the homestead for three generations of the Hand family which was remarkably prolific in producing exceptionally distinguished lawyers.

Exactly when this land was settled and the blockhouse built has yet to be determined. Extensive and thorough research by the present owner, J. Robert Maguire, suggests that the house may have been standing before the Revolution when John Earl lived on the site.² But there is also the possibility that this building was constructed on top of the cellar remains of an earlier structure, perhaps burned in the British raids led by Major Carleton in 1779.

Mr. Maguire believes that the blockhouse probably originally stood at Fort Ticonderoga and was later disassembled and moved to Hand's Cove by sliding it across the ice on Lake Champlain during the winter. There are several reasons which support this theory. First, the blockhouse is a defensive design and its solid, impregnable construction would have been logical at a fort. Second, the foundation stones and 15" planks inside are also found at Fort Ticonderoga. In fact, these planks are identical to those used

¹ Deed descriptions suggest that some sort of structure was standing on this land before the Revolution. If it was not the blockhouse, then the latter was probably constructed after the war because as Maguire states, "It is practically certain that no building occurred in the town [Shoreham] between the time of Burgoyne's advance up the lake in 1777 and the end of the war in 1783 . . ." Maguire, "Hand's Cove," Vermont History (October 1965), p. 17.

² Earl conveyed possession of this land in 1784 to Paul Moore who, in turn, sold the property to Rufus Herrick, Jr. in 1787. A detailed account of the confusing land rights and transfers is found in Maguire, "Hand's Cove," Ibid.

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by Benedict Arnold at Fort Ticonderoga in construction of a gondola, the "Philadelphia" (now at Smithsonian Institution). Considering that the closest sawmill known to have existed in the area at that time was at the Fort, it would have been easiest to have the extremely large and heavy beams sawn there and transported by ice sled to Hand's Cove. Such a move would also logically explain the two different sections of the blockhouse. Because sills and second floor joists extend across both sections, the building must have been constructed all at once with the laid timbers being reassembled and the more conventional and easier braced frame section built on the site, the latter section allowing for additional space.³

An interesting coincidence is that the dimensions of the "block" portion of this structure correspond to those of two other blockhouses which once stood in Vernon, Vermont. Bridgman Fort and Sartwell's Fort, both built in 1737 (and no longer extant), also measured 38' x 20' and had walls⁴ formed by large squared timbers laid horizontally with interlocking dovetail joints.

Another facet of Hand's Cove's historic significance involves discovery of prehistoric and historic archeological artifacts. While evidence to date of prehistoric occupation of the property has been limited to an isolated surface-collected ground stone tool, it is likely that prehistoric archeological sites exist within the property area, in particular in the Hand's Cove vicinity.⁵ This expectation is based on the known distribution of sites in the Champlain lowland area which points to high site density along major and minor tributaries and feeder streams into Lake Champlain, especially when wetland areas are present. Historic artifacts and features of the 18th century have also been found. Three foxholes in a horseshoe pattern (now seem as shallow depressions) were dug some time before 1772 because a surveyor, William Cockburn, recorded them as flêches in his surveying notes of that year.⁶ Artifacts found in the cellar of the blockhouse include musket balls, a shoe buckle, and a British wine bottle which suggest that the house may have been occupied at some point by British soldiers during the Revolution.⁷

The capture of Fort Ticonderoga is generally considered the first offensive action by Americans in the Revolutionary War. Because of the Fort's strategic location and supply of cannon, two groups of American rebels, one led by Ethan Allen and the other by Benedict Arnold, concocted plans to seize the Fort in 1775. Meeting in Castleton, Vermont, a conflict arose as to who would lead the attack, but, Allen and Arnold finally compromised upon a joint command. On the night of 9 May 1775, the Americans assembled at Hand's Cove and crossed to the opposite shore in small boats and took the Fort without a struggle. The seizure of Fort Ticonderoga signalled not only open and offensive rebellion by Americans but control of an important waterway and possession of precious cannon. Later transferred to Boston, the cannon arrived in March 1776 and were used to bombard the town, subsequently forcing the British to flee. Perhaps equally important as the military feats, the capture

³ Interview with J. Robert Maguire, Hand's Cove, Shoreham, Vt., 17 January 1980.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Vt. Archeological Resource Inventory, Hand's Cove, Shoreham, Addison County, 1977.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Interview, op. cit.

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of Fort Ticonderoga was an important morale boost for Americans and the episode eventually became legendary.

After the war ended, people slowly began to resettle in the Shoreham area. Hand's Cove was then known as Herrick's Cove because of its owner, Rufus Herrick, who lived on this site from 1787 until his death in the following year. Five years later, Nathan Hand moved from Easthampton, Long Island, to Vermont with his wife and seven children and bought the farm and blockhouse from the estate of Rufus Herrick.

In 1796, Nathan's son, Samuel (1769-1845), returned to Shoreham after a brief career as a sailor to help manage the farm. Because Nathan had become too ill for farm on his own, Samuel was persuaded to return by being offered $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in the property. After Nathan's death, Samuel bought the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ interest from his brothers and sisters and began raising his own family at the cove. Of his five children, a son, Augustus Cincinnatus (1803-78), achieved considerable success as a lawyer and was the first such professional in his family. After serving as a U.S. Congressman and New York State Senator, Augustus was appointed to the New York Supreme Court and ultimately the New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state. Though Augustus settled in Elisabethtown, New York, he and his family still had ties to Vermont. Of Augustus' three sons, two attended Middlebury College and Augustus was awarded an honorary degree from Middlebury in 1839. Each of his sons became a lawyer and Samuel (1833-86) and Richard C. (1839-1914) had particularly distinguished careers in New York. Samuel, like his father, also served on the New York Court of Appeals and was the first President of the New York State Bar Association. In turn, sons of Samuel and Richard, Learned (1872-1961) and Augustus N. (1869-1954) respectively, capped their legal careers with appointments to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, considered one of the most powerful and influential courts in the country.

At Hand's Cove one can sense the historical nature of the area which is also confirmed by voluminous documentation as well as lore. The property is noteworthy not only for its historical associations, but for its buildings and, in particular, the blockhouse, the only known blockhouse or garrison structure still extant in Vermont.

⁸Middlebury College News Letter, "The Hands. . .", Autumn 1972, pp. 81-89.

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- 1841
1775
1. J. Robert Maguire, "Hand's Cove, Rendezvous of Ethan Allen and The Green Mountain Boys for the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga." Reprinted from Vermont History, Vol. XXXIII, No. 4 (October 1965): Montpelier, Vermont.
 2. "The Hands - A Distinguished Family of American Jurists," Middlebury College News Letter (Parent's edition). Vol. 47, No. 1, (Autumn, 1972): Middlebury, Vermont, pp. 81-89.
 3. Ralph Nading Hill, Lake Champlain, Key to Liberty. Taftsville, Vermont: The Countryman Press, 1977.
 4. Interview with J. Robert Maguire, Hand's Cove, 17 January 1980.
 5. Vermont Archeological Resource Inventory, Hand's Cove, Shoreham, Addison County, 1977.
 6. Susan Train Hand, ed. Letters of the Hand Family, 1706-1912 (New York: 1932).
 7. "The Dye Is Now Cast", National Portrait Gallery, Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1975.

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The boundary lines of Hand's Cove incorporate the original tract of land owned by Paul Moore, and land bought by Samuel Hand in 1800, 1805, and 1818. In effect, the nominated property encompasses the original lots associated with the blockhouse and later purchases associated with the Hand's brick house. Particularly important is that the boundaries embody undisturbed land and on the basis of available documentation it is highly likely that further prehistoric and historic archeological evidence may be found.



HAND'S COVE
SHOREHAM, VERMONT

LAKE CHAMPLAIN

HAND'S COVE

1
BLOCKHOUSE

BRICK HOUSE



3 BARN/GARAGE

HAND'S COVE ROAD

LAKE ROAD

