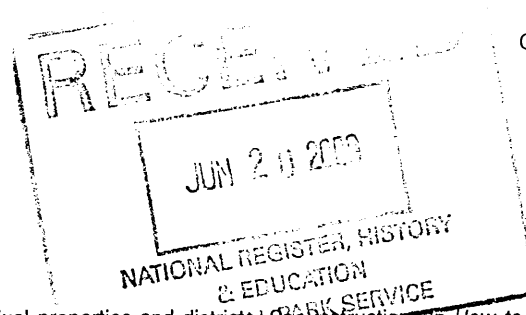


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



840

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 an 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 Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 375 Orchard Street N/A not for publication

city or town Brattleboro N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Windham code 027 zip code 05301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Samuel Gilbert ALP SHPO 6/12/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

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 the 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:)

Olson Olson
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Olson H. Beal 7/20/00

Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Name of Property

Windham County, Vermont
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1		sites
1		structures
		objects
4		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Agricultural Resources of Vermont MPDF

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure
Agriculture/animal facility
Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style
Other: connected architecture

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls weatherboard

roof slate
other stone
brick

Narrative Description

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

Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Name of Property

Windham County, Vermont
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

c.1870 - 1950

Significant Dates

c.1870

c.1875

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Name of Property

Windham County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property + 20 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	697120	4748100
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	18	697160	4747860

3	18	696960	4747760
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	18	696800	4748010

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 Deborah Noble, architectural historian

organization Deborah Noble Associates date June 15, 1996; revised 3/2000

street & number PO Box 106 telephone (802) 695-2507

city or town Concord state VT zip code 05824

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Jason Cooper Management

street & number 375 Orchard Street telephone (802) 254-6200

city or town Brattleboro state VT zip code 05301

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.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

The Samuel Gilbert Smith Farmstead on Orchard Street in Brattleboro, Vermont, is an example of a continuous architecture building with a connected c.1875, 1-1/2 story Classic Cottage farmhouse and wing (#1a), a 1-1/2 story shed wing (#1b), and a large 3-level bank barn ell (#1c). The associated twenty acres of farmland shows the original pattern of spatial organization determined by its long-term association with diversified small-scale subsistence agricultural activity: stonewalls define original field patterns according to the varied suitability of the land to pasture, woods, and cropland. The property also includes two original, unused wells (#2 and #3, 19th century), a non-contributing cottage (#4, c.1920, moved c.1958) and a sugar house (#5, c.1950), stonewalls, and stone culverts over a portion of lined stream bed. The farmstead is situated on the hill approximately two miles west of the Connecticut River and the present central business district, one mile north of what later became known as Centreville on Whetstone Brook, and one mile east of what is now the village of West Brattleboro on the same brook. The former large orchards formerly associated with the property on the south and west exist today as tasteful subdivisions under separate ownership. The buildings and property continue to evoke the original hill farm function and significance with regard to integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The present farmhouse is set off from the road by a row of late 19th century black locust trees and one very old maple. The house, kitchen wing, and shed wings face south, without regard to a perpendicular alignment with the road. The house and shed wings are set back from the plane of the main house, forming a door yard between the main block and the barn ell. In this door yard, protected from the north wind, various domestic and shop-related activities were more efficiently carried out than was possible with the old detached building arrangement. The front yard is defined by a stone wall, setting it off from both the utilitarian door yard and the driveway from the road to the barn. The barnyard is situated to the east of the barn, in close proximity to the fields and pastures, sheltered from the north wind and as far away from the house as could be arranged. This existing 3-yard system for connected farms became generally popular in the region between 1820-1860. The alignment of the south facing complex of connected buildings is not perpendicular to the road, nor does the house face the road, both arrangements which were more common in the Brattleboro and northern New England area during the latter part of the 1800s.

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Section number 7 Page 2 Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

A stone-lined cowpath leads from the barnyard to the former fields still defined by stonewalls to the east. Some of the granite blocks are handsplit; one boulder has a splitting wedge embedded in a crack. A small lined stream bed to the northeast of the connected buildings may indicate the former location of some of the earlier buildings on the farm.

Renovations from c.1958 to the property to the north of the rear of the barn include the creation of a pond in a former swampy area and the addition of a cottage on the east bank. A narrow vehicle access road leads over the stream to the cottage via a stone culvert. A small, very simple sugar house was added during this period to the property at the south front of the barn.

Several open fields with stone walls extend to the north rear of the buildings, with the balance of the property presently wooded.

1a. HOUSE, c.1875

The 1-1/2 story, wood frame, vernacular Classic Cottage dwelling built c.1875 has a 1-1/2 story wing projecting to the east. The house features a slate gable roof, clapboard siding and rests on a stone basement with a brick foundation; the top brick portion and many sills were rebuilt in 1990 after the original members failed. Brick chimney stacks rise from the center and exterior west end (1970) of the main block. The wide exposure clapboards are fastened with cut nails and set off with plain cornerboards, a frieze and a thin, molded cornice. The frontispiece entrance may replace the original. It has a raised panel door flanked by double, beaded pilasters, sidelights each with four lights set over a raised panel, a frieze and cornice, and a crowning elliptical wood fan. Fenestration is distinguished by 2/2 sash with plain trim, simple cornice cap moldings, and louvered wood shutters. Twin, gable wall dormers with 2/2 double-hung sash rise from the second story, south front facade and three 6-light single sash serve as kneewall windows on the north rear.

The wing has a 3x2 bay, 1-story, shed-roofed porch on the front façade, built in 1990 to replace a 1x1 bay entrance porch with chamfered columns and capitals (seen in a photograph from the 1960s). Twin, kneewall windows with 2/2 sash and flanking louvered shutters light the south front of the wing above the porch. A long shed dormer was added c.1970 to the rear slope of the gable roof. Banks of 2/2 sash open from the southeast front corner where a family room was created from a former first floor ice room/milk room in 1958. A brick interior chimney stack was removed during the 1958 alterations.

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Section number 7 Page 3 Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

Interior:

The center, south front stair hall on the interior of the main block has plain baseboards and carpeting, which covers the flooring. The hall features a center front entry having a 6-panel door with a 20th century iron latch and flanking half length sidelights each with four lights set over a raised vertical panel. The turned newel post of the straight-run stairway is typical of the mid-1800s: circular with a turned base and cap. The staircase is detailed with a molded handrail and turned balusters that are doubled on each step. Steps have molding under the nosing of the treads, which continues on the side of the open string stairs. The left flank of the front hall features a full length coat closet formerly accessed from the rear hall of the house - the present owner moved the original closet door to the front entry hall to increase ease of access. The closet may have provided direct access to the rear of the house, as was common in dwellings of this design and period. The closet door has a Suffolk iron latch, four raised panels set in molded rails and stiles on the exterior hall face with plain panels and rails and stiles on the interior, and is set in plain trim.

Plain trim sets off the wide entry to and fenestration in the living room that runs the width of the main block on the left flank (west) of the plan. The room has been wallpapered and features a molded ceiling cornice and simple baseboards having a quarter-round molding at the juncture with the floor. There is a molded cornice at the ceiling perimeter. A fireplace added c.1970 on the west exterior wall may be from another 19th century house. It has a rectangular brick opening set off from the wood surround with a simple bead molding. The fireplace is further articulated by "fluted" or reeded square columns on bases flanking the opening, a complete entablature set off with fluted columns, and a wide, overhanging complex molding at the cornice mantel. A former wall partition to a room at the rear third of the plan (northwest corner) was removed in the mid-1900s. This portion of the living room presently features built-in bookshelves. Evidence of a door on the interior wall of this portion of the room once leading to the center back room (now functioning as an office) was revealed during 1990 renovations.

The dining room on the southeast front of the first floor plan has c.1958 vertical board wainscoting with a molded chair rail and quarter-round molding at the base: the vertical boards have angled edges that reveal that they are perhaps modern counterparts to what would have been beading. The room features a molded cornice at the ceiling perimeter and plain window and door trim. The portion of the room at the north rear of the center front stair hall was the location of a chimney that was rebuilt with a brick hearth and wood stove in 1990. One original opening directly at the rear of the stair hall has a door with four

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Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

panels that are raised on both interior and exterior faces, set in plain rails and stiles. On the right flank of north rear wall of the dining room is a built-in cabinet with two openings having twin-leaf, paneled doors, iron h-hinges and iron pulls. The pass-sized door to the center rear office has four panels and a porcelain knob. The door to the kitchen wing from the dining room has six raised panels, molded rails and stiles and a simple iron pull.

The southeast front corner of the dining room has open access to a hall with a straight run stairway to the second floor and one winder at the bottom. The stair hall is lit by a window in the east gable end of the second story and is simply trimmed with only a baseboard surmounted with a quarter-round molding.

The office at north center rear of the first floor main block is finished in the same simple manner. The door to the bathroom in the northeast rear of the plan has four panels and an original iron latch. The closet at the chimney corner has a door with two raised panels with molded rails and stiles on the face, with flat panels and plain rails and stiles on the inside.

The second floor center stair hall has a second newel at the landing. The open stairwell has a balustrade around the rectangular opening. The hall is open to the rear, which is lit with an original six-light window in the kneewall. It is finished with plain baseboards and a simply molded cornice.

Two bedrooms on the west side of the plan are accessed by four panel doors with Suffolk latches that have plain rails and stiles, and raised panels on the bedroom side and fielded panels on the hall side. Closet space is contained between the two bedrooms, accessed in each case by identically finished four-panel doors. Flooring is maple throughout. The rooms have plain baseboards with a quarter-round at the base and simply molded cornices at the ceiling. A dormer with 2/2 sash common to the rest of the house lights the front room, with original 6-light kneewall sash lighting the rear room.

A hall joining the center stair hall with the staircase on the east side of the main block was added in 1990 in the former location of a 2' wide closet that ran the 12' length of the rear wall of the southeast front bedroom. That space was widened for the hall, thereby reducing slightly the dimensions of the front bedroom and eliminating the existence of a closet for that room. Formerly, the only access to the east side stairway was through the front bedroom. The entry to the front bedroom from the center hall has been angled, although the original door has been retained.

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Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

The bathroom occupying the center portion of the east rear of the second floor plan has an ornately molded six-panel door with a Norfolk latch. The hall face of the door has molded rails and stiles and fielded panels articulated with delicate molding echoing a smaller dimension of the rectangular panel opening. The interior of the door has raised panels in molded rails and stiles. A marble top sink and clawfoot tub were added in 1990.

A small storage room lit by a six-light kneewall window at the northeast rear of the second floor was converted in 1990 to a laundry room. It was formerly accessed from the center stair hall through another doorway from the bathroom that was removed at the time of the conversion.

The wing has been renovated with a modern kitchen at the northwest corner of the plan, with a pantry added in a portion of the space formerly occupied by full bathroom originally accessed from the dining room. Vertical board sheathing has angled edges as in dining room, indicating a common period of renovation in the 1950s. Wall to wall carpeting covers the floor finish. The ceiling has natural finish molded wood boxing supporting timbers. A large chimney with a beehive oven at the end of the former summer kitchen was removed c.1957, replaced with a vertical board closet with iron h-hinges and a simple iron latch. The kitchen and eating area open directly into what was originally an interior iced milk room that was converted c.1958 into a family room. Running water, modern plumbing and a septic system were also added at this time. About 1970 the room was further modified with the addition of banks of 2/2 sash on the south front and east side. Wide board pine flooring with modern cut nails was added in this portion of the wing at the time of the renovations. Plain baseboards and simple cornices finish the room.

At the center north rear of the plan is a rear entry hall with a late 20th century style door having nine lights set over two raised panels. A straight run staircase was removed c.1970; it originally led to an uninsulated attic bedroom over the wing from this rear hall. A door with four raised panels and plain rails and stiles on both sides leads to the back hall, which provides access to the shed wing that housed the privy (now removed). The original finish of the back hall includes a window having 6/6 sash and a floor having wide boards fastened with cut nails.

The bedroom over the wing was added in a previously unfinished attic bedroom in 1970 when a long, shed dormer was added to the north rear. The south front portion of the access hall from the main block has several closets, with the rear portion of the upper story house

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Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

wing converted from a former stair hall to a bathroom. The bedroom occupies the eastern portion of the house wing plan.

The cellar under the main block has a fieldstone foundation topped with brick. The framing of the house is circular sawn 8" x 12" and 1" x 8" dimensional lumber. A brick cistern is situated in the rear northwest corner, where a jelly cupboard is also located. The cellar wall at the juncture with the wing has been excavated to provide access to the ground level of the shed wing through what was a crawl space. An original hearthstone was found during excavation of the space that may date from the kitchen chimney/beehive oven removal in 1957.

1b. Shed, c.1870

The large barn and connecting shed date from the mid-19th century and appear to use sash from the period of the original house and other buildings on the property. The 5x1 bay, gable-roofed shed (#1b) is clapboarded and incorporates recycled hewn timbers with up-and-down sawn framing members. It is not attached to the house, but is a number of inches away, indicating different building periods or that one of the structures may have been moved. The roof is framed with common rafters and no ridgepole; the underlayment consists of widely spaced boards revealing the wood shingle finish under the present slate roof. Fixed single 6-light sash are combined with some 12/12 light sash turned sideways. Several vertical board sliding doors, of which one remains, provide access from the south front. The stone foundation drops away to the north rear allowing access to ground level. This portion of the shed wing has had the foundation and timbers stabilized. The shed bay closest to the house contains the remnants of what was a 3-hole outhouse. The two bays adjoining the barn on ground level have horizontal board sheathing, are insulated with leaves, and are whitewashed. This may be the location of a former milk room or area for apple/root crop storage. A bird-nesting trough is situated on the south front wall of the easternmost bay. A cleanout door from the northwest rear bay of the barn has wrought iron strap hinges.

A stone foundation encloses what is now a kitchen garden in the ell of the shed and barn. The stone work is similar to that of the barn, with large hand-split blocks combined with fieldstone.

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Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

1c. Barn, c.1875

The three-level, 5x3 bay, post-and-beam bank barn, built c.1875, has a stone foundation, vertical board siding and a slate gable roof. The stonework foundation has some field stone interspersed with large, hand split boulders.

The gable front features a center vehicle door with twin, sliding, vertical board leaves each pierced by fixed six-light sash. The entrance is crowned by a multi-light transom with a partial pent eave and flanked by vertical board pass doors. A fixed, twelve-light sash also flanks the entrance on the right flank of the facade. A fixed six-light sash is turned to form a diamond in the gable front peak. Seven, fixed, four-light sash with early narrow muntin profiles line the west eaves side of the main level. A pass door on this west side has a fixed twelve-light sash and provides access from the ground level of the barn to the foundation where there is presently a garden. The east eaves opens at ground level with a vehicle door and two fixed 1/1 sash. A pass door on the main level of the east side is no longer used. An opening for a poultry door and ramp on the north rear is boarded up.

The ground level of the bank barn contains livestock stalls and a chicken coop in the rear bays. The replacement framing and floor boards for the front main drive are visible from this level. The portion of the ground level under the west stanchion portion of the main level has been braced. The main level accessed from the south gable front has a central drive with flanking aisles and upper level lofts. At the southeast front corner is a tack room in the side aisle, with a vertical silo or former insulated ice room in the side aisle at the northeast rear that is open to the roof framing. Stanchions for about eight cows are centrally located on the west aisle and several stalls are located at the northwest rear side aisle. The major purlin/common rafter framing of the large space, although common at the late 19th century, is executed in an unusual manner: the reused, hewn, interior aisle posts rise only one story to support hewn girts, with unique diagonal hewn braces supporting a major purlin running the full length of the barn to support the center of the long rafters.

2. Well, c. 1800

This stone lined well is partially obscured by fill. It is situated in close proximity to the road. Further investigation is necessary to precisely date the well and determine whether it provided water to the house, barn or both.

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Section number 7 Page 8 Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

3. Well, c.1800

This stone well is lined at the top with brick. It is approximately 2' in diameter and 7' deep. The present owner indicates that it was at one time connected to the cistern in the basement of the main block. It is located on a small knoll in proximity to the road but quite a distance north of the connected complex. It may postdate well #2.

4. Cottage, c.1920, moved 1958

Originally owned by an Episcopal church, this c.1920 building measures 16' x 16' and was moved c.1958 to this location by the pond. It is non-contributing due to its having been moved.

5. Sugar House, c.1950

This small and rough sugar house is one story, wood framed, with horizontal plank walls, and a shallow gable roof topped by an open ventilator. On the left side under the roofline is a series of small openings covered with screening. The building is surrounded by young saplings.

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Section number 8 Page 1

Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

The Samuel Gilbert Smith Farmstead on Orchard Street in Brattleboro, Vermont, is architecturally and historically significant at the local level as a good example of a mid-19th century hill farm property with a house and connected outbuildings. Historic records available for the property are unusually extensive and indicate that the farm underwent two major periods of building development: one pre-1800 and the other c.1860 (reflected in the current appearance of the buildings). These produced two very different farmstead arrangements that dramatically illustrate the changes in farm organization throughout New England for the period. The present approximate 20 acres of land associated with the buildings retain their historic configuration of stonewalls, field patterns, and vegetation types. The property is being nominated to the National Register under the Agricultural Resources of Vermont multiple property submission. It meets the registration requirements for the farmstead property type.

The present farmstead is the core of the 1767 one thousand acre settlement by Dr. Henry Wells on what was known as "Meeting-House Hill." From the original farm acreage were later deeded the first burying yard, common, and meeting house in the town of Brattleboro. The settlement around the hilltop cemetery languished and the road patterns changed when population moved down to the rivers to take advantage of the water power for various mills at West Brattleboro, Centreville, and Brattleboro village during the early nineteenth century. The original house on the property was taken down c.1875 by S. Gilbert Smith, when the present house was built on or near the same location. The farm buildings were reconstructed in the connected manner during the mid-19th century.

The detailed description written by Royall Tyler, America's first playwright, a chief justice of Vermont, and the owner of the farm from 1801 to 1815, depicts the original house, its cluster of separate farm buildings and the plantings of fruit trees and other crops. (see end of section 8 for this description). This unusually eloquent and detailed enumeration of building types, arrangement, interior layout, crops, animals, and arrangements with tenants and hired hands, is extremely rare and valuable. The availability of this text in conjunction with archaeological potential and current building placement adds great significance to both the architectural and agricultural contexts.

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Section number 8 Page 2

Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont

Tyler's farm as described was a typical example of the detached building arrangement of a prosperous yeoman farmer during the first quarter of the 19th century. The early practice of constructing an individual building to house each domestic or agricultural function was derived from English precedents and led to a proliferation of clustered outbuildings. Everywhere in northern New England, isolated self-sufficiency and subsistence farming prevailed during the early settlement period at the end of the 18th and turn of the 19th centuries. The diversity of activities and products necessary for survival were produced by each family, with the small surpluses sold or bartered for those supplies that were found to be lacking. One of the major exports during this settlement period was potash, acquired from the practice of burning forest to clear fields. The potash was used for making soap and for bleach.

Tyler's farm had a large barn, shed, a corn-barn, carriage house, smoke house, ash house, and more. The total 150 acres is substantially more than that 70-90 acres contained in the farmstead later in the century. Wheat and rye appear to have been the principal crops, with 30 head of cattle expected to be raised on the hay available from the fields and pasturage. Quite a diversity of animals were bred on Tyler's farm, with geese, turkeys, hens, and 31 sheep. Sheep became "the" animal in Vermont during the first half of the 19th century until the vast grazing country of the western plains made sheep farming entirely uneconomical. The suitability of the lands in the Connecticut River valley of southern Vermont for apple orchards appears to have been capitalized upon early, for Tyler describes two large and two small orchards with a predicted 100 barrels of cider per year. The market for the excess products was in the cities of nearby southern New England, before canals (1820s) and railroads (1850s) made the western market available to these centers of population.

The house described in 1801 appears to already have an attached ell with a kitchen, although this is subject to interpretation of Tyler's description. The fact that a meal granary was located over the kitchen is indicative of the early period: after 1840 the decline in New England grain production due to competition with western states rendered them obsolete. The long wood house in back of the kitchen according to the custom of the period contained a work/wash room with constantly running water. The placement of a small fruit orchard, kitchen garden (pot herbs, etc) and flower garden near the working kitchen is the typical spatial organization at the beginning of the 19th century.

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Section number 8 Page 3

Smith, Samuel Gilbert, Farmstead
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The draw of the cheap, undepleted, fertile, less rocky, flatter and more easily farmed lands to the west led to emigration and the subsequent western economic competition began in the 1820s and had taken its toll on Vermont farmers toward the middle of the 19th century. Combined with the transportation improvements in the canal and railroad systems, a flood of products into the region from the west devastated the market. As farms in northern New England became hardly profitable, the tide of emigration also focused on jobs in the industrialized areas to the south. In order to adapt to the need for cash to purchase clothes, shoes, furniture and tools produced through industrialization, farmers were forced to produce greater quantities of marketable commodities and to specialize in those which could be produced with the most profit.

Derived from the common English ancestry of the first wave of settlement in New England, the evolution of the connected farm built after 1830 was a product of an intensive period of this necessary farm modernization and building experimentation. The prevalence of connected farm arrangements in Brattleboro is estimated to be about 40% as compared to other farmstead organizational patterns. Although specialization was beginning to take hold in the farming community nationwide, the New England farming community continued to maintain their traditional mixed-farming, home-industry operation. The development of the connected farmstead tended only to streamline processes that continued to be diversified and seasonally flexible as a survival factor specific to northern New England. Environmental and geographical constraints that necessitated more diversity, such as limited fertility, mountainous terrain, generally rough topography, and unpredictable weather patterns, prolonged old-fashioned methods of agriculture well into the 20th century as compared to other areas of the United States.

The subject farmstead passed from Royall Tyler in 1815 to Moses Nash and, until it was united in 1834 by R and R Goodenough and sold to General Jonathan Smith, it appears to have passed through several owners. In 1836 the farmstead passed to Oshea Smith, Jonathan's brother, who lived on the farm with his family and descendants until his death in the 1850s. In 1850 Oshea and his son, Samuel, appear to have split the farm in two 70 acre parcels (US Census, 1850) in a manner similar to that described by Royall Tyler where he "takes the farm at halves" with the neighboring farmer, Mr. Peck.

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As it appears from Tyler's description, there are two houses on the property: one, another farmhouse with a good view and the other, a quarter of a mile away in a hollow on a hill (the house described by Tyler) and in the same location as the subject connected farmstead. It appears that the farm property of 70 acres occupied by Samuel Smith had a large sugar orchard, while the 70 acres of Oshea had an apple orchard (US Census, 1850).

The farmstead in 1850 displays the characteristic tendencies of adaptive agricultural practices. By this time, according to the trend, the Smiths had begun focus their efforts on producing livestock and crops that could sell well and fill the narrow economic niche left by intense western competition. The agricultural census of 1850 reflects many fewer animals than were raised at the start of the 19th century: Oshea had 1 horse, 6 milk cows, 1 ox, 4 other cattle, and 3 swine. Products he produced were: 20 bushels of rye, 40 bushels of Indian corn, 40 bushels of oats, 4 bushels of peas and beans, 75 bushels of Irish potatoes, 20 bushels of barley, 500 pounds of butter, 400 pounds of cheese and 20 tons of hay. Oshea's farm was valued at \$3000, with \$75 in machinery, \$300 in livestock, \$16 in orchard products, and \$30 in slaughtered animals. The farm of Samuel Smith produced similar amounts of products, with the exception of 100 pounds of maple sugar, a specialty item indigenous to northern New England (free of western competition), and no oats or cheese. It is interesting to note that sheep and poultry completely disappeared due to market adjustments when compared with the products described in Tyler's narrative. Rye, barley, and potatoes were sold to the many distilleries in New England, although the temperance movement eliminated this market by the mid-1850s. Wheat is no longer raised, and this is the last time grains such as rye and oats appear in any great quantity on the farmstead's census: these were more economically raised on the Great Plains of the west. What small amounts were raised in the decades that follow were usually for home farm consumption. Creameries were built in northern New England during this period, stimulating the production of butter and cheese as saleable farm products.

In 1860 Samuel Gilbert Smith had acquired additional acreage, presumably due to the fact that the 71 year old Oshea now shared his home with his 36 year old son, his 37 year old wife, Sophia and two young children. It appears that a portion of the other farm and farmhouse previously occupied by Samuel had been sold. The resulting 100 acre farm included 10 unimproved acres and had added another ox and 2 sheep to the livestock over those reported in 1850. New farm products included 40 bushels of wheat and 15 pounds of wool. Indian corn

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production went from 40 to 150 bushels. No cheese was produced after 1850 and the amounts of the other products reported varied somewhat but were comparable to those produced in 1850.

By 1870, Oshea Smith had passed on and Samuel Smith had increased the value of 70 improved, 10 woodland, and 10 unimproved acres from \$3,000 to \$5,000, presumably by rebuilding his barn and sheds in the connected manner. His own children had increased to four, with the eldest daughter, Mary, teaching school and living at home. Again, the farm crops and livestock reported in the census of 1860 are indicative of the family farming practices that adjusted to the ebb and flow of the agricultural market. The little experimentation with two sheep in 1860 had been abandoned, as the sheep market had most definitely passed to the west and wool clothing was manufactured in bulk in the large industrial centers of southern New England. The rest of the livestock tally is fairly constant as compared to those in the past census. The variety of crops in 1870 remains moderately consistent, with peas and beans eliminated and with a marked decline in the amount of spring wheat (40 to 25 bushels) and Indian corn (150 to 100 bushels). An increase is shown in barley (11 to 60 bushels), potatoes (from 20 to 75 bushels), and butter (560 to 1000 pounds). Butter became a profitable item to produce due to the availability of the iced butter railroad cars after 1854.

By 1880 the census enumerated more exactly the breakdown of land use on the Smith farmstead: 35 tilled acres, 40 acres of pasture, 5 acres of orchard, and 15 acres of woodland. For hay production, 25 acres were mown and 45 acres were not mown. One acre was devoted to barley, 4 acres to corn, a half acre to potatoes and one orchard of an acre had 40 trees. The Smith farmstead of 1880 reflected a marked shift in its products, with 1700 pounds of butter, 50 bushels of apples and 10 cords of wood marking the switch characteristic of the products produced in northern New England for the period. Also, the addition of 35 chickens reflects the fact that fresh eggs had become a cash product. The entire farm was still valued at \$5000 even though the original house was removed and another built c.1875 for Sophia as the new reigning farm wife after Oshea's death.

The continued viability of agricultural enterprises in northern New England during the first decades of the 20th century is surprising in light of the severe rural depopulation, decline, and pessimism at the end of the 19th century. By this time cheap western land had long ago been

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claimed and the high freight rates for western goods shipped east gave New England hillside farms a chance to compete economically with products that were heavy, bulky, or required freshness. Through market adaptations, the northern New England region changed from a wheat-wool-grain region and became focused on fresh milk-fresh eggs-premium apples-premium maple sugar-potatoes-hay and lumber (Wilson, p. viii and 11), a change reflected in the Smith farmstead. Tourism to the area began to transform the local economies with the seasonal demand for fresh vegetables and dairy products.

John and Eva Thurber purchased a "half piece of land" containing 90 acres in 1890 from Sophia Smith after her husband's death. The Thurbers continued to farm the property with the help of their three sons and two daughters, who in 1890 ranged in age from 23 to 6 years old (US Census, 1890). As was common during this period of New England farm history, farm income was supplemented with the income from Florence's (the eldest daughter) job as a school teacher. The farmstead was able to survive as a working dairy farm after being sold to the Henry Wellman family in 1911 until the Stillman's purchased it in 1953. During this period of Vermont agricultural history, fluid milk production was the most profitable product to produce, as demand for freshness from the growing metropolitan populations excluded competition from Western competitors.

Today the Smith farmstead appears much as it did after Samuel G. Smith dramatically remodeled it from approximately 1860-1875, changing it from a detached house, barn, and other numerous outbuildings into a fully connected complex. The kitchen was adjacent to the needed wood storage areas, washroom, privy, and carriage bays contained in the shed. After reorienting the building units in a south facing connected complex, the connecting worksheds formed a dooryard with the kitchen wing and barn protected from the north wind and optimally free of snow for the necessary family farming/mixed husbandry/home industry tasks. This was a typical design consideration, as was the east facing barnyard that was in close proximity to pastures, protected from north winds, and sufficiently removed from the house to avoid problems with odor and sanitation. The cow path leading to these pastures past fields that were plowed or planted now leads to wooded lots enclosed by stone walls. The south facing, gable front barn built into a bank with a cellar represented the latest in innovative Yankee barn technology: the processes sheltered in the barn flowed from the hay lofts to the stanchions on the main level to the manure processing and pig pens at ground level. This early bank barn is

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relatively rare compared with later barn types. Various bays in the shed and barn were double boarded and insulated with leaves to store apples or root crops. The similarities of the patterns of organization of buildings and tasks within these connected farmsteads of Vermont and northern New England indicate the homogenous nature of the agrarian culture at the mid-19th century. The visual variety among the farmsteads in the Brattleboro area and northern New England results from this unspoken understanding of a uniform pattern of overall farmstead layout within which the individual farmers could make modifications according to their needs and means.

This farmstead is a good representative example of a modest, mid-19th century, rural New England, connected farm in scale, layout, dates, wealth, style, and operation, continuing to convey its significant architectural and agricultural contexts throughout the 20th century.

The connected farmstead plan of the buildings on the property is not the first configuration of what began as the core of a 1,000 acre settlement on Meeting House Hill, the first town center of Brattleboro. The layout and function of the various domestic and agricultural buildings as well as the crops and animals raised are described in great detail by Royall Tyler, the owner in 1801:

The farm we have purchased is in a retired spot, upon the brow of a large hill. . . The farm consists of about 150 acres, the greatest part of which - indeed upward of 100 acres - is well fenced and under good improvement. We have wheat and rye now in the ground, springing up as the snow leaves it, and promising a sufficiency of those grains for our bread and pies. We have two large orchards and two smaller ones coming on, and expect to make some fifty or sixty barrels of cider; and in a few years - as the orchards are young and thrifty - we may

reasonably expect to make one hundred barrels per year. We have plenty of good pasturing and expect to cut hay enough to winter thirty head of cattle. Our neighbor, Mr. Peck, takes the farm, at present, at halves, and with his family, has removed to **our farmhouse, about a quarter of a mile from us.**

With the farm we have purchased farming-tools, young cattle, hogs, poultry, and 23 sheep, who have now increased the flock by 8 lambs. . .

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The house is entirely secluded from a view of any neighbors; though on the crown of a hill it is yet in a hollow, but the necessary buildings around it give it the air of being a little neighborhood; a large barn and shed, corn-barn, chaise-house, smoke house, ash-house, etc. The house is somewhat similar to Judge Jones', in Hinsdale which I think you observed, an upright part with a handsome portico, two handsome front rooms, well finished, papered and painted; and two handsome chambers over them; back, is a sitting-room and by the side of it a room for my office, which has a door into the sitting-room and another out of doors, so that ingress may be had independent of the house; back of the sitting-room a good kitchen, from whence you go into two bed-rooms, one for the boys, and the other for the maids, and overhead a meal granary; and over the sitting-room an apartment for our hired man and boy; back of the kitchen is a long wood-house, about twenty feet of which makes a summer wash-room, and here stands the water-trough, constantly supplied with plenty of excellent water. In front of the house is a fruit garden, peaches, plums, etc., but the former will not bear till next year.

On one side of the house is a kitchen garden, with a good asparagus bed and plenty of currants, red, white and black, and large English gooseberries, on the other side is a flower garden.

Next to the house runs a small brook, on the other side of which is a grass lot set out with young fruit trees, chiefly plums. We have on the place a plenty of common cherry trees and four fine black-heart cherry trees near the front windows. We have also pear trees which bear, and quince bushes. On the place we may gather cartloads of chestnuts, no walnuts, but a sufficiency of butternuts. In a word, if one can love a retired farmer's life, here you may have it to perfection.

For all we live down, or rather up a lane, you will scarcely see three persons pass in as many days. We cannot see a single house, even from our chamber windows, not even our farm-house, but that is prettily situated; there you may see perhaps thirty houses, and if we climb our orchard we can see the country thirty miles around. (Annals of Brattleboro, p.265)

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The approximately 20 acres of land included with the nomination is all property in common ownership. The parcel is lot #110132 on Tax Map #7, Block 4. This map is on file at the Brattleboro, Vermont, Town Offices.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the core of the historic farmstead and is sufficient to convey its significance.