

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont	
COUNTY: Windsor	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.3.50.0002	DATE 3/11/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Old Constitution House

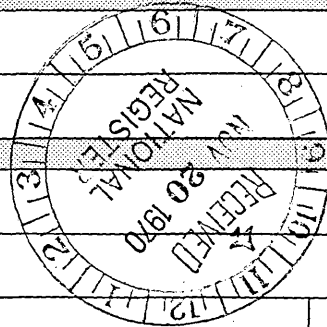
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
16 No. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Windsor

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Windsor CODE: 027



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Vermont, Board of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:
7 Langdon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 570

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the Secretary of State

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 570

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
State Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967-68 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Vermont Board of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:
7 Langdon St.

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 570

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VERMONT
COUNTY: WINDSOR
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.3.50.0002
DATE: 3/11/71

7. DESCRIPTION

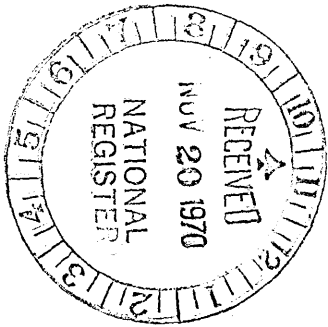
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

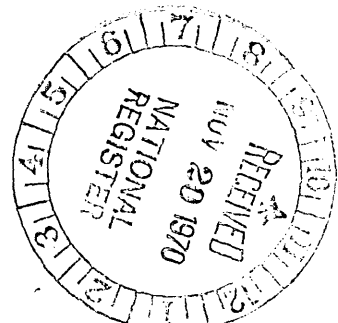
The Old Constitution House is a Colonial style building built c. 1777. It is white clapboarded with a concrete foundation. It has 2 end interior chimneys and is two stories high with an ell. There is 1 porch in the front of the house and the entrance is in the center of the front.

The Old Constitution House was built as a tavern. Over the years there have been slight alterations to interior and exterior and both have been skillfully restored. It was acquired in 1914 by the Old Constitution House Association, and moved to its present site and restored. The building which was originally a tavern continued as such until about 1848. It was then turned into shops for retail merchandising and small manufacturing. In 1870 it was moved back from the main street and converted into a tenement house. From about 1890 to 1914 it was used for the storage of merchandise. For many seasons the House was operated as a tea room during the summer months, then, later became a popular eating place. In June 1961 the property and furnishings were turned over to the State of Vermont. Several smaller rooms in the ell were eliminated to provide larger exhibit areas. The second floor of the ell was rebuilt. The building now houses a small museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

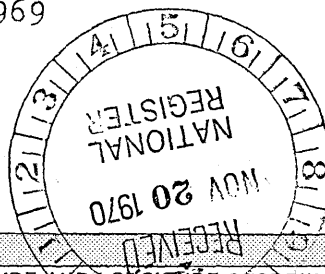


SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) July 8, 1777			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Development</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>of state.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Often called the "Birthplace of Vermont" the Old Constitution House was a tavern in Windsor where on July 8, 1777, representatives of the New Hampshire Grants adopted the first Constitution of the "Free and Independent State of Vermont".</p> <p>On June 4, 1777, a group of 72 delegates from "New Connecticut" met at Windsor to commence the framing of the Constitution for the proposed Independent Republic. While convened in session a letter was read from Dr. Thomas Young of Philadelphia, a close friend of Ethan Allen. Besides advising the delegates on the necessary steps to statehood the letter recommended that the Convention adopt the name "Vermont", replacing "New Connecticut".</p> <p>On July 2, the delegates met again, this time in the tavern owned by Elijah West. Here was adopted Vermont's first Constitution. Vermont's Constitution became the first in the country to prohibit slavery and to establish universal manhood suffrage.</p> <p>The first Legislature, chosen in March, 1778, met at Windsor the 12th of that month. By initiating a government under authority of the 1777 Constitution, Vermont became a Republic, independent not only of Great Britain but of all the Colonies of States in North America.</p> <p>The Old Constitution House is operated by the Board of Historic Sites as an historic shrine and museum of early Vermontiana.</p>			
			

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Guide to Historic Sites in Vermont. Published by the Vermont Board of Historic Sites. 1969



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

WPM
18/711430
4817700
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{3}$

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William B. Pinney, Director of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Board of Historic Sites DATE: 12/17/69

STREET AND NUMBER:
7 Langdon St.

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: William B. Pinney

Title: Director of Historic Sites
SLO

Date: November 12, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Crumley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: MAR 11 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William J. Tompkins
Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 12 1971