

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont	
COUNTY: Bennington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 21 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Equinox House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street (No Street No.)

CITY OR TOWN:
Manchester

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Bennington CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted* <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Ian Bennett

STREET AND NUMBER:
Equinox House, Main Street (No Street No.)

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Manchester Town Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
(No Street Number)

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Vermont Division of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pavilion Building (No Street Number)

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

STATE: Vermont

COUNTY: Bennington

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 21 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

*Equinox House is open to visitors during specified hours.

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The Equinox House is located along the west side of Route 7 across from the village green and the cluster of civic, religious, commercial and residential buildings which form the nucleus of Manchester, Vermont; County seat of Bennington County.</p> <p>The two white, three story clapboarded main buildings of the Equinox House are rectangular in plan with the long sides being parallel (north-south) to the main street and the village green. The buildings are connected by an enclosed wooden bridge at the second story level. The east-west corridor framed by the building ends and the bridge form the visual center of the composition, creating considerable architectural excitement with the limited vista afforded of the interior courtyard.</p> <p>The north main building resulted from the incorporation of an earlier house and store which stood on the site and was opened as the "Equinox House" in 1853. This building has a flat roof. A steeped wood tower is located at each end of the building. The structure contains the hotel office and desk, located behind a series of arcaded windows, on the south side of the main hall. To the north of the hall is the reception room, a large room recessed below the level of the main hall. The reception room is supported by round, fluted wood and cast iron columns. Extending west from the main building is the dining hall wing which contains the lounging, ball and dining rooms. The main dining room is perpendicular to the west end of the wing and has a barrel-vaulted ceiling.</p> <p>The south main building began as Munson's Tavern, an early 19th century hostelry. This original building underwent a series of enlargements and expansions until it evolved into its present form. It was known as the "Taconic" (hotel) when the Equinox House opened directly to the north and was unified to the latter by the bridge in 1880. The building has a gabled roof divided into several levels. A large wing extends westward from the building. Both the main building and the wing are divided primarily into hotel rooms.</p> <p>Both the north and south buildings have the same general scale and massing. The entire composition is unified by a two-story veranda which extends across the street side elevations of both buildings. The colonnade supporting the roof of the veranda is composed of tapered fluted wood round columns along the south building and plain square wood columns along the north building.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

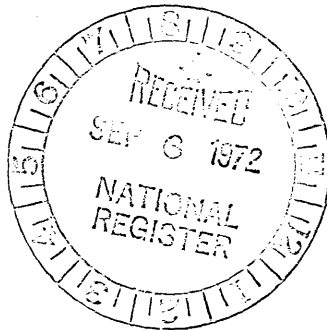
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Bennington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 21 1972	

(Number all entries)

7.

This colonnaded continuous streetside elevation with its flanking marble slab sidewalk and row of maple trees extending several hundred feet along the Main street is the most significant feature of the Equinox House. Equinox House, coupled with the Bennington County Courthouse and the other outstanding structures around the town green, form one of the most spatially and architecturally distinctive townscapes in Vermont.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1853**

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	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

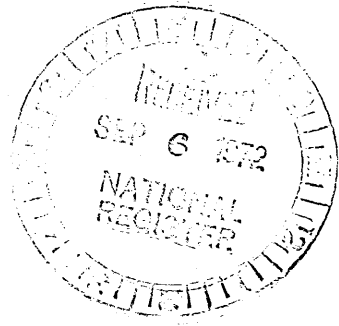
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Equinox House is one of the most important visual elements of the unique architectural environment of the village center of Manchester, Vermont.

The structure is one of Vermont's last great 19th century resort hotels still standing.

The building symbolizes both the beginnings of the vacation industry, which has played such an important role in the economy of the state, and the impact of the railroad on the development of Vermont towns and cities.

Time has rendered much of the physical plant of the Equinox House obsolete in view of modern tastes and comforts. It is hoped that a redevelopment scheme can be evolved which will allow for modernization of facilities while preserving the unique spacial and architectural character of the town center of Manchester.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bigelow, Edwin L. & Otis, Nancy H., Manchester, Vermont,
Manchester: Town of Manchester, 1961.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		43	09	40
SE	° ' "	° ' "		73	04	23
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Chester H. Liebs, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **August**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pavilion Building (No Street Number)

CITY OR TOWN: **Montpelier** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

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, Vt. Division of Historic Sites

Date: 8-30-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert A. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

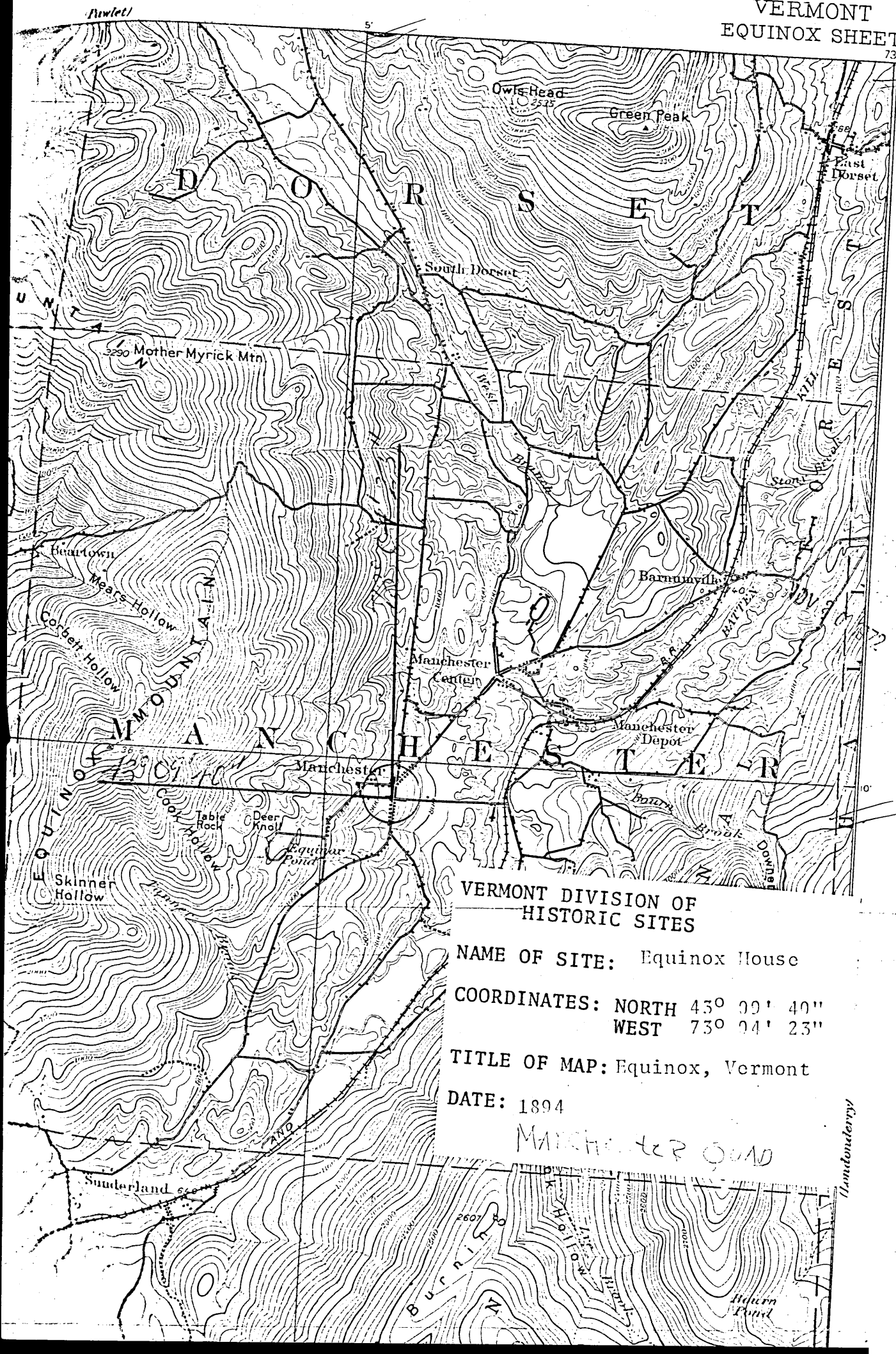
Date: 11/20/72

ATTEST:
William B. Pinney
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11/17/72

UTM REF 18/556600/4980400
 4-3075 02M
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

73°00'
43'15"



VERMONT DIVISION OF
HISTORIC SITES
NAME OF SITE: Equinox House
COORDINATES: NORTH 43° 09' 40"
WEST 73° 04' 23"
TITLE OF MAP: Equinox, Vermont
DATE: 1894

MANCHESTER ROAD

W. Sanderson

VERMONT DIVISION OF HISTORIC SITES

NAME OF SITE: Equinox House

COORDINATES: NORTH 43° 09' 40"
WEST 73° 04' 23"

TITLE OF MAP: Equinox, Vermont

DATE: 1894

