Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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STATE

Vermont

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS **1** NAME HISTORIC Downtown Bennington Historic District AND/OR COMMON 2. LOCATION 7 11.5 VT 9 and STREET & NUMBER North, South, Main and Pleasant Streets _NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Bennington VICINITY OF Vermont STATE CODE COUNTY CODE 03 Vermont 50 Bennington **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE _XDISTRICT PUBLIC X_OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM ___BUILDING(S) PRIVATE X COMMERCIAL ___UNOCCUPIED _PARK <u>X</u>вотн ___STRUCTURE -WORK IN PROGRESS X PRIVATE RESIDENCE ___EDUCATIONAL __SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT ___RELIGIOUS __OBJECT _IN PROCESS X_YES: RESTRICTED <u>X</u>GOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED __YES: UNRESTRICTED __INDUSTRIAL __TRANSPORTATION __NO ___MILITARY __OTHER: **OWNER OF PROPERTY** NAME See Continuation Sheet STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN STATE VICINITY OF

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Office of the Town Clerk

South Street

Bennington

TATION IN DVIOT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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	Vermont Historic S	Sites & Structures Survey	
DATE			
	1975	FEDERAL XSTATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR			
SURVEY RECORDS	Vermont Division f	or Historic Preservation	
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
	<u>Montpelier</u>	Vermont	

7^e DESCRIPTION

C	CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X_excellent X_good X_fair	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	XUNALTERED XALTERED	Xoriginal site MOVED date

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present physical appearance of downtown Bennington reflects, and has historically been constantly influenced by, three important factors (which are further discussed in the Statement of Significance): the availability of water power, which encouraged industry; the intersection of two major highways, which brought commerce; and the political importance resulting from the two previous items which led to the construction of local, county, state, and federal buildings.

The resulting architecture of downtown Bennington is a varied mixture of styles and functional types. Some of the earliest buildings within the district are in the Greek Revival style, as the village which was to become Bennington began to achieve prominence in the 1830's. Buildings from this period include stores (#37) as well as grand and modest residences (#3, 34, and 37)'. In addition, there are three early industrial structures (#'s 1, 28, and 30). As the growing prosperity of the village moved toward its 19th century peak, larger and more ornate structures were built in the styles then current: examples of the Italianate Revival are found in #'s 6, 7, 8, and 10, and the Romanesque Revival is manifested in #42. Other outstanding buildings include a small French Second Empire fire station (#39) and a frame Queen Anne store (#23). Other buildings in the district represent vernacular interpretations of these styles.

The district is centered on the intersection of US 7 and VT 9. The former is the major north-south highway on the western side of the state, and its commerce has contributed to the growth of several other historic districts now listed in the National Register. The east-west road, VT 9, is the only road from Bennington (and Albany, New York) to Brattleboro, on the Connecticut River and the New Hampshire border. Both of these roads have traditionally carried a great deal of commercial traffic primarily in raw materials and finished goods originally and now accompanied by vacationers. North and South Streets and East and West Main Streets intersect to form Putnam Square, the heart of downtown Bennington; it was natural that hotels, banks, stores, and governmental buildings would congregate here, and it is these buildings which form the historic district.

The district includes only those buildings which are historically, architecturally, and functionally related to the commercial activities of the town. To the north, the Walloomsac River forms a strong visual and natural boundary. To the west and east of Putnam Square, the integrity of the streetscape has been diminished by removal and/or new construction, to the degree that existing significant buildings are insufficiently contiguous as to warrant inclusion in this nomination. On South Street, the character of building types changes to residential south of the district boundary and was not directly a part of the commercial/industrial/governmental activities of the district.

Intrusions generally are small in scale and not tightly clustered, with the exception of the northeast corner of Putnam Square. This area suffered a disastrous fire in the mid-20th century, removing a number of buildings. While the new structure does not contribute to the historicity of the square, it does serve to close the fourth side and retain the sense of place associated with the intersection.

Among the most dramatic rehabilitation projects which have taken place in the district is the facade restoration of the Pennysaver building on South Street (#7). A tall brick courthouse built in 1870, it had a black metal grillwork "cheesegrater" facade installed

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in the 1960's which obscured most of the architectural detail. In 1976, using a EDA Title X grant administered through the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation the metal grill was removed and the brick facade restored. Since the building is highly visible from the center of the Square, the restored appearance of the facade has inspired other major projects which are nearing the construction phase.

The buildings within the historic district are as follows (numbers refer to enclosed sketch map):

1. Bennington Police Station, 215 South Street, 1833. A two and one-half story, 3 x 4 bay, random fieldstone blacksmith shop, the police station has a gable front with central entrance which features a five-light transom and full-length sidelights beneath a heavy stone lintel. Molded cornice with gable end returns. Twentieth century one-store flat-roofed ell.

Stone construction is unusual in Bennington County, and is most often found in mill buildings of the first half of the 19th century. Built as a blacksmith shop in 1833, this building served continuously in that capacity and as a wagon manufactory until after 1912. It was rehabilitated as Bennington's Police station in the mid-20th century.

2. Court House, South Street, 1936. Colonial Revival, two-story, 3 x 6 bay, brick veneer. Pedimented entrance portico supported by four monumental Doric columns contains clock framed by swags. Polished, coursed marble facing on foundation forms basement. Semicircular arched entrance with molded marble surround and keystone and Bennington County seal in tympanum. An open bell cupola, with a gold leafed dome, sits atop the hipped roof. An imposing building constructed in a style compatible with the town's image as a colonial village, it superseded what is now the Pennysaver (#7).

3. Bennington Town Offices, 205 South Street. Two and one-half story, 3 x 3 bay, gable front, clapboard and flushboard office building converted from residence. Symmetrical, one and one-half story, 2 x 2 bay, gabled wings. One-story, flat-roofed, front porch supported on Roman Doric columns extends around the main block to wings. Main block has monumental corner pilasters supporting an entablature with plain frieze and molded cornice which fully encloses the gable end. Flushboard siding in pedimented gable and within porch on front facade. Modern entrance, fenestration, and ells. This building was originally the residence of the William Root family. It was given to the town for use as a Town office building in the 1920's. Its original massing and detailing are of a T-plan Greek Revival house, not uncommon in the western part of the state.

4. 201 South Street. Greek Revival, 3 x 3 bay, gable front, frame building with projecting portico supported on four fluted Doric columns. This residence has been converted to a commercial building with the addition of two one-story, modern, hipped roof, brick wings.

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5. 203 South Street. One and one-half story, 3 x 4 bay, clapboard, gable roof residence built between 1912 and 1921. Full front porch on the south eave side, shingle walls support massive, plain half columns which support overhanging roof. Central entrance, multipaned glass door with sidelights. Windows are 12/1, 10/1, and 8/1. Eave overhangs two feet on gable ends.

6. Bird's, 113 South Street. This building is one component of a group of three which, together, are the most outstanding architecturally in the district. It is a three-story, 6 x 7 bay, brick commercial block in the Italianate Revival style. Alternating semicircular and segmental cast iron lintels; footed cast iron sills. Overhanging wooden cornice with incised scroll-sawn brackets and incised and applied decoration in frieze. Extended cornice has two segmentally arched enclosed pediments. Corbelled blind arcade at architrave level. Modern first floor storefront extends into sidewalk. Built in the mid-1860's by Trenor Park and known as the Park Block until purchased by Alex drysdale for his drygoods business in 1906. Park was Bennington's leading businessman from the 1860's until his death in 1886, owning the Panama Railroad, the Harlem Extension Railroad, and the Bennington & Rutland Railroad. He also was a philanthropist, establishing the Bennington Free Library and the Park home. Drysdale's was one of Bennington's oldest businesses beginning in 1873 and remaining in this building for over 70 years until it closed in 1977.

7. Pennysaver Building, 109 South Street. Constructed in 1870 as the South Shire Bennington County Courthouse. Five bays, two stories with monumental second story. Modern first floor brick storefront with modern wood sign band simplified but following original lines. Second floor has central projecting three-bay pavilion. Semicircular, arched window surround with marble imposts, keystones, and sills. Double round-headed windows graduated in height rising to double-width, central window. Overhanging wooden cornice on scroll-sawn brackets with applied drop decoration, brick corbelling, and panelling at frieze level. Semicircular arched pediment over center section. Original tower and porch have been removed.

The relocation of the courthouse from Old Bennington to Bennington in 1870, after fire destroyed an earlier building, signified the end of the dispute for political dominance between Bennington and what is now Old Bennington.

8. Putnam Hotel, 103-105 South Street; 357-349 Main Street. Three-story, 7 x 13 bay brick hotel and commercial building. Some storefronts are modern; others retain original cast iron pilasters from Cohoes, New York. Upper floors have 6/6 windows with segmental heads under segmental arches with corbelled label molds and marble keystones and sills. Molded wooden cornice on large scroll-sawn brackets. A painted brick belt course separates the second and third floors. Constructed in 1870 by H.W. Putnam after fire destroyed the Mt. Anthony house. A two-story porch was added in 1877 and removed sometime after 1921. The hotel was formerly known for the luxurious accommodations in its 75 rooms, and proudly advertised its use of steam heat and electricity when those services were rare. Its mass, style, and detailing strongly anchor the southwest corner of Putnam Square, and the shape of the

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building provides a smooth transition from Main Street to South Street.

9. Bennington Garage, 324 Main Street, 1920. Two-story brick garage. Brick piers divide the front facade into three large bays. The first floor has large showroom windows. The central bay has four small factory windows with a peaked pediment above. Outer bays have three 36-pane factory windows. Corbelled brick cornice with concrete cap, eight bays deep; 5 x 7 bay, one-story ell.

10. Suburban Propane, 332 Main Street, 1868. Three-bay, three-story, Italianate Revival, brick, commercial building. The right side entrance bay is recessed within a semicircular cast iron arch, fluted reveals and square transom light. A modern glass storefront occupies the other two bays and has a wooden sign cornice on paired, fluted brackets with incised decoration. The upper floors have 2/2 windows with cast iron sills and segmental cast iron label molds with ornamental drops. Four monumental brick pilaster strips extend to an overhanging wooden cornice above paired brackets with incised decoration. There is a semi-circular enclosed pediment above the cornice in the central bay. The building was constructed as the First National Bank in 1868.

11. Katie Cleaver, 334 Main Street, two-story, one-bay, barnboard-sided apartment and shop. Non-contributory.

12. Paddy's, 336 Main Street, one-story, three-bay, clapboard and vertical board false gable front restaurant. Non-contributory.

13. Vermont National Bank, 338 Main Street, Neo-Classical elements. Two-story, flatroofed bank building, triangular in plan to fit its corner lot. Faced with large polished coursed marble blocks. Entrance on truncated southeast apex of the triangle. Modern door in semicircular arch surround; clock in tympanum. Piers divide windows into four groups with upper paneled upper tympanum between the first and second floors. Frieze has Liberty Head coin decoration. Denticular cornice. Parapet has inscription: "Commerce has made all winds her messenger, all peoples her servants."

Like the Putnam Hotel across Main Street, this building flows around one of the corners of the Square, helping to define it. Its design is much more stentorian and, in its strength, allows no doubt in the mind of an observer as to its function.

14. 108-106 North Street. One-story, stainless steel and plywood store and diner. Non-contributory.

15. 110-112 North Street. One-story, imitation stone facade; store and office. Non-contributory.

16. 116 North Street. One-story, stainless steel and brick commercial building. Non-contributory.

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17. Lovin Oven Bakery, 128-130 North Street. Two-story, flat-roofed, clapboard commercial building. Recessed double entrance flanked by single pane show room windows. Modern fenestration and entrance to second floor.

18. Marra's Shoes, 132 North Street. Two-story, three-bay, clapboard, flat-roofed commercial building. Modern novelty siding at the first floor level. Scroll-sawn brackets with applied decoration support extended eave. Bottom of frieze has scalloped decoration.

19. Patchin Place, Bennington Hearing Aid Center, 136-140 North Street. Three-story, four-bay, clapboard commercial building. Modern store fronts at the first floor level. Left side second floor has two 3/2 fixed pane windows with molded and denticular architraves. Paneled pilasters with Corinthian capitals extend to cornice which is supported on scroll-sawn brackets with modillion block and dentil decoration. North half has 2/2 windows on second floor and scroll-sawn brackets with applied decoration supporting the eaves.

20. Eagle's club house, 144 North Street. Two-story brick and aluminum sided clubhouse. Aluminum awning. Non-contributory.

21. Kings Shoe Service, 164 North Street. Two-story, 2 x 2 bay, clapboard, store and apartment building. Original store front with recessed single door flanked by single pane showroom windows. Molded eave on simple scroll-sawn brackets. Interior includes pressed tin walls and ceilings throughout.

22. 168 North Street. One and one-half story, 2 x 2 bay, clapboard, gable front shop. Boxed eaves with gable end return. Modern windows, bay window and door. Flat-roofed ell, shed-roofed wing. Non-contributory.

23. Glidden Paint Store, 170 North Street. Two-story, 4 x 5 bay, flat-roofed, wooden store and apartment building. Clapboard sides, front is scored to imitate rusticated coursed block. Original storefront includes recessed double leaf door with transom light flanked by single pane showroom windows. Bolection molded glass paned door in the rightmost bay leads to an upstairs apartment. The second floor has a rectangular oriel window in the right most bay above the entrance. Scroll-sawn brackets with applied decoration support the oriel and the building's cornice. The latter includes a paneled frieze with incised ornament. The interior has early fluorescent light fixtures.

24. 174-176 North Street. One of a pair of identical adjacent buildings. Each is a twostory, 4 x 3 bay, hipped roof, clapboard tenement. Full, one-story, hipped roof front porch on turned posts. Front gable wall dormer.

25. 178-180 North Street. Virtually identical to its neighbor, #24.

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26. Bennington Brush Company Employment Office, 190 North Street. Two-story, 6 x 2 bay, flat-roofed yellow brick veneer garage constructed in 1928. First floor has two showroom windows flanking two entrance doors and single overhead garage door. Leaded and stained glass windows over single pane showroom windows. Factory windows on second floor. Flat roof, one-story, five-bay ell.

27. Bennington Brush Office, 190 North Street. One-story, 1 x 2 bay, gable-roofed brick office. Molded cornice with gable end returns. Windows are 6/6 with molded lintels. These two buildings (#27 and #28) were constructed prior to 1850 by L. Grover as a foundry. They were purchased in the 1860's by H. W. Putnam for his manufacture of water wheel governors.

28. Bennington Brush Factory, 190 North Street. One-story, 1 x 12 bay, gable-roofed brick factory with cross gable. Eight-course American bond brickwork. Windows are 12/12 with wooden lintels and sills. Corbelled cornice. Flat-roofed modern addition.

29. Former Feed Store, 171 North Street. Two and one-half story, 11 x 2 bay, board and batten siding, gable-roofed, mill building. Constructed in the 19th century as part of H. W. Putnam's tack factory. Note - this building has been removed and is now outside of the deithic founday - see letter dated 12/6/29

30. Eastman's Garage, 169 North Street. Two and one-half story, 9 x 4 bay, gable-roofed stone mill. Random ashlar with tooled mortar joints. Central entrance on the west eave side with modern door, fanlight, and sidelights. Double garage door added on the south end of west eave elevation. Windows are 12/12 with smooth stone lintels and wooden sills. Molded eaves with gable end returns. Interior has splayed window reveals and hewn wooden lintels. Built in 1842 by S. H. Brown as a grist mill. Purchased by H. W. Putnam in 1867 and continued as a grist mill into the 1920's. Also used as automobile garage.

31. 163 North Street. "L" plan, one and one-half story, clapboarded, gable-roofed residence. One-story, flat-roofed, modern porch. Overhanging eaves on scroll-sawn brackets. Windows are 6/6 and 4/4. note - this building has been demolished. see letter dated 12/6/29

32. Faller's Guest House, 151 North Street. Two and one-half story, 3 x 5 bay, aluminum sided, gable front dwelling. Full, shed-roofed front porch with pierced and scroll-sawn brackets. Molded door surround on entrance bay. Wing and ell later additions.

33. Faller's Shop, 145 North Street. One and one-half story, 2 x 2 bay, gable front, aluminum sided dwelling. Modern, one-story front addition with modern mansard roof. Modern, flat-roofed ell. Non-contributory.

34. VFW, 135 North Street. Two-story, $3 \ge 3$ bay, gable front, clapboard dwelling. Side hall entrance, with modern concrete steps and enclosed door. Pedimented gable with flush paneling and inset triangular panel. Plain corner pilasters with molded capitals. Modern flat-roofed, permanent awning. Windows are 6/6, with 2/2 on first floor of main facade.

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35. 133 North Street. One and one-half tall stories over high basement. Three bays, gable-front, frame with asphalt siding imitating brick. Although somewhat altered (including the insertion of two large shop windows), the massing and remaining cornice moldings are in keeping with the other buildings in the district.

36. Whitney Guest House, 129 North Street. Two-story, 5 x 2 bay, clapboarded residence. Central entrance on the west eave side with full sidelights. Gabled entrance porch on two plain Doric columns with arched soffit. Windows are 2/2 on the first floor level, and 8/8 at the second floor level. Modern, flat-roofed, two-story ell.

37. Clip Shop, 125 North Street, corner North and Pleasant Street. One and one-half story, 2 x 3 bay, clapboard, gable front Greek Revival shop and residence. Corner pilasters supporting molded cornice with gable end returns. Central entrance flanked by large pane store windows on the west gable end. Shed-roofed, full front porch with Queen Anne turned posts and scroll-sawn decoration. Modern shed dormer, south side, and green house wing, north side.

38. Clip Shop garage, Pleasant Street. Two-story, gable front garage with pressed tin siding imitating concrete block.

39. Stark Hose No. 1, 102 Pleasant Street. Two-story, 2 x 2 bay, mansard-roofed, clapboard firehouse. Overhead garage door on the first floor level. Second floor has shedroofed front porch on turned posts. Two doors with Queen Anne windows open onto porch. Small scroll-sawn brackets support cornice and porch roof. Gable-roofed addition in rear. Constructed as a firehouse in 1851, probably with later modifications.

40. Harte Realty Corp. Block, 400 Main Street. Northeast corner of Main and North Streets. Modern, one-story, flat-roofed shops. Non-contributory.

41. Fashion Jewels, 407 Main Street. Three-story, three-bay, flat-roofed, brick commercial building. Modern, first floor brick storefront extends into sidewalk. Overhanging eave supported on scroll-sawn brackets with drops. Windows are 6/6 with stone lintels and sills. First brick commercial building constructed in Bennington; built by Enos Adams circa 1845.

42. Chittenden Trust Company, 405 Main Street. Three-story brick commercial block. Modern brick first story facade extends onto sidewalk. Brick cornice corbelled to simulate brackets and drops. Upper story windows are 2/2 with brick segmental arches and stone sills and impost blocks. Rounded corner connecting north and west facades has three narrow windows on second and third floors. Constructed in 1886 by Enos Adams. While the modern first floor treatment is not entirely in keeping with the historic character of the district, the building plays a crucial role in the definition of Putnam Square. Its rounded corner and its materials complement those of the Putnam Hotel, across South Street to the west.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS		X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
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SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT				

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Downtown Bennington Historic District stems primarily from its cohesive architecture which forms a visual record of its early prominence in the commerce and government of the town and county. The buildings within the district span a wide range of styles and types, from Greek Revival to Italianate to Georgian Revival; and from residences to early mills, courthouses, commercial buildings, and automobile garages. As such, the center of downtown Bennington which is included in this nomination is the essence of the rest of the town in microcosm.

While the name of Bennington is well-known in the history of the American Revolution (to the extent that a large battle monument -- entered on the National Register of Historic Places -- was erected near the town in the 19th century), the present-day downtown area did not figure in the events of that period. The Revolutionary turmoil is recalled in the downtown area only by proximity. Bennington was founded on a hill to the west (now the Old Bennington section of town) in the 1760's. The lower village (what is now the center of town) developed to take advantage of the water power offered by the Walloomsac River, and the two villages competed for economic prominence. The newer village was given the name of Algiers by John Richmond, a sailor. The reason for his choice is unknown. Rivalry between the villages grew at nearly the same pace as the newer village. By 1824 it included 60 buildings, "not including barns and sheds."¹ In the 1830's, the tangible symbol of this rivalry was the location of the Post Office, and it was physically brought to the lower village in 1847. This event, in retrospect, seems to have assured the commer cial growth of the one and decline of the other, at least in the minds of the inhabitants. In 1849 the postal authorities gave the name of Bennington to the newer larger village, and Old Bennington became (officially) Bennington Center.

The principal cause for the village's existence and growth was, as mentioned above, the power of the Walloomsac River. It powered several mills in town, some of which are still standing both in and out of the district. In 1868, Bennington had 38 stores and businesses; four meeting houses, two paper mills, two knitting factories; two furnaces; the largest wadding factory in the country; three potteries, a tin shop, two grist, one oil, and one saw mill; machine shops, and a fire-brick factory. It will be noted from this list that the industries number about half the number of businesses, making the village an industrial center of its time. This industrial past is reflected in the district by three industrial buildings(#'s 1, 30, and 48) although only two are located on the river.

Another symbol by which the villages judged their importance was the location of the county courthouse. The first one had been built in the Old Village in 1781, and had burned in 1809. It was rebuilt on the same site, and this structure burned in 1846. The new courthouse which replaced it (again in Old Bennington) burned in 1869. This time, the new structure was constructed in the now-thriving lower village, where it still stands on South Street (#7).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9-1

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL I)ATA			
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCR	IPTION			
See Continuation She	et 10-1			
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LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	IES OVERLAPPI	NG STATE OR COUN	ITY BOUNDARIES
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
Peter Jensen, John Dum ORGANIZATION Division for Historic STREET & NUMBER		hton	TELEPH	. –
Pavilion Building			802-8 STATE	328-3226
Montpelier			Vermo	
12 STATE HISTORIC THE EVALU	JATED SIGNIFICANCE OF			EIS:
As the designated State Historic Pr hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth by	reservation Officer for the N inclusion in the National R	lational Historic F	Preservation Act of 19	966 (Public Law 89-665), I
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF	FICER SIGNATURE	Alliam y	S. Unmer	1
TITLE Deputy State His	toric Preservation	Officer	DATE	10-31-79
OR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	Shull		AL REGISTER	\$-1-80
ATTEST: Mun Mu	OLOGY AND HISTORIC PR	ESERVATION	1 DATE	9/1/F0
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43. Main Street Clock, Junction of Rt. 7 & 9. This clock is the only freestanding clock in Bennington County and is an important visual component of Putnam Square. In 1926 the Board of Directors of the County National Bank (#42) authorized the purchase of a street clock; its original cost was \$2,500. The original pedestal was replaced, because of deterioration, ca. 1954 by welder James Shay of North Bennington. At that time the lighting system was changed from incandescent to fluorescent. The clock is controlled by a master clock inside the bank.

44. Chittenden Trust Company addition, 100 South Street. Two-story, flat-roofed, modern brick office building. Irregular fenestration. Non-contributory.

45. Wills Agency, 116 South Street. Two-story, $3 \ge 6$ bay, modern brick, flat-roofed office building. Although not historic, the building is sympathetic in massing and materials to its neighbors on South Street.

46. Federal Building, 118 South Street, entered on the National Register of Historic Places, December 12, 1976.

47. Chittenden Trust Drive-In Bank, 204 South Street. Modern, one-story, clapboard, gable-roofed drive-in bank. Non-contributory.

48. C. B. Sports, 210 South Street, Neo-Classical Revival. Two-story, 7 x 8 bay, flatroofed brick factory. Central entrance, west side, has reproduction Georgian surround with fluted pilasters, transom light and segmental pediment. One-story pilaster strips divide each floor into bays. First floor has semi-circular arched windows with concrete imposts and keystones, roundheaded windows with radiating muntins. Second floor has 6/6 windows with jack arches with concrete keystones. Factory windows North and South sides. Built in the 1920's as an automotive garage.

The following buildings do not contribute to the historic character of the district and are so noted on the attached sketchmap: #'s 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 33, 40, 44, 45, 47.

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The period of greatest growth in Bennington began in the mid-19th century. According to one source, during the decade 1836-1846 ". . . new streets were opened and occupied by dwellings, stores, shops, iron foundries and manufacturing and mechanical works of various kinds moved by water power, until the new village had become more than double in population and business to the old."³ The Bennington Banner, still a leader in county journalism was founded in 1840. The Harlem Extension Railroad from Chatham, New York, was completed to Bennington in 1867. Knitting mills were established in 1858, a foundry and machine shop in 1865. By the early 1880's, according to a contemporary account, Bennington was producing gunpowder and paper machinery; "knitting machine spring needles;" pottery (for which it became widely known); Enos Adams was manufacturing mineral soap, steam and water wheel governors, patent mop sticks, wooden bowls, and cotton batting. H. W. Putnam produced bottle fasteners, clothes wringers, tacks, and "the best canning fruit-jar on the market." There were four hotels, two bakeries, four livery stables, and electrification was under way.

In the 20th century, the coming of the automobile resulted in three garages (#'s 9, 48, and 30, the latter a conversion from a mill building). For a time, starting in 1920, Automobiles Wasp were built in Bennington. Among the most important of the buildings erected in this period is the Vermont National Bank at the northwest corner of Main and North Street, of white marble, and whose plan conforms to its irregular site.

Traditionally, existing buildings have been reused to a large extent. Several structures in the district are currently in their second or third incarnations; the police station (#1) is in a stone former blacksmith's shop, built in 1833 and subsequently used as a garage, community center, and Chamber of Commerce. Another early stone building, #30, was built as a mill in 1842 by S. H. Brown. It was later converted to a tack factory, grist mill, and auto garage. Perhaps the most impressive grouping of buildings in the district is on the west side of South Street extending south from Putnam Square (#'s 6-8). On the corner of South and Main Streets is the Putnam Hotel, built in 1876. It is a massive three-story brick building, enriched with arched windows with corbelled drip molds; a corbelled frieze; and a heavy bracketed cornice. The transition between its similar Main and South Street facades is achieved by a sweeping curve, not a sharp corner.

The hotel in earlier years had a two-story Italianate porch on both facades. In its prime it advertised 75 rooms (15 with private bath), steam heat, and electric lights in every room. The hotel maintained an 80-acre farm to supply it with fresh milk and vegetables. In 1976, under an EDA Title X grant administered by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the brick was cleaned and the trim painted. Next door to it on South Street is the Pennysaver building. It was the county courthouse, built in 1870 to replace the one in the Old Village which burned in 1869. It served that function until it was replaced by #2 in 1936. Early photos show it with a tall wooden Italianate cupola and an entry porch at street level. In the 20th century, as the Pennysaver building, it had lost the latter two features and had been faced with a grillwork false facade. Under an EDA Title X grant, the facade was restored; this included removal of the false facade,

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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removal of the coat of flat black paint from the walls, sills, and windows, cleaning the brick, and redesign of the entry.

Immediately to the south is Bird's (formerly Drysdale's, #6), an Italianate brick commercial building. Similar in style, massing, setback, and material to the Pennysaver and the Putnam, it completes the trio of late 19th century buildings. The integrity and visual significance of each is magnified by its proximity to the other two, and the result is a pleasing streetscape of uniform brick facades. The focus of the district is Putnam Square, the intersection of Main Street (VT 9) and North and South Streets (US 7). As mentioned earlier, this intersection has long been important due to the nature and destinations of those two routes. This importance is recognized and emphasized by the buildings near the square; the Putnam, previously discussed, on the southwest corner; the marble Vermont National Bank on the northwest: and the brick Chittenden Trust Company (with its pedestal sidewalk clock) on the southwest. The northwestern corner currently contains a row of one-story commercial spaces, erected in the mid-20th century. Of the four, this corner has undergone the greatest transformation from its 19th century appearance.

The boundaries of the historic district were chosen to represent Bennington's historical role as a center of commerce, industry, and government. The northern boundary, the Walloomsac River, is not only a natural boundary, but has historical significance for its part in the town's growth. The southern boundary is defined by two industrial buildings of completely different eras and types: the large brick 20th century factory (#48. whose facade reflects the continuing importance of the town's colonial past) and the former blacksmith's shop (#1), a restored stone building from the days of more labor-intensive manufacturing. Main Street east and west of the square has a much greater degree of newer and substantially altered buildings mixed in with the historic, and its character differs from that of the district. Boundaries were contemplated farther east and west to include more of the downtown but it was felt that, taken as a whole, the buildings on Main Street now outside the district do not sufficiently convey the sense of the present district. The northeast corner of Putnam Square, containing a group of new buildings was nonetheless included because of its crucial location and the historical significance of the site in the Village.

In summary, the Downtown Bennington Historic District contains buildings from the several periods of Bennington's development. These vary from high-style to vernacular architectural representations, and a variety of functional types. The district thus is a cohesive group of structures which, taken as a whole, reveal the span of the village's development from the 19th century up through the present.

¹A. M. Hemenway, <u>The Vermont Historical Gazetteer</u> (Burlington, Vt. 1868), p. 140. <u>3 Ibid.</u>, p. 140. <u>4 Ibid.</u>, p. 44.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 9-1

ITEM NUMBER 9

Books:

Aldrich, L. W. History of Bennington County (Syracuse: D. Mason and Co., 1889).
Child, Hamilton. <u>Gazetteer and Business Directory of Bennington County</u> (Syracuse, 1889).
Hall, Hiland. <u>The Local History of Bennington</u> (Chicago: 1883?).
Hemenway, A. M. <u>The Vermont Historical Gazetteer</u> (Burlington, VT: Miss A. M. Hemenway, 1868).
<u>Illustrated and Descriptive Bennington Vermont</u> (Boston: Board of Trade Publishing Co., 1914).
Possons, C. <u>The Industries of Bennington</u> (1882).
Resch, Tyler. <u>Shires of Bennington</u> (Bennington: Bennington Banner, 1925).

Robinson, M. H. Bennington Souvenir (Bennington: YMCA, 1904).

Maps:

Presdee and Edwards, (1852) Rice and Harwood (Walling), (1856) Beers Atlas (1869). D.C. Miller (1894) Sanborn Insurance (1885, '91, '96, 1901, '06, '12, '21).

Miscellaneous:

Bennington Banner 1870-1886 Day Papers, Bennington Museum

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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The boundary of the Downtown Bennington Historic District begins at Point A, the intersection of the extension in a southerly direction of the western curb line of South Street with the extension in an easterly direction of the northern curb line of Elm Street; it then proceeds generally west along the northern curb line of Elm Street to Point B, the intersection of this line with the extension in a southerly direction of the western (rear) property line of the Bennington Police Station (#1); it then proceeds generally north, along said extension and property line, and the rear (western) property line of the Bennington County Courthouse (#2), to Point C, the intersection of this western boundary with the left (southern) boundary of the property of the Bennington Town Hall (#3); it then proceeds west along this southern property line to Point D, the southwestern corner of the property of #3; it then proceeds generally north, along the rear (western) property line of the Bennington Town Hall and the western property line of the property at 203 South Street (#5), and its extension in a northerly direction, crossing Franklin Lane, to Point E, the intersection of this extension with the northern curb line of Franklin Lane. It then proceeds generally north along the extension in a southerly direction of the rear (western) property line of the property at 113 South Street (#6) and continues generally north along this extension and property line and the western property lines of the properties at 109 South Street and 103 South Street (#'s 7-8), and the extension of the western property line of 103 Main Street across West Main Street to the northern curb line, the intersection with which is Point F. From this point it turns generally northwest along the northern curb line of West Main Street to Point G, the intersection of this curb line with the extension in a southwesterly direction of the left (northwestern) property line of the Bennington Garage at 324 Main Street (#9). It then proceeds generally northeast to Point H, the northwestern corner of this property, and east, to Point I, the intersection with the extension in an easterly direction of the northern boundary of the property at 324 Main Street with the western boundary of the property at 144 North Street (#20); it then proceeds generally north, along the rear (west) property lines of #'s 20-25 to Point J, which is located at the northwestern corner of the property at 178-180 North Street (#25). The boundary then proceeds generally west along an extension in a westerly direction of this northern property line to Point K, the intersection with the extension in a southerly direction of the western boundary of the property associated with the Bennington Brush Company employment office (#26); it then proceeds generally north along this boundary to include the Bennington Brush Company employment office, the Bennington Brush office (#27), and the Bennington Brush factory (#28), and its extension in a northerly direction, to Point L, the intersection of this extension with the center line of the Walloomsac River; it then turns generally east and southeast, following the center line of the river, to Point M, the intersection of this center line with the extension in an easterly direction of the southern property line of the so-called Former Feed Store (#29) at 171 North Street. It then proceeds generally west along this extension and property line to Point N, the intersection with the extension in a northerly direction of the right (eastern) boundary of the Stark Hose #1 property at 102 Pleasant Street (#39). It then proceeds generally south along this extension and property boundary, and the extension of this line in a southerly direction,

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to Point 0, the intersection of this extension with the northern curb line of Pleasant Street. It then turns generally east and proceeds along this northern curb line to Point P, the intersection of this curb line with a line running north from the northeastern corner of the building at 400 Main Street (#40) the so-called Harte Realty Corporation Block. It then proceeds south along this line to Point Q, the northeastern corner of said building, from which it proceeds generally south-southwest along the eastern wall of this building and the extension of that line in a south-southwesterly direction to Point R, the intersection of this extension with the northern curb line of East Main Street. It then proceeds generally west along this curb line to Point S, located at its intersection with an extension in a northerly direction of the left (eastern) property line of the building at 407 Main Street (#41). It then proceeds generally south along this extension and property line and its extension in a southerly direction to include the properties at 100, 116, and 118 South Street (#'s 44-46) to Point T, the intersection of this line with the northern curb line of Union Street. It then proceeds generally west along this curb line to Point U, the intersection of this line with the extension in a northerly direction of the eastern boundary of the property at 204 South Street (#47). It then proceeds generally south along this extension and property line to Point V, the intersection with the left (northern) boundary of the property at 210 South Street It then proceeds generally east along this northern property boundary to Point W, (#48). the northeastern corner of this property; it then proceeds generally south along the eastern boundary of this property and its extension in a southerly direction to Point X, at the intersection with the northern curb line of Hillside; it then proceeds generally west along this northern curb line and its extension in a westerly direction to Point Y, its intersection with the western curb line of South Street, from which the boundary proceeds generally south along this western curb line to Point A, the point of beginning.

CONTINUATION SHEET 4-1

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

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PAGE 1

1.	Town of Benningto 205 South Street Bennington, VT		12.	Mary C. Leahy 336 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201
2.	County of Benning 207 South Street Bennington, VT	-	13.	Vermont National Bank 338 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201
3.	Town of Benningto 205 South Street Bennington, VT	on 05201	14.	Andromache Sachlos 109 Jefferson Avenue Bennington, VT 05201
4.	Memorial Theatre T. Garry Buckley 201 South Street	Inc.	15.	Ray L. Crosier Bennington, VT 05201
5.	Bennington, VT Memorial Theatre	05201	16.	Charles Paquin 113 Gage Street Bennington, VT 05201
5.	T. Garry Buckley 201 South Street		17.	
6.	Bennington, VT Alexander B. Drys	05201 sdale		Bennington, VT 05201
	904 Main Street Bennington, VT	05201	18.	Richard Torrey 111 Burgess Road Bennington, VT 05201
7.	George Hadwen			
	11 Walloomsac Roa	ad	19.	Pat Ricchi
_	Bennington, VT	05201		Astrachare Drive Bennington, VT 05201
8.	George Hadwen	_ 1	20	Fristernel Orden of Feeler
	11 Walloomsac Roa		20.	Fraternal Order of Eagles 144 North Street
	Bennington, VT	05201		Bennington, VT 05201
9.	Bennington Garage	e Corp.		
	324 Main Street	-	21.	Antonio Napolitano
	Bennington, VT	05201		164 North Street
10.	Suburban Dronana	Cac Comp		Bennington, VT 05201
10.	Suburban Propane 332 Main Street	das corp.	22.	Rene Ducharme
	Bennington, VT	05201		519 South Street Bennington, VT 05201
11.	Katie Cleaver			
	334 Main Street			
	Bennington, VT	05201		

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- 23. Paul Caron 407 Jefferson Heights Bennington, VT 05201
- 24. Tuttle Company 113 Depot Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 25. Tuttle Company 113 Depot Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 26. Bennington Brush Company 190 North Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 27. Bennington Brush Company 190 North Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 28. Bennington Brush Company 190 North Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 29. Bennington Co-op Savings & Loan 341 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 430. Rutland Savings Bank -Rutland, VT 05701
 - 31. Bennington Co-op Savings & Loan 341 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201
 - 32. Fred Fuller 151 North Street Bennington, VT 05201
 - 33. Fred Fuller 151 North Street Bennington, VT 05201
 - 34. VFW 137 North Street Bennington, VT 05201

35. VFW 137 North Street Bennington, VT 05201

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- 36. Albert Boulrice 129 North Street . Bennington, VT 05201
- 37. Vassilios Stamatakos & Luis Carlos Debrev 125 North Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 38. Vassilios Stamatakos & Luis Carlos Debrev 125 North Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 39. Stark Hose No. 1 108 School Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 40. Harte Realty Corp. 400 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 41. Charles W. Gould 320 Crescent Bivd. Bennington, VT 05201
- 42. Swanton Company Inc. 401-05 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 43. Swanton Company Inc. 401-05 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 44. Swanton Company Inc.
 401-05 Main Street
 Bennington, VT 05201
- 45. Peter Donavan 116 South Street Bennington, VT 05201

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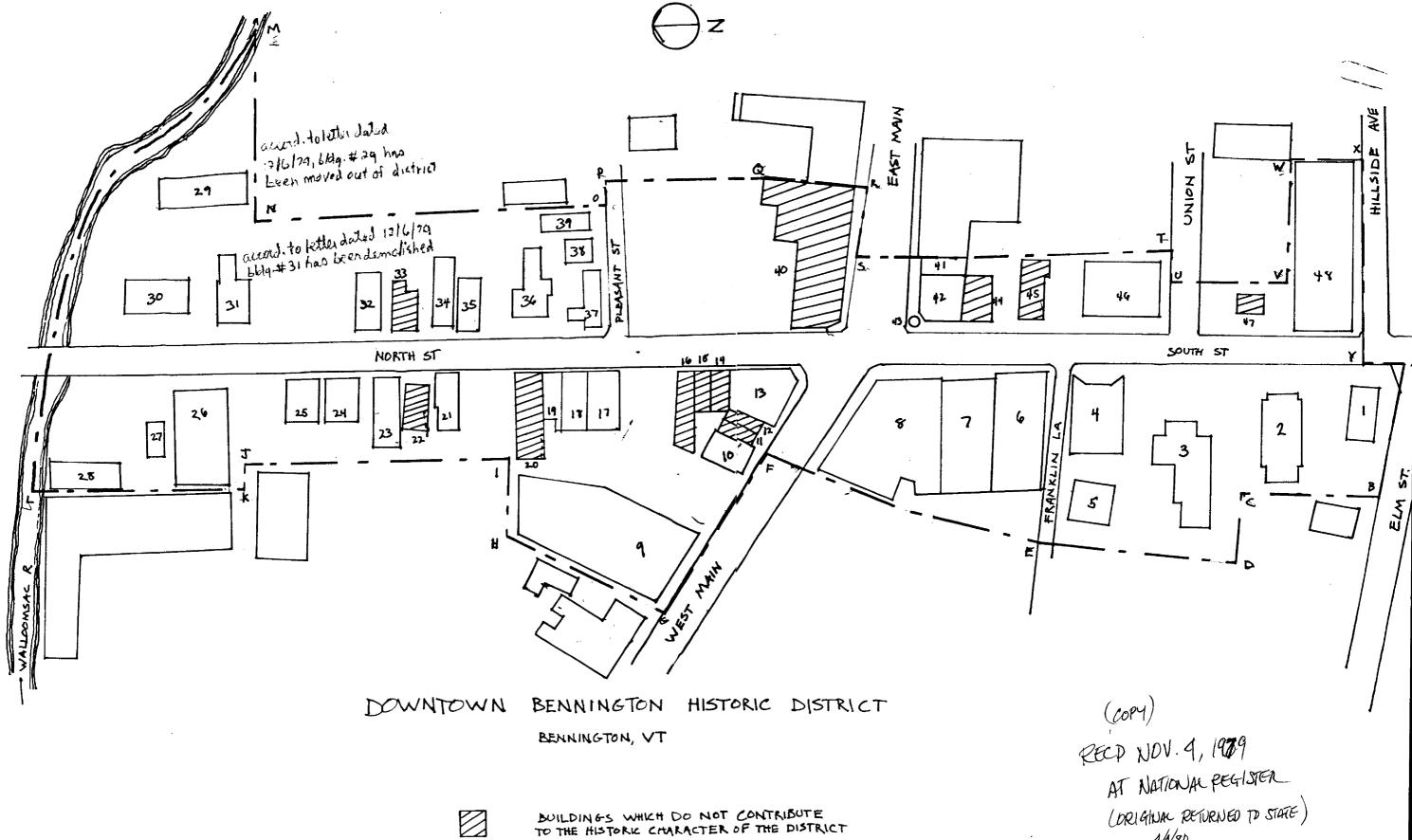
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CONTINUATION SHEET 4-3 ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

- 46. United States of America c/o Ms. Beverly James Regional Historic Preservation Officer
 General Services Administration 724 John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse Boston, MA 02109
- 47. Swanton Company Inc. 401-05 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201
- 48. Charles B. Vaughn, Jr. Arlington, VT 05250



DISTRICT BOUNDARY

4/4/80 BM

80000357

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 any 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 <u>Downtown Bennington Historic District</u> other names/site number <u>n/a</u>			
2. Location			
street & number <u>North Street, Main Street, South Street</u> not for publication <u>n/a</u> city or town <u>Bennington</u> vicinity <u>n/a</u> state <u>Vermont</u> code <u>VT</u> county <u>Bennington</u> code <u>003</u> zip code <u>05201</u>			

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jusanne C. Jamila Vatimal Recard	Her Specialus 4-10-08
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date

Vermont S tate Historic Preservation Office

State or 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 or other official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this 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): additional Documentation According Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

<u>x</u> private

<u>x</u>public-local

<u>x</u> public-State

____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

____ building(s)

<u>x</u> district

_____ site

____ structure

____ object

Number of Resources within Property

ContributingNoncontributing3511buildings__</tr

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>36</u>

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Domestic	Sub: single dwelling
	Domestic	secondary structure
-	Commerce/Trade	department store
-	Commerce/Trade	business
-	Commerce/Trade	professional
-	Commerce/Trade	specialty store
-	Government	city hall
	Government	fire station
-	Government	post office
-	Government	courthouse
-	Recreation	theater
-	Social	meeting hall
-	Industry	manufacturing facility
	Landscape	object

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade	Sub:_	business
Commerce/Trade		professional
Commerce/Trade		specialty store
Commerce/Trade		restaurant
Commerce/Trade		financial institution
Domestic		single dwelling
Government		city hall
Government		courthouse
Government		police station
Social		meeting hall
Landscape		object
	Commerce/TradeCommerce/TradeCommerce/TradeCommerce/TradeDomesticGovernmentGovernmentGovernmentSocial	Commerce/Trade Commerce/Trade Commerce/Trade Commerce/Trade Domestic Government Government Social

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival Second Empire Italianate Gothic Colonial Revival Classical Revival Bungalow

Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation <u>stone</u> roof <u>slate</u> walls <u>weatherboard</u> other brick ______asphalt shingle

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

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)

 \underline{x} 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.

 \underline{x} 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 a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development Politics/Government

Period of Significance <u>1835-1957</u>

Significant Dates <u>1852</u>

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) $\underline{n/a}$

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.
- <u>x</u> 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 #_____

Primary Location of Additional Data

<u>x</u>State Historic Preservation Office

- ____ Other State agency
- ____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- ____ University
- ____ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing A <u>18</u> 647320 4748930 C <u>18</u> 647300 4748450 B <u>18</u> 647120 4748450 D <u>18</u> 647140 4748930 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.)

Downtown Bennington Historic District, Bennington, Bennington Co., VT

11. Form Prepared By						
name/titlePaula Sagerman, Historic Preservation Consultant						
organization <u>n/a</u> date <u>December 3, 2007</u>						
street & number <u>7 Winter Haven Dr.</u> telephone <u>(802) 464-5179</u>						
city or town <u>Wilmington</u> state <u>VT</u> zip code <u>05363</u>						
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 the SHPO or FPO.) name						
street & numbertelephone						
city or townstatezip code						

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 the 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.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.