

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 26 1988
DATE ENTERED	JUN 3 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Equinox House ^{Historic District} Supplement

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Union Streets

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Manchester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Vermont

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

CODE
50

COUNTY
Bennington

CODE
003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

See Continuation Sheet 4-1

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Manchester Center

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

See Continuation Sheet 6-1

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This nomination clarifies and expands the nomination of the Equinox House, entered in the National Register on November 21, 1972. That nomination included the two principal buildings of the Equinox complex and an undefined 9-acre parcel. This amendment expands the nominated area to include associated religious, civic, and commercial buildings due to the visual integrity of the area as the center of public life in the village of Manchester.

The district covered by this nomination includes eleven buildings and building complexes which exhibit Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. Functional types include hotels, a church, store, courthouse, and music hall. The buildings are tightly clustered, and have, since its founding, defined the civic and commercial core of the Village of Manchester. Nominated buildings are located on both sides of US 7, the major north-south thoroughfare on the western side of the state and Union Street to the east.

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

1. Orvis Inn, probably built in the 1860's. A boldly massed 2½-story frame building with clapboard siding, the Orvis Inn is five bays across its main (east) facade, and has a central entrance, and gable roof. There is a large central wall dormer with a Palladian window; two flanking gabled dormers continue the classical motif, but use a blind diamond panel pane on either side of a round-arched window to create the image. All first and second story windows are 2/2; some windows on the rear of the first floor have been removed. A cornice with incised paired brackets runs below the eaves and a similar cornice is found on the roof dormers. A full-width one-story porch runs across the front facade.

To the rear of the building extends a 9-bay ell of the same height as the main block. It too is clapboarded.

It is commonly held that this building was in existence before 1833 and was altered in the later 19th century. It seems more likely, however, that the Orvis Inn was constructed virtually as it now stands, in the 1860's. One late-19th century source states that the building was erected as a residence by J. M. Shattuck, who "removed" the pre-1833 house from the site.¹ Shattuck is shown as owner of the structures on an 1869 map.² The massing and detailing of the Inn would support this later construction date. In 1883, the building was purchased by Charles F. Orvis and functioned as a dwelling and summer boarding house.

2. First Congregational Church, 1871. The tallest building in the Town of Manchester, the First Congregational Church is a frame structure with clapboard siding. Its main (west) facade is relatively plain, with a large central round window with label mold located in the upper portion of the front wall, flanked by two narrow 1/1 round arch windows below. Directly under the center window is a paneled double-leaf door. On the right side of the facade, at the southwest corner of the building, is a three-stage spire whose square base extends slightly higher than the eaves line of the main mass of the church. This base contains an entry on the ground floor and a round-arch window above a rectangular window, repeating the motif of the two smaller windows on the main front.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received MAR 26 1980
 date entered JUN 3 1980

Continuation sheet 7-2

Item number 7

Page 2

Above this base is a square bell chamber with a louvered round-arch opening on the west and south facades; other sides are infilled with panels. This stage is capped by a clock face on each side which protrudes into the heavy console cornice at the top of the level. The topmost portion of the tower is an octagonal broach spire, capped by a finial.

Echoing the large tower, a small square paneled tower on the left side of the main facade breaks through the cornice line of the main block and culminates in a small spire.

The church is six bays deep, each bay defined by a tall round-arch window. The bays are further delineated by plain vertical boards between the windows, which end in incised consoles supporting the eaves.

The ornament on the building is consistent with its period and includes jig-saw decoration on the consoles, applied drops below the first-stage cornice of the tower, applied rose window tracery on the blind fanlights over the entrances, and an applied quatrefoil near the top of the smaller spire.

One source states that the "contractors and the architect for the . . . church were from Troy, New York."³ The church has been little altered since its construction. Three multi-paned picture windows on the lower north wall do not seriously detract from the structure's historic appearance. The interior of the church was remodelled between 1925 and 1931.

There is a one-story addition, c. 1970, extending south from the rear of the right (south) facade of the church. It houses the church offices and school. A plain addition on the rear of this structure rises two stories above grade due to a sharp drop in the site. It is not visible from Route 7. Due to the low profile of the office/school addition, it does not seriously detract from the church's primary visual function as the closure on the north-east corner of the district.

3. Soldier's Monument, 1897. Consisting of a sculpture of a Revolutionary War soldier atop a granite pedestal, this statue is an important part of the streetscape, and adds to the sense of time and place of the district.

4. Johnny Appleseed Bookshop, probably 1832 or 1833. This handsome brick structure is one of the smallest in the district, yet it contributes much to the character of the village center. It is three bays wide on the front (east) gable end, with a central entry, and is three bays deep.

The facade is strongly defined by four two-story pilasters which terminate in three relieving arches with marble keystones and imposts. The central arch protrudes up into the lower chord of the cornice on the pedimented gable. The first floor windows are recent and contain 28 panes; at one point they had 2/2 sash, but probably originated as 6/6.

The presence of two one-story recessed panels with relieving arches on the south facade, as well as vaguely arched changes in the type of brick used on the second floor, suggest that the building may have been enlarged later in the century. This would be stylistically consistent with the second floor fenestration.

The second floor windows on the main facade consist of two oculi in the side bays and a large thermal window in the center bay. The latter has a stone sill similar to those of

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered JUN 3 1980

Continuation sheet 7-3

Item number 7

Page 3

the first floor windows. The oculi have four small stone key voussoirs around their circumferences.

The main entrance is Greek Revival in detail. Beneath a large stone lintel is a six-light transom supported by two pairs of pilasters, with each pair separated by a five-light, $\frac{1}{2}$ -length sidelight.

The gable tympanum is clapboarded and contains a semi-circular window with radiating muntins and applied keystone ornament.

The building housed the First Bank of Manchester (which was also Manchester's first bank), founded in 1832. Although several sources state that the structure was built in 1832 or 1833, the bank was originally operated in a house, and was later located in this building where it remained until the bank closed in 1848.⁴ The Battenkill Bank began operation in the building in the same year. Currently housing a bookstore, the building has retained its vault which is now used for rare book storage.

5. Bennington County Courthouse, 1822; enlarged 1849. The center of civic life in Manchester, this is the second county courthouse in the village (the first is now incorporated into the Equinox Junior, #10). This structure bears some of the detail of its 1822 origins, but is clearly a product, in large part, of its 1849 remodelling, placing it squarely within the mainstream of the Greek Revival period.

This brick building is five bays across the main (west) gable facade and has a central entrance. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories high with a square and octagonal bell tower. Due to the slope of Union Street to the east, the rear of the building is a full three stories above grade.

The door and four first floor windows on the main facade are set within five recessed segmentally-arched panels. All windows on the front facade have 6/6 sash. The second floor window heads are set up against the bottom of the entablature, under a full pediment with flush-boarded tympanum.

The side facades have three bays, each articulated by nearly full-height recessed round-arched panels containing tall $2/2$ double-hung windows.

The bell tower is recessed slightly back from the main facade along the roof ridge. Its square base is flush-boarded, with corner pilasters supporting a full entablature. Above the cornice, smaller pilasters accent a paneled parapet that surrounds the courthouse's octagonal louvered belfry, which also exhibits pilasters and a full entablature. The tower is capped by an octagonal convex roof.

Manchester is one of two shire towns in Bennington County, the other being Bennington. As a result, there are two county courthouses. This one was built in 1822 atop an old burying ground, and was remodelled and enlarged in 1849. Still in active use for the purpose for which it was built, it is a key building in the district anchoring the corner of Union Street, and helping to balance the mass of the Equinox House across the street.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only
 received MAR 26 1980
 date entered JUN 3

Continuation sheet 7-4

Item number 7

Page 4

6. Equinox Office, Union Street, c. 1895 and 1907. A very plain clapboard building with gabled roof, the structure is composed of two major sections. The westernmost, or uphill, portion (6-A) is six bays wide, and two stories high. Its west and north sides exhibit deteriorated pressed metal siding imprinted with a pattern of coursed brick. A full-width one-story porch extends across the front facade. This section of the building was built c. 1895 by Truman Perkins who operated a hardware store in the building.

The eastern portion (6-B) rises three stories above its stone foundation due to the slope of Union Street, and has its original storefronts on the ground floor. Built in 1907 by the Taconic Realty Co., it served as a post office and offices of the Manchester Journal for many years.

Although the building lacks architectural ornament, its materials and massing serve to maintain the character of the streetscape, to draw the eye down Union Street, and to help define this sidestreet extension of the civic and commercial core of the village.

7. Music Hall, 1868. A very large frame building with a hip roof, the Music Hall is 3½-stories high, 12 bays deep, and has a crowded three-bay front facade.

The street (north) facade of the Music Hall is elaborately ornamented. Unlike the other elevations which are clapboarded, the front is finished in flushboards. It is divided into three wide bays by cornerboards and pilasters and has a raised central entrance housed in a clapboarded vestibule and approached through a classically ornamented, arcaded entrance canopy which extends out over the sidewalk.

The third floor of the center section contains a pair of tall rectangular windows within a very large round-arch surround. Protruding above the frieze line, the windows are accommodated in the extra wall space provided by a central gabled wall dormer.

The entablature of the front facade is very elaborate. Heavy paired brackets are located at either end of each segment of the entablature and smaller brackets and frieze panels decorate the body of each segment. Florid incised motifs ornament the brackets and panels.

The side facades are clapboarded, with irregularly grouped windows. Ornament consists of single brackets supporting a wide cornice.

The Music Hall was built in 1868 to take part in Manchester's rapid growth as a resort. A theater occupied the main floor, and a 4-lane bowling alley and multi-purpose room were located on the lower level. The Music Hall was used for many kinds of entertainment, including plays, concerts, and dances. The theater floor was divided into two levels in 1913, and used for housing guests. The original, tall theater windows were replaced by two rows of smaller windows at that time.

The Music Hall displays the elaborate surface treatments common to the Italianate period. In massing, however, it has not escaped being influenced by its Federal and Greek Revival neighbors.

8. Orvis Building, c. 1865. This is a very plain, functional frame and clapboard building of 2½-stories, with gable end orientation. It is three bays on the front (north) facade,

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered JUN 3

Continuation sheet 7-5

Item number 7

Page 5

with a center entry. There is one central paneled loading door with derrick in the front gable peak, and one on the second floor of the east elevation. The building is four bays deep, and has had a covered walkway added to the left (east) side. A later five-bay, 3-story addition on the rear of the main block has 6/6 windows on the sides and 3/1 on the rear. The gable roof of the addition is slightly lower than that of the main block.

This building may have been constructed as a tin shop. It has been associated for many years with the Orvis fly-fishing equipment company, which was founded in Manchester in 1856. Members of the Orvis family have also been extensively associated with the Equinox and other inns in the village.

9. Store, c. 1865. This is a small two-story clapboard building with a three bay front facade, a stone foundation, corner boards, simple entablature, and a center entry. The small windows have 6/6 sash. The outstanding feature of the building is its nearly intact 19th century storefront, which consists of two large plate glass display windows flanking a recessed double-leaf door with transom, in a splayed reveal.

Together with the Orvis Building, this structure continues the streetscape of Union Street initiated by the Music Hall, providing a tapering perspective of the built environment as the land descends from Route 7.

10. Equinox Junior, late 18th through late 19th centuries. Presently one long building, the Equinox Junior is actually several early buildings which were consolidated in the late 19th century to provide increased hotel space to house the burgeoning resort trade in Manchester.

As presently standing, the complex reads as a string of four clapboarded gable-roofed blocks whose roof ridge orientation alternates between being perpendicular and parallel to Main Street, beginning with a perpendicular orientation on the block at the corner of Union Street (10-B). The two gable-end blocks (#10-B and 10-E) are taller than their neighbors and are surmounted by square belvederes with corner pilasters and paired louvered openings on each face.

The northernmost section (10-B), at the corner of Union Street, is three bays wide and four bays deep. Greek Revival details of the block include wide corner pilasters and a full entablature. The first floor on Main Street has been altered by the addition of three large multi-paned display windows, and a modern one-story ell (10-A) with canted entrance has been added on the Union Street side.

Built in 1862 as the Manchester Hotel, the ground floor housed a drugstore for many years.

The adjoining block to the south (10-C and 10-D) has its roof ridge parallel to Main Street and is seven bays wide on the second floor. A five-bay, one-story porch with bracketed posts runs the length of the facade. The block is actually composed of two smaller blocks; the northern portion (10-C) is three bays on the second floor and has a later multipaned storefront with splayed entrance on the first floor. The southern portion (10-D) is four bays on the second floor and has two doors on the first floor with handsome classical surrounds with pilasters supporting a full entablature.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered

JUN 3 1980

Continuation sheet 7-6

Item number 7

Page 6

The northern portion of the block (10-C) was built in the 1860's to connect the old Manchester Hotel, to the north, and the old Vermont Hotel, to the south. It is currently in very poor structural condition. Because it was built as infill, the rear of the structure interrupts the east elevation of the complex in a confusing manner. A current renovation study proposes that this portion be removed.

The southern portion (10-D) originally housed the County Courthouse, jail, and a tavern in the late 18th century. Evidence of the vaulted courtroom ceiling still exists on the second floor. The foundation is constructed of marble. In 1794, the building became part of the Vermont Hotel, along with the next block to the south.

The next main block to the south (10-E) has its gable-end facing the street. It is four bays wide and has a 3-bay, 2-story porch, echoing the Equinox House across the street. The entrance in the far left (north) bay has minor pilasters supporting a transom bar and transom and major pilasters supporting a full entablature. Built c. 1795, this block was originally part of the Vermont Hotel.

The fourth and southern most principal block of Equinox Junior (10-F) is a five-bay, 2-story structure with its roof ridge parallel to the street. The Greek Revival central doorway is nearly identical to the one in the block immediately to the north, to which this building is connected by a one-bay, 2-story link. Originally a Federal house belonging to Seth Lyons, the structure was purchased and connected to the Vermont Hotel in 1866, at which time the porch was added.

The Equinox Junior was assembled from several existing buildings, as an annex to the Equinox House across the street. By 1866, when the Junior was opened, the Equinox was well-established as a popular summer resort, and the extra space was needed to accommodate an ever-growing number of guests. The common material, design, and ornament of the two complexes seems to produce a double image of a single design portrayed at two different scales; the large scale on the west and the smaller scale on the east, as one passes along Main Street. Although this is not true upon closer inspection, the counterpoint in scale provided by the two complexes is an important part of the character of the village center.

Immediately in front of Equinox Junior is a colonial-period mile post which marks 22 miles to Bennington.

11. Equinox House, 1801 through mid 20th century. (For full description see original nomination, entered on the National Register of Historic Places, November 21, 1972.) The Equinox House is the dominant feature of the village center. It is comprised of four principal buildings spanned by a 2-story veranda along Main Street, with numerous wings and minor buildings extending west behind the main complex. Union Street used to cross Main Street and pass through the middle of the complex; a second-story walkway connected the two central blocks of the complex above the thoroughfare.

The two rectangular blocks north of the old street (#'s 11-A and 11-C) are each three stories high with a flat roof and large rectangular belvedere. A recessed 3-story wing of lower height (#11-B) connects the two blocks. The two-story veranda which spans the facades of the blocks and connecting wing has paneled square columns. All three portions are framed by a full entablature located on the parapets which screen the nearly flat

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered JUN 3

Continuation sheet 7-7

Item number 7

Page 7

roofs of the structures. Paneled pilasters define the third floor corners of the two major blocks and the belvederes. Doors are encased in Greek Revival surrounds with pilasters and entablatures.

Like the Equinox Junior complex across the street, the Equinox House was assembled from several pre-existing buildings. The northernmost block of the Equinox (11-A) was the original Levi Orvis house, and was built in 1832. (Shortly thereafter, Orvis laid the town's first block of marble sidewalk in front of his home. Today, old marble sidewalks extend the length of the village center on either side of Route 7.) Originally, the block may have had a more steeply pitched roof. The block next to the old street (11-C) was built as a brick store by Walter Shepard in 1834. Circa 1841, Levi Orvis came into ownership of the store and by 1853, had added the third story and clapboarded over the old structure. The ground floor housed the main entrance area and hotel office, which was remodeled in the early part of this century. The connecting wing (11-B) was built to serve as the main lobby of the hotel. Originally two stories, a third floor was added to the structure between 1854 and 1887. The complex opened as the Equinox House in 1853.

To the south of old Union Street, another set of building (#'s 11-E and 11-G) completes the street facade of the Equinox. Like the buildings to the north, this portion of the complex is comprised of two major blocks joined by a connecting link. The northernmost block (11-E) is five bays wide, $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories high, and has its roof ridge parallel to Main Street. The Greek Revival door has pilasters, sidelights and transom lights under a full entablature. The block is clad in wide, beaded clapboards. A double-height shed-roofed portico with fluted Doric columns resting on marble bases spans the front facade and continues on the southern elevation.

The southernmost of the blocks in this section (11-G) has a gable-end orientation, is four bays wide, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories high. The off-center door has the same surround as the one on the block to the north, described above. Also similar to the previously mentioned block is its double-height colonnaded portico, although on this block, the roof is flat and the bases of the columns have been replaced with wood. It also turns the corner of the block, onto the north facade.

The 2-story connecting wing (11-F) has three sets of superimposed fluted Doric columns, separated by a balcony which is accessible from the second story rooms of the wing. This 2-story porch connects the porticoes of the two main blocks, giving the appearance of a continuous portico across the group.

As with the northern portion of the Equinox House, the portion south of old Union Street formerly existed as separate buildings. The northernmost block (11-E) was constructed as Munson's Inn in 1801. It is the oldest part of the Equinox complex. Originally two stories and Federal in style, the Inn was raised to three stories in 1854, when it was known as Vanderlips Hotel. In 1839, Vanderlip had added the Greek Revival portico. The Greek Revival door and cornice may have been added at that time also. The expansion of the hotel in that year included construction of the connecting wing (11-F) and the $3\frac{1}{2}$ -story end block (11-G) as well. Vanderlips Hotel later became the Taconic Hotel until 1883, when it was purchased by Franklin Orvis and connected by the walkway over Union Street (11-D) to the original Equinox House.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
 received MAR 26 1980
 date entered JUN 3 1980

Continuation sheet 7-8

Item number 7

Page 8

Behind the street facade of the Equinox extend numerous wings. A group of three wings is attached to the rear of the original Equinox House, north of the old Union Street. The northernmost addition (11-H) was used as a kitchen and staff quarters, and is now very deteriorated. Next south, (11-I) the dining room of the original Equinox House, was later used as a ballroom. Surrounding roofs draining onto its nearly flat roof present a threat to the preservation of the structure. The first three floors of the southernmost of the three wings (11-J) date from before 1853. Its fourth floor was added c. 1885. This wing contains the Lincoln Suite, second floor rooms remodeled for Abraham Lincoln who had planned to spend the summer of 1865 at the Equinox House.

Attached to the rear of this group are a series of modern frame and masonry additions which are not in keeping with the character of the front sections, and/or have deteriorated to the point where they have lost any architectural significance they may once have had. They are: 11-K, c. 1915 dining room addition; 11-L, c. 1915 dining room addition; 11-M, 1913 dining room addition; and 11-N, 1913 kitchen.

Behind the northern portion of the old Vanderlips Hotel (11-E) is an early three-story ell (11-O). Originally two stories, the third floor was added between 1854 and 1887. It is stylistically and visually consistent with the adjoining main block. Extending west from the southern block of the old Vanderlips Hotel are two more additions. The first (11-P) was built between 1887 and 1912, and the second (11-Q) in 1916. The increased height of these later additions detracts from the impact of the 3-story street facade of the Equinox, when approached from the south. Of later and poorer quality construction than the main buildings of the Equinox, both blocks are scheduled to be reduced to three stories in the current Equinox renovation plan, to meet fire codes. This modification would not diminish the qualities of the Equinox which make it eligible for the National Register.

Modern motel units (11-W, X, Y, Z, AA, and BB) and other 20th century non-contributing structures, including a tennis clubhouse (11-V), small gas pumping station, 11-U), pool cabana (11-S), and convention hall (11-T), stand to the west (rear) of the main buildings.

The garden lounge (11-R), an early 19th century barn, has lost its architectural integrity through extensive remodelling.

¹Coy, L.D., Personal Recollections of L.D. Coy, pg. 11.

²Beers, F.W., Atlas of Bennington, Vermont.

³Bigelow, Edwin L. & Nancy H. Otis, Manchester, Vermont: A Pleasant Land Among the Mountains, pg. 45.

⁴Bigelow, Edwin L. & Nancy H. Otis, Manchester, Vermont: A Pleasant Land Among the Mountains, pg. 157.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered JUN 3

Continuation sheet 8-2

Item number 8

Page 2

Tourists were drawn by the promise of clear mountain air, spectacular views, opportunities to hike Mt. Equinox immediately to the west, and the famous Equinox springwater which was bottled and sold.

As the fortunes of the Equinox declined in the 20th century new construction in the district nearly halted. A new post office, standing adjacent to the district boundary, was dedicated in 1963, and the Congregational Church added a wing about the same time. In an unsuccessful attempt to attract modern auto-centered tourists and conventioners, the Equinox House added new motel units in the rear of the hotel grounds.

In one sense, the cluster of buildings results in a classic New England village center, with multiple public buildings focused on a manicured green. However, Manchester never was a "typical" village, because of the Equinox, and never will be. Vermont once boasted numerous resort hotels. (See Hyde Manor, nominated to the National Register January 7, 1980, and Clarendon Hotel, entered in the National Register May 17, 1976.) Most eventually fell on hard times, including the Equinox. However, the Equinox has retained its architectural and visual integrity, and is the most extensive and architecturally intact 19th-century resort complex in the state. Due to its large amount of usable space, the Equinox presents one of the finest opportunities for redevelopment in the state, and such a project is presently being contemplated.

The nominated district comprises the civic and commercial core of Manchester Village. The boundary of the nomination is defined by changes in topography, use, scale, age, and density. The northern boundary separates the historic large-scale public buildings of the district from smaller and generally newer structures to the north. Three 20th-century structures (a post office, office building and fire station) abut the northern edge of the district.

The eastern side of the district is drawn to correspond to an abrupt decrease in building density along Union Street. The line partially coincides with a physical edge, in the form of an unpaved service road. East of the line, the land falls off dramatically, making it a visual boundary as well.

To the south, the district boundary falls immediately south of the Equinox and Equinox Junior buildings. This line marks the change in building type from public (represented in the district by the present and former hotels, the church, courthouse, and bookshop) to private (predominantly residential).

On the west, topography and land use define the district boundary. The land in the district slopes uphill to the west, toward the summit of Equinox Mountain. There are no streets parallel to and west of Route 7.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Resort
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Refer to original nomination for additional statement.)

The Equinox House and the buildings immediately surrounding it form an unusually cohesive visual unit which abounds in historical and architectural significance. The buildings serve as the center of public life in Manchester Village, containing religious, civic, and commercial uses. Dominated by the four buildings of the Equinox House with its continuous colossal colonnade, the buildings of the district form an appealing, tightly structured zone of complementary architecture.

This area of Manchester has long been associated with the tourist and resort trade. The buildings in the district include several present or former inns or hotels, dating from the earliest years of the 19th century.

The Equinox catered to the highest classes of society; its clientele was primarily from New York. Visitors over the years included Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and her son, Robert Todd (who built the nearby Hildene, listed in the National Register on October 28, 1977); Mrs. U.S. Grant; numerous corporate moguls, two ambassadors, and Theodore Roosevelt and William Taft.

In 1853 when the Equinox consisted of only the north half of the present hotel (#11A-C), it contained 125 rooms. By 1883 the two halves had been joined, and in 1887 advertisements featured running mountain water in the rooms, which must have been a strong inducement to the city dwellers. By 1916, the hotel had expanded to 200 rooms. However, the way of life which fed this type of grand hotel was already disappearing, and in 1927 the bottling plant (for Equinox mountain water) was converted to a waiter's dormitory. In 1938 the Equinox filed for bankruptcy.

The hotel business was the chief economic base for the town, but the Orvis family was also involved in other pursuits. The Orvis Company, now a major retailer of fly-fishing and other sporting equipment, was founded in a house in Manchester in 1856. Its subsequent location was the second floor of what is now the Johnny Appleseed Bookstore (#4). Members of the Orvis family owned, at various times, the Equinox, the Orvis Inn, and the Orvis Building on Union Street.

In response to the tourism boom of the mid-19th century, the village prospered. The Manchester Hotel, now part of the Junior (#10) was built in 1862; Union Street was opened the same year. The Orvis Inn was built in the 1860's. The Music Hall, further down Union Street, was built in 1868. The Congregational Church (#2) was built in 1871. The Equinox was remodeled in 1880.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9-1.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25.75[±] acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Manchester, VT

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 6568 | 1610 | 4780 | 5310

B 18 | 6568 | 70 | 4780 | 270

C 18 | 6564 | 210 | 4780 | 270

D 18 | 6564 | 25 | 4780 | 5310

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet 10-1.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles H. Ashton and Nancy E. Boone, Architectural Historians

ORGANIZATION

Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

February 8, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont 05602

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Timney

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2.4.80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally G. Oldb
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/3/80

ATTEST: *William Andrews*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4/16/80

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered JUN 3

Continuation sheet 9-1

Item number 9

Page 1

- Bennet, G.S., "Off the Shelf," Manchester Journal, Manchester, Vermont, February 19, 1970.
- Bigelow, Edwin L. and Nancy H. Otis, Manchester, Vermont: A Pleasant Land Among the Mountains, Town of Manchester, 1961.
- Burley, Robert Associates, Equinox House Development Study, Waitsfield, Vermont, 1980. Draft.
- Child, Hamilton, Gazetteer and Business Directory of Bennington County, Vermont for 1880-81, Syracuse, N.Y., 1880.
- Coy, L. D., Personal Recollections of L. D. Coy, Manchester, Vermont, 1897. Undated pamphlet reprint.
- Hemenway, Abby Maria, The Vermont Historical Gazetteer, Vol. 1, published by the author, Burlington, Vermont, 1868.
- Manchester Historical Society, Town of Manchester, Vermont, 1761-1976, 1976.
- Orton, Vrest, "Equinox," Vermont Life, Vol. 4, No. 1, Autumn 1949.

MAPS

- Beers, F.W., Atlas of Bennington, Vermont, A.D. Ellis and G.G. Soule, New York, 1869. Reprinted by Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vt., 1969.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered JUN 3 1980

Continuation sheet 10-1

Item number 10

Page 1

The boundary of the district begins at Point A, located at the intersection of the east side of the marble sidewalk on the east side of Main Street with the southern edge of the unpaved service road which runs north of and parallel to the north facade of the First Congregational Church (#2). From there it proceeds generally east along the southern edge of said service road and its extension in a westerly direction for approximately 262.5 feet to Point B, located at the intersection of this line with an extension in a northerly direction of the western edge of the unpaved service road to the east of the old Store (#9). It then proceeds south along said extension and western edge of the service road to Point C, at its intersection with the Equinox property line, along the northern edge of the unpaved service road to the south of Equinox Junior (#10). The boundary then proceeds west along said property line and a western extension thereof, crossing Main Street (U.S. Route 7), to Point D, at the western edge of the marble sidewalk. It then proceeds generally north along the western edge of the sidewalk for approximately 18 feet to Point E, at the intersection with the Equinox property line. The boundary then proceeds generally west along said property line to Point F; then generally south along the Equinox property line to Point G; then generally west along the Equinox property line, and its extension in a westerly direction for a total distance of approximately 550 feet to Point H, the intersection with the extension in a southerly direction of the Equinox property line as delineated on the enclosed sketch map. The boundary then proceeds north along said extension passing approximately 8 feet west of and including the tennis court, and property line to Point I, at a northwestern corner of the Equinox property, as delineated on the enclosed sketch map. It then proceeds generally east along the Equinox property line and an easterly extension thereof crossing the unpaved service road and continuing along the property line to Point J. Then the boundary proceeds generally north along the Equinox property line to Point K; then east along the property line and an easterly extension thereof, crossing Main Street (U.S. Route 7) to Point L, at the intersection with the eastern edge of the marble sidewalk on the east side of Main Street. The boundary then follows the eastern edge of the sidewalk and an extension thereof in a southerly direction to Point A, the point of beginning.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAR 28 1980

date entered JUN 3 1980

Continuation sheet 4-1

Item number 4

Page 1

1. Francesco Galesi
Manchester, VT 05254
2. First Congregational Church of Manchester, Vermont
Manchester, VT 05254
3. Unknown
4. Frederick Taylor
Manchester, VT 05254
5. Bennington County
Bennington, VT 05201
6. Francesco Galesi
Manchester, VT 05254
7. Francesco Galesi
Manchester, VT 05254
8. Orvis Company, Inc.
Manchester, VT 05254
9. Francesco Galesi
Manchester, VT 05254
10. Francesco Galesi
Manchester, VT 05254
11. Francesco Galesi
Manchester, VT 05254

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered JUN 3 1980

Continuation sheet 6-1

Item number 6

Page 1

National Register of Historic Places
November 21, 1972 Federal
Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey
1971 State
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Pavilion Building
Montpelier, VT 05602