

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 7 1982  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Morrisville Historic District

and/or common Morrisville Historic District

2. Location

street & number Generally along Portland; Main, Railroad and Foundry Streets, N/A not for publication

city, town Morrisville ~~Morristown~~ X vicinity of Morrisville

state Vermont code 50 county Lamoille code 015

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" 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

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morristown Town Clerk's Office

street & number 16 Main Street

city, town Morrisville state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey title  
has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date August, 1981 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

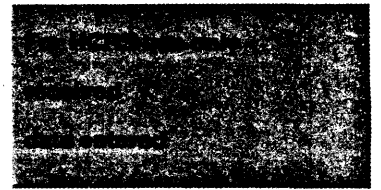
The Morrisville Historic District is situated on a low bluff overlooking the Lamoille River. It consists of the village's two main commercial streets, set in an "L" configuration. Main Street runs east-west along the rim of the bluff; Portland Street descends the bluff in a northerly direction to a railroad yard set inside an oxbow in the meandering Lamoille. The district encompasses all but a few of the commercial buildings in the village proper along with two groupings of 19th century industrial structures. At the west end of Main Street lie the oldest buildings in the district: two brick residences and a store built in the Federal and Greek Revival styles in the early 19th century. Behind them are several post-Civil War mill buildings. Late 19th century to early 20th century, predominantly three-story brick and frame commercial blocks extend east on Main Street to Portland Street. On the latter thoroughfare, the streetscape consists of mostly two to three story frame, late 19th century commercial blocks, many of which are 2½-story gable-front structures with Italianate detailed rectangular falsefronts which make them appear taller. The district terminates at the foot of Portland Street with an 1872 bracketed railroad depot and a cluster of late 19th century frame industrial buildings.

Main Street's western terminus is at the steepest point on the bluff, above a deep, rocky gorge in the river. Here, where Morrisville's first settlers erected mills, is a cluster of the oldest buildings in the district, mostly Federal and Greek Revival in style, and including two old mill buildings. They constitute the most historic and, in terms of spatial inter-relationships, the least linear part of the district. They also stand as an axial backdrop for pedestrians along the length of Main Street, and for motorists entering the village on Vermont Route 100 from Stowe, a major tourist resort to the south. The commercial portion of Main Street, running from High Street to the head of Portland Street, is lined on either side by predominantly brick commercial blocks. On the south side of the street is a series of five adjoining or nearly adjoining blocks which form a continuous three-story wall of plain but visually cohesive rectangular facades. Buildings on the south side are generally more high styled, but less cohesive in terms of form and spacing.

Portland Street was laid out in 1872, in anticipation of the coming of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad; and because it ran between the new commercial/industrial activity at the rail yard and the old business district on Main Street, it attracted nearly all new commercial development in Morrisville during the ensuing two decades. Today, the street is lined on either side by predominantly clapboard 19th century commercial facades. It runs at a moderate-to-steep grade, with a curve half-way up the hill, and with a narrower right-of-way than Main Street. The overall appearance of a crowded, twisting street is heightened by a myriad of utility poles and wires which not only clutter the open space above the street, but also obscure the building facades and generally intrude on the historic character of the streetscape.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Cecil, Jr. and Alice Mayo<br/>Nathan and Jane Barbour<br/>R.D. 2<br/>Tamarack Hill Rd.<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>2. Donald Paritz<br/>Box 665<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>3. Adrian West<br/>Box 725<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>4. Adrian West<br/>Box 725<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>5. Adrian West<br/>Box 725<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>6. Oneal Demars, Jr.<br/>R.D. 1<br/>Box 79<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>7. Mrs. Hazel Jones<br/>Box 428<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>8. Towles, Inc.<br/>Portland St.<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>9. Adrian West<br/>Box 725<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>10. Mrs. Edith West<br/>Box 725<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>11. Frank Tague and<br/>David Vilord<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> | <p>12. Philip Surgen<br/>R.D. 2<br/>Stowe, Vt.</p> <p>13. Philip Surgen<br/>R.D. 2<br/>Stowe, Vt.</p> <p>14. Lamoille Grain Co.<br/>Box 397<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>15. Bruno Loati<br/>Box 697<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>16. Christian Ransom<br/>Box 119<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>17. Greene Corp.<br/>Box 752<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>18. Morrisville Lumber Co.<br/>Box 697<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>19. Morrisville Lumber Co.<br/>Box 697<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>20. Lamoille Grain Co.<br/>Box 397<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>21. Lamoille Grain Co.<br/>Box 397<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>22. Mrs. Blanche Emmons<br/>Box 54<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> <p>23. Hugh and Barbara Tomlinson<br/>Box 425<br/>Morrisville, Vt.</p> |
|---|--|

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

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



Continuation sheet

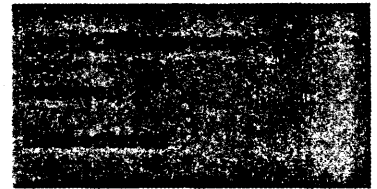
Item number 4

Page 2

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 24. Hugh and Barbara Tomlinson<br>Box 425<br>Morrisville, Vt.             | 37. Richard Sargent<br>Box 696<br>Morrisville, Vt.                                |
| 25. E. Michael Marcus<br>Box 565<br>Morrisville, Vt.                      | 38. Lyle Miller<br>Box 643<br>Morrisville, Vt.                                    |
| 26. Mt. Vernon Lodge<br>R.D. 2 Box 76<br>Morrisville, Vt.                 | 39. Lyle Miller<br>Box 643<br>Morrisville, Vt.                                    |
| 27. Rudy and Elvira Loyola<br>Box 574<br>Morrisville, Vt.                 | 40. Mrs Edith West<br>Box 725<br>Morrisville, Vt.                                 |
| 28. L.H. and A. Realty Co. Inc.<br>Box 447<br>Morrisville, Vt.            | 41. Morrisville Water and Light<br>Box 325<br>Morrisville, Vt.                    |
| 29. W.E. Aubachon Co. Inc.<br>95 Aubachon Dr.<br>Westminster, Mass. 01473 | 42. Morrisville Water and Light<br>Box 325<br>Morrisville, Vt.                    |
| 30. Lucian and Hazel Renaud<br>Box 668<br>Morrisville, Vt.                | 43. Morrisville Water and Light<br>Box 325<br>Morrisville, Vt.                    |
| 31. Town of Morristoryn<br>c/o Town Clerk<br>Morrisville, Vt.             | 44. Village of Morrisville<br>c/o Town Clerk<br>Morrisville, Vt.                  |
| 32. Union Bank<br>Box 667<br>Morrisville, Vt.                             | 45. Capital Credit Corp.<br>P.H. Edwards<br>521 S. Main St.<br>Norfolk, Va. 23523 |
| 33. Ronald Terrill<br>Box 386<br>Morrisville, Vt.                         | 46. E. Franklin Hatch<br>R.D. 2<br>Stowe, Vt.                                     |
| 34. Country Properties, Inc.<br>Box 458<br>Morrisville, Vt.               | 47. E. Franklin Hatch<br>R. D. 2<br>Stowe, Vt.                                    |
| 35. Mrs. Pearl Cote<br><br>Morrisville, Vt.                               | 48-50.<br>at T.a. Realty Corp.<br>Box 741<br>Morrisville, Vt.                     |
| 36. Brent Leach<br>Wolcott, Vt.   |   |

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The rail yard, at the foot of Portland Street, is the village's most active and concentrated industrial and wholesale district. Of the dozen or more buildings here, more than half date from the nineteenth century, and it is this group which gives the area both its visual and its functional core. Although several facades display stylish Victorian detail, the overall effect is one of buildings which were erected to be sturdy, functional, and still the scene of busy industry a century later.

In recent years, the greatest change to the historic district's appearance has been the destruction of two large commercial blocks which once dominated the key intersection of Main and Portland Streets. The Randall Hotel, a large Queen Anne style clapboard building with a prominent corner tower, stood on the southwest corner of Main Street and Congress Avenue, and commanded an axial view of Portland Street. It was razed in 1956/1960 and replaced by a gas station and a small brick post office. On the northwest corner of Main and Portland Streets, and fronting on both streets, was the Centennial Block, a 3-story commercial block with a granite-trimmed brick facade. Built in 1890, it burned on February 24, 1972, to be replaced by a modern 1½-story commercial building.

The individual structures in the Morrisville Historic District are as follows:

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

1. Drowne House (22 Main St.)

A 2-story clapboard building, originally built c.1870 as a residence for N.P. Grout, but is now converted to offices. The rectangular 5x2 bay plan with corner pilasters and central hall entrance is typical of the Greek Revival period, while the prominent cavetto cornice and low hip roof are Italianate, making the overall style transitional in character. A full-size, 2x2 bay rear wing has matching cornice, corner pilasters, corbelled chimney, and a 2-bay shed porch with chamfered posts on the east side. The recessed front entrance has a panelled door, sidelights, a surround of pilasters supporting an entablature, and an entry porch with columns supporting a molded cornice. Fenestration is symmetrical, with molded window heads and one-over-one sash, originally two-over-two. Because of their identical cavetto cornices and similar block-like forms, this building and the Peck Block (#2) next door share a strong visual relationship.

2. Peck Block (20 Main St.)

A 2-story clapboard commercial block on an important corner site, similar in appearance to the Drowne House (#1) beside it, with identical cavetto cornice, flat roof, and transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style. The 2x4 plan is rectangular except for the recessed northernmost bay on Portland Street. The c.1900 storefront has a recessed corner entry with glazed door; wide sidelights and flanking plate glass display windows have transom lights. A walk-up entry with panelled door and square 2-light transom is located on Main Street. Other detail includes corner pilasters and two-over-two sash with molded window heads. The block was built in 1869 to house the village post office and pharmacy.

3. Drowne Block

A 2-story Romanesque Revival style commercial block erected in 1902. The brick-veneer facade features an elaborately corbelled cornice and closely-spaced round-arched second story windows. The c.1950 storefront has a red enamelled metal fascia reading "5-10 Ben Franklin 5-10" in gold letters; plate glass display windows and central entry are set in chrome muntins below. The cornice has large corbelled dentils and a frieze of recessed rectangular panels; window headers are joined at the labels by brief courses of sawtooth corbelling. Second story fenestration is 9x13 bays, with strict symmetry and even spacing on all four elevations. Sash is one-over-one with granite sills. The original storefront had a small shop to the right, initially occupied for many years by the G.P. Drowne Co., the dry goods firm which erected the building. In the center was a large panelled door with Georgian Revival style leaded fanlight which served as the public entrance for the doctors, lawyers, tailor, telephone company, and insurance agent who rented office and shop space upstairs.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

4. Knits and Knots (7 Portland St.)

A small 2-story clapboard commercial block with gable roof, rectangular false front, and Italianate style bracketed cornice with matchstick frieze. The facade is framed by corner pilasters and decorative scroll-cut eaves-covers. The storefront retains its original molded cornice and central entry, but has new plate glass display windows and door. Second story fenestration is 2x3 bays with new one-over-one sash, paired in front. The well-preserved false front, built c. 1880, is one of six such facades which lend Portland Street much of its architectural character.

5. Ben Franklin Annex

A 1-story steel-sided commercial structure, approximately 80'x40", built in 1970 as an addition to the Drowne Block. It adjoins #1, 3, and 4. Non-contributing to the historic district.

6. Demars Block (17 Portland St.)

The Demars Block, built in 1895, is the tallest commercial building in Morrisville, standing 3½-stories in front, with a shed roof sloping back to three stories in the rear. The Italianate-influenced brick-veneered facade employs an elaborate wood and corbelled brick cornice, and segmental arched windows symmetrically organized in a 2-1-2 pattern. The molded wood cornice has small brackets and four large consoles; below the cornice is a corbelled frieze with pendants under the consoles and drip moldings over short attic windows. Other windows have corbelled lintels with marble keystones and sills. Sash is new one-over-one except for original two-over-two attic windows. Fenestration on the sides is sparse and irregular. Modern storefront with corrugated steel fascia. In the rear is a 3-story non-contributing addition with flat roof which extends the building two bays to the rear; built in 1978, it has a small shopfront on the south side. Because of its great scale and typical period facade, the block is one of the key visual focal points in downtown Morrisville.

7. Jones Block (19 Portland St.)

This 2½-story clapboard building was one of the first erected on Portland Street, c.1874. It was then a "temple front" house type with transitional Greek Revival/Italianate stylistic detail, similar to scores of dwellings built in Morrisville after the Civil War. Only corner pilasters, a molded box cornice with end returns, and a blind gable oculus remain from the original facade. Sometime before the turn of the century the building was

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

converted from residential to commercial use, and the resulting Queen Anne style alterations radically altered its appearance from austere formal to crowded and eclectic. A polygonal, 2-story, tower-like addition projecting on the south side is surmounted by a square hipped cap. In front is a 2-tiered porch with banded and chamfered posts; typical period storefront is below; bay window and balustraded porch section are above. In the rear, on the south side of the original 2-story gabled wing is a 5-bay second-story porch with chamfered posts and lattice balustrade.

8. Elmore Block (21 Portland St.)

A well-preserved 2-story clapboard commercial block with rectangular false front and Italianate style bracketed cornice, built c.1875 to house the store of Heman H. Elmore, a dealer in "groceries, provisions, and flour." Facade detail includes large and small cornice brackets, matchstick frieze, decorative eaves covers, four evenly-spaced two-over-two sash over the main southerly storefront, and paired two-over-two sash over a narrow secondary storefront to the north. Storefronts retain original form and bracketed cornice, but have otherwise been altered over the years. In the rear is a short wing, south ell, and triangular shed with sliding freight door set inside the ell. The building is one of the oldest and best-preserved of Portland Street's commercial blocks, and its rectangular false front is one of six which gives the street its most distinctive architectural forms.

9. Kelley Block (23 Portland St.)

A 2-story clapboard commercial block with a low, stepped false front, now substantially altered by the addition of aluminum siding and a modern storefront. It was built in 1893 to replace the Vermont House which burned that year. Detail includes three on-ridge chimneys, two-over-two and one-over-one sash, and projecting roof eaves; north side fronting on Hutchins Street has shed and gable-roofed projections and a 3-bay second-story porch with turned posts and balustrade. The storefront has an original molded wood cornice now obscured by plastic letter blocks spelling "Adrian's." In the rear is a slightly taller 2-story gabled wing added c.1930, with a c. 1960 storefront fronting on a parking lot to the east. Despite the alterations, the building's large scale and distinctive false front facade contribute to Portland Street's architectural character.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 6

10. Office Block (NE corner of Portland and Hutchins Streets)

In 1982, the historic structure which had occupied this site since 1906 was demolished and replaced by the present 1x6 bay, one story, gable-roofed brick veneer office building. The present building is oriented with its short gable end facing Portland Street. Two entrance doors occupy the central two bays of a central four bay recess on the south facade facing Hutchins Street. The present structure does not contribute to the historic character of the district.

The previous building on the site, the Manor House, was a somewhat altered 2½ story, vernacular frame structure, built as a hotel. It retained corner pilasters, a two-story bay window on the west side, 2/2 sash with molded window heads, and inside end chimneys. A 2-story ell with similar detailing extended to the east. The building had been altered by the removal of a 2-tiered porch which fronted on Portland Street and the addition of some new windows, aluminum siding and a new entrance.

11. Talord's Tavern (29 Portland Street)

A 2½ story clapboard commercial block, built c.1890, and similar in style and form to the Wrong End Store (#12) beside it. Its most distinctive feature, a tall rectangular false front with Italianate style bracketed cornice, is one of half a dozen such facades on Portland Street, and thus makes a key contribution to the character of the surrounding historic streetscape. The steeply-pitched gable roof has projecting eaves and a corbelled chimney. Facade detail includes corner pilasters, decorative eaves covers, and a matchstick frieze under the cornice. A long, plain, gabled rear wing has a gabled dormer and an enclosed exterior staircase on the south side; shed in rear. Modern storefront.

12. Wrong-End Store (31 Portland Street)

A large, 2½ story clapboard commercial block with a tall, rectangular false front, and Italianate style. It is perhaps the most important of a half dozen such blocks which give Portland Street much of its architectural character, both because its facade is the most ornate, and because of its axial relationship to Bridge Street, which makes it the visual backdrop for those entering downtown Morrisville on Bridge Street. It also shares a close visual relationship with Talord's Tavern (#11) beside it, with similar massing, style, and false front. The building's exterior is in unaltered but in deteriorating condition.

The main facade has a bracketed wood cornice, corner pilasters and decorative eaves-covers; sawtooth dentil moldings and scroll-cut wood ornament is applied as pilaster caps, window heads, and elsewhere on the wall surfaces for picturesque effect. Gabled bay projection on both the north and

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 7

south sides have corner pilasters and gable screens. Fenestration is 3x10 bays; sash is mostly two-over-two. The rear gable end is shingle-sided; corbelled chimney is on roof. The 4-bay storefront has a bracketed wood cornice, recessed off-center entry bay with new door, and a large blank fascia board covering the second story windows above. The interior has much original fabric, including display cases, shelves, drawers, and arched ceiling ribbings. Built in 1883, possibly incorporating an earlier building.

13. Village Cleaners (33 Portland St.)

A 2½-story clapboard house of late nineteenth century (c.1895) vernacular construction. The plan is an L, with gable ends in front (west), south, and at far rear; in front is a plain but well-preserved period storefront with a bracketed cornice and 4-light display windows flanking a recessed door with transom light. Other detail includes shingle-enriched gable peaks, two-over-two sash, and projecting eaves. In the rear is a large 1½ story L-shaped addition housing an industrial cleaning shop. Construction is wood frame and concrete blocks, with aluminum and brick veneer siding. Other small gabled and shed additions are on the sides. Although plain and essentially residential in appearance, the building's period storefront and clapboard exterior maintain the scale and texture of the streetscape. The modern rear section is non-contributing to the historic district.

14. Lamoille Grain Company Warehouse (Corner Railroad and Pleasant St.)

A plain, 2½-story clapboard building erected c.1890 for an unknown industrial purpose. The main block has a steeply-pitched gable roof, irregularly spaced two-over-two sash, and freight doors on the north and east sides. Projecting to the south is a large, low gabled wing which connects to a newer (c.1920) wing with novelty siding, large sheds, and a tall garage door on the west side. On the main block's roof is a tall metal grain conveyor system of converging ducts. The building is generally well-preserved and currently in use as a grain warehouse.

15. Morrisville Depot

A 1½-story railroad depot which has been altered and added to, but retains its original distinctive form and much of its original picturesque wood ornament. It was built c.1872, the year the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad began service in Morrisville, and served the village as a railroad station for nearly a century. The original building consisted only of the present main block, with its low gable roof and broad projecting eaves supported by heavy truss-type chamfered brackets. Brackets under the raking eaves are smaller and have decorative floral-motif panel inserts. A pierced, scroll-cut wood frieze is set under the eaves on all sides. Missing

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 8

from the original facade are decorative bargeboards, finials, half-timbered window surrounds, and a wide frieze of ornately patterned woodwork. Surviving original detail includes two-over-two sash and the stationmaster's bay window overlooking the tracks on the north side. Sometime around the turn of the century the gabled east wing was added as a poolroom, and two taller gabled wings, since razed, added as freight houses beyond that, all with broad eaves supported by chamfered truss brackets, in a plainer but similar style to the main block. Passenger service was discontinued in 1956 and in 1959, the RR company added a small, plain, gabled wing to the north side, and moved its head offices to this building. A decade later the building was converted to a restaurant, with the addition to the south side of a glazed shed entry porch and hand rails constructed of iron train rails supported by locomotive wheels. A sign hanging from the south eave says: "St. J. L. C. R. R. Morrisville Depot." Although the alterations have compromised the building's architectural integrity, its distinctive form and the remaining decorative ornament make its origins unmistakable.

16. White Heat Foundry (Foundry St.)

A large, 2½-story industrial building, erected in 1872 as the Morrisville Foundry Company. It was built in anticipation of the coming of the railroad, and eventually spawned a large complex which included #17 and #18 to the east. It helped establish the foot of Portland Street as Morrisville's new industrial center.

The main block, constructed of post and beam frame, plank walls, and clapboard siding, has a gabled roof and symmetrical 3x3 bay fenestration with six-over-six sash. A glazed door with plain headboard is centered on the east gable end. Linking the building with the old machine shop (#17) is a second story ramp supported by an iron king truss, with entry to the foundry through a sliding panelled door on the second story. A wood frame shed is attached to the north wall. In the rear is a 1½-story gabled wing constructed c.1910 of concrete blocks. On each side of this wing is a bank of four large twelve-over-twelve sash; on the roof is a glazed monitor, a corbelled chimney, and an iron smokestack; and in the rear is a wood frame section with a shed on the gable end. The building is substantially unaltered and has been continuously used as a foundry for more than a century, with the exception of only the years 1968-1977.

17. Greene Corporation (Foundry St.)

A plain, 3½-story clapboard industrial structure erected c.1889 to expand the Morrisville Foundry Co.'s plant. The plan is rectangular, with symmetrical 4x2 bay fenestration and a gabled roof with projecting eaves and an on-ridge chimney. Detail includes two-over-two sash, panelled doors, and

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 9

a new freight door on the north wall; a second story freight door on the west gable end serves a ramp which connects to the main Foundry building, #16. On the south side is a railroad loading dock with a gable roof.

To the east, a large, 1-story clapboard wing with gable roof and L-plan was originally built c.1910 as a separate machine shop, but since c.1965 has been linked to the main block by a tall concrete block section with north elevation garage door. The wing has regularly-spaced twelve-over-twelve sash, and a double door entry with steel I-beam hoist on the north gable end.

18. Morrisville Foundry Co. Coal Shed (Foundry St.)

A plain, gabled, 1½-story clapboard building, approximately 60'x20', built in two sections c.1920 as the Morrisville Foundry Company's coal storage shed. The south section, fronting on the railroad tracks, is slightly taller; the north section is set at a slight angle, and may have been built later. Detail includes garage doors on the north and east sides, projecting roof eaves, and all new windows and doors. Although plain and void of style the building contributes to the industrial character of Foundry Street.

19. Morrisville Lumber Co. Storehouse (Corner of Foundry and Portland St.)

A plain, 1½-story clapboard outbuilding with gambrel roof, built c.1940 as storage for the Morrisville Foundry Co. Dimensions are 25'x20'; garage and loft doors are centered on east gambrel side; randomly-spaced fixed windows are on south and east sides. Non-contributing to the historic district.

20. Railroad Freight House (Portland St.)

A plain, 1½-story clapboard building erected c. 1873 as the freight house for the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad. As such, it is one of the four buildings at the foot of Portland Street which date from the first years of the railroad, and helped establish it as a new commercial/industrial district. A freight entry with sliding doors on the east gable end is framed by two-over-two sash. A double-door freight entry fronts on the tracks to the south. Original stone foundation has been reinforced with concrete. The building is plain but unaltered, and is located on a visually strategic site.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 10

21. C.R. Page Store-Lamoille Grain Company (34 Portland St.)

This large commercial building has a 2½-story clapboard facade articulated by a prominent Greek Revival style cornice. Built as a wholesale market by C.R. Page in 1872, its construction anticipated by two months the opening of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad in Morrisville, and its occupant businesses have ever since utilized the convenient downtown track-side location for efficiency in handling bulky commodities. The main block, with its tall gabled front, deep rectangular plan with rear wing, and Greek Revival style storefront, was expanded in the 1890's by the addition of a large gabled south ell with matching cornice, north gable, tall hipped grain elevator at the roof intersection, and a shed-roofed loading dock built across the front of the ell. The molded box cornice used throughout has a frieze and gable returns supported by corner pilasters. Fenestration is regularly spaced two-over-two and six-over-six sash, with heavy molded window heads. The storefront has a molded box cornice supported by four pilasters which frame display windows (now plate glass, originally twelve-over-twelve lights) and a flush central entry with replacement door. Freight doors are under the north and south gables. The building is the visual focal point of the surrounding industrial/commercial streetscape.

22. Bijou Theater (26 Portland St.)

A concrete block movie theater built in 1937 on an important corner site. The main facade is brick veneer broken by three wide vertical panels of molded concrete, in an Art Deco motif. The wide recessed entrance has plate glass windows and doors with stainless steel muntins and frames, and a wood-panelled ticket booth in the foyer. A large triangular marquee overhead has enameled metal, colored light bulbs, and "Bijou" in red neon letters. Side and rear walls are buttressed with piers. A 1-story brick veneered commercial space with shed roof is appended to the north wall, with an angled corner entry and flanking display windows at the corner of Portland and Bridge Streets. The marquee is one of downtown Morrisville's prominent visual landmarks.

23. Elmore House (24 Portland St.)

A 2-story, gable-front frame house with a molded cornice and proportions dating from the Federal period, now irreversibly altered by the addition of shingle siding and all new windows and doors. It was moved here in the 1870's as a residence for H.H. Elmore, a merchant who erected the Elmore Block (#8) across the street at roughly the same time. Adjoined to the southwest corner is a large (c.50'x75') concrete block garage with glass block factory windows on the north and west walls, built c. 1950. Both structures are non-contributing to the historic district.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 11

24. Clark House (22 Portland St.)

A 2½-story gable-front house, substantially altered in appearance by the addition of rough finish vertical boards, but still displaying a c.1875 cornice and massing. It was probably built as a combined residence/shop for William Clark, who kept a billiard parlor, hairdresser's shop, and news/tobacco stand here. The main block has a narrow gabled front with molded box cornice and end returns, and a lower rear wing with gabled wall dormers and a small stable ell. A 2-story wing with a flat roof and Italianate style bracketed cornice, originally the commercial part of the house, projects to the north in front. Other recent additions are new window sash, new front entrance, 2-story front porch, and an enclosed exterior staircase and second story shed porch on the south wall. The alterations are substantial but probably reversible.

25. Sears, Roebuck Building (20 Portland St.)

A small, 2-story, gable front clapboard commercial block, built c.1885 as a part of the expanding Portland Street commercial district. Its most distinctive feature is its low-pitched gable roof with molded eaves projecting out over frieze boards. Fenestration is symmetrical, 2x6 bays. A modern projecting storefront and enclosed exterior staircase on the south wall were added c.1965. On the north side in the rear are original freight entries with shed hoods. Although plain in style and somewhat altered, the building maintains the texture and commercial character of the district streetscape.

26. Bryant House (18 Portland St.)

An exceptional French Second Empire style house, built c. 1875 for Henry Bryant, a livestock and farm produce dealer. The rectangular plan is 3x2 bays, 1½-stories tall; the clapboard facade is articulated by corner pilasters supporting a molded box cornice with frieze. The mansard roof has round-arched dormers with casement windows and sunburst-motif headboards. Sash is two-over-two with peaked headboards. Centered in front is an entry porch with attenuated columns mounted on a fishscale shingle rail; the central hall entrance has a replacement door framed by pilasters supporting a peaked headboard. On the south wall is a bay window and a tall shouldered exterior chimney. In the rear is a large (c.75'x40') 2½-story gabled wing with Colonial Revival styling added in 1930 to house the Masonic Lodge. A shed with modern picture windows was added to the north side of the main block in 1976. Additions are non-contributing to the historic district.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 12

27. Woodward Block (16 Portland St.)

A 2½-story Italianate style commercial block, erected in 1880 and occupied for many years by Dr. George Woodward, a "homeopathic physician and surgeon, dealer in drugs and medicines of all kinds." The clapboard facade with false front is similar to a half dozen commercial facades in the district, but with the unusual variation of a round-arched pediment centered on top. Typical period detail includes corner pilasters, bracketed cornice with panelled frieze, and a two-over-two gable window with bracketed cornice head. The storefront retains original bracketed cornice and central entry recess, but otherwise has all new exterior fabric. Windows on the sides and centered on the front are also new. Despite window and storefront alterations, the facade's distinctive form and ornate style help give Portland Street much of its Victorian commercial character.

28. Brosseau's (14 Portland St.)

A two-story commercial building with flat roof, low parapet in front, and bonded-brick construction, built in 1937 as a movie theater. The facade is a veneer of polychromatic tinted bricks set in decorative rectilinear patterns: multiple headers in vertical courses, chevrons in horizontal frieze (stepped under parapet), with decorative squares of enamelled metal at their points of intersection. The modern c.1960 plate glass storefront has a red enamelled fascia with "Brosseau's Super Mkt" in white wood letters, framed by three vertical neon light bars. Side walls are reinforced with piers. The style is a vernacular adaptation of the Art Deco motifs popularized in the 1930's.

29. Stone Block (12 Portland St.)

A large c. 1875 commercial block with jerkinhead roof, now substantially altered by the addition of numerous synthetic wall coverings, new windows, modern storefront, and a large enclosed staircase on the south wall. The original block had a 2½-story clapboard facade, articulated by a modified cavetto cornice of heavy box construction, with frieze, corner pilasters, and gable pediments. The rectangular 3x8 bay plan was symmetrically proportioned with regularly-spaced two-over-two sash, and a gabled 1½-story wing in the rear. The overall style was a vernacular Italianate adaptation, and the jerkinhead roof, still the building's most striking feature, was particularly unusual when first built because it was undoubtedly one of the earliest uses of this type roof in northern Vermont. The addition of multiple clashing wall coverings had had the greatest impact on the building's present appearance. These include: asphalt shingles, asbestos shingles, aluminum, corrugated steel, plywood, clapboard, and both green and orange enamelled metal. New windows include modern casement types on front and south staircase addition, and large shed dormers on the south roof slope. As extensive as these additions are, only

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 13

the new front windows have actually required the removal of original fabric, so that the cornice, windows, and clapboard facade remain intact, if covered, and are thus restorable. The block was built between 1872-78 as a store for R. Stone.

30. Green Mountain Pharmacy (2-4 Portland St.)

A modern 1½-story commercial block, built in 1972. Brick veneered facade; shingle-clad mansard roof with recessed dormers and overhanging eaves; situated on an important corner site. Non-contributing to the historic district.

31. Town Clerk's Office (16 Main St.)

A small, 2-story, 3x3 bay commercial block, built in 1892-93 as the first Union Bank. The Queen Anne style brick-veneered facade is the most complex and sophisticated in the district, employing extensive corbelled brick-work and molded trim. Four vertical piers trisect the facade, with the interior piers rising through the cornice to frame a parapet at the roof-line. The cornice has a molded wood crown, corbelled dentils, sawtooth frieze, and wood consoles supporting the parapet from the sides. Fenestration is symmetrical, with granite sills, flat arches, rectangular transoms on the second story, munion windows in the center bay, and a large round-arched corbelled window head over the second story center window. The storefront has a bracketed and denticulated wood cornice and quoined piers; recessed entry to left has round-arched opening with sunburst spandrel panels, rectangular transom light, fully panelled recess with checkerboard floor of pink and white marble, and glazed and panelled double doors. In the rear is a c.1965 2-story, brick-veneered addition. The building is a well-preserved example of the elegance to which Victorian bank architecture aspired even in a small village like Morrisville. It has been the Town Clerk's office since the new Union Bank was built next door in 1940.

32. Union Bank (14 Main St.)

The Union Bank is a 2-story brick-veneered commercial building with molded concrete trim employed in a stylized neo-classical motif. Wide fluted concrete piers support a concrete frieze with Vitruvian wave design, simulating columns and entablature. A similar triglyph-motif concrete frieze is, in effect, the cornice. Between the piers are casement windows on the first story and plain wood panels above. In front, a chromed projecting entry vestibule with plate glass door is flanked by wrought iron screens below the windows. Below the front cornice is "The Union Bank" in black metal letters, flanked by concrete panels inscribed in a decorative floral motif. A metal time/temperature clock hangs from the southwest corner.



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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 14

Flat roof. In the rear is a 2-story, flat-roofed, brick-veneered addition, built in 1971-2, which extends the bank back another two bays. To the east is a 1958 short 1-story wing; its facade, in matching style, has fluted concrete piers framing a double casement window. The building was erected in 1940, after the bank had outgrown its old quarters next door (#31). Although more modern in style, the brick facade maintains the character of Main Street's nearly all-brick streetscape, and shares a particularly close visual, as well as historical, relationship with the old bank next door.

33. Terrill's Texaco (12 Main St.)

A 1-story concrete block service station with brick veneer facade. The flat roof is screened in front by a low parapet with green-and-white enamelled metal frieze below. Built c.1940. Non-contributing to the historic district.

34. Munson Block (10 Main St.)

A 3-story, flat-roofed turn-of-the-century commercial block, constructed of load-bearing brick in 1904 for Harlan P. Munson to house his general store. The 3-bay main facade has simple corbelled cornice with wood molding, regularly-spaced segmental arch windows, and a wide segmental arch mullion window centered on the second story. The storefront appears to have newer fabric, but original form, with recessed central entry; a large shingle-clad pent roof was added c.1970. The building is joined on the west side to the Munson Annex (#35) by a second story enclosed porch with exterior staircase to the alley below. On the east side is an exterior staircase with chamfered posts and a small hipped shed. In the rear is a large clapboard wing with gable roof, angled slightly to the east. Freight dock on east side has a shed roof on plain brackets, two sliding freight doors, and a glazed and panelled door. Sash on the wing is mostly twelve-over-eight and two-over-two. Large shed-roofed c.1952-3 additions on the north-east corner have novelty siding and modern windows. The wing may be the original, early-nineteenth century store on this site. The building's tall brick facade is an important component in the surrounding commercial streetscape.

35. Munson Annex (8 Main St.)

A 2½-story brick commercial block constructed of load-bearing brick. The Colonial Revival style facade, with modified jerkinhead roof and segmental arch windows, is complimentary in style and scale to the Munson Block (#34) next door, to which it is linked by a second story enclosed porch. The building was erected in 1925 by contractor W.I. LeBarron for L.M. Munson, who had just inherited the Munson Block from his father Harlan. Other

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 15

facade detail includes a molded wood cornice with end returns and a molded cornice over the typical period storefront and garage door. In the rear is a 2-story clapboard wing with gable roof, molded cornice, and two-over-two sash. Either this wing or the wing on #34 may be an early 19th century store.

36. Old Brick Store (6 Main St.)

An exceptional Greek Revival style brick commercial block, erected c.1835 as a general store for merchant David P. Noyes. The main facade makes extensive use of granite for trim and structural members, with the resulting sense of weighty strength typical of Greek architecture. It is similar in style and construction to the Noyes-Slayton House (#40) next door, and was undoubtedly the work of the same builder. Together they form a distinctive focal point for the west end of Main Street, and are the first buildings seen when entering downtown Morrisville from the south.

Construction is of bonded brick with a granite foundation, load-bearing granite storefront, and heavy rectangular granite lintels and sills on the windows. The front gable has paired end chimneys, molded cornice returns, and a triangular louver with a granite surround, set inside a larger triangular panel recessed in the brick facade. The storefront is constructed of massive granite steps, piers, and lintels framing the window and door openings. Double entries (one now glazed over) are flanked by plate glass display windows, with a walk-up entry to the left. Sash is six-over-six in front, twelve-over-twelve on the sides. On the west side is a commercial display window with granite lintel, and a new exterior chimney. On the east side is a second story porch with exterior staircase. In the rear is a 2½-story clapboard wing with cornice returns, some original six-over-six sash, and shingles on the west wall.

37. Noyes Store Stable

A plain 1½-story clapboard stable with gable roof, molded cornice returns, and tall north wing. Sash is six-over-six and two-over-two; doors are glazed and panelled; large garage door on the west side. Built c.1875.

38. Noyes-Slayton House (4 Main St.)

An exceptional 2½-story Greek Revival style house, built in 1835 for David P. Noyes, in a style similar to Noyes' store next door (#36). The brick veneer facade is handsomely articulated with solidly-proportioned granite trim. The form and plan are of the common 5-bay, eaves-front type, with central hall entrance and paired end chimneys, similar to the Noyes

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 16

House (#44) to the west. Granite is used for the foundation, window lintels and sills, as a rectangular entrance surround, and as a triangular surround on the lattice-muntined gable windows. The front entrance has a panelled door framed by attached Ionic order columns, and rectangular sidelights and transom with decorative elliptical-motif leaded glazing. Other facade detail includes molded cornice returns, a small decorative pediment centered on the front eave, and new one-over-one sash. In the rear is a large 2½-story, shingle-clad ell, added in 1910 in a compatible Colonial Revival style. It features a molded box cornice with gable returns, shed dormers, a large veranda with columns and balustrade, and glazed doors and one-over-one sash with molded heads; a 2-story porch on the west side has a glazed upper level and balustraded square posts below.

39. Noyes-Slayton Garage

A 10'x20' novelty-sided garage with double door on the east gable end. Built c. 1940. Non-contributing to the historic district.

40. Tift Block (2 Main St.)

A large Italianate style clapboard commercial block, built for Stephen Tift in 1872 as Morrisville's first "cash store." Its imposing, block-like form, achieved by the use of a strictly rectangular plan and symmetrical fenestration, with corner pilasters and a low hip roof, is moderated somewhat by a distinctive cavetto cornice. Sash is two-over-two with molded window heads. In front is a second story porch with a shingled skirt and picturesque scroll brackets on square posts. Below are iron support posts and a c.1920 first story facade with four entries and multiple windows, added when the building was converted to an apartment house. One original door with transom lights and pilasters remains. The building site slopes back steeply; a full, exposed basement level in the rear has wood quoins and six-over-six sash. A plain three-story porch on the rear wall has an enclosed staircase. Because of its size and unusual cornice, the building's relatively well-preserved clapboard facade is a focal point in the surrounding streetscape.

41. Safford Mills Warehouse (off lower Main St.)

A well-preserved Greek Revival style clapboard industrial building, built c.1867 as part of the Safford Mills complex. Although its original function is unknown, its location and unusual plan suggest that it was the central

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 17

receiving office/warehouse for the grist, saw, and wood-turning mills below. It stands perched on top of a bluff overlooking the dam and mills; the front is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -stories tall, while the rear facade stands  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -stories from the bottom of the bluff. Freight doors at the top and bottom and a platform elevator inside allowed flour, lumber, and other finished goods to be raised easily to the top of the bluff, thus avoiding a steep ascent by wagon via the access road. The facade is virtually intact, with typical period box cornice, corner pilasters, gable returns, and regularly-spaced six-over-six sash with molded heads. Sliding freight doors have molded cornices above. At the bottom, a 1-story clapboard ell extending to the west has large double doors on the gable end.

42. Safford Grist Mill (off lower Main St.)

A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story Greek Revival style clapboard mill, built in 1867 for J. Safford and Sons as a grist mill. The square 35'x35' plan has a steeply-pitched gable roof and symmetrical 4-bay fenestration in front. Corner pilasters support a full entablature with molded cornice, gable returns; sash is six-over-six with molded window heads. The main entrance has panelled double doors framed by pilasters supporting an entablature; above is a panelled door. A second-story gabled door hood and a small triangular loading dock are recent additions, as is the heavy poured concrete foundation which projects out over the dam and gorge at the northwest corner. Otherwise, the building appears virtually intact and well-preserved.

43. Power Co. Garage (off lower Main St.)

A 20'x25' novelty-sided garage with large double doors on the south gable end and a shed on the east side. Built c.1950. Non-contributing to the historic district.

44. Noyes House (1 Main St.)

An exceptional Federal style house, of the common  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 5-bay eaves-front type, with a central hall entrance and gable lunettes framed by paired interior and chimneys. It was constructed of load-bearing brick c.1820 for Jedidiah Safford, and was occupied for many years (1875-1948) by the Noyes family. It is now the home and museum of the Morristown Historical Society. The typical Federal style entrance has a door with polygonal panels, and a delicate glazed surround of half sidelights and a semi-elliptical fan-

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 18

light with radiating muntins. Other facade detail includes a molded cornice with end returns, six-over-six sash, a cross-and-Bible panelled door on the south gable end, and quadrant lights in the north gable. A large  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story clapboard ell in the rear, probably added c.1850, has Greek Revival style corner pilasters, box cornice, and fenestration, including six-over-six sash and a six-light "kneewall" window under the south eave. The steeply-pitched gable roof is highlighted by a central chimney and two pedimented dormer windows on each roof slope. The ell connects the main house to a c.1850 clapboard stable, set as an ell to the south, with gable roof, six-over-six sash, and a large sliding carriage door on the east side. The elegant, if restrained, interior is unaltered. Because of its axial view of Main Street, the building's handsome brick facade is one of the district's key focal points. It is the oldest building in the historic district.

45. County Food Co-op (5 Main St.)

A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story commercial block with a gable roof and rectangular false front, similar in form to its neighbor #46 and a half dozen other late-nineteenth century commercial blocks on Portland Street. The original clapboard walls have been clad over with undressed vertical "barnboards", but the bracketed wood cornice with lattice-motif panelled frieze remains intact, as does a 2-story bay window set to the left in front, and a second-story shed porch with turned posts and scroll brackets. Third story blinds simulate windows. Original two-over-two sash remain on west wall; otherwise, window and shop-front sash are new. In the rear is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story gabled wing with shed and entry on the east side. Despite the alterations, the building's distinctive form continues the scale and commercial character of the streetscape on the south side of Main Street. Built c.1890.

46. Village Photographer (7 Main St.)

A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story gabled commercial block, originally sheathed in clapboards, but now covered with aluminum. In front is a tall rectangular false front with bracketed cornice, similar in form to its neighbor, #45, and a half dozen other commercial blocks on Portland Street. Coupled windows on the upper stories in front are original, but one-over-one sash is new. Side elevations have enclosed exterior staircase and shed dormers. On the rear gable end are cornice returns and a 2-story shed projection. Built c. 1900.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 19

47. a.T.a. Garage (behind 7 Main St.)  
sided

A 15'x20' novelty/garage with a large door on the east gable end, and a sliding door and shed addition on the north side. Built c.1940. Non-contributing to the historic district.

48. Ferris Building (9 Main St.)

A 3½-story, 3x8 bay flat-roofed commercial block, constructed of load-bearing brick in 1949. Although not particularly old, the facade is a key segment in the continuous wall of rectangular commercial blocks which comprise the streetscape on the south side of Main Street. The style is vernacular Colonial Revival, with symmetrical fenestration, coupled six-over-one sash, and a marble tablet inscribed "Ferris, 1949" centered under the front roofline. On the roof itself is a metal-clad ½ story attic addition. The modern storefront is a continuation of the storefront on the building to the east (#50), to which the Ferris Block is joined by a 1-story, 1-bay brick fill-in. In the rear is a 1-story utility wing with a flat roof. The building is classified as non-contributing solely due to age.

49. Arthur's (11 Main St.)

A plain 3-story, brick veneered commercial block built c. 1910, with a low gable roof, but also with low roof parapets in the front and rear to visually maintain the rectangularity of facades characteristic of the surrounding streetscape. It is the broadest link in the continuous wall of commercial facades on this side of Main Street. Windows are regularly-spaced one-over-one sash, mostly paired, on the second story, and single six-over-one on the third story, all with concrete lintels and sills. The modern storefront also extends across the facade of #48 to the west. Side and rear walls have asphalt shingle siding. Adjoined to the rear (and also to the rear of #50) is a modern industrial structure of concrete block construction, which is non-contributing to the historic district.

50. Marcoux TV (13 Main St.)

A very plain 3-story, flat-roofed clapboard commercial block, built in 1909. Although void of style, its block-like form and compatible scale make it an integral part of the continuous wall of rectangular commercial facades along this side of Main Street. Detail includes a narrow molded wood cornice, single, one-over-one sash on the third story, and paired two-over-two sash on the second story. Modern storefront. In the rear is an adjoining 1-story industrial structure of concrete block construction which is non-contributing to the historic district.

# 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates N/A

Builder/Architect N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Morrisville Historic District is significant as the architecturally cohesive central business district of a prosperous 19th century Vermont village. It stands as testimony to the profound economic impact which the introduction of railroad service had on Vermont's hitherto mountain-bound towns during post-Civil War industrialization. Within a decade of the coming of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad in 1872, and with little real industrial base of its own, Morrisville was transformed from a quiet village with a languishing mercantile trade into the commercial center of north central Vermont, a position it has continued to hold for the last century. This singular event in the town's history was also largely responsible for the physical appearance of the present historic district, as well as for the construction of many of its significant buildings and general architectural features. Because it was the focal point of development after 1872, Portland Street, in particular, exhibits a uniformity of style and construction techniques more commonly characteristic of a midwestern boom town than of the typical Vermont village.

Commercial trade of some kind has occurred within the district since 1798, when Captain John Safford erected a sawmill and frame house at the deep gorge below the west end of Main Street. Safford and his descendents built and operated a series of mills there over the next century, including two Civil War era buildings which stand today (#41 and #42). A store appeared nearby in 1815, and by the 1840's there had developed a small hamlet of storekeepers, millers, artisans, and a few other tradesmen who serviced the surrounding agricultural markets. Surviving from this early village of Morrisville are three well preserved buildings, all with exceptional brick facades which, as a group, visually dominate the western terminus of Main Street. They are the Noyes House (#44, Federal Style, c.1820); the Noyes-Slayton House (#38, Greek Revival, 1835); and the Old Brick Store (#36, Greek Revival, c.1835). The former two share an identical form and plan, but with distinctly different style facades. The latter two, by the same builder, are different in plan, but identical in style and construction, making extensive use of granite trim.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  $\pm 25$

Quadrangle name Hyde Park 15'

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	---	--

D	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	---	--

E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Page

organization Preservation Consultant date September 30, 1981

street & number N/A telephone 802-644-5075

city or town Waterville state Vermont

# 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. Dunne

title Director/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

  date 1/15/83  
Keeper of the National Register

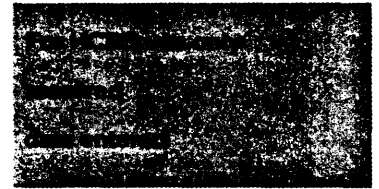
Attest: date

Chief of Registration



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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

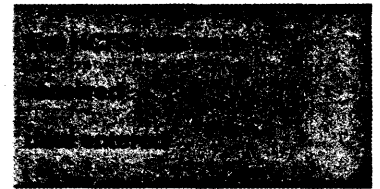
At the outbreak of the Civil War, Morrisville was still a small rural village centered around the falls, with no more than thirty or forty dwellings strung out along Main Street, and a few modest commercial enterprises. It was no larger than half a dozen such villages in Lamoille County, and was barely a third the size of the prosperous village of Stowe, to the south. Yet changes were occurring which would prepare Morrisville to take full advantage of the railroad when it arrived in 1872. The village experienced an intellectual and cultural growth in the 1850's and 1860's which was unmatched by any physical or economic expansion. One indication of this growth was the remarkable record of the local high school, People's Academy, which produced no less than three future governors, two U.S. Senators, and two U.S. Congressmen, among its several hundred graduates during the years 1850-60. This immense outpouring of talented individuals, all of whom made great financial fortunes in the rapidly-changing world of entrepreneurial industrialization, suggests a latent ability within the community to grasp new technology and utilize it to its fullest market potential. When the opportunity to do so arrived, in the form of the railroad, the people of Morrisville responded aggressively.

When the first Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad locomotive arrived, in December, 1872, it found at least two large buildings (#16 and #21) standing by the tracks, both built in anticipation of the coming of rail service, and both among the most significant structures in the district today. The previous summer, the village had built a new street, Portland Street, which they named after the eastern terminus of the rail line; it ran down a gentle slope from Main Street to the rail yard, and quickly became the focus of intensive commercial development, so that within a decade it challenged Main Street as the village's best commercial location, and within two decades it had enabled Morrisville to surpass Stowe, Hyde Park, Hardwick, and other neighboring towns as the commercial center for Lamoille County and all of north central Vermont. Fully two thirds of the buildings which front on Portland Street today were erected during the years 1872-85.

The boom mentality which prevailed during this period is today evident in the street's architecture, particularly when compared to Main Street, where trade preceded the railroad boom and then survived its demise. All but four of Main Street's buildings are constructed of brick, suggesting a more conservative, long-term view of the marketplace. On Portland Street, where speculation and an eye toward the quick profit were prevalent, particularly in the early years, there are only four brick buildings, none of them built before 1900. Inexpensive and quickly-built clapboard

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

facades were the norm, although many made full use of the decorative potential of turned and scroll-cut wood ornament. It was also during this period that industry began to develop around the rail yard, replacing the traditional mill site at the falls as the village's industrial center.

Since the development boom leveled off in the 1890's, changes to Morrisville's central business district have been a matter of evolution rather than growth, with new buildings replacing old ones either destroyed by fire or made obsolete by economic changes. Buildings erected in this century have generally been of masonry construction, and display relatively unpretentious period facades. In recent years, the construction of modern shopping centers on the edge of the village has severely challenged the viability of the traditional downtown area.

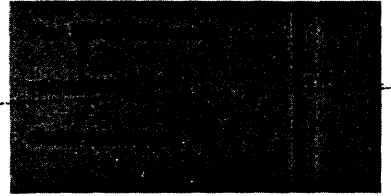
The architecture of the district is, with four notable exceptions, of a commercial or industrial type. The exceptions are all outstanding residences: the aforementioned Noyes House (#44) and Noyes-Slayton House (#38), the Second Empire style Bryant House (#26), on Portland Street, and the Italianate style Drowne House (#1) on Main Street. None are still used as family residences.

Of the commercial blocks, the predominant stylistic influence is Italianate, with vernacular variations of picturesque themes. The term vernacular is used here in the literal sense, meaning the forms and stylistic treatments which represented the local builder's interpretation of then-prevalent high styles, frequently by applying the appropriate decorative ornament to time-tested local building types. One such vernacular form, found on eight buildings in the historic district, is the use of a gable-front plan faced with a rectangular false front. The popularity of this commercial building type, extending over the years 1872-1900, can be explained by the need for pitched roofs to protect buildings from Vermont's harsh climate, combined with a desire to present a "modern" rectangular facade, which would maintain the horizontal skyline of the streetscape. The most stylish and least altered of these blocks is the Wrong-End Store (#12), which is now vacant and in deteriorating condition, but has a virtually intact facade. Its significance is heightened by its axial position at the head of Bridge Street, a major traffic conduit into the downtown.

OLD NO. 101-0310  
EXP. 12/31/01

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

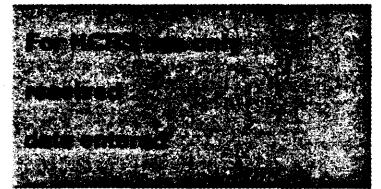
Page 4

Of the stylistic ornament which is applied in this vernacular manner, the most common are bracketed wood cornices, scroll-cut decorative ornament, molded window heads, and two-over-two sash. Corner pilasters and molded box cornices, vestiges of pre-Civil War Greek Revival architecture, were also used up until the turn of the century. Perhaps the most unusual and significant architectural feature in the district is the "cavetto" cornice, a pronounced concave projecting cornice, not commonly found in Vermont, which was applied with prominent corner pilasters and a flat or low hipped roof, creating a box-like form with gracefully flared cornice. Identical cavetto cornices appear on three buildings (#1, 2, and 40), and in a modified form on a fourth (#29). Of the builders who designed and built these structures, almost nothing is known. Business directories for the 1870's and 1880's list only one self-described architect in Morrisville, Cordilla W. Fitch, and there is no trace of which, if any, of the district's buildings were his work.

Of the brick commercial blocks erected around the turn of the century, the most significant are the Queen Anne style Town Clerk's Office (#31), built in 1892-93 as the first Union Bank; the Romanesque Revival style Drowne Block (#3), the Italianate-influenced Demars Block (#6), and the Colonial Revival style Munson Annex (#35). In addition, the row of adjoining or nearly-adjoining three-story commercial blocks on the south side of Main Street (#45-50), although individually of little architectural interest, combine to form a cohesive streetscape of continuous rectangular facades, and as a group give downtown Morrisville much of its distinctly commercial character.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Beers, F.W., Atlas of the Counties of Orleans, Lamoille, and Essex, Vermont (New York, 1878).

Child, Hamilton, Gazetteer and Business Directory for Lamoille and Orleans Counties, Vermont (Syracuse, 1883).

Hemenway, Abby Maria, ed., Vermont Historical Gazetteer, Vol. II. (Burlington, 1871).

Hagarman, Robert L., More About Morristown (Morrisville, 1981).

Mower, Anna L., History of Morristown, Vermont (Morrisville, 1935).

News and Citezen, 1860-present, bound and indexed in Morrisville Public Library.

Nichols, William H., Picturesque Morrisville (Morrisville, 1906).

Norris, George E., Birdseye View of Morrisville, Vermont (Brockton, Mass., 1889).

Walling, H.F., Map of the Counties of Orleans, Lamoille, and Essex, Vermont (1859).

Additional information supplied by Robert L. Hagerman of Morristown, from unpublished research he conducted for preparation of the book, More About Morristown, referenced above.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 10

Page 1

The boundary begins at Point A, located at the intersection of the southern edge of the right-of-way of Foundry Street and the western edge of the right-of-way of Portland Street. It thence proceeds in a southerly direction along the latter edge of right-of-way, crossing the Lamoille Valley Railroad tracks to Point B, at the intersection of the southern edge of the Railroad right-of-way. The boundary thence proceeds in an easterly direction along the southern edge of said right-of-way, crossing Portland Street, to Point C, at the intersection of a northerly extension of the western edge of the right-of-way of Pleasant Street. Thence the boundary proceeds in a southerly direction along said extension and said right-of-way to Point D, at the intersection of the rear (south) property line of the Lamoille Grain Company Warehouse property (#14). The boundary thence proceeds in a westerly direction along said property line to Point E, at the intersection of the rear (east) property line of the Wrong End Store property (#12). Thence the boundary proceeds in a southerly direction along the rear east property lines of the Wrong End Store property (#12), Talord's Tavern property (#11), the Manor House property (#10), crossing Hutchins Street and continuing along the rear (east) property lines of the Kelley Block property (#9), the Elmore Block property (#8), the Jones Block property (#7), the Demars Block property (#6), the Ben Franklin Annex property (#5), the Drowne Block property (#3), and the side (east) property line of the Drowne House property (#1) to Point F, at the intersection of the northern curb line of Main Street. Thence the boundary proceeds in a westerly direction along said curb line, crossing Portland Street and continuing along said curb line to Point G at the intersection of a northerly extension of the side (east) property line of the Marcoux TV property (#50). The boundary thence proceeds in a southerly direction along said extension, crossing Main Street and continuing along said property line to Point H at the intersection of the rear (south) property line of the Marcoux TV property (#50). Thence the boundary proceeds in a westerly direction along said rear property line and continues along the rear (south) property lines of the Arthur's property (#49), the Ferris Building property (#48), the a.T.a. Garage property (#47), the Village Photographer property (#46), and the County Food Co-op property (#45) to Point I, at the intersection of the side (west) property line of the County Food Co-op property (#45). The boundary thence proceeds along said west property line to Point J at the intersection of the southern curb line of Main Street. Thence the boundary proceeds in a westerly direction along said curb line and a westerly extension thereof, crossing the confluence of East High Street, Vermont Route 100, and West High Street to Point K at the intersection of the western edge of the right-of-way of the confluence of the above streets. Thence the boundary proceeds in a southerly direction along said edge of said right-of-way to Point L, at the intersection of the side (south) property line of the Noyes House property (#44). The boundary thence proceeds in a westerly direction along said property line to Point M, at the intersection of the western property line of the Noyes property (#44). The boundary thence proceeds in a northwesterly direction to Point N, the southwest corner of the Safford Grist Mill property (#42), on the east bank of the Lamoille River. Thence the boundary proceeds in a northeasterly direction along said bank of said River to Point O, at the northernmost point of the Morrisville Water and Light property (#'s 41, 42, 43) on the river bank. The boundary thence proceeds in an easterly direction along the north property line of said property and continues along the rear (north) property lines of the Noyes-Slayton House and Garage property (#'s 38 and 39), the Noyes Store Stables property (#37), the Munson Annex property (#35), the Munson Block property

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 10

Page 2

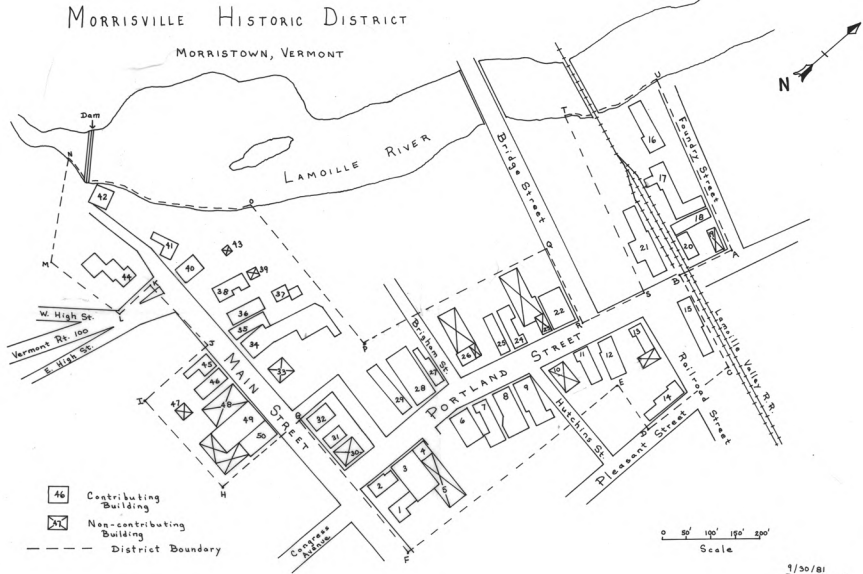
(#34) and the Terrill's Texaco property (#33) to Point P, at the intersection of the rear (west) property line of the Stone Block property (#29). Thence the boundary proceeds in a northeasterly direction along the rear (west) property lines of the Stone Block property (#29), the Brosseau's property (#28), the Woodward Block property (#27), crossing Brigham Street, and continuing along the rear (west) property lines of the Bryant House property (#26), the Sears, Roebuck Building property (#25), the Clark House property (#24), the Elmore House property (#23), and the Bijou Theater property (#22) to Point Q at the intersection of the southern edge of the right-of-way of Bridge Street. The boundary thence proceeds in a southeasterly direction along said edge of said right-of-way to Point R, at the intersection of the western edge of the right-of-way of Portland Street. Thence the boundary proceeds in a northerly direction along said edge of said right-of-way, crossing Bridge Street, and continuing to Point S, at the intersection of the southern property line of the C. R. Page Store-Lamoille Grain Company property (#21). The boundary thence proceeds in a westerly direction along the south property line of said property and continues along the rear (north) property lines of #3 and #7 Bridge Street (not included in the district) to Point T, at the west bank of the Lamoille River. Thence the boundary proceeds in a northerly direction along the west bank of the Lamoille, crossing the Lamoille Valley Railroad tracks, and continuing to Point U, at the intersection of the southern edge of the right-of-way of Foundry Street. Thence boundary proceeds in a southeasterly direction along said edge of said right-of-way to Point A, the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Morrisville Historic District is drawn to include all of the significant historic commercial/industrial core of the Village. To the north of the district lie a number of modern and irreversably altered old warehouse buildings. To the east of the district lies a large residential neighborhood, between Hutchins and Main Street separated from the district by a very large parking lot. The southern boundary of the district was drawn to exclude concentrations of modern structures on Main Street. Residential development lies to the south of the district. The Lamoille River acts as a geographic boundary for portions of the west side of the district. In addition, the western boundary is drawn to exclude a number of modern and altered residential structures on the west end of Brigham Street and on Bridge Street.

# MORRISVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

MORRISTOWN, VERMONT



- 46 Contributing Building
- X Non-contributing Building
- District Boundary

0 50' 100' 150' 200'  
Scale

1/30/81  
Revised 11/82