

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received OCT 15 1984

date entered

NOV 15 1984

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

1. Name

historic Gale-Bancroft House

and/or common The North/Cole House

2. Location

street & number Brook Road N/A not for publication

city, town Plainfield N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Vermont code 50 county Washington code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Douglas North/Ellen Cole

street & number Brook Road

city, town Plainfield N/A vicinity of state Vermont

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Town Clerk

street & number Town Hall

city, town Plainfield state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The 1½ story, 5 x 3 bay, compact, gabled brick form of the Gale-Bancroft House and its woodframe wing, combined with symmetrically placed doors and windows, give the cottage its inherent character. The only decoration is a returning cornice that suggests the vernacular Greek Revival. This plain but pristine character is enhanced by the house's remaining barn and large lot studded with shade trees.

The nominated property is located in the southeast corner of Plainfield Village. (A large section of the rural hamlet was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 3, 1983.) Plainfield's neighborhoods are visible to the north and west, while wooded, more rural areas enclose it on the east and south.

The house consists of a standard 5 x 3 bay, 1½ story, gabled, low kneewall block with a 1½ story, gabled wing set back on its east gable end. The main block has a brick veneer and an asphalt roof; the wing has clapboard sheathing and a wood shingle roof, and the entire structure sits on a rough cut granite block foundation. Stylistic detail is restrained. The Greek Revival style is discreetly suggested by a slight molded returning cornice on the main block, while the wing's cornice is very shallow and molded only on the front facade. There is an oval shaped window in the transom over the main central entrance. Symmetrically placed sash are predominantly 2/2, plainly trimmed, without lintels, and flanked by louvered shutters on the main block. The basement windows have smooth cut granite lintels. The contemporaneous wing has, on its front facade, a recessed, now enclosed, porch with large multi-paned windows flanking the entrance. To the right of the porch are two sets of swinging, partially glazed, c.1910 double garage doors that open into a formerly finished section of the wing. Spanning the wing's rear facade is a plainly detailed, open, shed roofed porch.

The only major alterations to the house have been the 1930 removal of a gabled woodframe section that once connected the wing with the present, detached barn and the addition of a rear 2 bay shed-roofed dormer. The section of the wing that was removed was moved several hundred yards east on Brook Road and is now a residence.

The original interior floor plan of the house is intact and consists of a central hall and stairway flanked by large rooms in front with 3 smaller rooms to the rear. There is no evidence of a massive central chimney. A small chimney rises from the center of the roof ridge. Interior detail is starkly plain with modest molding and an added tin ceiling in the parlor.

The mid nineteenth century barn associated with the Gale-Bancroft House is a post and beam gabled structure originally sheathed in vertical board, and more recently (c.1900) covered with clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards. It has a new concrete foundation, a 1 story shed roofed wing on the west gable end, and a metal ventilator at the ridge of the roof now sheathed in asphalt shingle on the south slope and sheet metal on the north. The barn's square, fixed pane window openings are randomly placed and topped by a very slight lip molding. Entrances include a large sliding door on the south facade and a vertical board door on the south facade of the wing. There are also hayloft doors on the south side and in the east gable peak.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1840

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The vernacular Gale-Bancroft House, with its compact form, simple lines and symmetrical facade, is one of the plainer, yet one of the best preserved of a relatively large number of brick 1½ story residences in Plainfield that remain as evidence of an outstanding but poorly documented building tradition in the town. Together the brick buildings constitute an unusual group in a state which relied heavily on its forests for construction materials.

The house is believed to have been built c.1840, yet has a Cape appearance, thus making it a late version of the type. The lack of physical evidence for an original central chimney supports this probable date.

The property passed through several hands between 1840 and 1859. S.B. Gale probably built the house during the period when most of Plainfield's many, very similar, 1½ story brick houses were built. (There are 12 in the Plainfield Village Historic District, entered on the National Register of Historic Places on February 3, 1983, and another, the Allenwood Farm, entered on the Register as an individual nomination on December 22, 1983. These buildings, believed to be the work of a small group of housebuilders, give the town its distinctive architectural character - unique in Vermont's plethora of villages with primarily woodframe, early to mid-nineteenth century structures.) Gale only lived in the house until 1847. After 1847, various owners, including J.A. Wing, a prominent Plainfield and Montpelier lawyer, owned the property and probably rented it.

In 1859, J.A. Bancroft bought the house which became the headquarters of his undertaking shop. Beers' Atlas of 1878 shows the business housed in a very long structure, thus revealing that the wing, barn, and former connecting wing between the two were in existence and probably played a part in the operation. It is not certain if Bancroft lived at the site.

From 1882 until 1903, Ira Stone and his wife Julia owned the property and farmed the 15 acres associated with it. During the twentieth century, Alvinza Flood and Newton Davis lived there. Davis had no need to farm since he was Plainfield's rural postman and the lot took on its present acreage, large for the village but much reduced from the original 15 acres.

Despite the house's various owners, it remains little altered from its c.1840 appearance, which is simple, yet none-the-less architecturally important. A significant contributing component of Plainfield's historic environment, it is essential when considering the distinctive group of contemporaneous brick houses in Plainfield.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 2.2 acres

Quadrangle name Plainfield, VT

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	8	7	0	5	6	0	0	4	9	0	5	4	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached

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

state code county code

N/A state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gina Campoli

organization Vermont Division for Historic Preservation date January 20, 1983

street & number The Pavilion Building telephone 802-828-3226

city or town Montpelier 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Eri Selab

title Director, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation date 9/25/84

For NPS use only

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

[Signature] Entered in NMIC National Register date 11-15-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beer, F.W. Atlas of Washington County, Vermont. Rutland, Vermont: Charles Tuttle and Company, 1971. (reprint of 1878 edition).

Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer of Washington County, Vermont 1783-1889. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse Journal Company, pp. 435-444.

Hemenway, Abby Maria. Vermont Historical Gazetteer. Montpelier, Vermont: 1882. Vol. IV; pp. 713-733.

Interview with Clarabelle Gallison and review of unpublished deed research in her possession on January 24, 1983. Plainfield, Vermont.

Interview with Douglas North, January 14, 1983. Plainfield, Vermont.

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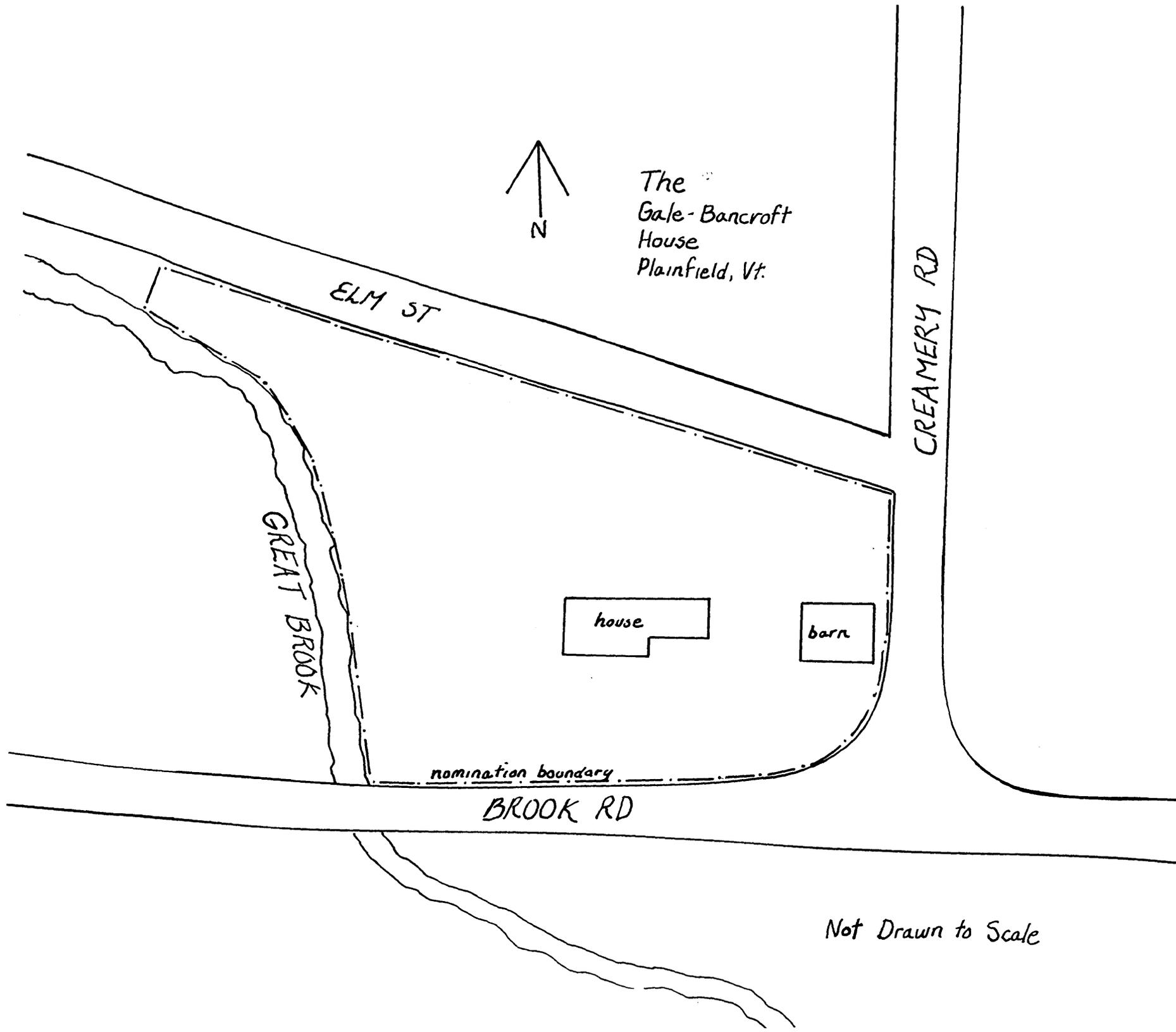
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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is coexistent with the present Douglas North/Ellen Cole property as recorded in the Office of the Town Clerk, Plainfield, Vermont, Book 24, page 307. It includes a large, open lot bounded by Great Brook to the west and Elm Street, Brook Road, and Creamery Road to the north, south and east respectively. Beyond the street and brook, to the north and east, are the moderately dense neighborhoods of Plainfield Village. Beyond Brook Road is a wooded area and east of Creamery Road rises a wooded area with a few scattered houses. The lot has been associated with the house and barn during this century and, with its mature shade trees, provides an appropriate historic setting.



The
Gale-Bancroft
House
Plainfield, Vt.

ELM ST

CREAMERY RD

GREAT BROOK

house

barn

nomination boundary

BROOK RD

Not Drawn to Scale