

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont
COUNTY:	Addison
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 20 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Rokeby

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: //  
1 1/4 miles north of Ferrisburg, Village on U.S. Route 7

CITY OR TOWN:  
Ferrisburg vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: District 1  
Rep. Richard Mallary

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Addison CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Rowland E. Robinson Memorial Association

STREET AND NUMBER:  
(no street number)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Ferrisburg

STATE:  
Vermont

CODE:  
50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
(no street number)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Ferrisburg

STATE:  
Vermont

CODE:  
50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Vermont Division of Historic Sites

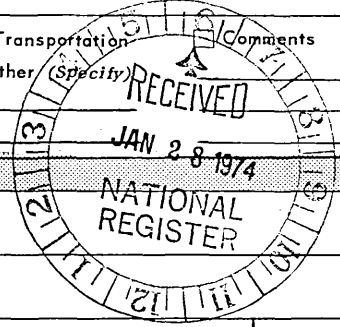
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Montpelier

STATE:  
Vermont

CODE:  
50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Vermont

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rokeby, the residence of author Rowland Evans Robinson (1833-1900), is located on a slope above U.S. Route 7 a mile north of the village of Ferrisburg, Vermont. The residence is relatively secluded from the road by a hedgerow and rock wall near the highway. An abundance of large maple and locust trees in the yard provide additional shelter. Main access to the dwelling is by means of a gravel driveway.

There are nine principal structures on the Rokeby grounds, including the main residence. A rubblestone icehouse and a Robinson family schoolhouse south of the main house are of primary interest. Other buildings include a granery, slaughterhouse, a cow barn, garage, and hen house. All of these structures are of middle-to-late 19th century origin except the garage which was built in the 1940's. The schoolhouse is thought to pre-date the Rokeby house, and was a residence prior to Robinson's purchase of the property.

Rokeby was constructed in two portions forming a "T"-plan structure. The original portion of the house, now the rear wing, was constructed about 1790. It is essentially a rectangular plan, 1½ story frame structure set upon a cut stone foundation. It has an asphalt shingled, medium-pitch gable roof pierced by two equidistantly spaced gabled dormers on the north flank and a single dormer on the south flank. A large chimney is centrally spaced on the roof peak. The north flank of the roof is the longer of the two and has a definite break in pitch at the eaves suggesting that a gallery might have once been placed along the north elevation, but it has since been enclosed. Fenestration in this portion of the house is irregularly spaced in all facades but much of the early six-over-six sash remains in place.

The main, front, portion of Rokeby was constructed in 1814 by the author's father. It is essentially a rectangular plan, two-story, clapboard sided frame "I"-house having an asphalt shingled, medium-pitch gable roof. It is set upon a cut stone foundation. An additional bay was added to the south side of this portion in 1900, giving the main (west) elevation a width of six bays. Main access is provided by a doorway on the ground floor in a center bay. The doorway is flanked by sidelight windows. A single story portico, having a gable roof with plain wood cornice and frieze, is appended to the central bay providing a shelter for the doorway. A plain wood cornice and frieze appears at the roofline of the five symmetrical bays. A similar cornice appears on the lower, pedimented roofline of the southern bay. Windows in the main elevation are double-hung sash type throughout and are paired in the 1900 addition. Most of the original sash has been replaced by later, one-over-one sashes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Rokeby was the family homestead of Rowland Evans Robinson, one of Vermont's most prominent authors of the 19th century. Robinson, a chronicler of Vermont dialect and customs of the 1840's, was born at Rokeby in 1833 and died there in 1900. In the intervening years he resided almost continuously at Rokeby and produced all his work there. Robinson's voluminous sketches, correspondence, and manuscripts exist in their entirety at Rokeby and provide a definitive archive of his life and his work. In addition, the interior and furnishings of Rokeby are completely intact from Robinson's lifetime.

Although Rowland E. Robinson wrote in later years, he is credited as the most accurate documentor of Vermont speech and rural customs of the period 1830-1840. A critic has suggested that Robinson might have been one of the best dialectical writers in American literature.<sup>1</sup> Robinson's major literary production was a series called the "Danvis tales", which were written in the 1890's to dramatize life in a mythical Vermont hill town sixty years previously. Although Robinson has not received sufficient recognition until recently, literary scholars have begun to consider Robinson a serious regionalist, writing "in the shadow of the great New England group of writers which included Emerson, Longfellow, and Whittier".<sup>2</sup>

Robinson began writing after 1893 when his eyesight began to fail. Prior to writing he had illustrated magazine articles for numerous popular 19th century periodicals. With the exception of seven years in New York (1866-1873), Robinson produced all of his illustrations at Rokeby, and all of the sketches survive today in his library. Recently several scrapbooks of unsigned political cartoons, which had been syndicated in the 1870's, were found among the Robinson papers at Rokeby. Prior to this find, scholars were not aware that Robinson was the author of this popular series.

The library at Rokeby also contains a definitive archive of the Vermont Anti-Slavery Society, of which the author's father was Chairman. In addition to the archival resources on Rowland E. Robinson's literary and artistic career, Rokeby contains an invaluable resource on the history of abolitionist activities

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

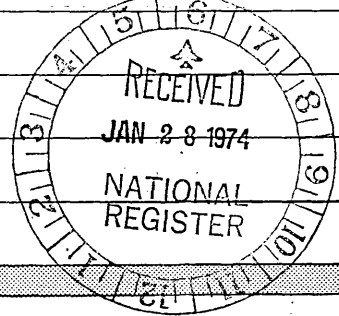
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	44°	13'	22"
NE	°	'	"	73°	14'	16"
SE	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"			

OTM  
12/640740  
4899870  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Stephen Raiche, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: 11/14/73

STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name: William B. Penney

Title: Director of Historic Sites  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 1/17/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

David A. Connolly  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
Associate Director  
Professional Services

Date: JUN 20 1974

ATTEST:

Charles A. Fenington  
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6/18/74

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(Continuation Sheet)

Section 7

(Number all entries)

The north elevation in the 1814 portion of Rokeby includes two regularly spaced, double-hung sash windows in each floor and a rounded top attic window located near the peak. A plain cornice with partial cornice return appears on the gable end. The south elevation has a similar cornice to that on the opposite gable. A pair of windows appears on the ground floor of the south elevation, and two windows are equally spaced on the second floor. The icehouse is a small, square, stone building having a high pitch gable roof sheathed in wood shingles. Although the date of construction has not been determined, it is among the earlier outbuildings on the Rokeby property. The family schoolhouse, once used to tutor the Robinson children, is a rectangular frame building constructed of wide planks. Although much of the original fabric has been altered, many of the exterior planks are in place and a large interior brick fireplace remains intact.



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Section 8

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

in Vermont.

1. Terrance Martin, "Rowland Evans Robinson", Vermont History, Vol. XXIII, (Jan. 1955), 3.

2. Ibid., 4.



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Section 9

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Bailey, Ann, "Rowland E. Robinson: A True Vermont Author",  
Vermont History, Vol. XXX (April 1952) 162-167.

Betterley, Theresa; "Rokeby", Vermonter, Vol. 48, (April 1943)  
68-105.

Kearney, Mary K., "Author and True Vermonter", Vermont Quarterly,  
Vol. XIX, (October 1951), 262-268.

Martin, Terrance, "Rowland E. Robinson", Vermont History, Vol.  
XXIII, (January 1955), 3-15.

The Rokeby Messenger (Souvenir Edition), Winter 1970-71.



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Section 10 Continued (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Corrected coordinates:

North  $44^{\circ}13'22''$   
West  $73^{\circ}14'16''$

