



Certified Local Government Program

2021 CLG Grant Application

**FFY 2021 grant funding provided by the
National Park Service/Historic Preservation Fund**

Grant Period: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022

**Vermont Certified Local Government Program
2021 Grant Application Form**

Application Deadline: On or before 4:30 PM, Monday, December 7, 2020.

Application Format: All application materials should be submitted electronically via email. If you are unable to do so, please contact Devin Colman at 802-585-8246 or devin.colman@vermont.gov.

What to Submit: All application materials must be submitted prior to the application deadline. A complete application consists of the following items, in the following electronic formats:

- A fully completed Application Form, signed by the applicant, the Chair of the CLG Commission, and the Chief Elected Local Official (or designee). Submit a scanned PDF of the complete application with all signatures.
- A fully completed Proposed Budget Form, signed by the Chief Elected Local Official (or designee). Submit the following:
 - a scanned PDF of the signed Proposed Budget Form, and
 - a MS Word version of the Proposed Budget Form.
- A copy of the most recent municipal financial report/single audit. Submit as a PDF.
- Any supporting materials, such as photographs, reports, assessments, etc. that support and inform the proposed project. Submit these materials as PDFs.

How to Submit the Application: Please submit all of the above items as attachments to an email message, identified as follows:

Email Subject Line: *[Name of CLG Community] – 2021 CLG Grant Application*

Attachments: *[Name of CLG Community] – Application Form*
[Name of CLG Community] – Proposed Budget Form
[Name of CLG Community] – Financial Report
[Name of CLG Community] – Supporting Materials

To complete this Grant Application, simply click in the gray text boxes and type your responses. Please keep your responses as concise as possible and specific to the proposed project.

Good Luck!

**If you have any questions about the application process, please contact
Devin Colman at 802-585-8246 or devin.colman@vermont.gov.**

**Vermont Certified Local Government Program
2021 Grant Application Form**

Name of CLG Community: Bennington, VT

Name of CLG Coordinator: Shannon Barsotti

Telephone: 802-445-1330

Email: sbarsotti@benningtonvt.org

Mailing Address: 205 South Street, Bennington VT 05201

Name of Municipal Treasurer: Melissa Currier

Telephone: 802-447-9704

Email: mcurrier@benningtonvt.org

Project Name: Bennington College National Register Nomination

Will this project be administered by a designated third-party? Yes or No

If yes, name of organization: Bennington College

Project Category: Please check the appropriate category below and provide the requested information where indicated or on a separate page.

Priority I Projects

Top priority in the selection of projects and award of grant funds is given to Priority I projects.

Survey Project. *Please describe in Project Summary:*

- purpose of the project;
- area to be surveyed (indicate on map);
- estimated number of properties to be surveyed;
- estimated number of acres to be surveyed;
- status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey; and
- plans for completion of survey.

National Register Project. *Please describe in Project Summary:*

- purpose of the project;
- building or historic district to be nominated (indicate on map);
- property type or theme for Multiple Property nomination;
- for a historic district, the number of contributing properties within the district;
- status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey;
- plans for completion of survey; and
- status of survey through the National Register process.

Preservation Planning Project. *Please describe in Project Summary:*

- purpose of the project;
- area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
- status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey; and
- status of survey through the National Register process.

- Information and Education Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - audience, methods and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.

- Pre-Development Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - property or area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
 - scope of work and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.

Priority II Projects

Awarded only if grant funds remain after all Priority I projects have been selected.

- Development Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - property or area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
 - scope of work and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.
 - Please include a location map showing the footprint of the building, the parcel boundaries, and any areas of possible ground disturbance resulting from the project.

Project Summary (please address the bulleted items in the Project Category selected above):

The proposed project involves updates, completion, and submission of a set of existing National Register nomination materials for the Bennington College Historic District. The existing nomination materials were prepared in 2007 by historic preservation consultant Liz Pritchett Associates as part of a Getty Foundation grant-funded comprehensive historic preservation plan, but not submitted at that time. VDHP has reviewed the existing materials and has offered suggestions for revisions and updates, which will form the basis of the proposed work. Bennington College, as third-party administrator of the CLG grant, intends to revise and update the National Register nomination materials for submission, with the plan of completing this submission—in consultation with VDHP—by the end of calendar year 2021. Note that the College has formally committed to completing the nomination process as a component of an existing Memorandum of Agreement between USDA Rural Housing Service, VDHP, and Bennington College, associated with the recently completed renovations to the historic Commons building on the Bennington campus.

The Bennington College Historic District is currently listed on the Vermont State Register. The National Register nomination defines the Bennington College campus as a Historic District comprised of 64 buildings and structures, of which 55 are designated as contributing structures (a map of the district is attached). A comprehensive survey, along with a complete Historic

Preservation plan for all contributing structures in the district, was completed in 2007 through the Getty Campus Heritage grant project. The College is currently in the process of updating the Historic Preservation Plan document to reflect any changes to the status of contributing structures between 2007 and the present day. These updates will also be reflected in the updated National Register nomination.

Please Answer the Following Questions:

1. How will the public be informed about the purpose of this project and the value of historic preservation? (note: public information and education is a required component of all CLG grant projects)

The Bennington College campus is open to the public, and visitors are welcomed and encouraged. The College is in the process of creating (separately) a Historic Walking Tour that will be available to the public free of charge in both printed and digital format; this will be completed in Spring 2021. The walking tour includes information about key contributing resources to the Historic District, as well as a general history of the campus.

If accepted to the National Register, the College will issue a press release to the media announcing this new designation.

Additionally, where possible and appropriate, the College will continue to create and install interpretive signage throughout the campus to inform the public of the campus' unique architectural and pedagogical history.

Lastly, inclusion in the National Register will raise awareness among the student community of the historical significance of the campus, leading to a deeper engagement by students with the history of the place. Bennington students are encouraged to base their course of study (including required work internships each year) upon their individual interests, and we expect that interest in historic preservation work will increase among students as a result of raising the profile of campus as a historic district.

2. Describe the impact that this project will have on historic resources. Will it be significant and long lasting?

The campus includes excellent examples of a broad range of architectural typologies spanning from agricultural vernacular to International Style modernism, and includes—in its central campus quad—a fine example of Beaux Arts campus planning, a rare form among college campuses in Vermont. As the draft nomination states: "The architecture on the Bennington campus embodies the broad range of history of the site as it evolved from a cluster of several farmsteads, to an elaborate summer estate, and finally a college established by a pioneering group of individuals with an innovative vision for educating young women. The period of significance for the historic district spans approximately two hundred years from c.1775, the date of the oldest building on campus (Shingle Cottage #40) to 1976 when the immense International Style arts building (VAPA #5) was completed."

The inclusion of the Bennington College campus in the National Register of Historic Places would serve as an acknowledgement of the campus' significance as a historic resource, and would serve to encourage further engagement by the public and the college community with both the history and future preservation of the campus buildings and landscape. It would also create pathways for additional resources to support ongoing preservation work on campus. This is critical given the financial challenges that small private liberal arts colleges are facing today, and are likely to continue to struggle with for the foreseeable future.

3. Describe the project schedule assuming starting date of **March 2021** and completion date of **August 1, 2022**. List dates for subcontracting with consultants, on-site meetings, delivery of draft products, such as survey and National Register forms, and public meetings, as applicable. All products, including a final project report and auditable financial documentation are due by the completion date.

DATE	Task/Product Completed
1/2021	DHP notifies applicants of grant awards
3/2021	Execute Grant Agreement with DHP
4/2021	Issue RFP for Historic Preservation Consultant Work on NR Nomination
5/2021	Review Consultant Proposals; Interview Candidates; Select Consultant and Execute Negotiated Contract
5/2021-8/2021	Create revisions and additions to draft NR Nomination materials, including text and photographs
9/2021	Finalize Draft NR Nomination materials and submit draft to VDHP for review
10/2021	Address any VDHP comments on draft materials and finalize NR Nomination for submission
11/2021	Submit finalized NR nomination
12/1/2021	First Progress Report Due to DHP
4/1/2022	Second Progress Report Due to DHP
8/1/2022	Completion Date: Deadline to submit final project report, final product, and request reimbursement.
9/30/2022	Deadline for DHP to process payment requests and disburse grant funds

4. Who will participate in the project and what will they do? Relate the personnel listed in the budget (CLG staff and commissioners, consultants, volunteers) to their role in completing the project.

We envision this project as a collaboration between Bennington College and a qualified (36 CFR Part 61) historic preservation consultant, who will be selected on the basis of proposals submitted as part of an RFP process, followed by competitive negotiation.

The work of the project entails:

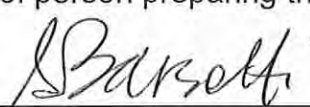
- *Review of a full set of existing National Register nomination materials for the Bennington College Historic District, prepared in 2007 by Liz Pritchett Associates as part of a Getty Grant (but not submitted at the time);*
- *Identifying and executing updates to these nomination materials, including revisions and updates to narratives and photographs;*
- *Completing the updated National Register nomination on current forms;*
- *Reviewing nomination materials with VDHP and making any adjustments to documentation prior to completion of the nomination.*

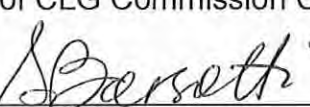
Working under the guidance and direction of the selected historic preservation consultant, Bennington College staff will provide additional labor to support the research and documentation effort. College staff who will dedicate time to this effort include: Vice President of Facilities Management and Planning Andrew Schlatter, a licensed architect who holds master's degrees in both Architecture and Landscape Architecture; Holly Andersen, Project Manager for Bennington College; Joe Tucker, Research Services Librarian at Crossett Library (Bennington College), Keegan Ead, Digital Marketing Strategist for Bennington College, and a Bennington College student employee.


5. What are the dates of the local government's fiscal year? July 1 to June 30

Signatures: After completing the application, print it out and have each of the three signatories sign and date this page. Then scan the complete application as a PDF and email it as an attachment along with the other required application materials.

THIS APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES ARE ENTERED BELOW:

<u>Shannon Barsotti</u> Name of person preparing this application	<u>Community Development Director</u> Title
 Signature	<u>12/4/20</u> Date

<u>Shannon Barsotti</u> Name of CLG Commission Chair	
 Signature	<u>12/4/20</u> Date

<u>Stuart Hurd</u> Name of Chief Elected Local Official (or Designee)	<u>Bennington Town Manager</u> Title
 Signature	<u>12.02.2020</u> Date

Name of CLG Community: Bennington, VT

Name of CLG Project: Bennington College National Register Nomination

Total Project Cost: \$10,155 Federal Share: \$5000 Local Share: \$5155 (cash & in-kind match)

Note: the Federal Share cannot exceed 60% of the total project cost, and the Local Share must be at least 40% of the total project cost.

CASH EXPENDITURES 1				
Salaried Employees	# Hours & Rate	Proposed	Actual	Variance
Total Cash Expenditures for Salaried Employees				

CASH EXPENDITURES 2				
Contracted Services	Description of Services	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Historic Preservation Consultant</i>	Lead & Coordinate Updates and Revisions to NR Nomination for Historic District	\$5000		
Total Cash Expenditures for Contracted Services		\$5000		

CASH EXPENDITURES 3				
Other Expenses	Description of Costs	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Vendor</i>				

Total Cash Expenditures for Operating Services				
IN-KIND EXPENDITURES 1				
Donated Time	# Hours & Rate	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Andrew Schlatter, AIA; VP for Facilities Mgmt & Planning (Bennington College)</i>	24 Hours @ \$100/hr	\$2400		
<i>Joseph Tucker; Research Services Librarian (Bennington College)</i>	20 Hours @ \$41/hr	\$820		
<i>Holly Andersen; Project Manager (Bennington College)</i>	20 Hours @ \$54/hr	\$1080		
<i>Keegan Ead; Digital Marketing Strategist (photographer) (Bennington College)</i>	15 Hours @ \$31/hr	\$465		
<i>Bennington College Student Employee (identity TBD)</i>	30 Hours @ \$13/hr	\$390		
Total In-Kind Expenditures for Donated Time		\$5155		

IN-KIND EXPENDITURES 2				
Donated Services	Description of Costs	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Vendor</i>				
Total Cash Expenditures for Donated Services				

	Proposed	Actual	Variance
Total of All Cash & In-Kind Expenditures	\$9865		

Certification: I certify that the matching share proposed for this project does not include funding from other Federal sources, and that these funds are not being used as match against any other Federal grant application.



Chief Elected Local Official

12-02-2020
Date

2021 CLG Grant Application
Town of Bennington & Bennington College

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Map of Bennington College Historic District

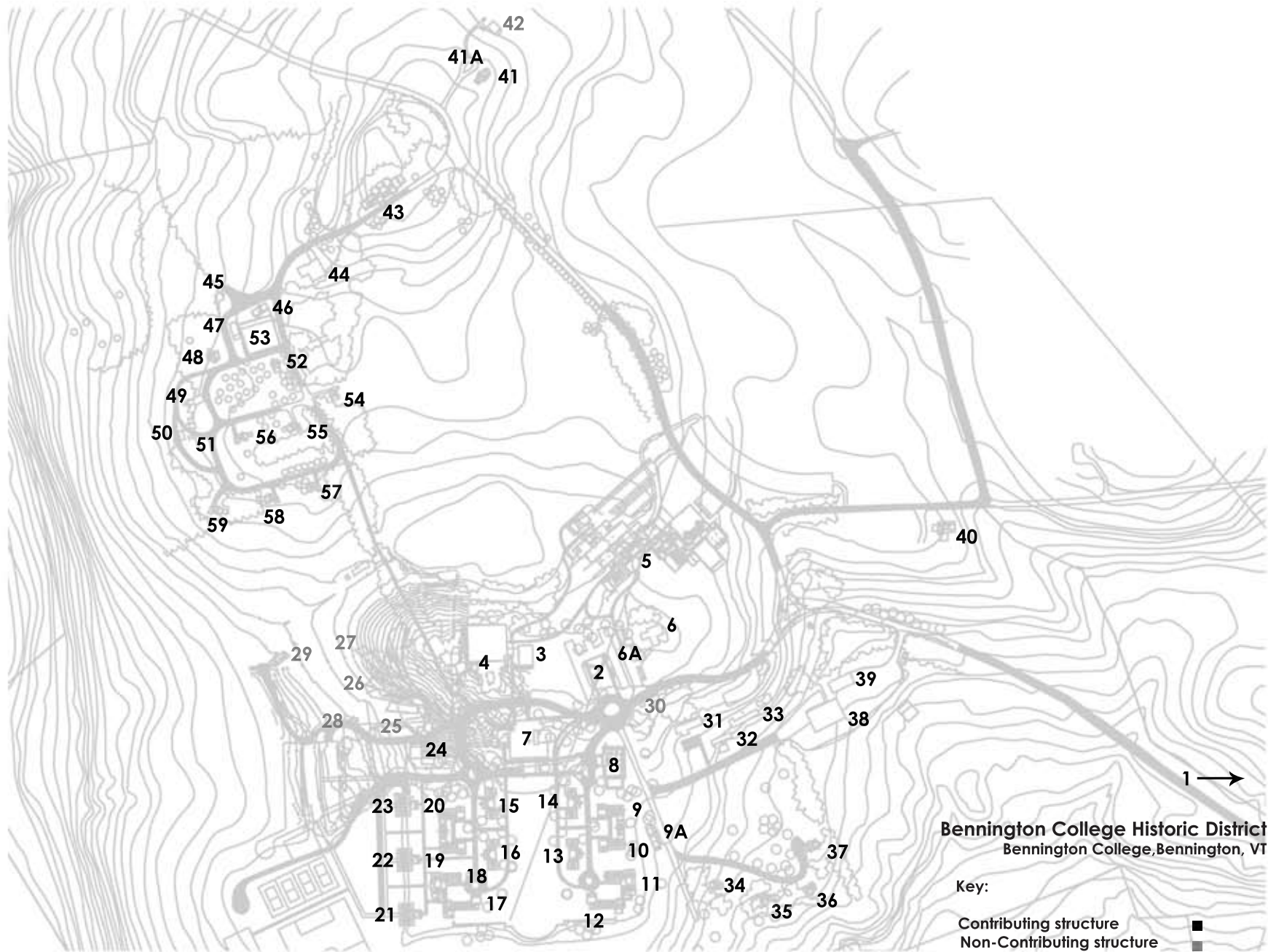
National Register Nomination Materials: Bennington College Historic District (2007 Draft)

Bennington College Historic Preservation Plan (2007)

1

Map of Bennington College Historic District

See Pages following for Identification of Structures



Building Name	Date	Historic District Map no.	
Main Gate	c. 1900	1	10-12
Barn	c. 1900	2	13-16
Tishman Lecture Hall	1970	3	17-19
Dickinson	1970	4	20-22
VAPA	1976	5	23-26
Cricket Hill	c. 1840	6	27-30
Cricket Hill Barn / Garage	c. 1910	6A	31-32
The Commons	1931	7	33-37
Crossett Library	1959	8	38-40
Swan Garage	1933	9A	41-42
Original Student Houses	1931-1936	9-20	43-52
Noyes, Sawtell and Fels	1968	21, 22, 23	53-55
Brick Garage / Student Center	c. 1940/2007	24	56-57
Early Childhood Center (ECC)	c. 1900	31	58-59
Chicken Coop	c. 1900	32	60-61
The Brooder	c. 1900	33	62-63

Building Name	Date	Historic District Map no.	Page no.
Faculty Row	1935-1936	34-37	64-66
Maintenance Building	1963	38	67-68
Meyer Recreation Barn	1970	39	69-70
Shingle Cottage	c. 1775	40	71-74
Longmeadow	c. 1925	41	75-77
Longmeadow Garage	c. 1935	41A	78-79
Jennings Hall	1903	43	80-83
Deane Carriage Barn	c. 1890	44	84-85
Davis Alumni House	c. 1900	45	86-87
Blacksmith's House	c.1900	46	88-89
Carpenter's Shop	c. 1900	47	90-91
Farm (Milkman's) House	c. 1910	48	92-93
Cow Barn	c. 1910	49	94-95
Pig House and Corn Crib	c. 1920	50-51	96-97
Jennings Cottage	c.1900	52	98-99
Brick Garden Wall	c. 1890	53	100-105
Orchard Houses A-F	c. 1945	54-59	106-109

2

**National Register Nomination Materials (Draft, 2007)
Bennington College Historic District**

**Bennington College Historic District
The Getty Foundation Campus Heritage Grant**

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====
1. Name of Property

historic name Bennington College

other names/site number _____

=====
2. Location

street & number One College Drive not for publication_____
city or town Bennington vicinity _____
state Vermont code VT county Bennington code 003
zip code 05201

=====
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _____ locally. (____See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

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

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Art
Education
Landscape Architecture

Literature
Performing Arts

Period of Significance c.1775 - 1976

Significant Dates 1932

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Belluschi, Pietro
Barnes, Edward Larrabee

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Bennington College

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 361

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>18</u>	<u>644065</u>	<u>4753880</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>643440</u>	<u>4752840</u>
2	<u>18</u>	<u>643400</u>	<u>4753940</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>644690</u>	<u>4752380</u>
	<u> </u>	See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Liz Pritchett, Historic Preservation Consultant

Kory Trolio and Joshua Nagle, Bennington College students
organization Liz Pritchett Associates date December 2007

street & number 46 East State Street telephone 802-229-1035

city or town Montpelier state VT zip code 05602

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bennington College Historic District
Bennington County, Bennington, Vermont

Section number 6

Continuation Sheet

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Education</u>	Sub: <u>library</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>education-related</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>research facility</u>
<u>Recreation and culture</u>	<u>theatre</u>
<u>Recreation and culture</u>	<u>auditorium</u>
<u>Recreation and culture</u>	<u>music facility</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>garden</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Recreation and culture</u>	Sub: <u>theatre</u>
<u>Recreation and culture</u>	<u>auditorium</u>
<u>Recreation and culture</u>	<u>music facility</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>garden</u>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bennington College Historic District
Bennington County, Bennington, Vermont

Section number 8

Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Architect / Builder

Ward, Robertson
J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge
Renwich, Aspinwall & Owen
Francis X. Gina Associates

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bennington College Historic District
Bennington County, Bennington, Vermont

Section number 7

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Bennington College has been determined a college of outstanding significance in Vermont and the nation due to its large group of important historic buildings that represent the history of the 360 acre site. Three periods of historic significance that span approximately 200 years from c. 1775 to 1976 are represented by the early vernacular farm buildings, the high style Jennings' estate structures, and, after the College opened in 1932, the impressive array of Colonial Revival and later International Style buildings that together comprise a remarkable collection of architecture on campus. Of the 62 structures in the Bennington College Historic District, 55 have been determined contributing to the significance of the district due to architectural and historic merit, and only 7 are non-contributing due to recent age. National and world-renowned architects that designed for Bennington include Renwich, Aspinwall & Owen (Jennings Hall #43), J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge (the 12 original student houses #s 9-20, and The Commons #7), Robertson Ward (Tishman #3, Dickinson #4, and VAPA #5), Pietro Belluschi (Crossett Library #8), and Edward Larrabee Barnes (Noyes, Sawtell, and Fels #s 21-23). Bennington is a unique example of a college campus in Vermont due to its high number of well-preserved and important architecture, in particular the distinctive group of nine International Style structures.

SETTING

Bennington College is located in the northwestern corner of the Town of Bennington, at the southwestern corner of Vermont. The 360-acre campus comprises a pastoral setting that is primarily open and rolling meadows, with maintained lawns and gardens around the various buildings. One can still imagine the setting as it was when the landscape was in agricultural use and Cricket Hill (#6), a former c. 1840 farmstead now used as the College Admissions Office, was one of several working farms on the land that became Bennington College. The campus is geographically divided into two areas, the southern portion that contains the original student houses, The Barn (#2), The Commons (#7), Cricket Hill (#6), most academic buildings including the library (#8), maintenance structures (#38), a student union (#24), four houses in Faculty Row (#s 34-37), and more recently built student houses. Many of these

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bennington College Historic District
Bennington County, Bennington, Vermont

Section number 7

buildings were originally agricultural structures that continue to reflect their former farming uses. A single additional faculty house and the oldest structure on campus, Shingle Cottage (#40, c. 1775) stands alone near the eastern boundary of the campus on Harlan Road. North of this southerly cluster of buildings is Jennings Hall (#43), Longmeadow (#41), the Deane Carriage Barn (#44), the Brick Walled Garden (#53) and several other structures that all were part of the early 20th century Jennings Estate prior to being acquired by the College in 1939. These northerly buildings and structures include 6 faculty dwellings called the Orchard Houses built c. 1945 (#s 55-59).

The campus is interconnected by various roadways and walking paths. From North Bennington Road one enters the campus by car through the granite posts at the Main Gate (#1) to the main campus roadway called College Drive, which extends north past Harlan Road to Jennings Hall (#43) and Longmeadow (#41) to the area called The Orchard where the Jennings buildings, Walled Garden (#53) and Orchard faculty houses (#s 55-59) are located. Roadways branch off College Drive at the southern part of the campus to provide access for delivery and maintenance vehicles to various buildings. Student parking is available at the east, west and south sides of campus. Prominent landscape features include the large pond which is located in a low area between the north and south sections of campus, the broad green field called Jennings Meadow north and east of the pond, fruit trees that dot the landscape in The Orchard, maintained vegetable gardens at the west side of campus, and athletic fields in the southwest corner. A highly significant feature is the Commons Lawn located between the two rows of original student houses. The south end of the lawn marked by a low fieldstone wall is the area affectionately called the "The End of the World" where a panoramic view to the south and east encompasses the woodland face of Mt. Anthony, rising above the west side of the Town of Bennington and the tall spire of the Bennington Monument, a State Historic Site built in the 1880s to commemorate the famous Battle of Bennington in 1777. Walking paths throughout the campus include one that parallels the entrance drive passing through an arched wrought iron opening at the Main Gate, a path from the south side of campus past the west side of the pond to the Orchard complex and on beyond the northern part of campus through the woods to the village of North Bennington.

In 2004, landscape architects, Reed / Hilderbrand of Watertown, Massachusetts, prepared a Landscape Master Plan for Bennington College. The firm studied the College's historic landscape and prepared a plan for preserving the distinctive character of the setting

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comprising the distant views, open fields, and plantings. The College is implementing the recommendations of this Plan.

BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

1. Main Gate, c. 1900, contributing

The main gate is comprised of a low stone wall of rough ashlar topped by decorative wrought iron fencing, and two, tall, columns of dressed limestone that flank the roadway. The mortar has a decorative beaded joint profile. The gate was made by a local blacksmith named Andrew Nash while it was part of the Jennings Estate. The gate provides a somewhat restrained, but distinguished entrance to the Bennington College campus and historic district.

2. The Barn, c. 1900, contributing

The barn is a large, open quadrangle, 12,000 square foot structure that was originally used as stables for sheep and jersey cows on the Jennings estate. When acquired by the College it was a U-plan structure with west and east wings joined by a central connector. A section of fieldstone foundation and early roof framing in part of the west wing suggest that this section may date to around 1850. In 1932 the barn was converted to educational use and the interior was modified for classrooms, offices and a library, and an auditorium was located in the south end of the west wing. Circa 1939, using funds from a \$25,000 Carnegie grant, extensions were added to the north end of the two wings, and around 1970 a one-story, gable roof wing, designed by Robertson Ward, was added at the north side of the connector between the two wings. The barn has a raised brick foundation, clapboard siding and mostly asphalt roofing shingles, though slate shingles remain on the rear façade. Barn architectural features remain, including seven square louver cupolas with hip roofs and flared eaves, and a peaked gable hayloft opening (now infilled with large windows) on the west façade. The steel, multi-pane, paired casement windows that were added in 1932 are varied, with larger windows and transoms on the first floor and shorter casements on the second floor. Within the quadrangle area are enclosed one story, hip roof porticos nestled in the interior corners of the building and along the façade of each wing.

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3. Tishman Lecture Hall, 1970, contributing

This International Style one story, flat roof, rectangular building rests on a raised, reinforced concrete foundation that has an exposed basement level at the rear (north). The vertical board siding is accented on the front and rear elevations with a horizontal board frieze that projects slightly beyond the front wall plane, and more so across the rear elevation where it serves as part of the roof above a full length recessed porch. Two flush metal doors topped by square transom windows flank the recessed front wall plane. The rear porch has a glass railing and open stairs off the west end. A bank of full-glass sliding doors is located on the exposed basement level under the recessed porch. The vertical siding, glass railing of the porch, and bank of sliding glass doors at the basement level on the rear of the building are reflected in similar siding, porch and glass door details on Dickinson Building to the west.

4. Dickinson, 1970, contributing

Dickinson is a large, two-story, rectangular plan building for teaching and research, containing classrooms, offices, laboratories, a greenhouse, and herbarium. It is constructed of prefabricated materials, primarily Douglas fir and cedar shipped via the Panama Canal. The massive, fir, structural components are evident inside as posts and beams, and on the exterior in the exposed rafters, while the narrow cedar, vertical and horizontal siding on the exterior is expressed as a curtain wall. The building has ribbon windows and a concrete foundation with a parged, aggregate veneer. The subdued, natural colors of the exterior and interior elements contrast with the brightly colored, exposed features of the heating and ventilating systems inside. Wall panels in many interior areas provide flexible spaces.

Dickinson is an important example of the International Style in Vermont. It represents the use of wood for structural components and siding that developed as a regional characteristic of the style in New England and California. Harvard educated Robertson Ward studied with Mies van der Rohe in the late 1960s in Chicago. Ward's interest in building systems and prefabricated materials is expressed in the exposed post and beam frame, and wood sheathing which functions as a curtain wall. According to Donald Sherefkin, architecture faculty member at the College, Ward selected the cedar siding to blend with the agricultural tradition of building in Vermont, and he sited the building on a relatively low area on campus so that it

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would not dominate the landscape, despite its large volume. The wood construction and other details of the building recall SOM's Great Lakes Naval Air Base, c. 1945.

5. VAPA, 1976, contributing

The Visual and Performing Arts Center (VAPA) was constructed over a five year period during the early 1970s. It is one of the largest wood framed buildings of its time and the largest in the State of Vermont. This complex of intersecting rectangular buildings of different heights comprises 120,000 square feet of space that houses studios, darkrooms, galleries, theaters, offices and classrooms. The building has a post and beam frame, a concrete foundation and cedar siding. Like nearby Dickinson, portions of VAPA occupy a low area so that from the south where most academic buildings are sited, VAPA appears to be one-story tall, although at the low point of land to the north, portions of the building are three-stories in height. VAPA is a creative complex of flat and shed roof buildings connected by wood decks, balconies, recessed porches, broad open stairs, landscaped lawns, and brick walkways. According to Donald Sherefkin, architecture faculty member on campus, the design of the building is based on a 5/10' module throughout. A variety of combinations of broad expanses of vertical boards and ribbon windows define the exteriors, with sliding doors that also cover windows to control light on some elevations. Painting studios all have north light. As with Dickinson, the interior has exposed framing, floating stairs (without risers), and balconies that overlook open halls and gallery spaces below.

The Visual and Performing Arts Center, like Dickinson, also designed by Robertson Ward, is an important example of the International Style in Vermont. It embodies Robertson's theories regarding the context of the site and his use of traditional materials in his designs – the buildings are set into the landscape so that they do not dominate the setting and blend with the earlier historic buildings at the College, and are compatible in scale, materials and vernacular forms with Vermont agricultural buildings. The design, materials and massing reflect the International Style in the rectangular and shed roof forms, flush siding, floating stairs and ribbon windows, yet the use of wood for framing and siding is a regional characteristic that is appropriate for this New England college where most buildings have wood frames and are sheathed in wood clapboards. The sliding doors and movable interior screens reflect the influence of traditional Japanese architecture, but also are associated with Vermont barn doors. Local architect, Timothy Smith worked for Robertson Ward as the site

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representative while the buildings designed by Ward were being constructed, as Ward's office was in Chicago at the time.

6. Cricket Hill, c. 1840, contributing

This two-story, gable roof, three-by-four-bay, L-shaped plan, twelve foot by thirty-five foot, Greek Revival style farmhouse belonged to the Fassetts prior to its sale to Trenor Park and later inclusion in the Jennings Estate. According to Rebecca Stickney, an alumna (class of '43) with many years of service to Bennington, Cricket Hill was the home of Mr. Bingham who was Mrs. Jennings' farm manager and most likely related to the Bingham who owned the farm in 1835 as recorded on the Joseph Hinsdill map. Cricket Hill has a fieldstone foundation, clapboard siding, and asphalt roofing. Greek Revival details include corner pilasters with capitals, cornice returns, and a pronounced molded cornice with fascia below. Windows are mostly six-over-six, double hung sash with new storms. A prominent one-story porch wraps around the front (east) and south facades with simple square posts and a lattice skirt, sheltering five separate entrances. A long shed dormer with three tall, paired casement windows is located on both the front and rear facades of the south ell. A one-story, gable roof, three-by-one bay rear ell, similarly covered in clapboards, was added after 1900 by Charles Hiland Hall, an early trustee of the College, who spent summers in the farmhouse. The rear ell was originally used as maid's quarters. It has two-over-two, double-hung windows, outrigger brackets, a fieldstone foundation, a small louver cupola, and a circular louver vent under the gable peak. Cricket Hill was first used as a guest house by Bennington College (as listed in 1932 housewarming documents), and also served as a nursery school and faculty apartments. It is now the Office of Admissions.

6A. Cricket Hill Barn, c. 1910, contributing

This one and one-half story, gable roof, four-by-one bay, ten by twenty foot, rectangular plan barn is an outbuilding for Cricket Hill. This barn has novelty siding, common in the early twentieth century, which appears to date this building as newer than Cricket Hill. The building rests partly on a wood sill, and partly on a new poured concrete slab and has asphalt roofing shingles. A small square cupola with a finial is centered on the roof. Original, four-panel doors topped by hayloft doors with strap hinges are found on the east and west gable

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ends. One-over-one windows on the north elevation appear inset within former carriage bay openings. The barn is now used as art studios.

7. The Commons, 1931, contributing

The large, Colonial Revival style, two and one-half story, brick, symmetrical, H-plan, thirteen-by-five bay, seventy-five foot by twenty-five foot building was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge of Boston in the spirit of a New England town hall. The Commons has a concrete foundation, American bond brickwork, and slate roofing shingles. Colonial Revival details are numerous, and include segmental arch lintels over the windows, wood paneled doors topped by fanlights and flanked by sidelights, dentils and modillion blocks under the molded cornice, and a loggia with a geometric railing off the second floor with a marble floor, and an arcaded open porch below. A center, two-stage, pedimented gable bell tower, topped by a domed roof and finial with a weathervane rests on a square base containing nine-over-six windows flanked by six-over-four windows on each side. Windows are mostly eight-over-eight double hung sash, though larger, multi-pane windows are found throughout the building. Pedimented gable dormers with eight-over-eight windows are evenly spaced across the front façade and flank a larger central arched dormer with a clock. A large multi-paned shed dormer with banked windows is found on the rear. The doorways on the long rear block that faces north have similar Colonial Revival features, such as the end doors with fluted pilasters supporting a segmental arch with keystone, and the center door protected under a pedimented gable portico with dentils supported by Doric columns. The two-story addition constructed on the west façade c. 1970, designed by Dickinson and VAPA architect, Robertson Ward, has a dining area on the upper floor, and a mail room and food service delivery area on the lower level. Numerous massive brick chimneys are symmetrically placed on the building.

8. Crossett Library, 1959, contributing

Crossett Library is a square plan structure located adjacent to the original, early 1930s College commons comprised of the Colonial Revival style central Commons building and two flanking rows of small-scale student dormitories reminiscent of a Vermont village green. The library was designed to reflect the modern movement but is compatible with the original campus and its adapted 19th century farm buildings, and stately 1903 Jennings' summer

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home (all on land that was formerly part of the large Park Estate). The first level of the three-story library is built into the south facing bank so that the height does not dominate the nearby smaller commons buildings. The white, painted wood exterior blends with the earlier campus structures, the modular geometry of the library and its features reflect the symmetry of the Colonial Revival style buildings, and the brick enclosed garden off the exposed, south side lower level is a feature associated with historic landscapes. The modules of the façade are defined for example by wide panels of V-groove siding set within frames, and two panels equal the distance between the paired, square edged posts that are regularly spaced across the wrap-around porch that is recessed under the overhang of the flat roof. Louvered screens attached to the porch posts filter light through the banks of double glazed windows. The porch deck, which is cantilevered beyond the foundation wall creates the appearance of a “floating” building, and the exposed stairs on the north side that have no risers, also appear to “float”, which is a characteristic of the International Style. There is no added ornament, no articulated front elevation, and the distinctive features such as the floating stairs, and the louver screens are integral to the structure itself.

The Crossett Library is one of the most significant examples of International Style architecture in Vermont. It is an outstanding example of a library built in the International Style, and is designed by one of the foremost Modernist architects of the 20th century. Italian born Pietro Belluschi (1899-1994) is known for, among other important projects, the Equitable Life Assurance Building, Portland, Oregon (1944-47), which was ahead of its time with its aluminum frame, marble, and green glass curtain wall system that still looks contemporary today. He was acting as the Dean of Architecture and Planning at MIT when he designed the Crossett Library. In his fifty years of practice, both in Portland and in Massachusetts, Belluschi designed over 1000 buildings.

9. & 10. Swan House and Woolley House, 1933, contributing

Swan House and Woolley House are two connected student residences that together form a U-plan structure. The one and one-half story building with intersecting three-by-two bay and six and three bay blocks with gambrel roofs was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including recessed entries

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with marble stoops under arcaded porches with keystone molding, quoining under the cornice returns, and fanlights, sidelights and transoms highlighting the molded panel doors. Quarter-elliptical louver vents are found under the gambrel peaks. Windows are six-over-six with aluminum storms. Small pedimented gable dormers, usually flanking a larger quoined gable dormer with cornice returns, are numerous along the roofs. Two pedimented gable porches with Doric columns are accessed by marble steps on the long rear façade. Several brick chimneys with concrete caps pierce the center ridge of the roofs. This student house mirrors McCullough and Leigh (#s 19, 20) across the green.

9A. Swan Garage, 1933, contributing

This long, rectangular, one-story, gable roof, eleven-by-two bay, twenty foot by ninety foot garage has a concrete foundation, clapboard siding, and asphalt roofing shingles. The garage has corner boards, a plain fascia, fixed six-pane windows in wood frames, and new flush doors in the end bays. Originally built to house the cars of the faculty who lived in the student houses on the east side of the green, this building is now used for student art studios.

11. Stokes House, 1935, contributing

Stokes House is a Colonial Revival style, L-plan, one and one-half story, student residential house with two steeply pitched gable roofs intersected by a gambrel roof. It was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a raised concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including a fanned louver with a semi-elliptical arch and keystone, sidelights, transoms (with and without lights), and fluted pilasters. Semi-circular and circular vents are found under the gable peaks. Windows are mostly six-over-six double hung sash, some with replacement frames. Gable dormers are numerous, and vary in size. A columned, recessed porch with a projecting two-story bay and a pedimented gable porch with double pilasters are found on the long rear façade. Several brick chimneys with concrete caps pierce the center ridge of the roofs.

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12. Franklin House, 1936, contributing

Franklin House is a Colonial Revival style, Z-plan, two story, student residential house with intersecting gable and gambrel roofs. It was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including a highly decorative main entrance with fanlight and tracery, sidelights, and a porch that displays Doric columns supporting a pedimented gable roof with modillion blocks. A circular louver vent is located under the front gable peak. Windows are primarily six-over-six, double hung sash, though fixed nine-panes are also found. Widely spaced pedimented gable dormers are found on the front elevation and a long shed dormer with corner pilasters and pedimented gable trim is located on the rear façade. An enclosed, single bay, gable roof portico with double fluted pilasters is found off the rear façade. Several brick chimneys with concrete caps pierce the roofs. This student house mirrors Welling House (#17) across the green.

13. Canfield House, 1933, contributing

Canfield House is a Colonial Revival style, two-story, roughly rectangular plan student residential house comprised of a long gambrel roof block intersected by three gable roof sections. It was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including fluted cap pilasters, a semi-circular fanlight with keystone, arcading, and engaged columns with floral corners. Semi-circular and circular vents with keystone details are alternately found under the gable peaks. Windows are primarily six-over-six double hung sash, some with aluminum storms. Steeply pitched shed dormers are found on the gambrel roof with four over four windows flanked by one-one-over windows on the east elevation. A one-story, enclosed, pedimented entrance portico with corner quoins extends from the center bay of the center gable end. A large brick chimney pierces the ridge of the center gable roof. This building is similar to Dewey (#14) directly south, and it mirrors #16 (Kilpatrick House) across the green.

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14. Dewey House, 1933, contributing

Dewey House is a Colonial Revival style, two-story, roughly rectangular plan student residential house comprised of a long gambrel roof block intersected by three gable roof sections. It was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a raised concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including quoins, four-light transoms, arcading, and fluted columns with floral corners. Semi-circular and circular vents with keystone details are alternately found under the gable peaks. Windows are primarily six-over-six double hung sash, some with aluminum storms. Steeply pitched shed dormers are found on the gambrel roof with three over three windows. A one-story, enclosed, pedimented entrance portico with corner quoins extends from the center bay of the center gable front. A large brick chimney pierces the ridge of the center gable roof.

15. Booth House, 1932, contributing

Booth House is a Colonial Revival style, two-story, roughly rectangular plan student residential house comprised of a long gambrel roof block intersected by three gable roof sections. It was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a raised concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including pilasters, quoining and transoms on the portico. Semi-circular and circular vents with keystone details are alternately found under the gable peaks. Windows are primarily six-over-six double hung sash, some with aluminum storms. This building mirrors #14 (Dewey House) that is directly across the green. A large brick chimney pierces the ridge of the center gable roof.

16. Kilpatrick House, 1932, contributing

Kilpatrick House is a Colonial Revival style, two-story, roughly rectangular plan student residential house comprised of a long gambrel roof block intersected by three gable roof sections. It was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a raised concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original

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clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including fluted cap pilasters, a semi-circular fanlight with keystone, arcading, and engaged columns with floral corners. Semi-circular and circular vents with keystone details are alternately found under the gable peaks. Windows are primarily six-over-six double hung sash, some with aluminum storms. Steeply pitched shed dormers are found on the gambrel roof with four over four windows flanked by one-one-over windows. A one-story, enclosed, pedimented entry portico with corner quoins extends from the center bay of the center gable front. A large brick chimney pierces the ridge of the center gable roof. This building mirrors #13 (Canfield House) that is directly across the green.

17. Welling House, 1934, contributing

Welling House is a Colonial Revival style, two-story, Z-plan student residential house comprised of intersecting gambrel and gable roof blocks. It was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including a pedimented portico with Doric columns, and pilasters. The fanlight and sidelights around the primary entry feature iron tracery. Semi-circular and circular vents with keystone details are alternately found under the gable peaks. Windows are primarily six-over-six double hung sash, some with aluminum storms. A long shed dormer with three pedimented gables extends across the rear façade. This building is similar to #12 (Franklin House) on the east side of the green. Two large brick chimneys pierce the gable roofs.

18. Bingham House, 1934, contributing

Bingham House is a Colonial Revival style, L-plan, one and one-half story, student residential house with two steeply pitched gable roofs intersected by a gambrel roof. It was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including a quoined portico, fluted columns on recessed one-bay porches, and a fan vent with corner pilasters and transoms. Semi-circular and circular vents

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are found under the gable peaks. Windows are mostly six-over-six double hung sash, some with replacement frames. Dormers are numerous, and vary in size. A recessed porch with a loggia on columns is found on the long rear façade. This student house is similar to #11 (Stokes House) across the green. Two brick chimneys with concrete caps pierce the center ridge of the roofs.

19. & 20. McCullough House and Leigh House, 1932, contributing

McCullough House and Leigh House are two connected student residences that together form a U-plan structure. The one and one-half story building with intersecting three-by-two bay, and six and three bay blocks with gambrel roofs, was designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston. The structure has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding (added in the 1970s over the original clapboards) and slate shingle roofing. Like the other student houses, numerous Colonial Revival details were utilized in the design, including quoining below the cornice returns, columned porticos, a fanlight with pilasters, sidelights, an arch with a center keystone, and an arcaded porch. Quarter-elliptical louver vents are found under the gambrel peaks. Windows are six-over-six with aluminum storms. Small pedimented gable dormers are numerous throughout the roofs. This student house is the mirror of # 9 & 10 (Swan and Woolley Houses) on the east side of the green. Several brick chimneys with concrete caps pierce the center ridge of the roofs.

21, 22, 23, Noyes, Sawtell and Fels Houses, 1968, contributing

The three dorms that are arranged in a linear manner on a sloping site parallel to and west of other student houses around the Common are identical in form and detail, each comprised of a shed roof block placed in front of a wider, flat roof, U-shaped block. A square chimney extends above the front block, and a tall, shed roof skylight projects above the rear section. Aluminum siding that replicates narrow vertical boards, imitates the former 6" vertical board, cedar siding underneath. The front entries are deeply recessed on the center of the front block. A set of sliding glass doors fronted by a metal railing is located on the north and south sides, second story of the front block. Ribbon windows are placed on all elevations except the front.

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The Noyes, Sawtell, and Fels Houses are highly significant as important examples of the International Style in Vermont, and are noteworthy for their designs by Edward Larrabee Barnes, one of the world's prominent modernist architects. Like Benjamin Thompson, who designed two buildings in Bennington (Mt. Anthony High School (Site 3) and the North Bennington Fire Station (Site 4), Barnes was a product of Harvard's Graduate School of Design (GSD), and they along with other graduates such as Philip Johnson, Ieoh Ming Pei, and Paul Rudolph were influenced by the prime movers of the GSD, Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer. The three dormitories have the same vocabulary as Barnes' dorms at St. Paul's School except the SPS dorms are constructed in stone. The clearly geometric forms of the dorms are typical of Barnes work where he uses modules and prefabricated materials to simplify, order and unify his designs and spaces. In 2007 the American Institute of Architects awarded Barnes (who died in 2004) the 2007 AIA Gold Medal.

Plans were to build three additional student houses on the other side of the green, but these plans were not realized.

24. Brick Garage / Student Center, c. 1940 / 2007, contributing

The Brick Garage is a two-story, square, flat roof, four-by-four bay, brick building with a concrete foundation. It was designed by Frank H. Tschorn, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at Bennington. In 2007 a new student center was built and attached by a covered walkway to the southwest corner of the garage. The student center, designed by Taylor & Burns of Boston, is a one-story structure with a soaring roof, natural finish flush wood siding, and banks of glass windows on the east and south elevation. On the east side the lower windows are overhead-sliding garage doors that can be opened in warm weather.

The building remains contributing to the historic district due to the retained brick component, which was originally a garage for those faculty members who lived in the apartments in the student houses on the west side of the green. The windows are primarily six-over-six, usually paired or tripled. Garage bays on the north side have been retained and the openings infilled with new wall structure and windows. A brick chimney pierces the south corner of the main block. Stairs from the second floor on the south and east elevations are enclosed with wood siding and shed roofs, and a new shed roof porch spans the east elevation.

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25, 26, 27, Perkins, Merck and Paris-Borden Houses, 2000, non-contributing

The three buildings designed by award winning architect Kyu Sung Woo, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, are non-contributing due to age. The natural finish, vertical board siding and rectangular massing recall the VAPA building. The distinctive steeply pitched roofs, roughly parallel placement of the rectangular forms, and vertically aligned windows in particular reflect similar features on the rear and east elevations of VAPA.

28. Farm Stand, 1999

This structure is non-contributing due to age. The farm stand is a small, rectangular, gable roof structure located to the east of the community farm gardens. The structure is open on the west end exposing its post and beam frame. The east end is enclosed with vertical boards. The roof is covered with sheet metal and has exposed rafter tails.

29. Rebecca B. Stickney Observatory, 1992, non-contributing

The observatory is non-contributing due to age. It was designed by Shepley Bullfinch. The building is a small, one-story, gable roof, metal clad structure with metal roofing, a concrete foundation, and a prominent observatory dome projecting above the roof at the west end. Large, double hung, twelve-over-twelve windows flank a center entry on the south elevation.

The observatory is named to honor Rebecca B. Stickney, class of '43, for her enormous contributions to the College. She was instrumental in organizing and working on the school farm during World War II, and was a student leader in science and athletics. Martha Hill, director of dance at Bennington and New York University, proclaimed her the ideal Bennington graduate. Five years after graduation she returned to campus to organize Bennington's first Alumnae Office, which was the start of a long career of service to the College. She has worked with eight presidents and became a Trustee in 1980.

30. Security Booth, c. 1970, non-contributing

The building is non-contributing due to age and lack of architectural significance. This small, one-story, vernacular, gable roof structure with a taller, rear, gable roof wing houses a

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security office. The building has clapboard siding, a concrete foundation, an asphalt shingle roof, an entrance on the north gable front, and a variety of multi-pane, double hung windows.

31. Early Childhood Center, c. 1900, contributing

This long, narrow, one and one-half story, gable roof eavesfront building was originally a chicken house, and was remodeled by the College into a center for early childhood development. The rectangular plan structure has a raised fieldstone foundation, novelty siding, and slate roofing shingles. A c. 1960, two-story, gable roof, three by three, projecting bay added to the central section of the building is sheathed in vertical board siding, has single-pane modern windows, and its gable roof rises above the roofline of the original block. The central section is flanked by one-story, shallow shed roof open porches with simple posts, closed railings and lattice skirts. Trim details include square louver vents and transoms under the gable peaks, and wood window frames and sills. Windows are primarily six-over-six, double hung sash with both six-over-six and two-over-two storms. One story, gable roof, three-by-two bay ells with concrete foundations were added to the rear facade, probably in the 1930s.

32. Chicken Coop, c. 1900, contributing

The long, narrow, one-story, rectangular, former chicken coop, is now (with building #31) part of the Early Childhood Center. The coop has a brick and concrete foundation, vertical board siding, and composition roofing on its shallow shed roof. The building has few details, with a small square louver vent and banked, multi-pane windows added on the north side. Other windows are varied, including one-over-one and six-over-six double hung sash, and eight-pane paired casements, most of which were added after the chicken coop was remodeled by Bennington College.

33. The Brooder, c. 1900, contributing

The Brooder is comprised of two long, connected, one-story, gable roof eavesfront structures of varying heights that are joined at the west gable end to a two-story, two-by-three bay gable front appendage. The Brooder was one of three chicken houses (with #s 31 and 32) that has been converted to a new use by Bennington College, and currently functions as faculty

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housing. The north side of the structure is built directly into the hill. The Brooder has a fieldstone foundation, clapboard siding and slate roofing. Windows are primarily eight-over-eight double hung sash with one-over-one storms. The building features wood corner boards, and a peaked gable portico on the rear of the longest section. A new, massive, exterior brick furnace chimney is found on the north façade. The Brooder Annex was added in 1992 as a separate apartment.

34. Faculty Row #1 (Gray), 1935, contributing

The Faculty Row #1 house known as Gray is a vernacular, one and one-half story, three-by-two bay, eavesfront, gable roof cottage. It was built as one of the first faculty houses shortly after the opening of the College. Harold Gray, a member of the literature department and Acting President of the College from January to August 1935, was the first resident. The house was designed from plans in a trade publication chosen by his wife. It has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding, and asphalt roofing. It also features two symmetrically placed, peaked gable wall dormers, with six-over-six, double hung sash windows. Sidelights flank the molded panel front door that is sheltered by a slightly flared shed roof porch with square posts. A center brick chimney pierces the roof ridge. A one-bay garage is attached to the east gable end, and an arcaded porch spans the rear. A stacked stone wall parallels the front façade.

35. Faculty Row #2 (Newcomb), 1936, contributing

Faculty Row #2 house known as Newcomb is a vernacular, two-story, three-by-two bay, eavesfront cottage. This house was built as one of the first faculty houses shortly after the opening of the College. Mollie Page Hewitt (class of '36) designed the house under the tutelage of Edwin Avery (Billy) Park, director of the architecture department. The house was designed for Theodore Newcomb, member of the social sciences faculty, and his wife Frances. The cottage has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding and asphalt roofing shingles. Windows are six-over-six, double hung sash, and the primary door in the left front bay is sheltered by a gable roof porch with square posts. A long, one-story, rectangular, gable roof ell containing one garage bay is attached to the east gable end. A central brick chimney extends from the roof ridge of the main block.

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36. Faculty Row #3 (Fergusson), 1936, contributing

Faculty Row house #3, also called Fergusson, is a vernacular, one and one-half story, four-by-two bay, eavesfront cottage. It was built as one of the first faculty houses shortly after the opening of the College. Nancy Reynolds Booth (class of '36) designed the house under the tutelage of Edwin (Billy) Park, director of the architecture department. The house was built for Francis Fergusson, member of the drama department, and his wife Marion. Features of the house include a concrete foundation, aluminum siding, and asphalt roofing shingles. Windows are varied with both six-over-six, double hung sash and smaller, four-over-four, double hung sash. Sidelights flank the front entrance and a one-bay garage projects slightly from the right portion of the front elevation. A one-story, gable roof, two-by-two bay ell is attached to the east gable end of the main block. A brick chimney is nearly centered on the roof ridge of the main block.

37. Faculty Row #4 (Moselsio), 1936, contributing

Faculty Row house #4, also called Moselsio, is a vernacular, one and one-half story, two-by-two bay, T-plan cottage oriented so the main entrance is recessed. This house was built as one of the first faculty houses shortly after the opening of the College. The house was built for Simon and Herta Moselsio, both art faculty members at the College. The cottage has a concrete foundation, aluminum siding and asphalt roofing shingles. Windows are primarily six-over-six double hung sash, sometimes paired and directly below the eaves cornice. The main entrance is flanked by pilasters supporting a four-light transom. A shed dormer containing three one-over-one, double hung sash windows is centered on the projecting right block. A large art studio has been attached to the west elevation. An interior brick chimney projects from the roof of the recessed easterly block

38. Maintenance Building, 1963, contributing

The Maintenance Building is an International Style, utilitarian structure. Pietro Belluschi is listed in the College records as the consulting architect, and the building was constructed by Francis X. Gina and Associates of New York. It is built into a bank so that the full two stories are visible on the east side, and on the south side where a row of garage bays lines the first level of the elevation. Characteristic features of the International Style include the flat

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roof, the contrasting strong vertical created by the large, cylindrical form of the chimney stack that is asymmetrically but well-placed on the front (west) elevation in a manner that balances the design, the regularity of the front and north side elevations defined by bays of brick veneer separated by narrow vertical piers, the floating stairs at the front entry, and the steel window and door systems.

Built in 1963, the Maintenance Building at Bennington College is a relatively early example of the International Style in Vermont.

39. Meyer Recreation Barn, 1970, contributing

The Meyer Recreation Barn is a former maintenance-related building that has been renovated for use as a fitness center. The vertical board siding is original, but the windows and pedestrian doors primarily date from the later period of renovation. Despite these changes, the shallow gable roof form, asymmetrically placed west side entry with tall vertical band of windows on the left, horizontal band of windows on the right, and flush wood siding characterize the building as an International Style structure.

This building, designed by Robertson Ward, with renovations by Timothy Smith (who originally served as the site representative for Ward when the structure was first built) is a less significant example of the work Robertson did on the Bennington College campus, yet it is included in this survey because of its associations with Ward, and Smith, who currently has an office in North Bennington and is an accomplished Vermont architect.

40. Shingle Cottage, c. 1775, contributing

Shingle Cottage is an eighteenth century, vernacular, one and one-half story, gable roof, eavesfront, five-by-two bay, rectangular plan, post and beam frame dwelling with a one-story, shed roof projection off the rear elevation creating a saltbox form to the building. The house has a raised fieldstone foundation, wood shingle siding, and asphalt roofing shingles. Shingle Cottage was the home of Eleazer Edgerton, a patriot who fought in the Battle of Bennington in 1777. The simple dwelling features cornice returns, wood window frames, and flared shingle drip caps. Windows are primarily twelve-over-two, and are not original. The Federal style front door surround features slightly tapered engaged pilasters with capitals and

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a molded cornice cap. Three hip roof dormers have been added to the rear roof slope. A nearly full length screen porch added c. 1900 with cornice returns and shingled battered posts runs across the east end of the rear elevation. A one-story, hip roof, three by three bay, c. 1850, square wing extends from the east end of the main block. The wing features similar windows, some that are paired, a fieldstone foundation and a distinctive eyebrow dormer. The main block has twin, gable end chimneys with corbelled caps.

41. Longmeadow, c. 1925, contributing

Longmeadow is a Colonial Revival style, two story, gable roof, three-by-two bay, eavesfront house with a contemporaneous, two-story, two-by-two bay wing. The house was built by the Jennings family for Louise DeWilde who was Lila Jennings' nurse and assistant. Miss DeWilde moved out of Fairview (Jennings Hall) when this house was built for her. The house has a concrete foundation, wood shingle siding, and asphalt roofing shingles. A front portico with an open pediment is supported by narrow columns, and the entrance door is flanked by wide sidelights and topped by a fascia. Windows are primarily six-over-six, double hung sash with molded drip caps and one-over-one storms. A smaller, one-story, shed roof, two-by-two bay, rectangular ell with wood shingle siding and cornice returns extends from the east gable end. A small, half-circle vent flanks the large brick wall chimney on the west gable end, and a similar chimney is located on the east gable end.

41A. Longmeadow Garage, c. 1935, contributing

This one-story, gable front, two-bay garage is associated with Longmeadow, the home of Miss Louise DeWilde, assistant to Mrs. Jennings. The garage has asphalt shingle roofing, wood shingle siding, and a small fixed window in the gable peak above the garage bays.

42. Pump Station, 2000, non-contributing

The pump station is non-contributing due to age. This utilitarian building is a one-story, rectangular, gable roof structure with an asphalt shingle roof, wood shingle siding, and a concrete foundation. A hip roof cupola with ventilating louvers on each side is centered on the roof ridge. A metal double door is located on the west gable end, and a small shed roof appendage extends from the east gable end.

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43. Jennings Hall, 1903, contributing

Jennings Hall is a grand, Colonial Revival style, two and one-half story, ten-by-two bay, limestone mansion designed by Renwich, Aspinwall and Owen of New York as a summer home for the Jennings family on the site of Trenor Park's former house. This dwelling originally had forty-four rooms including thirteen bedrooms. The rough cut stone for the house and foundation was quarried locally, some say from behind the H. T. Cushman factory, and the columns, watertables and sills are made of granite. The long gable roof is covered in slate shingles, as are the two gable roofs with overhanging eaves and brackets atop the symmetrical, two-story, projecting bays that flank the wide entrance porch or loggia. This one-story granite loggia has a low balustrade on the roof and an open porch with heavy columns below. The primary entrance has an elaborate surround with engaged, fluted Corinthian columns, sidelights, and dentils across the pilaster caps. A similar, slightly deeper, one-story porch is located on the east end of the mansion, sheltering long, ten-pane double doors. Colonial Revival gable dormers with broken pediments on fluted Corinthian columns fashioned out of metal, grace the front and rear elevations, containing semi-elliptical windows topping six-pane lower sash. The center dormer on the rear elevation is larger, containing two windows. The rear elevation features slightly larger gable roof projecting bays on either side of an open, shallow-pitch hip roof porch supported by Doric columns located in the center two bays. The first story of the projecting bays is elliptical in form, containing a series of six-over-one windows topped with three-light transoms and a stone balcony. Windows are primarily six-over-one, double hung sash and several of them, including the tripartite window on the east elevation, have metal tracery. A two-story, rectangular, gable roof, two-by-two bay wing of similar materials is attached to the west gable end of the main block. Massive stone chimneys with open caps pierce the front and rear roof slopes and ridges of the main block and wing. Marble benches have been placed near the front entrance and by the curved stone wall that mimics the front granite loggia with the same open railing. Stone pillars with elaborate carving, some resembling a crest, are located in the yard in front of the rear elevation entrance.

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44. Deane Carriage Barn, c. 1890, contributing

This elaborate, one and one-half story, primarily rectangular, jerkinhead roof, three-by-two bay carriage barn with its contemporaneous south wing and west side rear ell was likely built by Trenor Park and was later used on the Jennings Estate. The barn has a raised fieldstone foundation, asphalt shingle roofing, clapboard siding on the first story, and wood shingle siding on the slightly projecting second story. The distinctive cupola has a Moorish style bellcast roof topped by a horse-motif weathervane. Three shallow eyebrow dormers with delicate tracery windows are located on the east roof slope of the main barn and south wing. A pedimented gable dormer with grouped windows and Stick style details in the tympanum is centered over a similarly grouped set of three tall doors with transoms in the enclosed entry vestibule on the front elevation. Windows are primarily fixed six-pane windows, nearly square in shape, that were added in the 1930s when this property was acquired by Bennington College in the second grant from Mrs. Jennings. An octagonal vent with alternating louvers is located in the second bay on the northwest end. A hay hoist under a peaked gable is found on the west elevation as well as two barn-style doors, reminiscent of its earlier appearance. An interior brick chimney pierces the north end of the main block and an exterior brick chimney is found on the north side of the rear ell. A recent rehabilitation of the Carriage Barn included the construction of the enclosed entry vestibule that has windows and doors similar to the original entrance on the façade, and interior renovations comprising a new elevator, and updated heating and ventilating systems.

45. Davis Alumni House, c. 1900, contributing

Davis Alumni House, now housing overnight guests of the College and alumni, is a vernacular, one and one-half story, gable roof, eavesfront, five-by-two bay cottage built by the Jennings for Christopher Fruitrich, the superintendent of the estate. According to a relation of Mr. Fruitrich, he rented rooms in his cottage to parents of Bennington College students. The house has a parged fieldstone foundation, clapboard siding, a molded eaves cornice, and slate roofing shingles. The center entrance is distinguished by a marble stoop and protected by a simple gable roof hood with outrigger supports. Windows are primarily nine-over-one double hung sash with wood surrounds. A fixed six-pane window with a drip cap is located in the south gable peak. A c. 1920, one-story, one-by-three bay, hip roof sun porch with decorative, exposed, scroll sawn rafter tails is attached to the north end of the

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main block. A brick interior end chimney is located near the ridge of the north gable of the main block.

46. Blacksmith's House and Shop, c. 1900

The Blacksmith's House and Shop is comprised of the one-story, two-by-two bay eavesfront house with a larger attached, one and one-half story, gable front, two-by-three bay barn. This house was originally used by the blacksmith for the Jennings Estate and the barn was most likely his shop. The house has a fieldstone foundation, clapboard siding, and asphalt roofing. Trim details include corner boards, wooden window frames with molded drip caps, and a squared louvered cupola on the house. The barn has decorative exposed scroll sawn rafter tails, and a square vent under the gable peak. Windows are varied with mostly six-over-one, double hung sash, eight-by-eight fixed windows and paired multi-pane casement windows in the barn. A shed roof enclosed entrance porch extends slightly from the north elevation of the house. A sliding barn door is located off center on the west façade of the barn.

47. Carpenter's Shop, c. 1900 / c. 1920, contributing

The Carpenter's Shop is a comprised of a one-story, c. 1900, gable front (north), two-bay garage with clapboard siding that is connected at the gable end to a c. 1920, shed roof ell with novelty siding, and two garage bays and a pass door on the eavesfront (west). The building is located at the northwest corner of the walled garden (#53), and was adjacent to a greenhouse that has been taken down. Other features include asphalt shingle roofing, and a six-over-six double hung window on the west side of the garage.

48. Farm (Milkman's) House, c. 1910, contributing

This one and one-half story, gable roof, eavesfront (south), five-by-four bay, rectangular plan dwelling was the milkman's house when the building was part of the Jennings Estate. The house has a raised concrete block foundation that was most likely added later, clapboard siding and slate roofing shingles. Trim details include cornerboards, a molded cornice, wood drip caps and a large transom over the center doorway. Windows are primarily nine-over-one, double hung sash. A one-story, open shed roof porch supported by square posts with a

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solid balustrade and lattice skirt protects the center three bays. A one-story, open hip roof, one-by-three bay porch with a square post railing extends across the length of the west gable end. A brick chimney is centered on the west end of the roof ridge and an exterior concrete block chimney is located on the east end. Two doors with small, six-over-one windows are found on the rear façade that lead to what was once the dairy in the cellar of the house.

49. Cow Barn, c. 1910, contributing

The two-story, gambrel roof, three-by-four bay, rectangular plan Cow Barn has board and batten siding, slate roofing shingles, and a concrete foundation. The barn was originally part of the Jennings Estate. Trim details include exposed rafter tails, and windows with plain wood surrounds and drip caps. A shed roof enclosure containing a one-over-one window projects from the second story of the rear façade. Windows are six-over-six double hung sash under the gambrel peak and fixed shingle pane windows on the first story. A hayloft door is located under the gambrel peak on the east façade, and two metal ventilators are located on the roof ridge.

50. Pig House, c. 1920, contributing

The small, one-story, eavesfront, rectangular barn has a concrete foundation, novelty siding and asphalt roofing. Other features include flat stock window trim with drip caps, and a fixed nine-pane window. A novelty board sliding door and a strap hinge door located on the south side have been covered over with wood panels and plastic.

51. Corn Crib, c. 1920, contributing

The small, one-story, gable roof crib has novelty siding and asphalt roofing. The corn crib housed the food for the pigs and cows in the adjacent barns. It rests on a concrete foundation and metal piers. A fixed six-pane window is found under the east (front) gable peak, and sliding doors are located on the east and north elevations.

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52. Jennings Cottage, c. 1900, contributing

Jennings Cottage is a vernacular, one-and one-half story, gable roof, eavesfront (east), three-by-two bay house with a one-by-two bay addition of the same height and massing added to the south gable end. Jennings Cottage was one of the caretaker houses near the Orchard farm area built while the property was part of the Jennings Estate. The house has a parged fieldstone foundation, clapboard siding and slate roofing shingles. Other features include a molded cornice, corner boards, and nine-over-one windows with flat stock trim and drip caps. An open shed roof porch with a square stick railing and lattice skirt is located in the center bay of the original block. The new extension has a concrete block foundation and a long, horizontal three-pane window. A shed dormer with two eight-over-one windows is located on the rear elevation. A corbelled chimney is located on the center of the original house.

53. Brick Garden Wall, c. 1890, contributing

This distinctive, 100 foot by 130 foot, rectangular, tall brick wall surrounds the garden that contained the Jennings family fruit trees and vegetable garden. The garden is no longer maintained although some fruit trees, grapevines, and perennial flowers remain. The tall, recessed panel brick wall has concrete coping along the top and taller brick piers that flank the east side main entrance. Two original, swinging doors at the east side entrance have been replaced with exact replicas of the original mahogany doors. A glass graping frame was once attached to the wall but fell into disrepair and was removed in 1945.

54. Orchard A, c. 1945, contributing

This vernacular Colonial Revival style dwelling is a two-story, gable roof, three-by-two bay house. It has a central brick ridge chimney with a corbelled cap, asphalt roofing shingles, six-over-six double hung windows, clapboard siding, corner boards, a concrete foundation and concrete front steps. A gable roof, one-bay garage projects from the north gable end. The Colonial Revival style center entrance is distinguished by its classically inspired entry pediment and engaged pilasters that flank a paneled door. Federal style features include the second story window headers that reach the horizontal roof eaves, which projects only

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slightly beyond the wall plane, no eaves overhang at the raking eaves, and a molded eaves cornice with modest cornice returns.

55. Orchard B, c. 1945, contributing

This faculty house is similar to Orchard A except it has a small wing off its right (west) gable end. It is a vernacular Colonial Revival style, two-story, gable roof, three-by-two bay house. It has a central brick ridge chimney with a corbelled cap, asphalt roofing shingles, six-over-six double hung windows, clapboard siding, corner boards, a concrete foundation and concrete front steps. The gable roof, one-bay garage projects from the east gable end and a small gable roof wing that extends from the other end of the main block has a paired window in the front elevation. The Colonial Revival style center entrance is distinguished by its classically inspired entry pediment and engaged pilasters that flank a paneled door. Federal style features include the second story window headers that reach the horizontal roof eaves, which projects only slightly beyond the wall plane, no eaves overhang at the raking eaves, and a molded eaves cornice with modest cornice returns.

56. Orchard C, c. 1945, contributing

This faculty house is similar to the other Orchard Houses A – F except that it is painted white rather than red. This a vernacular Colonial Revival style, two-story, gable roof, three-by-two bay house has a central brick ridge chimney with a corbelled cap, asphalt roofing shingles, six-over-six double hung windows, clapboard siding, corner boards, a concrete foundation and concrete front steps. The gable roof, one-bay garage projects from the right gable end and a one and one-half story gable roof wing extends from the other gable end of the main block. The Colonial Revival style center entrance is distinguished by its classically inspired entry pediment and engaged pilasters that flank a paneled door. Federal style features include the second story window headers that reach the horizontal roof eaves, which projects only slightly beyond the wall plane, no eaves overhang at the raking eaves, and a molded eaves cornice with modest cornice returns.

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57. Orchard D, c. 1945, contributing

This faculty house is similar in form and detail to the other Orchard houses except that it has a flat lintel over the front entrance rather than a pediment. It is a vernacular Colonial Revival style, two-story, gable roof, three-by-two bay house. Other features include a central brick ridge chimney with a corbelled cap, asphalt roofing shingles, six-over-six double hung windows, clapboard siding, corner boards, a concrete foundation and concrete front steps. The Colonial Revival style center entrance is distinguished by its classically inspired engaged pilasters that flank a paneled door. Federal style features include the second story window headers that reach the horizontal roof eaves, which projects only slightly beyond the wall plane, no eaves overhang at the raking eaves, and a molded eaves cornice with modest cornice returns. A small one bay garage projects from its east gable end.

58. Orchard E, c. 1945, contributing

This faculty house is similar to Orchard B except the wing off its (west) gable end has a skylight built into the roof and the front elevation window of the wing appears to be a replacement fixed 12-pane window. This vernacular Colonial Revival style, two-story, gable roof, three (front) by two (side) bay house has a central brick ridge chimney with a corbelled cap, asphalt roofing shingles, six-over-six double hung windows, clapboard siding, corner boards, a concrete foundation and concrete front steps. The gable roof, one-bay garage projects from the east gable end. The Colonial Revival style center entrance is distinguished by its classically inspired entry pediment and engaged pilasters that flank a paneled door. Federal style features include the second story window headers that reach the horizontal roof eaves, which projects only slightly beyond the wall plane, no eaves overhang at the raking eaves, and a molded eaves cornice with modest cornice returns.

59. Orchard F, c. 1945, contributing

This faculty house is nearly identical to the other Orchard houses except it is the only one of the group with a small entry porch. It is a vernacular Colonial Revival style, two-story, gable roof, three (front) by two (side) bay house. It has a central brick ridge chimney with a corbelled cap, asphalt roofing shingles, six-over-six double hung windows, clapboard siding, corner boards, a concrete foundation and concrete front steps. The gable roof, one-bay garage

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projects from the west gable end and a small gable roof wing extends from the east gable end of the main block. This Colonial Revival style center entrance is distinguished by its classically inspired engaged pilasters that flank a paneled door. The front entrance is sheltered by a new hip roof, one-bay entry porch with square posts. Federal style features include the second story window headers that reach the horizontal roof eaves, which projects only slightly beyond the wall plane, no eaves overhang at the raking eaves, and a molded eaves cornice with modest cornice returns.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Bennington College, a liberal arts college that opened in 1932 in southwestern Vermont, is being nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its important contribution to significant patterns of history in Vermont and under Criterion C for its outstanding architecture. The historic district is comprised of 62 buildings and structures, of which 55 are contributing to the district. The architecture on the Bennington campus embodies the broad range of history of the site as it evolved from a cluster of several farmsteads, to an elaborate summer estate, and finally a college established by a pioneering group of individuals with an innovative vision for educating young women. The period of significance for the historic district spans approximately two hundred years from c.1775, the date of the oldest building on campus (Shingle Cottage #40) to 1976 when the immense International Style arts building (VAPA #5) was completed. Areas of significance represented by the three periods of history include agriculture, education, art, landscape architecture, performing arts, and literature.

INTRODUCTION

Bennington College, comprised of 62 buildings on 361 open and wooded acres, is located in rural Vermont in the foothills of the Green Mountains. It was founded in 1932 by a pioneering group who sought to establish a women's liberal arts college that would emphasize the individual student and her developing interests, learning by activity and living, a conscious elasticity in educational plans, and a community life designed to dissolve artificial barriers between teacher and student and between curriculum and co-curricular life.

At Bennington, everything is a classroom—each of its buildings, lawns, fields, woods, and vistas; the campus aesthetic is inseparable from its intellectual mission. Since its inception, Bennington has drawn a faculty of innovators and experimenters in all disciplines, and the built and natural spaces of the campus have informed, facilitated, or housed their work.

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On Bennington's lawns, Martha Graham, Agnes DeMille, Doris Humphrey, José Limón, Hanya Holm, Jane Dudley, and Merce Cunningham made modern dance history. The revolutionary psychologist Erich Fromm taught at Bennington, as did Peter Drucker, widely recognized as the father of modern management. Influential artist Paul Feeley served as head of the art department from 1939 to the 1960s; during that time both Tony Caro and Kenneth Noland taught art at Bennington as well. Frank Lloyd Wright visited as one of many guest lecturers, and ee cummings gave his first public reading on Bennington's campus. Buckminster Fuller designed the first prototype for his geodesic dome at Bennington. Just prior to the College's founding, Robert Frost lived in a residence on campus (#40 Shingle Cottage, c. 1775); in the 1940s, poet and Bennington faculty member W. H. Auden resided in this same historic house. During the 1950s and 1960s, the College's then-art gallery, once a horse stable (#44 Deane Carriage Barn), featured exhibitions of Jackson Pollock, Joseph Cornell, Hans Hofmann, Barnett Newman, Kenneth Noland, Morris Louis, and David Smith, giving many of these seminal American artists their first important public exhibitions.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2007, Bennington College, now a coeducational institution has an enrollment of 581 undergraduate students and 120 graduate students (enrolled primarily in Bennington's reputable low-residency Master of Fine Arts writing program). The College has approximately 10,000 graduates, many of whom are leaders in their fields of business, the arts, education, science, and government. Graduates include visual artists Helen Frankenthaler '49, Sally Mann '73, and Eve Sussman '84; writers Jonathan Lethem '86 and Donna Tartt '86; actors Carol Channing '42, Holland Taylor '64, Peter Dinklage '91, and Justin Theroux '93; arts administrators such as Harvey Lichtenstein '53 and Matthew Marks '85; journalists such as Francesca Lyman '72, environmental writer for the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*; and business leaders like Bruce Berman '74, chairman and CEO of Village Roadshow Pictures, and Brad Jacobs '77, founder of United Rental, Inc.

The land and buildings of the College offer a rich history full of local lore and regional significance, having evolved from farm to estate to campus. Bennington's core campus now consists of 19 student houses and dormitories, 31 faculty accommodations (apartments and houses), and, in particular, six central buildings—the Edward Clark Crossett Library (#8), Commons (#7), Jennings Music Hall (#43), the Deane Carriage Barn (#44), the Barn (#2), and the Visual and Performing Arts Center (VAPA #5)—that define the campus and bear significant historical relevance.

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The history of the site of the Bennington College Historic District is an interesting one that can be divided into three distinct historical periods: the nineteenth-century location of small farms, the creation of a late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century estate built around these farms, and the advent and evolution of Bennington College upon this landscape beginning in the 1930s. Originally, the property was rolling farmland known as Bingham Hill after a farmer who lived there. Like other parts of North Bennington, namely the Hall Farm and adjoining Park-McCullough property, the farmland was acquired by the prominent Hall, Park and McCullough families who retained some of the original buildings and constructed new ones. In 1931, plans to open a college on this property came into fruition and additional buildings were constructed to meet the needs of the new college. Several architecturally distinguished and award-winning buildings that have been erected during the third quarter of the Twentieth Century have been included as contributing structures to the historic district due to the outstanding significance of the buildings to our recent past.

FARM

The earliest use of this site was farming and the 1835 map shows three dwellings within the area now owned by Bennington College, only one of which, Shingle Cottage (#40) remains. In the northern end were the homes of Bingham and Mackey (sic), neither of which stands. The site of the Bingham House is just northeast of the current location of Jennings Hall and according to the recollections of Edith van Benthuisen McCullough, two locust trees sit on circular mounds that once stood on either side of the Beacon Bingham's home, from which his son Hiram set forth as missionary to Hawaii. The third house identified on the 1835 map is the Edgerton House, now known as Shingle Cottage (#40). According to local lore, this was the old home of Eleazer Edgerton from which he went forth to fight in the Battle of Bennington in 1777. Shingle Cottage was later home to Robert Frost, the famous American poet. A fourth farmhouse, now known as Cricket Hill, was constructed circa 1840. This farmhouse was once known as the Old Fassett House, suggesting that a farmer named Fassett built the house.

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ESTATE

The next historic stage of this site was its conversion into a large estate owned by Trenor Park. Trenor Park was a prominent lawyer who made his fortune in various pursuits, including California real estate and mines, the construction of railroads in Vermont and Panama. Trenor Park was married to Laura Hall, daughter of Hiland Hall, governor of Vermont. The exact purchase date of the land is unclear, but it was probably around 1860. By 1869, Mr. Park was the owner of Cricket Hill (#6), Shingle Cottage (#40) and the Bingham House while T. Madden owned the Mackey House. In 1885, Park constructed a mansion near the site of the Bingham House, which was replaced in 1903 with Jennings Hall (#43).

Trenor Park and Laura Hall had three children, one of whom, Laura (Lila), married Frederick Jennings, an investment attorney in New York City and whose father was Reverend Isaac Jennings the pastor of the Old First Church in Bennington. Lila and Frederick Jennings inherited one-third of the Park estate, which included the land that is now the site of Bennington College, as well as land to the north. The Jennings built a summer mansion of stone in 1903 on the northern end of the property, to serve as the centerpiece of their estate. Originally known as Fairview for its prominent position atop a rolling hill, it is now called Jennings Hall (#43) and houses the College's music program. The natural-face stone for the mansion was quarried in back of the H. T. Cushman's factory (or on the premises, according to another source) and the architects were Renwich, Aspinwall and Owen of New York. The columns, watertables, caps and sills, and massive columns were made of granite. Originally, the mansion had forty-four rooms and thirteen bathrooms on its three floors.

Several other agricultural structures and outbuildings were constructed roughly between 1880 and 1900 on the northern end of the property near Jennings Hall (#43) to serve the needs of the estate. The most distinctive of these is the elegant carriage barn (#44) which displays a Moorish influence with its decorative bellcast cupola and sloping eyebrow dormers. The carriages were kept here with a root cellar below to maintain vegetables throughout the year. The other buildings were constructed around the enclosed brick walled garden (#53), which contained peach trees, cherry trees, peanuts and other specialty items. Fruitrich Cottage, now the Davis Alumni House (#45), was built at the cost of \$1,000 by Frederick Jennings for Christopher Fruitrich, the superintendent of the estate and a native of Germany. Other

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agricultural buildings clustered in the orchard complex were the blacksmith's shop (#46), the carpenter's shop (#47), the milkman's house (#48), the pig house (#50) and the corn crib (#51). The milkman was responsible for the cows in the cow barn (#49), and a dairy was located in the cellar of his house.

Additional agricultural buildings were constructed on the southern end of the property, west of the intersection of Harlan Road. The principal building in the southern end was the large U-shaped stables, built adjacent to Cricket Hill, and commonly referred to as The Barn (#2). This is now one of the most recognized campus structures and an icon of Bennington College. Three buildings in the same vicinity were built for raising chickens in the late 1800s: the Chicken Coop (#32), the Brooder (#33), and an additional chicken house that currently functions as the College's Early Childhood Center (#31). The estate could be reached from both Prospect Street in North Bennington village (this entry is no longer used) and VT 67A (at the current entrance from North Bennington Road). Two handsome granite and iron gates (#1) fashioned from the same stone as Jennings Hall (#43), were designed and made by a local blacksmith named Andrew Nash. The magnificent elm trees that were planted along the drives by the superintendent of the estate and local laborers have succumbed to Dutch Elm disease.

COLLEGE

The third important historic phase for this site began in September 1932, with the opening of Bennington College. In 1923, a movement for a college in Bennington was initiated during a series of conferences with the original site planned for Old Bennington. The aim was to create a progressive institution for women that would design a new curriculum. This curriculum included arts, literature, social sciences, and languages. By 1925, the charter was secured and by 1931, the year of the College's dedication, though threatened by economic difficulties during the Depression, one and one-quarter million dollars were raised for the new college. In 1930, Mrs. Jennings offered her first grant of land to the College, consisting of 140 acres in the southwest portion of her estate, centering around The Barn (#2). Temporary access was made available around Hinsdillville Cemetery as this first grant did not include the private drives.

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The new college made good use of the existing farm buildings, incorporating them into the campus and remodeling them in 1931. Over one hundred carpenters, plumbers, electricians and other laborers, most of whom were local, worked on the construction and remodeling, many of whom had not worked since the Crash of 1929. The stables building (The Barn #2) was substantially remodeled, with new metal casement windows and pedestrian doors replacing the sliding barn doors and small hayloft and fixed windows with peaked lintels. Roof trusses replaced the original posts, creating additional space, and celotex partitions were added that had the advantage of being moveable.

The Barn was first used for offices, a reading room and the library that is now located in Crossett Library (#8). Cricket Hill was converted to the nursery school. Cricket Hill was so named by Charles Hiland Hall, an early trustee of the College who spent summers there. Mr. Hall added the rear maid quarters and west addition called the Annex, and built the walled garden. The Chicken Coop (#32) had been remodeled into a two-family dwelling prior to the beginnings of the College and this residence was then retrofit to become the earliest music building. The two other buildings that once contained poultry equipment, the Brooder (#33) and the chicken house (now called the Early Childhood Center #31), were given new windows and were used as art studios, one containing a pottery kiln. When the nursery school was moved to the chicken house in 1942 (Early Childhood Center #31), Cricket Hill was remodeled as faculty housing.

New buildings needed to be constructed for the new college, most notably student houses and a student center. A Colonial Revival style was chosen for the student center, called The Commons (#7). Designed by J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge from Boston, The Commons was to resemble a New England town hall sitting at the head of the green. It was flanked by the twelve original student houses that were also designed in the Colonial Revival style by Ames and Dodge. The Commons contained the College store, post office, students' lounge, College physician's office, dining hall, kitchen, theater, studios and administrative offices. The third floor housed classroom and performing space with a proscenium theater where legends in the music and dance world performed. In 1963 Joan Baez performed with a then unknown Bob Dylan as the opening act. Martha Graham, Jose Limon, Hanya Holm and Charles Weidman danced there.

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John Worthington Ames (1871-1954) was a Harvard graduate and Beaux Arts trained architect who began his career in the office of McKim, Mead & White in New York. He practiced architecture in Boston beginning in 1898 and formed a partnership with Edwin Dodge (Ames & Dodge) in 1914. Ames had an extensive practice in residential design but was best known for his work at New England educational institutions. He designed dormitory and gymnasium buildings at Radcliffe, Smith and Bennington College.

The twelve original student houses were built between 1931 and 1936, with those on the west side constructed first. The student houses face each other, each presenting a mirror image of those across the green. Originally, each house had single rooms for twenty students, a sitting room and one faculty apartment. East student was to remain in the house for all four years, thus creating connections between students of differing maturity levels and backgrounds. These houses were named after local prominent families and/or trustees of the College. Near each set of student houses were faculty garages (#9A, 24), one on each side of campus. The conservative design of The Commons and the Student Houses with their inflexible symmetry evoked sharp criticism from a visiting Frank Lloyd Wright who expressed shock that a progressive school would choose such a rigid design. He remarked that students who were to attend school in these buildings could not be expected to trust the words of their instructors.

Four new faculty houses were built between 1935 and 1936 and were the first separate housing provided for the faculty outside of the apartments in the student houses. Architecture students at the College were involved in the designs for three of these houses. The first house (#34) was designed for Harold Gray, a member of the literature division and Acting President of the College from January to August 1935. The plans for this house were found by Mrs. Gray in a trade publication. Faculty Row house #2 (#35) was designed by Mollie Page Hewitt (Class of '36) for Theodore Newcomb, a member of the social sciences division, and his wife, Frances. Nancy Reynolds Booth (Class of '36) designed the house (#36) for Francis Fergusson, a faculty member in the drama department, and his wife, Marion. It is unclear who designed the last faculty house (#37), constructed for Simon and Herta Moselsio, both of whom were art instructors.

The landscape of the College was mostly cleared and rolling pasture with few trees. Mrs. Martha Brooks Hutchinson, a landscape architect designed some of the plantings that were modified by Miss Louise DeWilde for economic reasons. Much of the land was regraded as

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well. Plantings, some of which were to be temporary, included apple trees, conifers, lilacs, and honeysuckle. Most of the elms no longer exist due to Dutch Elm disease. The funds for this landscaping were provided by the Jennings estate, Mrs. John G. McCullough and Mr. Hall Park McCullough. Athletic fields for tennis, hockey and other sports were put in directly west of the student houses.

In 1939, Mrs. Lila Jennings offered a second grant of land of 200 acres in the northern end of the current property for \$20,000. These acres included the private drives, Jennings Hall (#43), Shingle Cottage (#40), Longmeadow (#41), and those farm buildings and cottages in the orchard complex (#44-53). Longmeadow and its accompanying garage (#41A) were built by the Jennings for Louise DeWilde. Miss DeWilde was Lila Jennings' assistant and nurse. She also tended to the trees on the property even after it changed hands. After the second land grant, renovations were made to these newly acquired buildings as well as several others, financed in part by a \$25,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Two wings were added onto the rear of The Barn, and Jennings Hall was adapted as the Music Building by the architectural firm of Ides van der Gracht and Walter H. Kilham of New York. The Carriage Barn (#44) was remodeled for use as a recreational building, and the Chicken Coop (#32) was adapted for use as a drama office and practice rooms. New roads and walkways were added at this time.

The lands historically connected to farming were reused for such ventures when Bennington College initiated its own war effort by creating a substantial farm program. Seventeen additional acres of farmland were acquired from the Jennings Estate for the planting of vegetables and a quick freeze was installed in The Commons. By 1942, a successful farm had been established and run by the students under the direction of faculty. Acres of green vegetables, oats, potatoes, corn, beets, carrots and onions covered the fields, and livestock, including pigs, steers and poultry were raised in the pastures. After the war ended, these fields reverted to the landscaped meadows though some farming continues.

The third quarter of the Twentieth Century is noteworthy for the remarkable number of important International Style buildings constructed on the Bennington College campus between 1959 and 1976. Internationally acclaimed architect Pietro Bellushchi, working in Portland, Oregon, and Massachusetts, was ahead of his time with the aluminum curtain wall design of the Equitable Life Assurance Building (1944-47) in Portland, and in the early

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1940s, he was one of first modernists to use indigenous materials to reflect local context. Belluschi expressed these ideas of context and materials in his design for Crossett Library (1959, #8) on the Bennington campus. The use of vertical board siding, and the height and massing of the library are appropriate to the site and compatible with the surrounding wood frame buildings, some of which are classically inspired and some are modified vernacular barns. Moreover, the regularity of forms, cantilevered roofs and decks, floating stairs, bands of windows, and sun visors all project the image of International Style architecture.

Similarly, Robertson Ward reflected respect for setting and context with his three buildings at Bennington College, Dickinson (1970, #4), the Visual and Performing Arts Building (1976, #5), and the Meyer Recreation Barn (1970, #39). Ward's structures are set into the landscape in a manner that does not dominate, and his use of post and beam frames and wood siding are compatible with the agricultural heritage of Vermont. In addition, his use of prefabricated materials, ribbon windows and low, rectangular massing reflect his period of study with Mies van der Rohe in Chicago in the 1960s. Edward Larrabee Barnes designed three identical dorms on the Bennington Campus in 1968 (#s 21-23). The buildings' angular and square edged massing and geometric forms are characteristics of Barnes' work in which he uses prefabricated materials to order his designs.

Bennington College has continued to grow throughout recent decades and since 1969 functions as a coeducational college. New buildings, most modern and geometric in design, have been constructed to provide additional classrooms and living quarters. These new buildings have not detracted in any way from the older structures found throughout the campus. When Bennington College opened in 1932, newspaper writers made much of the "college in a barn" and this association remains strong. The Jennings Estate buildings were incorporated into the College's design since the outset, as were several historic farmhouses. Thus, the history of this site and the relationship between the buildings has remained intact though the uses of the buildings have changed dramatically.

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Verbal Boundary Description of the Bennington College Historic District:

The boundary of the Bennington College Historic District is recorded at the Bennington Town office in the following nine parcels:

13513500
22500401
22500701
22500703
23502800
23503200
23503300
27501300
28500100

Boundary Justification for the Bennington College Historic District

The nominated historic district includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Bennington College campus.

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Bennington County, Bennington, Vermont

Section number Table of Buildings and Structures

Table of Structures

<i>Historic District No.</i>	<i>Building Name</i>	<i>Date Built</i>	<i>Contributing or Non-contributing</i>	<i>Style</i>	<i>Architect / Builder</i>
1	Main Gate	c.1900	C	Eclectic	
2	Barn	c.1900	C	Vernacular	
3	Tishman	1970	C	International Style	Robertson Ward
4	Dickinson	1970	C	International Style	Robertson Ward
5	VAPA	1976	C	International Style	Robertson Ward
6	Cricket Hill	c.1840	C	Greek Revival	
6A	Cricket Hill Barn / Garage	c.1910	C	Vernacular	
7	The Commons	1931	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
8	Crossett Library	1959	C	International Style	Pietro Belluschi
9	Swan House	1933	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
9A	Swan Garage	1933	C	Vernacular	
10	Woolley House	1933	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
11	Stokes House	1935	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
12	Franklin House	1936	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
13	Canfield House	1933	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
14	Dewey House	1933	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
15	Booth House	1932	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
16	Kilpatrick House	1932	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
17	Welling House	1934	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
18	Bingham House	1934	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
19	McCullough House	1932	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
20	Leigh House	1932	C	Colonial Revival	Ames & Dodge
21	Noyes House	1968	C	International Style	Edward Larrabee Barnes
22	Sawtell House	1968	C	International Style	Edward L. Barnes

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23	Fels House	1968	C	International Style	Edward L. Barnes
24	Brick Garage/Student Center	c.1940	C		Taylor & Burns
25	Perkins House	2000	NC		Kyu Sung Woo
26	Merck House	2000	NC		Kyu Sung Woo
27	Paris-Borden House	2000	NC		Kyu Sung Woo
28	Farm Stand	1999	NC		Kinoshita & Hart
29	Stickney Observatory	1992	NC		Shepley Bullfinch
30	Security Booth	c.1970	NC		
31	Early Childhood Center	c.1900	C	Vernacular	
32	Chicken Coop	c.1900	C	Vernacular	
33	The Brooder	c.1900	C	Vernacular	
34	Faculty Row #1 (Gray)	1935	C	Vernacular	
35	Faculty Row #2 (Newcomb)	1936	C	Vernacular	Molly Page Hewitt '36
36	Faculty Row #3 (Fergusson)	1936	C	Vernacular	Nancy Reynolds Booth '36
37	Faculty Row #4 (Moselsio)	1936	C	Vernacular	
38	Maintenance Building	1963	C	International Style	Pietro Belluschi/ Francis X. Gina Associates
39	Meyer Recreation Barn	1970	C	International Style	Robertson Ward / Timothy Smith
40	Shingle Cottage	c.1775	C	Vernacular	
41	Longmeadow	c.1925	C	Colonial Revival	
41A	Longmeadow Garage	c.1935	C	Vernacular	
42	Pump Station	2000	NC		
43	Jennings Hall	1903	C	Colonial Revival	Renwich, Aspinwall&Owen

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44	Deane Carriage Barn	c.1890	C	Eclectic	
45	Davis Alumni House	c.1900	C	Vernacular	
46	Blacksmith's House	c.1900	C	Vernacular	
47	Carpenter's Shop	c.1900	C	Vernacular	
48	Farm (Milkman's) House	c.1910	C	Vernacular	
49	Cow Barn	c.1910	C	Vernacular	
50	Pig House	c.1920	C	Vernacular	
51	Corn Crib	c.1920	C	Vernacular	
52	Jennings Cottage	c.1900	C	Vernacular	
53	Brick Garden Wall	c.1890	C		
54	Orchard A	c.1945	C	Vernacular Colonial Revival	
55	Orchard B	c.1945	C	Vernacular Colonial Revival	
56	Orchard C	c.1945	C	Vernacular Colonial Revival	
57	Orchard D	c.1945	C	Vernacular Colonial Revival	
58	Orchard E	c.1945	C	Vernacular Colonial Revival	
59	Orchard F	c.1945	C	Vernacular Colonial Revival	





Structure 1



1



Building 2





2



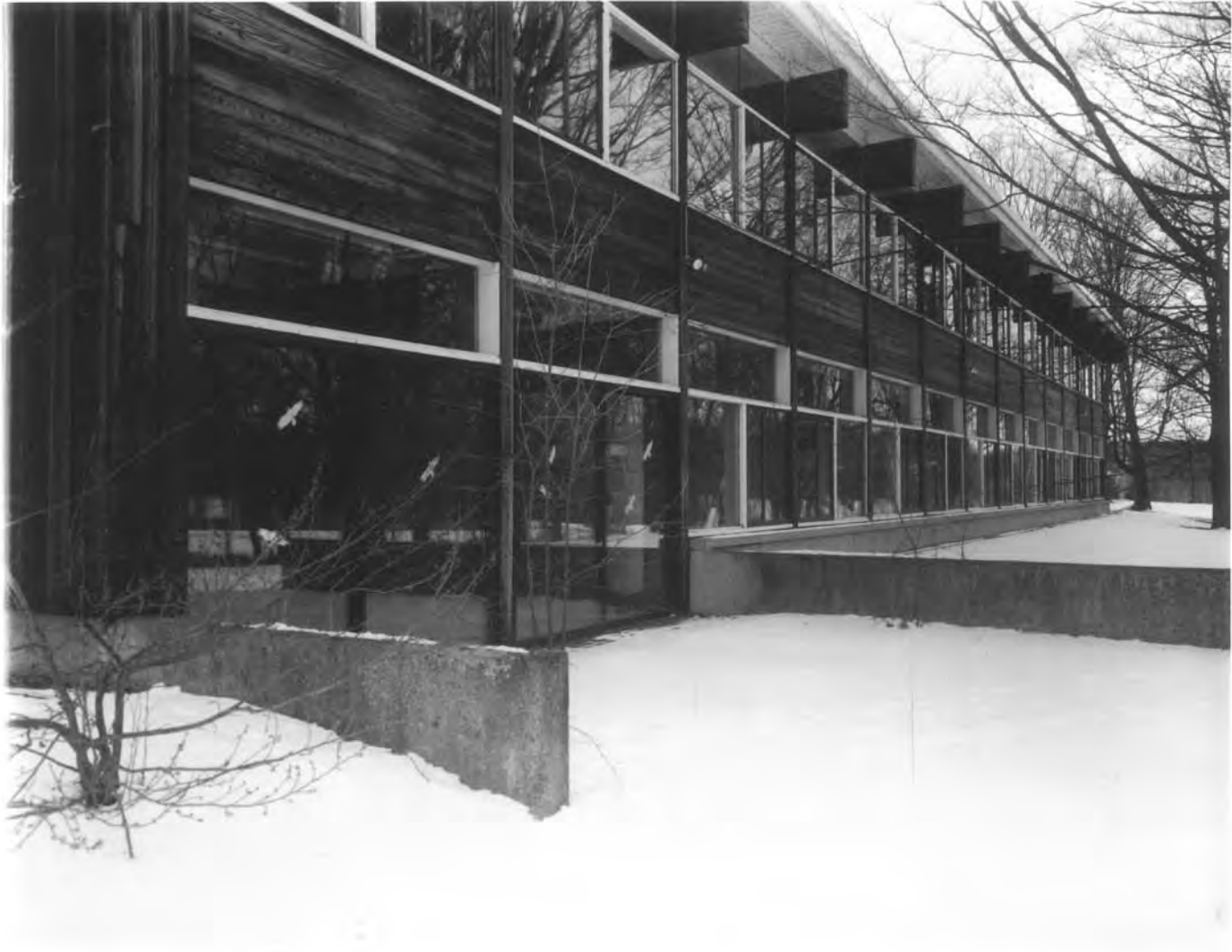
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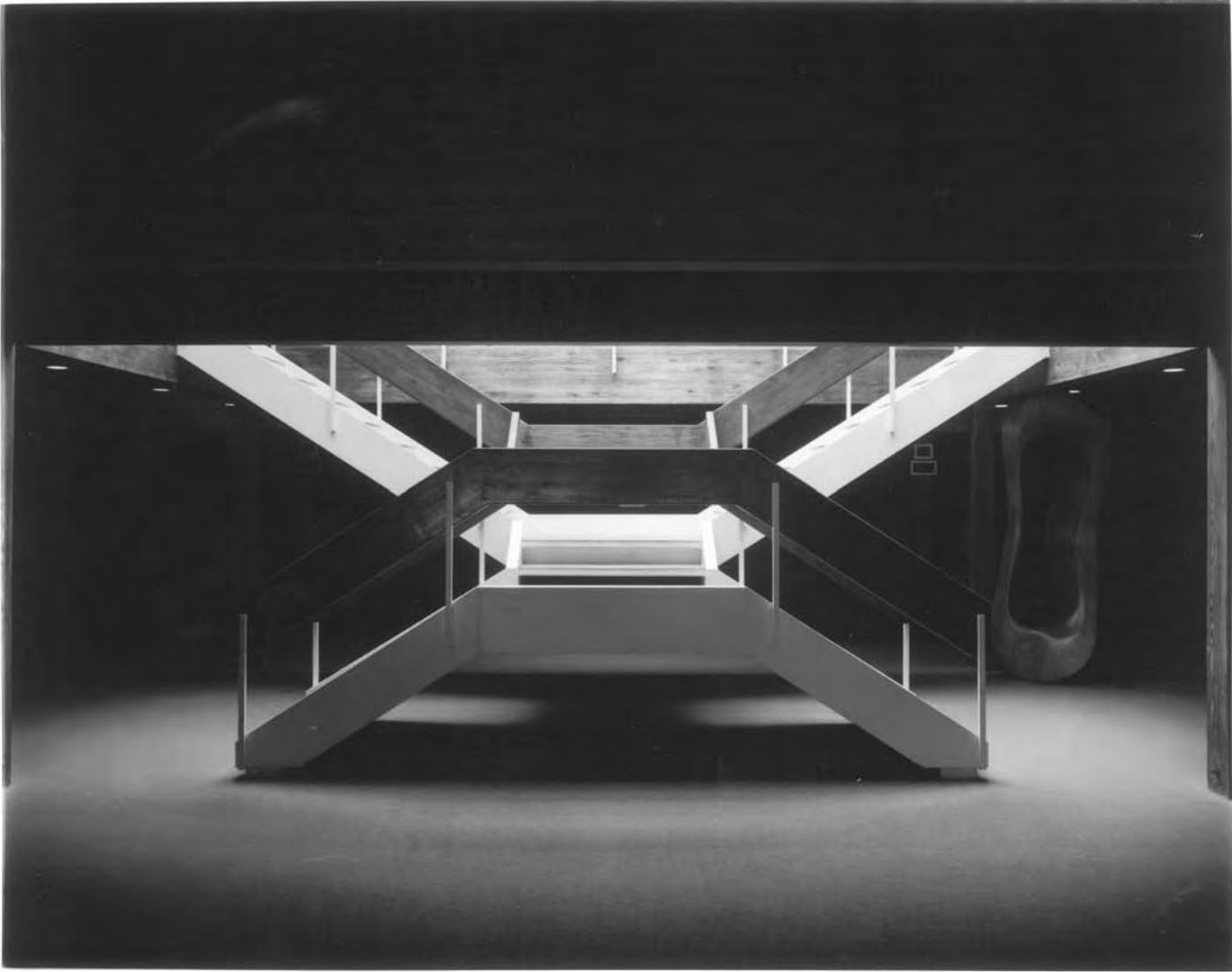


















6A



6A









8



9, 10



9A











15, 16



















21









25, 26

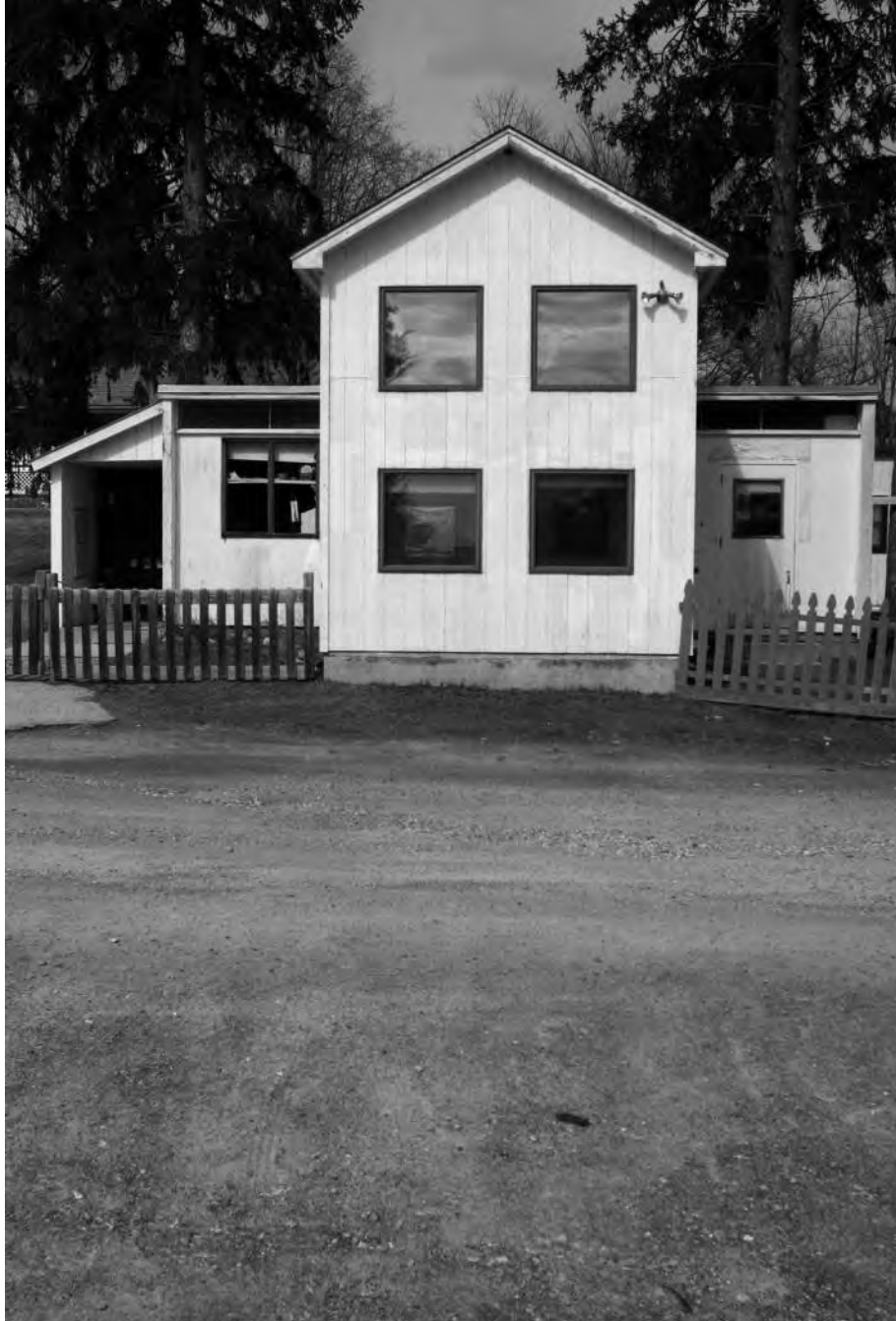












32























41A







43





















50, 51









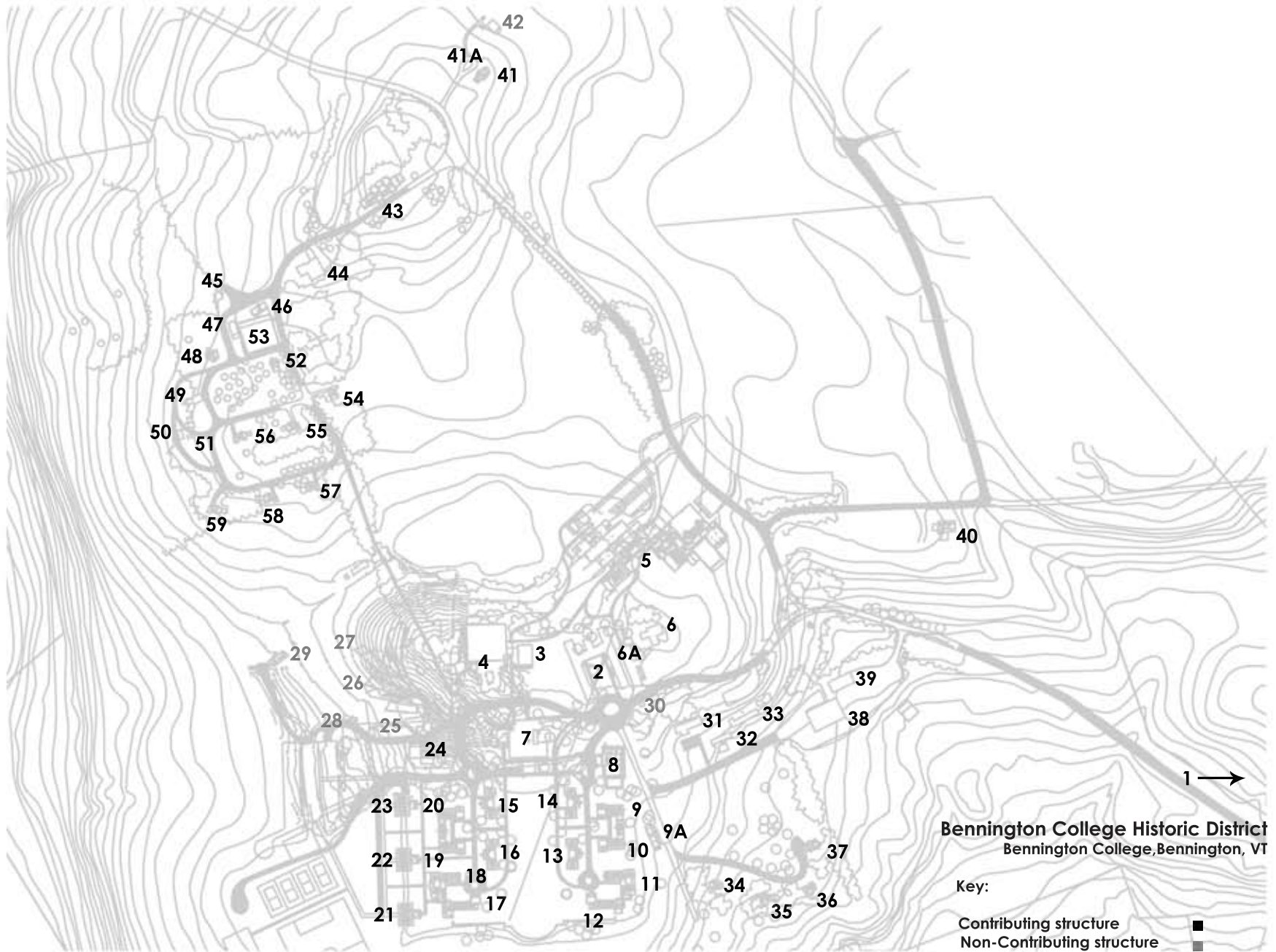




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3

Bennington College Historic Preservation Plan

2007 Getty Foundation Campus Heritage Grant

Bennington College Historic Preservation Plan

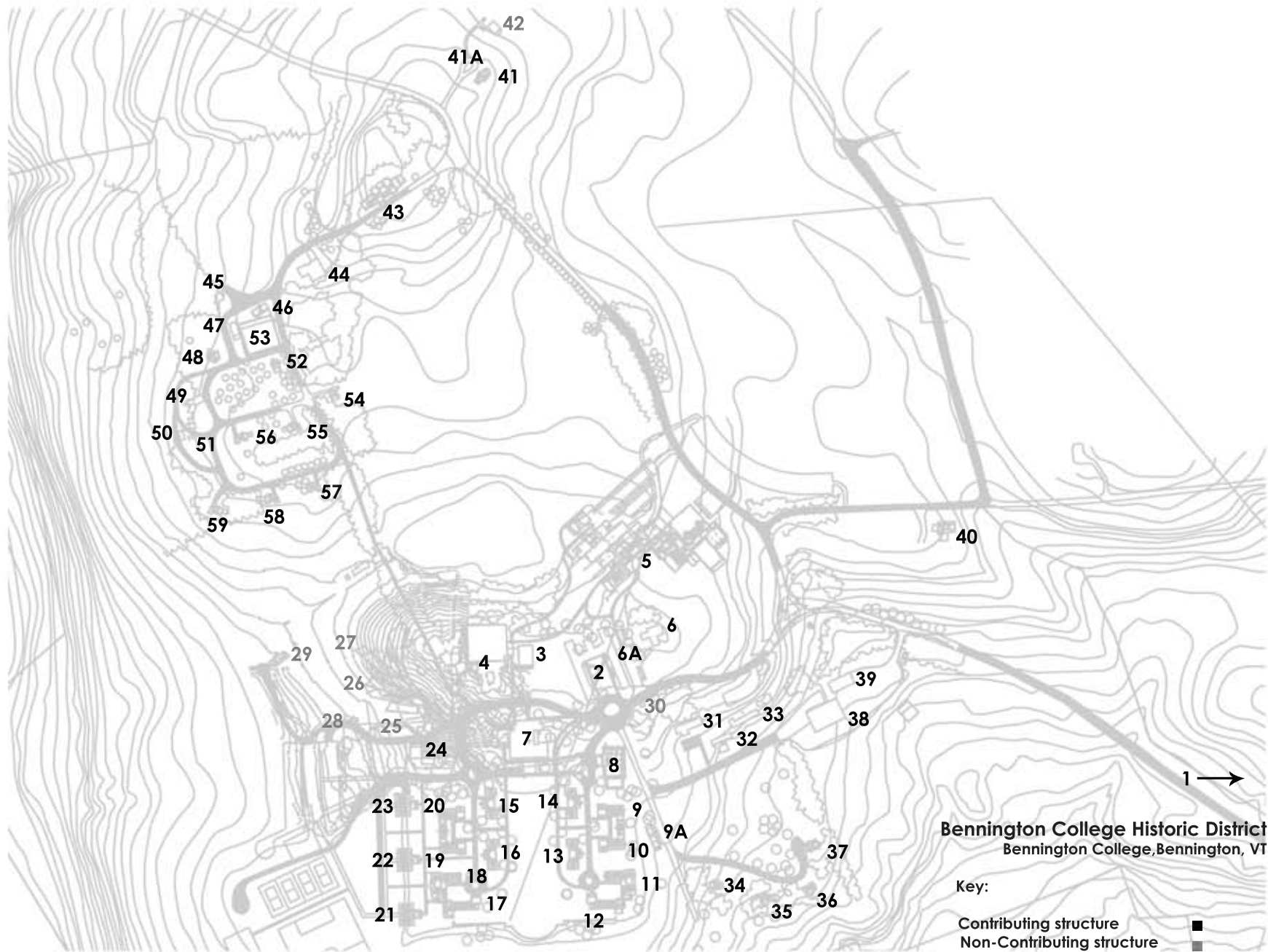
Liz Pritchett Associates
Historic Preservation Consulting
December 2007

**Bennington College Historic Preservation Plan
The Getty Foundation Campus Heritage Grant**

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Bennington College Historic Preservation Plan Overview and Summary

Introduction

Bennington College received a Campus Heritage Grant from the Getty Foundation in 2005. Three primary documents have been prepared as a result of this award: A Conditions Assessment with measured drawings of key buildings on campus prepared by Centerline Architects in Bennington, a nomination of Bennington College to the National Register of Historic Places, and this Historic Preservation Plan. The overall goals of this comprehensive effort are to inventory the significant historic buildings on campus, define the distinctive character of each building, and provide general guidelines for the long-term maintenance and preservation of the important structures that comprise Bennington College. Liz Pritchett, a historic preservation consultant with twenty years of experience, has prepared the preservation plan.

The preservation plan aims to provide recommendations for continued preservation of Bennington College in a manner that recognizes the importance of its buildings and landscape, but will allow for reasonable, managed growth and change to meet the needs of the educational institution. Survey forms for the fifty-five buildings and structures that are determined contributing to the significance of the Bennington College Historic District are included in the preservation plan. (Seven buildings are non-contributing due to recent age). For each building, a survey form defines the status and potential future uses of the building, summarizes the historic character and distinctive features worthy of preservation, notes the general setting, includes a brief statement on the condition and physical problems, and provides general guidelines for appropriate rehabilitation treatments.

A Historic Preservation Philosophy for Bennington College

The recent work Bennington has undertaken to maintain and preserve its historic buildings displays a sound preservation ethic. This preservation plan proposes to build upon on the past efforts of the College to do the right thing for its buildings. The guidelines and treatments included at the end of this overview will assist with the sound preservation philosophy that Bennington has already displayed.

Such noteworthy projects of which the outcomes are visible in the survey forms that follow include the carefully matched masonry repointing on the Main Gate (#1 on the campus map), similar repointing and a new mahogany door that is an exact replica of the deteriorated original on the Brick Garden Wall (#53), and a well-designed modern Student Center addition to the c. 1940 Garage (#24) that compliments the size, form and materials of the former garage despite the difference in age and style of the two structures.

A key tenet of preservation is to retain and repair historic materials that define the character of a building as much as is reasonably and economically feasible. Bennington is following this basic guideline as seen in numerous buildings that have their early slate roofs, and

original multi-pane windows that have lasted due to the durable woods with which they were built compared to most windows manufactured today.

Bennington's interest in practicing good stewardship of its historic campus is clear in the following excerpt from the Heritage Grant application to the Getty Foundation.

Bennington has a passion to preserve the integrity of its historical structures—keeping Bennington “Bennington”—while continuing to focus on the College’s future. In 2004, the College undertook a master-plan process, led by Kyu Sung Woo Architects and landscape architects Reed Hilderbrand Associates that explored how the fundamental character, unique evolution, and current configuration of the campus can guide future growth. The plan also sets forth principles for addressing deferred maintenance issues. The landscape master plan calls for a return to the original conception of the College’s acreage while giving expression to the unique features of the Bennington landscape. Together, these two documents present a comprehensive and unified vision of the campus. The College’s next step is to enhance and expand this significant base of work with an equally strong preservation plan. While the process of upgrading the campus is a work-in-progress—with the work always in process—the history and tradition of the College remain proudly intact, and will continue to be so in the decades ahead.

Historic Character of Bennington College

The character of Bennington College is defined by its buildings, landscape and people, both past and present. The ways in which we attempt to understand this character is described in various documents, from the master plan and landscape plan noted above to the recently completed National Register nomination. The summary of the architectural and historic significance of the campus described in the National Register nomination focuses on the buildings and three periods of significance of the site beginning c. 1775, the date of Shingle Cottage (#40), which is the oldest structure on campus, to the completion in 1976 of VAPA (#5), an immense International Style building for visual and performing arts designed by noted architect Robertson Ward.

The architectural significance of Bennington is summarized in Section 7 of the National Register nomination.

Bennington College has been determined a college of outstanding significance in Vermont and the nation due to its large group of important historic buildings that represent the history of the 360 acre site. Three periods of historic significance that span approximately 200 years from c. 1775 to 1976 are represented by the early vernacular farm buildings, the high style Jennings’ estate structures, and, after the College opened in 1932, the impressive array of Colonial Revival and later International Style buildings that together comprise a remarkable collection of architecture on campus. Of the 62 structures in the Bennington College Historic District, 55 have been determined contributing to the significance of the district due

to architectural and historic merit, and only 7 are non-contributing due to recent age. National and world-renowned architects that designed for Bennington include Renwich, Aspinwall & Owen (Jennings Hall #43), J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge (the 12 original student houses #s 9-20, and The Commons #7), Robertson Ward (Tishman #3, Dickinson #4, and VAPA #5), Pietro Belluschi (Crossett Library #8), and Edward Larrabee Barnes (Noyes, Sawtell, and Fels #s 21-23). Bennington is a unique example of a college campus in Vermont due to its high number of well-preserved and important architecture, in particular the distinctive group of nine International Style structures.

Current Status of the Buildings and Potential for Future Uses

The buildings on campus are used primarily for residential, administrative, and academic purposes. Most student housing is located on the original campus in the first student houses (#s 9-20), in three houses designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes (#21-23) and three recently built houses designed by Kyu Sung Woo (#25-27). Faculty and staff are housed in apartments in the original houses, four dwellings on Faculty Row (# 34-37) and six in the Orchard (#54-59). Academic buildings are clustered around the Barn (#2), with several on the former Jennings Estate. VAPA (#5) houses the majority of the studios, classrooms, theaters and galleries for the arts programs. Art studios and practice rooms are scattered in numerous buildings on campus.

Most buildings serve the College well, although some have been determined to no longer best serve the need for which they are used. These include three former chicken houses (#31-33, the Early Childhood Center, Chicken Coop and Brooder). These three structures were built as simple farm outbuildings without systems such as heating and ventilating necessary for campus use today. Although the College has over time adapted the three chicken houses as well as possible to accommodate the ECC and provide faculty housing, the buildings do not serve these purposes well. They are not adequately insulated, the stone foundations are failing, and the windows are worn and not weather-tight. The proposal in the campus plan to demolish these three buildings to make room for a new dining facility is a reasonable one and can be justified as the three former chicken houses do not retain a high degree of architectural significance. Other former farm buildings such as The Barn (#2) and Deane Carriage Barn (#44) better reflect the former farming activities on the site and clearly display a higher degree of architectural importance.

Moving the ECC to Shingle Cottage and adapting the historic dwelling to the Early Childhood program is appropriate. The floorplan of Shingle Cottage can be adapted easily to this new use. Building an addition, likely off the rear or one side of the Cottage, or building another structure to house the needs of the ECC will be somewhat of a design challenge in order to avoid impacts to the historic house. However, with careful planning and development of designs that allow Shingle Cottage to remain a prominent visual component of the site, an addition or new structure nearby will be an appropriate asset to the College.

Other proposed changes in use are minor and will not impact the character of the campus or its important buildings. These might include changing some of the student housing such as the Barnes' houses (#s 21-23) to modify living accommodations for faculty use.

The campus plan has identified the need for more storage facilities. A new storage building has been proposed in the Orchard possibly near the Cow Barn (#49). Currently in the Orchard, the Cow Barn, Pig House and Corn Crib (#s 50 & 51) and Carpenter's Shop (#47) are all used for storage. The survey forms for the Pig House and Corn Crib state that these two buildings could be removed due to their lack of architectural significance and generally poor condition. Removing these two structures will not adversely impact the setting of the Orchard complex and will make room for a new structure in this area if the College determines it a suitable site for this use. The Carpenter's Shop and the Cow Barn are more important overall to the historic district and could possibly be upgraded and restored as necessary to continue to provide storage.

Condition and Physical Problems

Bennington College has been a good steward of its historic buildings, although many structures on campus will benefit from upgrades to systems and repairs to features that are wearing out due to age and use. The conditions assessment prepared by Centerline Architects is an invaluable tool for identifying current physical problems and developing a schedule to complete necessary work for improving the buildings.

The preservation plan does not duplicate the elevation-by-elevation analysis of the conditions assessment. Instead, it provides an overall conditions analysis of each building, noting the most important areas of deterioration or need relating to foundations, windows, insulation, handicap accessibility and other items. More detailed descriptions of various recommended treatments applicable to the buildings at Bennington are provided in the next section below.

Appropriate Rehabilitation Treatments and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards

The rehabilitation techniques discussed below are based on *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings*. A copy of the 10 *Standards* is included as an appendix to this report. *The Secretary's Standards* are ten basic principles created by the National Park Service to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic building and its site, while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs. *The Standards* (36 CFR Part 67) apply to historic buildings of all periods, styles, types, materials, and sizes. They apply to both the exterior and the interior of historic buildings. *The Standards* also encompass related landscape features and the building's site and environment.

Because of the high degree of significance of the buildings at Bennington College, *The Standards* are recommended as guidelines when planning rehabilitation projects, from small repairs, to total renovations of individual buildings. *The Standards* are not meant to freeze a building in time, but rather allow our historic buildings to be adapted in a reasonable manner to meet new needs.

Each rehabilitation project is different depending on the significance of the individual building. The character of a building is determined by features that define its unique appearance or convey its history. A hierarchy of important features should be outlined for each building that will help guide work, thereby providing a list of features that are worthy of preservation. The survey forms in this preservation plan do just that. The forms identify which features are important and worthy of preservation. Taking care in the maintenance of these features will ensure that the buildings are preserved for future use and enjoyment and that the distinctive character of the college remains.

Information about appropriate techniques for rehabilitation of historic buildings is available from the National Park Service in written form and on the Internet. Among the most useful documents are the *Preservation Briefs* and *Preservation Tech Notes*, which are available on the Internet following the prompts from the NPS website.

Historic photographs are valuable tools that provide archival information about buildings and are often used to guide work when missing historic features, such as windows or porches, are being restored. Many of the historic photographs included in the preservation plan are copies of originals located in the Bennington College archives.

General Guidelines for Rehabilitation

1) Masonry / Foundations

Treatments that are recommended for many buildings include masonry repointing that should be carried out by a professional mason experienced with historic mortar mixes that are rich in lime and low in Portland cement. Mortar mixes should match the original mortar color, texture, strength, and joint profile. Cleaning of masonry should be undertaken in the gentlest means possible, and sandblasting is never recommended as it pits bricks and stone, and destroys the protective skin in bricks that prevents deterioration and spalling.

2) Windows

Bennington's historic buildings primarily have wood, double hung, multi-pane sash, most that are operated by ropes and pulleys. The windows are in good condition and the maintenance staff regularly repairs windows that need attention. The windows in the Commons and Student Houses are sturdy, made of durable wood and have aged well. Currently, the existing windows are repaired rather than replaced. Modern exterior screens have been installed to assist with energy efficiency.

The steel windows on Commons and the Barn are likewise well maintained. The Barn has interior screens that allow the historic windows to remain totally visible from the exterior of the building.

Some smaller structures, such as Swan Garage and the Cricket Hill Barn have less distinctive windows. Those on Cricket Hill Barn have single pane sash. Replacing single pane windows with double glazed thermopane windows will help with

weatherization of the buildings. When single pane windows are replaced with double-glazing the visual impact of the new windows is minimal. Simulated divided light windows are often used as replacements when double glazing is needed for multi-pane windows, and this option is often suitable as a replacement window when exact in-kind, true divided light replacement features are not required. Snap-in muntins are never a suitable option for historic buildings. When windows are deteriorated beyond the point of reasonable repair, replacement windows must match the appearance, size, design, proportions, and profiles of the existing windows as much as reasonably possible. Before proceeding with any window replacement, review of comparable detailed drawings of both the existing and any proposed replacement windows is a good way to assure that new windows will be a good match.

3) Wood siding

Existing wood siding must be retained to the maximum extent possible. Where siding is to be removed for structural or insulation work, it must be removed as carefully as possible and reinstalled after that work is complete. Replacement of siding must be done selectively, based on the condition of individual siding elements. New siding must match the dimensions and profiles of the replaced siding.

4) Slate roofing

The slate shingle roofing on many of Bennington's original buildings is a highly distinctive character-defining feature that has been retained, repaired and preserved since the College opened. The slate roofing has been removed from some buildings and replaced with asphalt shingles. Retaining the slate roofs is recommended to the degree that is economically feasible. If buildings such as the ECC and Brooder are taken down to make room for a new dining facility as proposed in the campus plan, the slates that are still in good condition should be salvaged for reuse when repairing slate roofing on other buildings on campus.

5) Insulation

Buildings should have adequate insulation in exterior walls, basements and attic spaces to provide a weather-tight envelope. Blown-in cellulose often is a good choice for existing wood frame, and sometimes brick buildings, when an air cavity exists between the interior and exterior wall surfaces. In buildings that have not yet been insulated or for new construction, foam insulation provides excellent surface coverage. The International Style buildings on campus are a particular challenge due to the smooth, exterior curtain wall systems. To retain the flush, vertical board wall surfaces on Tishman, Dickinson and some sections of VAPA, the existing boards may be removed and the walls insulated from the exterior with a method such as foam that will not substantially increase the wall depth, and the boards reapplied. If insulation is installed from the interior on these buildings, again the increased wall depth should be minimized to the extent possible to avoid alteration of the relationship between interior features and the wall plane. Also, attention must be made to provide a thermal break with metal frame windows to avoid cold temperature transfer through the metal surfaces.

6) Floorplans

Original or only slightly modified floorplans remain in many buildings. Retaining original floorplans and circulation patterns is preferred when possible as these features reflect the historic uses of the buildings. However, adapting buildings to new uses or making changes to meet ADA requirements can result in modifications to original floorplans. Making changes but preserving the primary or more significant spaces such as living rooms, entry halls, stair halls, stairways, and primary corridors is recommended. Modifications to secondary spaces such as bathrooms, kitchens, closets, and basement spaces will likely not have an adverse impact on the interior integrity of buildings.

7) Handicap accessibility / elevators

The buildings at Bennington need to meet ADA requirements. Elevators will be installed in Commons and possibly other buildings. Generally it is less expensive and results in a minimized impact if elevators are designed within the existing building rather than as a new addition or elevator tower on the exterior of a building. If interior space is available, selecting a location near a handicap assessable entry off a primary corridor is usually a good option for locating a new elevator. The elevator may impact a primary space in some manner by taking a portion of a room for the elevator shaft, but this may be acceptable if the impact does not visually overwhelm the important characteristics of the space in which it is located.

8) Railings

Hand railings, particularly in the International Style buildings, require modification to comply with current codes. The interior railings in VAPA have been recently upgraded to meet code. There, existing railings were retained, and a new, taller, tempered glass railing to meet height requirements was installed on the inside face of the existing railing in a manner that allowed the historic railing to remain visible and intact without being obscured by the new element.

9) Interior features and finishes

Many buildings at Bennington have decorative wood moldings, high ceilings, and wood wainscoting. These features should be preserved as much as possible. In buildings where walls are resurfaced, or furred out to allow room for insulation of exterior walls, the historic window trim and other details can be removed and reapplied in the original locations so that the historic relationship of trim and wall surface remains. Historic ceiling heights should be maintained in primary spaces; in bathrooms, kitchens, and closets, ceilings may be dropped to hide mechanicals without substantially impacting interior integrity.

10) Sandblasting interior or exterior wood features

Sandblasting must not raise the grain or feather the surface of the material that is being treated. Specifications for this treatment, including type of sand, grit, size, psi, and distance that the nozzle will be held from the surface, should be reviewed and approved by the College before proceeding with this work.

The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

The secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are ten basic principles created to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic building and its site, while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs.

The Standards (**36 CFR Part 67**) apply to historic buildings of all periods, styles, types, materials and sizes. They apply to both the exterior and in the interior of historic buildings. The Standards also encompass related landscape features and the building's site and environment as well as attached, adjacent, or related new construction.

The standards are applied to projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record to its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials, shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Main Gate, c. 1900 **Historic District Map No. 1**

Current status and potential future uses:

The Main Gate serves as the entrance to Bennington College. As a structure it is important as the first visual and physical reference associated with the history and character of the College when arriving on campus. The continued use of the Main Gate for this purpose is recommended.

Contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 1).

Historic Character:

The Main Gate was originally one of two stone and wrought iron gates built for the Jennings Estate at the turn of the 20th century. The gate at the north end of campus is no longer used and is in poor condition. The main gate originally had a narrower vehicular opening and ball finials topping each limestone post. The arched opening for pedestrians was added likely when the gate was widened. The gate is highly significant for its associations with the Jennings family and their contributions to the history of the College, including donations of land and buildings (Jennings Hall #43 and others).

Architectural features:

Style: Victorian

Wall Structure/covering: coursed ashlar stone walls and tall, square, cut limestone posts with beaded mortar joints, iron fencing

Plan, roof type, and height:

Foundation:

Roofing:

Trim:

Entry features:

Windows:

Doors:

Porches:

Dormers:

Chimneys:

Other appendages/features:

Interior floorplan/features:

Setting/landscape:

The setting around the gate is partially wooded similar to its original appearance; however, the elm lined drive to the campus now is bare of trees as a result of Dutch Elm disease.

Condition/physical problems:

The gate was recently restored; the stone walls and limestone posts repointed and the fencing painted.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Future mortar repairs should match the historic mortar color, texture, strength and profile, with special attention paid to the original character of the convex or beaded mortar joints typically found in turn of the 20th century masonry foundations and buildings.
- 2) Replace the missing ball finials matching the historic size and profiles based on the archival photo, and use masonry to match the existing capstone on the posts.
- 3) Plant native canopy trees along the drive as recommended in the Bennington College Landscape Master Plan (2004).

Current photographs (April 2006)



Detail of the limestone post and arched opening for the walking path.



Archive Image, c. 1900, courtesy Bennington College

Barn, c. 1900

Historic District Map No. 2

Current status and potential future uses:

The Barn currently houses classrooms, and faculty and administrative offices. A wide hall adjacent to the President's office is used for student art and photography exhibits. The current uses are appropriate and recommended to continue in the future.

The building is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 2).

Historic Character:

The historic character of the Barn, which reflects its original use for dairy cows and other livestock, is remarkable despite changes in 1932 when it was converted to educational use. The Barn has been described as a visual icon of Bennington College. When the Barn was first converted to academic use, the plan was to replace it after a few years with new, smaller structures. The Barn, however, remains today (2007) as an outstanding resource for the College and its features highly intact and well preserved. North extensions to the wings were added c. 1939, center north extension added c. 1970.

Architectural features:

Style: Vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, wood clapboards.

Plan, roof type, and height: U-plan with north extensions, gable roof, one and one-half story.

Foundation: brick, concrete, some fieldstone.

Roofing: asphalt shingles, some historic slate shingles remain on the rear.

Trim: flat stock wood trim for corner boards, window and door surrounds.

Entry features: historic enclosed entry porches within quadrangle.

Windows: primarily steel casements with interior storm windows.

Doors: assorted doors.

Porches: concrete base/foundation for former silo adjacent to northeast entry porch in quadrangle.

Dormers:

Chimneys:

Other appendages/features: seven square cupolas with flared roofs and louver vents; former double haydoor in west side gable of west wing has been infilled with windows.

Interior floorplan/features: generally intact floor plan with center halls flanked by small offices and classrooms; Homasote wall finishes with molded chair railings, intact hardwood flooring and historic office doors; much of the interior trim has a natural finish.

Setting/landscape:

Grass quadrangle remains. Low brick walled garden area remains at the north end of the building between the east wing and c. 1970 center wing.

Condition/physical problems:

The Barn appears in generally good condition overall.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Windows: Continue to retain and repair as necessary the existing steel casement windows. When new interior storms are needed carefully install new storms to assure a weather tight fit. Any new windows that might be needed should match the historic window dimensions, window pane configuration and muntin profiles (snap-in muntins are not appropriate for historic buildings).
- 2) Some modifications to the interior floorplan to accommodate changes in office and educational needs are appropriate and will not affect the architectural integrity of the building.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival photographs courtesy of Bennington College



Current view looking north toward west and east wings and center connector.



View looking southeast of c. 1939 north extension (left) on east wing, and c. 1970 center extension (center).



View looking southeast of north end of east wing and brick walled garden area.



View of east wing north end on second floor.



View of east wing, second floor.



Archive image, c. 1935, courtesy Bennington College



Archive image, *Fall 1930*, west wing, west elevation prior to College addition on north end of wing. Note the upper story with intact double hay door in gable and wood shingle siding with a flared beltcourse, a feature that remains today (2007) on the Deane Carriage Barn.

Tishman Lecture Hall, 1970

Historic District Map No. 3

Current status and potential future uses:

Tishman was built as a lecture hall and continuing this use in the future is appropriate. Tishman is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 3).

Historic Character:

Tishman is highly significant as one of nine distinctive International Style buildings on campus. Like the other International Style structures it remains remarkably intact and continues to display original features that qualify it for listing in the National Register such as the rectangular, flat roof massing, smooth wall surfaces with conscious lack of ornamentation, and a cantilevered porch with floating stairs off the northwest corner.

Architectural features:

Style: International Style, Robertson Ward, architect.

Wall Structure/covering: vertical and horizontal flush boards.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, flat roof, one story with exposed basement.

Foundation: concrete

Roofing: membrane

Trim: none

Entry features: recessed doors.

Windows: none

Doors: flush metal doors; sliding full glass doors on basement level.

Porches: north side cantilevered porch.

Dormers: none

Chimneys: none

Other appendages/features: open/ floating stairs off northwest corner.

Interior floorplan/features: auditorium/ lecture hall.

Setting/landscape:

The building is designed to blend with the landscape, appearing low and close to the ground, but it has an exposed basement with views to the north on the north end where the grade is lower.

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in generally good condition. The stair railings are not code complaint.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Aluminum frame, double-glazed, clear low-e glass for the sliding doors is an appropriate option for this building.
- 2) Replacement siding should match the wood type and finish of the existing siding.

- 3) Bring the stair railings up to code in a manner similar to the upgraded railings at VAPA.

Current photographs (April 2006); Archive images courtesy Bennington College



View looking north of front elevation.



View looking west; Tishman on left, Dickinson Science Building on right.



Archive image, *Dickinson Dedication, Spring 1970*

Dickinson, 1970

Historic District Map No. 4

Current status and potential future uses:

Dickinson, listed as contributing to the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 4), is used for teaching and research. It contains classrooms, offices, laboratories, a greenhouse and herbarium. Continuing in this use is expected and appropriate.

Historic Character:

Designed by noted American architect, Robertson Ward, Dickinson expresses Ward's interpretation of the International Style using wood for structural components and siding, which developed as a regional characteristic in New England and California. Together with Tishman Hall and VAPA, the building is an important component of the three academic buildings designed by Ward that physically dominate this part of the campus, yet blend with the landscape due to the natural wood siding, and low rooflines that emphasize the horizontal quality of the surrounding gently rolling and open landscape.

Architectural features:

Style: International Style, Robertson Ward, architect.

Wall Structure/covering: post and beam frame, cedar sheathing functions as a curtain wall.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular plan, flat roof, two-stories except for east elevation where the second floor is at grade due to the higher slope of land on this side of the building.

Foundation: concrete with parged aggregate veneer.

Roofing: membrane.

Trim: exposed rafter tails.

Entry features: entries are not emphasized; they are tucked within porches.

Windows: plate glass.

Doors: flush metal and sliding full glass doors.

Porches: a distinctive two-story porch on the east elevation is recessed under the roof and is fronted by open stairs on the second level.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: greenhouse off southwest corner.

Interior floorplan/features: the brightly colored exposed features of the HVAC systems inside contrast with the subdued character of the exterior; movable wall panels provide flexible spaces.

Setting/landscape:

The rolling terrain surrounding the building helps anchor it visually within the landscape, and allows the large structure to blend with its setting.

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in generally good condition. However, the greenhouse requires replacement or complete rehabilitation due to the absence of thermal glass and rusting

window frames.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Aluminum frame, double-glazed, clear low-e glass for the large windows and sliding doors is an appropriate option for this building.
- 2) Replacement siding should match the wood type and finish of the existing siding.
- 3) Bring the stair railings up to code in a manner similar to the upgraded railings at VAPA.
- 4) Repair or replace the greenhouse; the glass in the structure should be appropriate for the Vermont climate.

Current photographs (April 2006); archival photographs courtesy Bennington College.



View looking northeast of front and west elevations.



View of east elevation.



Archival photograph: *Dickinson 1989.*



Archival photograph: *Dickinson 1988.*

VAPA, 1976

Historic District Map No. 5

Current status and potential future uses:

The Visual and Performing Arts Center (VAPA) is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 5). It was built to house studios, classrooms, galleries, theaters, darkrooms and offices for the various arts programs on campus. Some relocation of programs to other buildings may occur but the overall use of the building will likely remain focused on arts programs.

Historic Character:

VAPA is a unique building in Vermont due to its size as one of the largest free-standing structures in North America, and for its distinctive design comprised of interlocking rectangular blocks. VAPA is well-loved on campus for its unusual form, its contemporary feeling and the diversity of activities that students participate in there, all of which reflect the forward thinking character of Bennington College. This important building displays numerous International Style features that qualify it for listing in the National Register such as geometric massing, smooth wall surfaces with flush siding void of ornamental detail, ribbon windows, and floating stair systems.

Architectural features:

Style: International Style, Robertson Ward, architect.

Wall Structure/covering: post and beam frame, cedar sheathing functions as a curtain wall.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular plan, flat and shed roofs, primarily two-stories except for sections of the north elevation which are three-stories.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: membrane.

Trim: no prominent trim details.

Entry features: entries are not emphasized; they become part of the wall surface, similar to the exterior wall panels on many elevations.

Windows: banks of glass ribbon windows; some elevations have tall single and paired windows.

Doors: flush doors.

Porches: a series of open decks with floating stairs connect various blocks on the east end.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features:

Interior floorplan/features: open stairways, balconies, movable wall systems, tall ceilings, large studios and classrooms, and small offices define a rich variety of interior spaces.

Setting/landscape:

Due to the rolling terrain that drops down on the north elevation, the south side of the building is one-story in height, while portions of the north side are three-stories. The angled rooflines of the taller north/west end sections mimic to some degree the slopping Green

Mountains to the east, while the low flat, one-story vertical sided sections at the southeast clearly blend with the gentle terrain of the surrounding lawns.

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in generally good condition, although the large amount of single pane glass throughout the building (some of which has been recently replaced with thermapane glass) is an issue for heating and cooling. In addition, the building needs insulation and upgrades to ventilation, lighting, heating and cooling systems.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue the window replacement program of installing double-glazed, clear low-e glass for the large number of window and door openings.
- 2) Replacement siding should match the wood type and finish of the existing siding.
- 3) Modification of the interior floor plan to meet new academic needs is appropriate if the overall character-defining features created by the open stair systems, balconies, large exhibit spaces and studio spaces is preserved.
- 4) Options for insulation treatments should be investigated; the selected option should not visually impact the significant, smooth, curtain wall appearance on the exterior of the building.
- 5) Because the mechanical systems are currently visible in many areas inside the building, upgrades to these systems will likely not have a substantial impact on the architectural integrity of the interior. New lights do not need to be exact replicas of the original interior lights; however if possible they should be similar to the original fixtures, and compatible with the overall character of the interior.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival photos courtesy of Bennington College.



View looking northeast.



View looking northeast.



View of rear elevation looking southwest.



Archive image, c. 1975, view looking southeast over pond with mountains in distance.

Cricket Hill, c. 1840

Historic District Map No. 6

Current status and potential future uses:

Cricket Hill is currently the Office of Admissions for Bennington College. The use is appropriate as it serves to showcase this important Greek Revival style building to guests and prospective students. Future uses should not require substantial changes to the significant domestic qualities of the interior. Cricket Hill is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 6).

Historic Character:

The distinctive domestic character of Cricket Hill has been preserved despite the many uses that the building has served, from its original function as a farmhouse, to faculty housing and a nursery school for the College. The building is distinguished by its Greek Revival details defined by the one and one-half story form and broad gable roof, six-over-six windows, and its substantial wood trim including corner pilasters with capitals and cornice returns at the eaves. Other important features are the wrap around front porch, fieldstone foundation, and French doors opening onto the porch. C. 1900 features not original but significant include the broad shed roof dormers with casement windows on the south side ell, and the attached ell off the rear with exposed rafter tail trim and cupola.

Architectural features:

Style: Greek Revival

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame with clapboard siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: L-plan, gable roof, one and one-half stories.

Foundation: fieldstone.

Roofing: asphalt shingles.

Trim: numerous wood elements including corner pilasters with capitals, a molded eaves cornice, cornice returns, rafter tails on rear ell.

Entry features: from wrap around porch and rear of building.

Windows: six-over-six and multi-light paired casement windows, two-over-two in rear ell.

Doors: various.

Porches: front porch has square posts, wood deck.

Dormers: shed dormers on south ell.

Chimneys: two distinctive brick chimneys with corbelled caps.

Other appendages/features: attached rear ell with connector to west end of main block.

Interior floorplan/features: significant spaces include the front entry hall, living room with French doors and fireplace, stairs to the second floor, the curved wall in second floor stairhall, Greek Revival window and door trim with stepped door surrounds.

Setting/landscape:

The setting around Cricket Hill continues to reflect the character of a farmhouse with maintained lawn and a stone bordered garden at the south side.

Condition/physical problems:

Cricket Hill appears in generally good condition. The stone foundation appears to need repairs in some areas such as under the front porch.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Foundation repairs: new mortar should match the historic mortar color, texture, strength and profile.
- 2) Windows: The existing window types are appropriate to the age of the building and its appendages. Retaining the existing windows and repairing as necessary is the best preservation option when windows are a historic feature. When a window has gone beyond its useful life and can no longer be reasonably repaired, new single-glazed wood windows to match the historic muntin patterns and profiles are recommended.

Photographs (April 2006), archival photographs courtesy of Bennington College



Front elevation looking west.



Rear elevation looking northeast.



North elevation looking southwest.



View looking south of north elevation.



View looking east of garden adjacent to Cricket Hill.



Archival image with original road passing in front of Cricket Hill.

Cricket Hill Barn / Garage, c. 1910

Historic District Map No. 6A

Current status and potential future uses:

Cricket Hill Barn currently houses art studios. This is a worthy use of the small building, and the north side windows serve the use well for natural lighting. Future uses comprise those that will not require substantial alterations to the exterior. The building is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 6A).

Historic Character:

The Cricket Hill Barn is a well-preserved outbuilding that formerly was a barn for the farmhouse now called Cricket Hill. The structure retains historic novelty siding, four-panel entry doors and hayloft doors on each end, and a cupola, all of which suggest the early use of this building as a barn. The four wide carriage bays on the north side (they may have been garage bays most recently) now are infilled with windows, yet the trim boards that define the openings remain.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, novelty siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular plan, gable roof, one-story.

Foundation: wood sill, concrete.

Roofing: asphalt shingles.

Trim: corner boards, raking eaves.

Entry features: single door on each gable end.

Windows: one-over-one double hung sash.

Doors: historic four-panel with chamfered edge details.

Porches: none.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: roof cupola with turned finial.

Interior floorplan/features: open.

Setting/landscape:

The building is historically and physically associated with Cricket Hill and is located directly behind it adjacent to the visitor's parking lot.

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in generally good condition but needs upgrades for winter use.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Siding: Retain siding type and historic doors to preserve the character of this building.
- 2) Windows: Install new double glazed, one-over-one, wood double hung sash.

- 3) Insulate the walls and ceiling of the building and apply new interior wall finishes such as painted wood paneling or sheetrock.

Current photographs (April 2006)



View of Cricket Barn looking southwest.



View looking northeast.

The Commons, 1931

Historic District Map No. 7

Current status and potential future uses:

The Commons is among the most significant buildings at Bennington. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 7). The Commons has always played a critical role in the daily lives of students and faculty. The building houses the main dining facility and kitchen, student lounges, health and psychological counseling services, mail room, and offices. The third floor, not currently used due to code issues, contains a theater with proscenium stage and several large studios. Some changes to the Commons such as moving the dining services to a new building are possible, and will not substantially affect the importance of the building to Bennington students since The Commons will continue to serve other important needs that will bring students to the building daily.

Historic Character:

The Commons remains remarkably intact from its original appearance both on the exterior and interior. It is a well-preserved Colonial Revival style academic building with numerous details such as multi-pane windows, a bell tower, classical dormers, arcaded loggia, entrance doors with elliptical fanlights and sidelights, and a symmetrical form and fenestration patterns that define its character and qualify the building for listing in the National Register. The interior, like the exterior, retains many original features such as stair systems, fireplaces, floorplan features, arched door openings, and natural finish woodwork.

Architectural features:

Style: Colonial Revival, J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge architects.

Wall Structure/covering: American bond brickwork.

Plan, roof type, and height: H-plan, gambrel and gable roofs, two and one-half stories.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: slate shingles.

Trim: molded woodwork at windows and doors.

Entry features: elliptical fanlights, sidelights, entry pilasters, arched entry hoods.

Windows: primarily eight-over-eight windows, various multi-pane dormer windows, and metal windows in rear shed dormers.

Doors: various panel and glass doors.

Porches: two-story porch on front with arcaded first floor, gable roof porticos on rear elevation.

Dormers: various gable and shed dormers, arched dormer on front contains clock.

Chimneys: brick with concrete caps symmetrically placed on each block of building.

Other appendages/features: bell tower with finial and weathervane; c. 1970 dining and mail room addition.

Interior floorplan/features: historic floorplan with lounges, symmetrically placed stairs, dining rooms, fireplaces, natural finish woodwork, molded woodwork, high ceilings.

Setting/landscape:

Sited on a slight rise of land, the impressive building visually dominates the original campus as it overlooks the green and the flanking 12 original houses.

Condition/physical problems:

The Commons appears in generally good condition. Some of the windows likely need repairs due to age and use. An elevator and some floor plan changes will improve accessibility and circulation issues throughout the building.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Brick masonry: new mortar must match the historic mortar color, texture, strength and grapevine joint profile.
- 2) Windows: Retaining the existing historic windows and repairing as necessary is the best preservation option. When a window has gone beyond its useful life and can no longer be reasonably repaired, new single-glazed wood windows to match the historic windows are recommended. Likewise the best option for replacement of the steel windows is for either new in-kind steel windows, or as an alternate, aluminum single or double-glazed windows to match the steel windows are appropriate for the age and style of this important building. New windows should match the dimensions, muntin patterns and muntin profiles of the historic windows (snap-in muntins are not appropriate) and they should operate similar to the original windows (i.e. double hung, casement, awning).
- 3) Floorplan: Floorplan changes should not substantially impact historic circulation patterns in the building as defined by primary stair systems and spaces including main hallways and large dining rooms; however some changes will be necessary and appropriate in order to make the building handicap accessible.
- 4) Restore the theater on the third floor.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival images courtesy Bennington College

View from the green looking north to front elevation.



East elevation.



Historic windows: Left photo of eight-over-eight window with wood brick mold, modern storm window. Note grapevine joints in brick masonry. Right photo of original steel window in shed dormer.



View looking southwest at rear elevation.



View of west elevation and c. 1965 dining room/ mail room addition.



Archival view c. 1932.



Archival view, c. 1933 showing character of elevation without the modern addition.
Note trees in this view, but not in view above.

Crossett Library, 1959 **Historic District Map No. 8**

Current status and potential future uses:

Crossett Library serves as the College library. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 8). The continued current use of the library is expected, and a new addition will be constructed to provide a much needed expansion of library services.

Historic Character:

Crossett Library is among the most significant examples of International Style architecture in Vermont. It is an outstanding example of a library built in the International Style and is designed by Pietro Belluschi, one of the foremost Modernist architects of the 20th century. The well-preserved library embodies numerous stylistic features such as its geometric massing, flat roof, smooth wall planes, floating stairs, cantilevered porch decks, ribbon windows, conscious lack of ornamentation, and little articulation to identify the front elevation other than stairs to the entrances that are largely hidden behind the louver screens.

Architectural features:

Style: International Style, Pietro Belluschi, architect

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, v-groove vertical siding

Plan, roof type, and height: square plan, flat roof, two-story with exposed basement.

Foundation: brick.

Roofing: membrane.

Trim: not prominent.

Entry features: set on the wall plane behind the louver screens.

Windows: ribbon, large plate glass.

Doors: flush.

Porches: recessed porch wraps around the north and south sides.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: walled garden off basement level at south side.

Interior floorplan/features: floating stairs, open floorplan, windows in some interior walls bring natural light inside.

Setting/landscape:

Constructed on a south facing slope, the building does not appear to be three-stories in height except at the south side which is largely obscured by the tall brick walls of the enclosed garden on that elevation. A low stone wall fronts a small courtyard in front of the building on the west side.

Condition/physical problems:

Former HVAC issues have been corrected. The building appears in generally good condition overall.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Retain the distinctive exterior and interior features of this highly significant building, repairing elements where necessary to match the historic material and dimensions, replacing with new in-kind material only when the element has gone beyond the point of reasonable repair.
- 2) A new addition should not dominate the visual prominence of this building on campus, particularly from the front elevation. Attention to the site, size and materials of a new addition to avoid adverse impacts is paramount. An addition off the rear, possibly joined to the historic library by a small, low connecting structure is recommended as an appropriate option to consider.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival images courtesy of Bennington College



Front (west) elevation.



View looking southeast.



Detail of front (west) entrance with floating stairs, louver screens, and cantilevered porch deck.

Swan Garage, 1933

Historic District Map No. 9A

Current status and potential future uses:

Swan Garage is currently used as art studios. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 9A). Any utilitarian use of this building, such as a garage for vehicles or other storage is appropriate. The current function as art studios is a creative and worthy adaptive use of the former garage.

Historic Character:

This vernacular building retains its historic utilitarian character as a multi-bay garage built to house cars for the faculty who lived in the student houses on the east side of the green. This service building is contributing to the district because of its age and generally intact condition, but it is not of outstanding significance due to lack of remarkable features or historic importance.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, clapboard siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gable roof, one-story.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: asphalt shingle.

Trim: corner boards, raking eaves.

Entry features: plain board surround.

Windows: fixed six-pane.

Doors: flush pedestrian doors, overhead garage doors.

Porches: none.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: none.

Interior floorplan/features: garage bays.

Setting/landscape:

Swan garage is located east of the student houses on the west side of the road that was the original entrance drive to the campus from North Bennington Road.

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in fair to poor condition. It is not insulated, and the doors and windows are failing.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Siding and trim: retain clapboard siding and wood trim details.

- 2) Doors and windows: In the existing openings, install new wood doors and double-glazed windows with the same muntin patterns and profiles. Since the building is no longer used as a garage, the garage doors could be fixed in place and insulated on the inside face with a new wall system.

Current photograph (April 2006)



View looking northwest.

Original Student Houses, 1931-1936

Historic District Map Nos. 9-20

Current status and potential future uses:

The 12 original student houses serve as dormitories, and this use is appropriate and likely will not change. The 12 houses are contributing structures in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (sites 9-20).

Historic Character:

The 12 student houses, designed in the Colonial Revival style by Boston firm J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge, are arranged in two mirror image groups separated by a long green with The Commons building at the north end. This cluster of Colonial Revival architecture recalls the setting of a Vermont village center and comprised the core of the early Bennington College campus buildings constructed from 1931 to 1936. The student houses have remained remarkably intact since construction both inside and out. The houses are distinguished by Colonial Revival style features such as multi-light double hung windows, symmetrical massing and placement of windows and doors, entrances with sidelights and semi-circular fanlights, corner quoins that resemble masonry, columned porticos, and arcaded porches.

Architectural features:

Style: Colonial Revival, J. W. Ames and E. S. Dodge, architects

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, aluminum siding over wood clapboards.

Plan, roof type, and height: U-plan, L-plan, Z-plan, rectangular plan.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: slate shingles.

Trim: classical wood elements including molded cornices, quoins, pilasters, fanlights, sidelights.

Entry features: classical enclosed porches, open porticos, classical entry surround details

Windows: primarily six-over-six double hung with modern exterior storms, round and elliptical louvers in the gable peaks.

Doors: paneled.

Porches: various types including arcaded porticos with classical columns.

Dormers: shed and gable roof.

Chimneys: brick chimneys with concrete caps.

Other appendages/features: shutters on windows.

Interior floorplan/features: floorplans are intact with distinctive entry vestibules, stairs, and living rooms with fireplaces.

Setting/landscape:

The twelve houses are symmetrically grouped around an open quadrangle with the imposing Commons Building at the north end.

Condition/physical problems:

The houses appear in generally good condition. Windows and slate roofing likely require regular maintenance. The kitchens and bathrooms, which have previously undergone some changes, need to be upgraded.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Siding: remove aluminum siding and restore clapboards, replacing to match where necessary
- 2) Windows: Retain existing wood windows, which are a significant component of the character of the houses; replace storms as necessary.
- 3) Roofing: Continue to maintain the distinctive slate roofing.
- 4) Floorplan: interior modifications will not have an adverse impact if the primary spaces including entry halls, stairs, and living rooms are preserved.
- 5) Upgrade kitchens and bathrooms as necessary to accommodate current needs.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival images courtesy of Bennington College



View to north, left to right: McCullough, Leigh, Booth, Kilpatrick (#s 19, 20, 15, 16)



View of original campus, c. 1932 with first 4 houses built; see photo above for current view.



View looking south left to right: Swan, Woolley, Franklin, Canfield, Dewey (#s 9, 10, 12, 13, 14).



East elevation of Woolley and Swan, left to right (#s 10, 9).



Stokes (#11) looking southeast.



Stokes (#11), view looking east.



Stokes (#11) east elevation.



Stokes entry on front gable.



Franklin (#12) entry on front gable.



Additional view of Colonial Revival entry with enclosed vestibule.



Dewey (#14) looking northwest.



Kilpatrick (#16) and Booth (#15) looking west from green.



Bingham House (#18) looking west.



Bingham House (#18), west elevation.



Bingham (#18) entry hall and stairs.



Bingham (#18) living room.



McCullough (#19) and Leigh (#20) looking northwest, left to right.



Leigh House (#20) showing the arcaded recessed porch.

Noyes, Sawtell and Fells, 1968 **Historic District Map No. 21, 22, 23**

Current status and potential future uses:

Noyes, Sawtell and Fells were constructed as student houses and continue to function for this purpose. They are contributing structures in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (sites 21, 22, and 23). Because the three buildings are residential in character, continuing their use as housing is recommended, whether it is for students or faculty.

Historic Character:

Noyes, Sawtell and Fells are unique on the campus as very distinct expressions of Modernism. The three identical student houses were designed by the world prominent architect Edward Larrabee Barnes, and reflect Barnes' use of geometric forms, modules, and prefabricated materials to simplify, order, and unify his designs. The student houses retain a high degree of architectural integrity despite the aluminum siding that obscures original 6" vertical cedar siding underneath.

Architectural features:

Style: International Style, Edward Larrabee Barnes, architect.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, aluminum siding over cedar vertical siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: U-plan, shed and flat roofs, two-stories.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: metal, membrane.

Trim: none.

Entry features: recessed at center of front block.

Windows: plate glass, ribbon windows, skylight.

Doors: flush, sliding doors on north side.

Porches: recessed front porch.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: brick with square cap, painted white.

Other appendages/features: none.

Interior floorplan/features: center hall and stairs with flanking student rooms.

Setting/landscape:

The three dorms are arranged in a linear manner on a west sloping site parallel to and west of other student houses around the Common.

Condition/physical problems:

The three houses appear in generally good condition. The low grade at the rear (west side) of the houses is wet much of the year. Students complain that the floorplan and room configuration are not well suited to dormitory life and natural ventilation is poor due to the limited operability of the awning windows that only open 6".

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Siding: remove the aluminum siding and restore the vertical cedar siding underneath.
- 2) Windows: replace the awning windows with casements that can provide better ventilation.
- 3) Floor plan: Alterations that provide better living accommodations for students or faculty will not substantially alter the integrity of these buildings, as the exteriors retain the most significance.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival images courtesy of Bennington College



View looking northeast of rear elevations.



Front and south side of Sawtell House (#22)



Archival photograph showing original vertical board cedar siding.

Brick Garage / Student Center, c. 1940 / 2007

Historic District Map No. 24

Current status and potential future uses:

The new Student Center, which was recently completed and connected to the former Brick Garage, serves as a gathering place for students. The Brick Garage component of the building has been modified on the interior to function as part of the Student Center, and it remains contributing to the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 24), while the new Student Center structure is a non-contributing component due to age.

Historic Character:

The historic character of the Brick Garage has been sufficiently retained so that its architectural integrity has not been lost. The north and west elevations in particular continue to reflect the original appearance of the building, with intact single and paired six-over-six windows on the second floor, and a wide opening for the first floor garage bays on the west side remains visible but infilled now with new wall systems and windows. The size, massing and materials of the new Student Center are compatible with the features of the Brick Garage, despite the differences in age and style of the two structures.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular / modern; Frank H. Tschorn, architect for Garage; Taylor & Burns, architects for Student Center.

Wall Structure/covering: brick for Brick Garage; wood sheathing for Student Center

Plan, roof type, and height: square, flat roof, two-story Garage; rectangular, soaring roof, one-story Student Center.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: membrane, metal.

Trim: exposed rafter tails on new Student Center.

Entry features: within connector, enclosed stairs, and shed roof porch.

Windows: six-over-six for Garage, banks of windows for Student Center.

Doors: primarily glass and metal with garage type doors on east side of Student Center.

Porches: shed porch off Brick Garage.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: brick with square cap.

Other appendages/features: enclosed connector between the two components, and enclosed exterior stairs on Garage.

Interior floorplan/features: Both the Brick Garage and the new Student Center are primarily open spaces for students to gather.

Setting/landscape:

The Student Center is located at the western side of the campus northwest of the green and near The Commons. A tall line of softwood trees forms a backdrop behind the building, obscuring the parking lot beyond from view.

Condition/physical problems:

No problems known. The building is in good condition.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Due to the recent rehabilitation of the Brick Garage and the new construction of the Student Center, no recommendations are necessary.

Current photograph (December 2007)



View looking west of new Student Center on left, former brick garage on right.

Early Childhood Center (ECC), c. 1900

Historic District Map No. 31

Current status and potential future uses:

This structure that was originally a chicken house currently serves as the Early Childhood Center (ECC). It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 31). Due to an altered interior that no longer retains architectural significance, changes to the interior to accommodate a new use will not impact the integrity of this building.

Historic Character:

The ECC has been substantially altered both on the interior and exterior, so that its architectural integrity has been compromised. However, the historic significance of the building associated with its original use as a chicken house remains as part of the overall history of the district. Features that reflect its original use are the long, rectangular south facing form and numerous windows on that elevation that formerly provided light and warmth for chickens. The slate roof and novelty siding are also significant and likely original features. The two-story gable roof front addition was built around 1960.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, novelty siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gable, one-story original block.

Foundation: fieldstone.

Roofing: slate

Trim: flat trim boards.

Entry features: various entries within front porch.

Windows: primarily six-over-six double hung windows.

Doors: various.

Porches: long shed porch spans front elevation between c. 1960 addition.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: rear ells project from north elevation.

Interior floorplan/features: not significant.

Setting/landscape:

The ECC is built on a south sloping hill on the eastern side of campus adjacent to the Chicken Coop (#32), which also houses the ECC program. A broad, maintained yard in front of the building serves as a playground for the children.

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in generally good condition.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue the current use of this building and maintain its historic slate roof, siding and double hung windows.
- 2) A second option for this building is to remove it to make room for a new dining facility as proposed in the Bennington College Campus Plan (2004). Due to the lack of architectural distinction of the ECC in comparison with other former agricultural buildings on campus, demolition of the structure would not have a substantial impact on the overall historic and architectural significance of the Bennington College Historic District.

Current photographs (April 2006)



Chicken Coop, c. 1900 **Historic District Map No. 32**

Current status and potential future uses:

The Chicken Coop, like the ECC (#31) houses the Early Childhood Center program. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 32). The building retains a vernacular character reflective of its former agricultural use, but it lacks a high degree of architectural distinction, so that changes to the building to accommodate future uses will not have a substantial impact on the building due to its compromised condition.

Historic Character:

As stated above, the Chicken Coop continues to reflect its former agricultural use, in particular due to the preserved character of the long, shed roof component that is associated with the farm period of significance of the campus. The narrow, rectangular, one-story form is typical of chicken houses, although it likely previously had more windows across the south façade. The two-story, gable roof component at the front of the building appears to date from c. 1960 and visually obscures the historic coop behind it. Like the ECC (#31), the Chicken Coop does not possess a high degree of significance as a farm building. Numerous other more significant and architecturally distinguished former agricultural structures on campus more clearly evoke the farm period of history at Bennington.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, vertical board siding

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, shed roof, one-story historic block.

Foundation: brick and concrete.

Roofing: composition.

Trim: flat board trim at windows and doors.

Entry features: shed hood over door on historic block.

Windows: multi-pane paired casements and double hung sash.

Doors: various.

Porches: shed porch over c. 1960 addition entry.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: none.

Interior floorplan/features: not significant.

Setting/landscape:

The Chicken Coop is located on a south facing slope of land just southeast of the ECC (#31).

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in generally good condition.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) The building can be retained and its long rectangular form, reflective of its original use, preserved.
- 2) A second option for this building is to remove it to make room for a new dining facility as proposed in the Bennington College Campus Plan (2004). Due to the lack of architectural distinction of the Chicken Coop in comparison with other former agricultural buildings on campus, demolition of the structure would not have a substantial impact on the overall historic and architectural significance of the Bennington College Historic District.

Current photographs (April 2006)



View looking northeast.



View looking northwest of the long, original component.

The Brooder, c. 1900

Historic District Map No. 33

Current status and potential future uses:

The Brooder, one of three buildings on campus that originally housed chickens, is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 33). It currently is used as faculty housing. Continuing this use is appropriate as the faculty enjoy living in the building.

Historic Character:

Like the ECC (#31) and Chicken Coop (#32) the Brooder is a long, rectangular structure. It is lined with windows on its south side to take advantage of the sun, which is a feature typical of chicken houses. The Brooder has rooflines of varying heights suggesting that the size of the structure has evolved over time from a smaller building. The character of the building has been compromised somewhat by substantial modernization of the interior, and the non-historic Annex addition built in 1992. Also similar to the ECC and Chicken Coop, the building retains historic significance for its association with the farming activities of the site, but compared with other farm buildings on campus such as the Barn (#2), Deane Carriage Barn (#44) and others, the Brooder is of secondary architectural significance.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, clapboards.

Plan, roof type, and height: linear, gable, one-story.

Foundation: fieldstone.

Roofing: slate.

Trim: flat wood trim.

Entry features: not articulated.

Windows: primarily eight-over-eight.

Doors: various.

Porches: small recessed entry porch at east end, gable portico at rear entry.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: large brick chimney on north elevation; wall chimney on east gable end.

Other appendages/features: the building is built into the hillside.

Interior floorplan/features: not significant.

Setting/landscape:

The Brooder is located east of the other two former chicken houses, the ECC (#31) and Chicken Coop (#32). It is built into the south facing hillside on the eastern part of the campus.

Condition/physical problems:

The Brooder appears in fair to poor condition. The stone foundation, roofing, and windows are failing and need repair or replacement.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Retain the Brooder for faculty housing and repair the foundation, slate roof, multi-pane windows and other historic elements as necessary.
- 2) A second option for this building is to remove it to make room for a new dining facility as proposed in the Bennington College Campus Plan (2004). Due to the building's lack of architectural distinction in comparison with other former agricultural buildings on campus, demolition of the structure would not have a substantial impact on the overall historic and architectural significance of the Bennington College Historic District.

Current photograph (April 2006)



Faculty Row, 1935-1936 **Historic District Map No. 34-37**

Current status and potential future uses:

The four Faculty Row houses were designed for faculty soon after the College opened and continue in this use today. The residential structures function well as they were designed and continuing this use is appropriate. The four dwellings are contributing structures in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (sites 34-37).

Historic Character:

The historic character as vernacular, single family homes remains highly intact despite the modern alteration of aluminum siding. The four houses are distinguished by their small cottage gable roof forms of one or two stories, and two to four bays across the front elevations. They all have multi-pane double hung windows, brick chimneys, and attached wings primarily to house a one-bay garage. Gray has an arcaded porch across the rear elevation. The entries are distinguished by modest classical features such as sidelights, engaged pilasters, and a transom window on Moselsio.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, aluminum.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gable roof, one and one-half and two-story.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: asphalt shingle.

Trim: modest wood trim.

Entry features: sidelights, transom window, engaged pilasters.

Windows: primarily six-over-six double hung.

Doors: wood panel.

Porches: flared shed roof front porch and arcaded rear porch at Gray, gabled front porch at Newcomb.

Dormers: gabled wall dormers both front and back on Gray.

Chimneys: brick.

Other appendages/features: art studio attached to the west elevation of Moselsio.

Interior floorplan/features: generally intact.

Setting/landscape:

The four cottages are clustered together lining the south side of a shared road at the southeast portion of campus.

Condition/physical problems:

The buildings appear in generally good condition, although the worn appearance of many features and finishes suggests the need for repairs in some areas and repainting. Inside, the

kitchens and bathrooms in two of the houses are outdated and need upgrades. All buildings would benefit from landscape improvements.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Siding: Remove the aluminum siding and repair clapboards underneath or replace where siding is missing or deteriorated.
- 2) Interior work: Upgrade kitchens and bathrooms as determined necessary.
- 3) Landscaping: Improve the landscaping around the buildings.

Current photographs (April 2006, December 2007)



Gray, Faculty Row #1, Historic District Map #34.



Newcomb, Faculty Row #2, Historic District Map #35.



Fergusson, Faculty Row #3, Historic District Map #36.



Moselsio, Faculty Row #4, Historic District Map #37.

Maintenance Building, 1963

Historic District Map No. 38

Current status and potential future uses:

The Maintenance Building continues to function in its original purpose serving the staff of buildings and grounds on campus and housing many of the College vehicles in the lower level. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 38). The building is well-suited to its use and continuing this use is recommended.

Historic Character:

The Maintenance Building has not changed significantly since it was built in 1963 and the building continues to evoke its utilitarian function and International Style in the rectangular, flat roof form, regularity of window and door placement on the south and east elevations, smooth brick veneer and vertical wood wall surfaces, and the asymmetrical placement of elements on the front (west) elevation – the floating stairs, main entry and chimney stack. Along with the Meyer Recreation Barn (#39), the Maintenance Building is of secondary significance when compared to the other International Style buildings on campus.

Architectural features:

Style: International Style, Pietro Belluschi, consulting architect, Francis X. Gina and Associates, builder.

Wall Structure/covering: steel frame, brick veneer, vertical wood siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, flat, one story with exposed basement.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: membrane.

Trim: none.

Entry features: glass sidelight and transom.

Windows: fixed and awning, vertically aligned.

Doors: metal and glass, overhead garage doors.

Porches: none.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: west elevation.

Other appendages/features: garage bays on south and east sides.

Interior floorplan/features: offices on main level, garage bays on lower level.

Setting/landscape:

The Maintenance Building is located at the southeast area of campus away from academic buildings and housing for students and faculty. It is somewhat hidden from view due to the low elevation of its site.

Condition/physical problems:

The building is currently undergoing changes to upgrade and repair features and systems. A new addition to house the biomass boiler (to convert the College's heating system from oil to wood chips) is being constructed at the west end of the building.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue to preserve and retain the character of the building as much as possible, while still allowing it to function as an important component of the campus as the Maintenance Building and heating plant.

Current photograph (April 2006)



Meyer Recreation Barn, 1970 **Historic District Map No. 39**

Current status and potential future uses:

The Meyer Recreation Barn was constructed as a maintenance building and was later renovated as a fitness center for Bennington. The building is well-suited for this new use and continuing as such is appropriate. The building is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 39).

Historic Character:

The Meyer Recreation Barn is an International Style building at Bennington that is of secondary significance to the other modernist buildings on campus due to its alterations with new square windows and pedestrian doors added when the fitness center was created in the building. Designed by Robertson Ward, it displays characteristics of Ward's other buildings on campus, in particular the exposed rafter tails recalling those on Dickinson, and vertical, natural wood siding that allows the structure to blend with the surrounding, vertical character of the natural, wooded landscape.

Architectural features:

Style: International Style, Robertson Ward, architect; renovations by Timothy Smith.

Wall Structure/covering: vertical wood siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, shallow gable roof, two-stories.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: membrane.

Trim: exposed rafter tails.

Entry features: shallow hood over west side entrance fronted by a bridge/walkway.

Windows: vertical glass with metal frame.

Doors: flush.

Porches: none.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: ribbon windows on first floor, west elevation.

Interior floorplan/features: not significant.

Setting/landscape:

Like the Maintenance Building (#38), the Meyer Recreation Barn is located at the southeast area of campus on a south facing slope surrounded by trees on the north and west sides so that it is somewhat obscured from view from nearby roadways and buildings.

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in generally good condition.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Alterations to the interior to accommodate a new use will not have a negative impact on the integrity of the building, which retains significance primarily on the exterior, and overall is of secondary importance when compared to other more intact and architecturally distinguished International Style buildings at Bennington.

Current photograph (April 2006)



Shingle Cottage, c. 1775 **Historic District Map No. 40**

Current status and potential future uses:

Shingle Cottage, the oldest building on campus, is used as faculty housing. The building is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 40). Using the building for housing is appropriate as the interior retains its residential character.

Historic Character:

Shingle Cottage is highly significant as one of the oldest dwellings in Bennington. It appears well-preserved on both the exterior and interior. Many features are historic but not original. Important exterior features include the saltbox form, siding, main entrance entablature, molded cornice trim, brick chimneys (that replaced an original center chimney), rear dormers and porch, bay window, and fieldstone foundation. The interior retains features that appear to date from the last half of the 19th and early 20th century, such as molded window and door surrounds, Craftsman style fireplaces, cabinetry in the pantry, and hardwood flooring. The front apartment is less intact with a greater degree of modern finishes. Noted persons who resided here include Revolutionary War veteran Eleazer Edgerton, poet Robert Frost, and poet and Bennington faculty member W. H. Auden. A faculty member currently living at Shingle Cottage claims Lila and Frederick Jennings stayed in the house while Fairview (Jennings Hall) was being built.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: post and beam frame, wood shingle siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: saltbox form with wing, gable roof, one and one-half stories.

Foundation: fieldstone.

Roofing: asphalt shingles.

Trim: molded eaves with cornice returns.

Entry features: Federal style entrance entablature.

Windows: twelve-over-two.

Doors: paneled.

Porches: rear screen porch.

Dormers: hip roof dormers on rear roof slope; eyebrow dormer on wing.

Chimneys: twin brick end chimneys with corbelled caps.

Other appendages/features: bay window.

Interior floorplan/features: two apartments, rear apartment most intact.

Setting/landscape:

Shingle Cottage stands alone on a slight rise of land on the south side of Harlan Road. It is surrounded by a grass yard.

Condition/physical problems:

The building appears in fair to good condition. The wood shingles are dry and brittle.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Retain the significant features of the dwelling as noted above, paying particular attention to exterior details, and the interior features of the rear unit, which are the more noteworthy of the two apartments.
- 2) Replace wood shingles as necessary.
- 3) Adapting the building for use as the Early Childhood Center as proposed in the 2004 Campus Plan is appropriate with the condition that the rear apartment floorplan and features are preserved as much as reasonably possible. In addition, because more space will be required to house the ECC than exists in Shingle Cottage, a new building or addition to this one will be needed. Designs for a new addition or new building nearby should allow the historic cottage to dominate and not be overwhelmed by a larger addition.

Current photographs (April 2006, December 2007)



Front and north elevations showing saltbox form.



Details of Federal style front entrance with pilasters, and view of pegged frame in attic.



Rear elevation.



Rear apartment showing Craftsman style fireplace, hardwood flooring, molded door trim.



Detail of molded trim with bull's eye corner blocks.



Wing interior, view of bay window.



View of pantry.



Window detail showing old glass in upper sash.

Longmeadow, c. 1925

Historic District Map No. 41

Current status and potential future uses:

Longmeadow currently functions as student housing. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 41). Continuing the current housing function is appropriate as it is compatible with the original use of this important historic dwelling.

Historic Character:

Longmeadow is a distinctive Colonial Revival style dwelling that was built for Louise DeWilde, Mrs. Lila Jennings nurse and assistant. The character of Longmeadow is defined by its classical elements such as the 3-bay, two-story, gable roof massing, multi-light, double-hung windows, broad brick wall chimneys, semi-elliptical gable louvers, cornice moldings, pedimented full entrance entablatures on both the north and south elevations, and wood shingle siding.

Architectural features:

Style: Colonial Revival.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, wood shingle siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: L-plan, gable roof, two-stories.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: asphalt shingle.

Trim: molded wood details.

Entry features: pedimented full entablature with sidelights at north and south entries.

Windows: six-over-six.

Doors: paneled.

Porches: one-bay entry porch on north elevation; recessed corner porch on wing.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: brick with corbelled caps.

Other appendages/features: one-story shed projection on east end; originally the windows had louver shutters.

Interior floorplan/features: domestic floorplan.

Setting/landscape:

Longmeadow is located near the north boundary of the historic district. The open meadow to the south provides panoramic views of the campus and distant landscape.

Condition/physical problems:

Longmeadow appears in fair to good condition. The wood shingle siding is worn and brittle. The kitchens and bathrooms are outdated and need to be upgraded.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Retain the significant Colonial Revival features noted above.

- 2) Replace the wood shingle siding.
- 3) Upgrade the kitchens and bathrooms.
- 4) Uses and rehabilitation treatments that will not negatively impact the domestic character of the house are recommended.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival images courtesy of Bennington College



North elevation.



South elevation.



Archival view of south elevation.



Archival photograph of south elevation with surrounding plantings, and mown field in foreground.

Longmeadow Garage, c. 1935 **Historic District Map No. 41A**

Current status and potential future uses:

The garage associated with Longmeadow continues to be a garage and also is used for storage purposes. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 41A). Continuing the current uses is appropriate for this building.

Historic Character:

Longmeadow Garage is important for its historic association with Longmeadow and the Jennings family. It is significant as an example of a Colonial Revival style garage with characteristics such as wood shingle siding and a multi-light, six-pane window above the garage bays.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, wood shingles.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gable roof, one-story.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: asphalt shingles.

Trim: flat wood trim.

Entry features: flat trim around garage bays.

Windows: fixed six-pane in gable peak.

Doors: two overhead garage doors.

Porches: none.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: none.

Interior floorplan/features: open floorplan.

Setting/landscape:

The garage is located on the north side of the driveway to Longmeadow.

Condition/physical problems:

The garage appears in good condition.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Retain the existing features and repair when necessary to match the historic elements.

Current photographs (April 2006)



View looking northwest.

Jennings Hall, 1903

Historic District Map No. 43

Current status and potential future uses:

The music program is located in Jennings Hall. The distinctive Colonial Revival style building that was originally the summer home of Lila and Frederick Jennings is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 43). The variety of large and small rooms that exist in Jennings make it adaptable to various educational uses from teaching and studio space to residential housing.

Historic Character:

The residential character of the large limestone mansion has been well preserved, while serving the needs of the music program for the College. The elaborate entry hall and formal parlors retain a wealth of distinctive features from plaster ceiling details to carved fireplace surrounds and paneled wainscoting. Likewise, the exterior retains original elements such as porches and an entry portico topped by granite balustrades, and numerous dormers, chimneys, and multi-pane windows. The limestone retaining wall with its arched center section fronting the main entrance is a distinctive landscape feature, as is the garden at the north side of the house that currently suffers from lack of attention and care.

Architectural features:

Style: Colonial Revival; Renwich, Aspinwall and Owen, architects.

Wall Structure/covering: rusticated, coursed limestone.

Plan, roof type, and height: symmetrical plan with projecting bays, gable roof, two and one-half stories.

Foundation: limestone.

Roofing: slate shingles.

Trim: carved granite.

Entry features: sidelights at main entrance.

Windows: multi-light double hung.

Doors: panel.

Porches: porches on all elevations have granite columns and balustrades.

Dormers: gable roof with arched upper sash.

Chimneys: massive stone chimneys with open caps.

Other appendages/features: curved exterior wall surfaces.

Interior floorplan/features: decorative plaster ceilings, carved fireplaces, paneled wainscoting, elaborate entry vestibule and stairway, generally intact floorplan.

Setting/landscape:

Jennings Hall is located at the north end of campus on a prominent site overlooking the broad, open meadow, pond and academic buildings to the south. The distant views beyond the campus are pleasing.

Condition/physical problems:

Jennings Hall appears in generally good condition. Lack of sound insulation in the interior walls makes the building unsuitable as practice space for the music program. The building is not ADA compliant and requires an elevator. Bathrooms need to be upgraded.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue to maintain and preserve the distinctive features noted above that define the architectural integrity of this elaborate and highly significant former summer mansion.
- 2) Adapt the building to College uses in a manner that will not substantially impact the most significant spaces of the interior, including the entry foyer and large parlors, and primary stair systems and hallways that define the historic circulation patterns of the building.
- 3) Install an elevator in an area that is not obtrusive to primary spaces but may be adjacent to them, such as a main corridor near an entrance that may be adapted for accessibility.
- 4) Upgrade bathrooms as necessary to meet current needs.
- 5) Restore the garden at the rear of the building.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival images courtesy of Bennington College



Views of the front elevation.



Archival view, 1927.



Archival view, no date.



Archival view, 1927.

Deane Carriage Barn, c. 1890

Historic District Map No. 44

Current status and potential future uses:

Deane Carriage Barn is an academic building that accommodates a variety of Bennington's needs such as meeting and performance space and practice rooms for students in the music department. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 44).

Historic Character:

This c. 1890 Carriage Barn, which was converted by the College for academic use, retains its important character as a high style agricultural building. Its significant features include the wood shingle siding with a flared beltcourse on the upper floor, the Moorish tower with a bellcast roof, eyebrow dormers with delicate tracery windows, the jerkinhead roofline, stone foundation, and Stick Style applied woodwork in the tympanum of the gabled dormer above the entry vestibule. A recent rehabilitation of the building involved construction of the entry vestibule, interior renovations, and systems upgrades.

Architectural features:

Style: Eclectic.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, wood shingle and clapboard siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: L-plan, jerkinhead roof, one and one-half stories.

Foundation: fieldstone.

Roofing: asphalt shingles.

Trim: corner boards, applied woodwork.

Entry features: new enclosed vestibule.

Windows: multi-pane.

Doors: various wood and glass.

Porches: none

Dormers: gable dormers on front and rear.

Chimneys: brick.

Other appendages/features: hay hoist in gable peak, double door entry at basement level on west side of wing likely was formerly an entrance for livestock or farm equipment.

Interior floorplan/features: various rooms for academic use; unique performance space in the wing.

Setting/landscape:

The Deane Carriage Barn is located on a slight rise of land within a pastoral setting surrounded by open and wooded land that formerly was part of the Jennings' estate.

Condition/physical problems:

The building is in excellent condition due to its recent rehabilitation.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue to follow the same appropriate preservation practices adhered to in the recent rehabilitation of this important building whereby significant features were retained and not adversely impacted.

Current photographs (April 2006, December 2007)



East elevation showing new entry vestibule.



West elevation.

Davis Alumni House, c. 1900 **Historic District Map No. 45**

Current status and potential future uses:

Davis Alumni House is used to house overnight guests and alumni of the College. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 45). The use is appropriate as it is compatible with the residential character of the building and allows the floorplan to remain generally intact.

Historic Character:

Davis Alumni House continues to convey the appearance of a modest vernacular dwelling, and likely has not changed substantially since it was built as the home for Christopher Fruitrich, the superintendent of the Jennings estate. It is a typical vernacular classic cottage common during the 19th century, as defined by its five-by-two bay, one and one-half story form with a kneewall, a center entrance, and a ridge chimney near the gable end (a second chimney on the other gable end was common). The few trim details include corner boards and the gabled hood with outrigger supports at the front entrance. The hip roof screen porch off the north gable end appears to be a c. 1920 addition. Other important features include the slate roofing and parged fieldstone foundation.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular classic cottage.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, clapboard siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gable roof, one and one-half stories.

Foundation: parged fieldstone.

Roofing: slate shingles.

Trim: corner boards, raking eaves.

Entry features: gabled hood with exposed rafter tails and outrigger supports.

Windows: six-over-one.

Doors: wood panel.

Porches: one-story, hip roof screen porch has decorative sawn rafter tails.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: brick with concrete cap.

Other appendages/features: marble front step.

Interior floorplan/features: center stairs with rooms flanking the entry hall and stairs.

Setting/landscape:

Davis Alumni House is located at the northwest corner of the campus in a quiet setting near the Brick Walled Garden (#53) and other Jennings' estate farm buildings.

Condition/physical problems:

Davis Alumni House is in good condition having recently undergone a rehabilitation. The small, attached porch was not restored at that time and needs repairs in some areas.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue to follow the same appropriate preservation practices adhered to in the recent rehabilitation of the building whereby significant features were retained and not adversely impacted.
- 2) Restore the side porch in a manner that preserves the historic elements as much as reasonably possible. The porch may be enlarged but the roof should remain a hip, and other elements repaired or replaced with in-kind materials.

Current photograph (April 2006)



Blacksmith's House, c. 1900

Historic District Map No. 46

Current status and potential future uses:

The Blacksmith's House is currently used as a painting studio for art students. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 46). Continuing the use of the building by art students is appropriate as it serves an important College need; and, as a use related to the arts, is compatible with the original function for crafting iron horse shoes, hinges and other items by the Blacksmith.

Historic Character:

The Blacksmith's House continues to evoke its original character as a dwelling with an attached working barn. According to College history, the blacksmith for the Jennings' estate lived in the house and likely had his shop in the attached barn. The sliding vertical board door on the west side of the barn is an important feature that reflects the former farm use. The scroll sawn rafter tails across the roof eaves above the barn door appear to be the same as those on the screen porch of Davis Alumni House (#45) and were probably the work of the Jennings' estate carpenter who had his shop nearby (#47). Other important features are the multi-light windows with molded cornice caps, clapboard siding with corner board trim, and the fieldstone foundation.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, clapboard siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: L-plan, gable roof, one and one-half stories.

Foundation: fieldstone.

Roofing: asphalt shingles.

Trim: corner boards, scroll sawn rafter tails on barn.

Entry features: enclosed porch at north side.

Windows: various including six-over-one.

Doors: half-glass panel pedestrian door; sliding vertical board barn door.

Porches: enclosed entry porch.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: louvered vent in gable peak.

Interior floorplan/features: not highly significant.

Setting/landscape:

The Blacksmith's House is located at the northwest corner of the campus in a quiet setting near the Brick Walled Garden (#53) and other Jennings' estate farm buildings.

Condition/physical problems:

The Blacksmith's House appears in generally good condition.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue to follow the same appropriate preservation practices adhered to in the past rehabilitation of the building whereby significant features were retained and not adversely impacted.

Current photograph (April 2006)



View looking southeast.

Carpenter's Shop, c. 1900 **Historic District Map No. 47**

Current status and potential future uses:

The Carpenter's Shop is used as a storage building by the College. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 47). The building is constructed like two garages joined together as one utilitarian structure. Using the Carpenter's Shop for storage is appropriate. The unfinished condition of the interiors makes the potential for other uses of this building limited.

Historic Character:

The Carpenter's Shop does not retain a high degree of architectural significance, but does retain historic significance as the building where the carpenter for the Jennings' estate worked. The building is closed up, the one window on the west side boarded over and the garage doors on each section are down. The building has an asphalt shingle roof that appears in generally good condition, but the paint on the clapboard and novelty siding is peeling and wearing thin.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: novelty siding on shed roof section, clapboard siding on gable roof section.

Plan, roof type, and height: linear, gable and shed, one-story.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: asphalt shingle, composite on shed roof.

Trim: corner boards, frieze and fascia boards.

Entry features: flat trim boards around doors.

Windows: a six-over-six window is boarded over.

Doors: flush.

Porches: none.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: none.

Interior floorplan/features: open floorplan.

Setting/landscape:

The Carpenter's House is near the northwest corner of the campus in a quiet setting adjacent to the Brick Walled Garden (#53) and other Jennings' estate farm buildings.

Condition/physical problems:

The Carpenter's House appears in good to poor condition. The siding is worn and needs repainting. The somewhat irregular eaves line of the shed roof section suggests roof framing issues that may require repairs.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Investigate the condition of the siding, framing and roofing and repair as necessary with in-kind materials.
- 2) If the building is determined in very poor condition, and due to its small size, the limited potential for uses other than storage, and the cost to rehabilitate it, taking down the structure and using the funds to restore more significant campus buildings could possibly justify demolition as a reasonable treatment option.

Current photograph (April 2006)



View looking southeast; walled garden at rear on left.

Farm (Milkman's) House, c. 1910

Historic District Map No. 48

Current status and potential future uses:

The Farm (Milkman's) House is used for faculty housing. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 48). Continuing the residential use of this building is appropriate as it will allow the historic, domestic character of the building to remain dominant.

Historic Character:

The Farm (Milkman's) House is very similar both in historic significance and architectural details to the Davis Alumni House. Both were built to house farm managers on the Jennings' Estate, this for the milkman who operated a dairy in the basement, and the Davis Alumni House for the superintendent of the estate. Like the Davis Alumni House, this building is a vernacular, one and one-half story, 5-bay classic cottage with a center entrance, gable end chimney, kneewall, clapboard siding with corner board trim, slate roofing, a raking eaves, and a hip roof porch off one gable end. Other features of this dwelling include a shed roof front porch over the center three bays, and doors and windows on the rear elevation that lead to the former basement dairy.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular classic cottage.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, clapboard siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gable roof, one and one-half stories.

Foundation: concrete block, parged stone.

Roofing: slate shingles.

Trim: corner boards, raking eaves.

Entry features: transom over front door.

Windows: nine-over-one.

Doors: wood and glass.

Porches: three-bay front porch, one-by-three bay side porch.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: brick ridge chimney near west gable end.

Other appendages/features: doors to basement at rear for former dairy in cellar.

Interior floorplan/features: domestic.

Setting/landscape:

The Farm (Milkman's) House is located near the northwest corner of the campus in a quiet setting near the Brick Walled Garden (#53) and other Jennings' estate farm buildings.

Condition/physical problems:

The Farm (Milkman's) House appears in generally good condition; however, the overall worn exterior appearance with fading and flaking paint suggests the need for attention and possible repairs of some features.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Investigate the condition of exterior and interior features. Repair, or replace elements that have gone beyond the point of reasonable repair with in-kind materials matching existing dimensions and profiles.

Current photograph (April 2006)



View looking north; walled garden at rear on right.

Cow Barn, c. 1910

Historic District Map No. 49

Current status and potential future uses:

The Cow Barn is used as storage by the College. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 49). Using the Barn for storage is appropriate. The unfinished condition and lack of modern systems inside makes the potential for other uses of this building limited.

Historic Character:

The Cow Barn has the primary characteristic of a ground level stable barn, an early 20th century barn type, in which the milking parlor was located on a concrete floor at the ground level. The Barn retains its agricultural character due to numerous other features typical of barns from the early 20th century such as the gambrel roof that allowed for ample storage in the hayloft, a hoist at the gable peak for hauling hay and other goods as necessary to the hayloft, a hinged haydoor under the hoist, metal ventilators on the roof, and a wide vertical board double door on the front. Trim includes a flared raking eaves with exposed rafter tails. The Cow Barn retains its historic slate shingle roof. The exterior set of stairs on the south side is a visual intrusion and not compatible with the age and character of the building.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular ground level stable barn.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, board and batten siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gambrel, two-stories.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: slate shingle.

Trim: flared eaves with exposed rafter tails.

Entry features: not detailed.

Windows: primarily six-over-six.

Doors: vertical board double door at front.

Porches: none.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none.

Other appendages/features: metal roof ventilators.

Interior floorplan/features: not significant.

Setting/landscape:

The Cow Barn is located at the northwestern portion of the district near other agricultural buildings on the former Jennings' estate, including the Farm (Milkman's) House where a dairy was located in the cellar.

Condition/physical problems:

The Cow Barn appears in good to poor condition. The siding is worn and needs refinishing. The somewhat irregular eaves line of the slate roof suggests roof framing issues that may require repairs.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Investigate the condition of the siding, framing and roofing and repair as necessary with in-kind materials.
- 2) Remove the exterior stairs from the south elevation, and repair interior stairs if they remain or build new stairs to the second floor.

Current photograph (April 2006)



View looking west.

Pig House and Corn Crib, c. 1920 **Historic District Map No. 50 & 51**

Current status and potential future uses:

The Pig House (#50) and the Corn Crib (#51) are contributing structures in the Bennington College National Register Historic District. The two buildings appear vacant; however they may occasionally be used for storage. The small size and lack of amenities and modern systems such as electricity and heat in these two former agricultural buildings appear to make them unsuitable for academic use for any purpose other than storage.

Historic Character:

The two agricultural buildings, the Pig House and Corn Crib, retain a degree of architectural character, but overall the two buildings do not possess a significant amount of integrity or importance to the historic district. The small Pig House has broad sliding doors and novelty siding, both features that are typical of farm buildings from the first half of the 20th century. The Corn Crib is raised on a pier foundation so that the bottom of the building remains above grade. This was a common feature of Corn Cribs for the purpose of making access to rodents more difficult than a building set upon the ground.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, novelty siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gable, one-story.

Foundation: concrete foundation for Pig House; concrete and metal pier for Corn Crib

Roofing: asphalt shingles.

Trim: corner boards, raking eaves.

Entry features: not distinguished.

Windows: multi-pane.

Doors: boarded over.

Porches: none.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: none

Other appendages/features:

Interior floorplan/features: not significant.

Setting/landscape:

The Pig House and Corn Crib are located at the northwestern portion of campus near the walled garden (#53) and other agricultural buildings for the former Jennings' estate.

Condition/physical problems:

The two buildings appear to be in fair to poor condition. The asphalt roofing appears generally good.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Analyze the cost to repair the two buildings to make them useful to the College. If a suitable use is found such as storage, and the rehabilitation costs are reasonable continue to use the buildings for storage or other worthy purpose. If no worthy academic use is found, or the cost of rehabilitation is not reasonable considering the value of the buildings to the College, other options are appropriate, such as finding a suitable new owner that can move the buildings off-site to reuse them on a new location. Or, if a new owner can not be found, demolition of the buildings can likely be justified as a last, but least preferred option.

Current photograph (April 2006)



View looking west; Pig House (#50) on right, Corn Crib (#51) on left.

Jennings Cottage, c. 1900 **Historic District Map No. 52**

Current status and potential future uses:

Jennings Cottage is used as faculty housing. It is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (#52). The residential use of this building is appropriate as it continues the historic function of the structure and minimizes the potential for adverse impacts as substantial alterations to the building will likely not be necessary.

Historic Character:

Like the other former caretaker's cottages in the Orchard complex, the Davis Alumni House (#45) and the Farm (Milkman's) House (#48), all of which were part of the Jennings' estate, the Jennings Cottage is a small, rectangular, one-story, gable roof vernacular dwelling with clapboard siding, slate roofing, a simple brick chimney and double hung windows with multiple light upper sash. The south end extension is a later addition.

Architectural features:

Style: vernacular.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, clapboard siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular, gable roof, one and one-half stories.

Foundation: parged fieldstone and concrete block.

Roofing: slate shingles.

Trim: corner boards, molded eaves cornice, raking eaves.

Entry features: flat trim around entry door.

Windows: nine-over-one.

Doors: wood panel and glass.

Porches: two-bay front porch.

Dormers: shed roof dormer at rear.

Chimneys: brick with corbelled cap.

Other appendages/features:

Interior floorplan/features: domestic.

Setting/landscape:

Jennings' Cottage is located in the Orchard complex just south of the Brick Walled Garden (#53).

Condition/physical problems:

The cottage appears in generally good condition.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue to follow the same appropriate preservation practices adhered to in the past rehabilitation of the building whereby significant features were retained and not adversely impacted.

Current photograph (April 2006)



View looking west, walled garden far right.

Brick Garden Wall, c. 1890 **Historic District Map No. 53**

Current status and potential future uses:

The Brick Garden Wall surrounds the now untended garden that formerly contained the vegetable and perennial gardens and fruit trees for the Jennings estate. The garden has been used for dance performances and music concerts by Bennington students. The Brick Garden Wall is a contributing structure in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (site 53).

Historic Character:

Although the former Jennings' garden is no longer tended, some fruit trees, grapevines and perennial flowers remain. The garden is considered an important asset to the College. Its deteriorated mahogany swinging double door was recently replaced with an exact replica including the decorative hardware hinges. The east wall has been repointed with mortar that is a good match to the historic mortar.

Architectural features:

Style:

Wall Structure/covering: tall, recessed panel brick wall has concrete coping across the top.

Plan, roof type, and height:

Foundation:

Roofing:

Trim:

Entry features: openings in the wall exist on the east and west sides.

Windows:

Doors: the east side wall opening is defined by tall brick piers and a new set of swinging mahogany doors on decorative strap hinges.

Porches:

Dormers:

Chimneys:

Other appendages/features:

Interior floorplan/features:

Setting/landscape:

Located in the area of campus called the Orchard, the Brick Garden Wall is highly significant for its associations with the various plantings on the Jennings' estate including the numerous fruit trees within the walled garden and surrounding the faculty houses nearby.

Condition/physical problems:

The wall is in fair to good condition. The east side has been repointed with mortar that matches the historic mortar.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue the program of repointing the Brick Garden Wall by completing the other three sides (south, west, and north).
- 2) A landscape architect with knowledge of period plantings could develop a restoration plan for the garden based on its history, the remaining plants, and former uses.

Current photographs (April 2004, December 2007), archival images courtesy of Bennington College



View looking northwest.



View looking east from within the garden.



Garden interior looking northwest.



View to east from west side of wall; Carpenter's Shop (#47) on left.



New doors and repointed east wall.



View to north along east side of wall; Blacksmith's House (#46) in distance.



Archival photograph: *Scenes Orchard*, 1972. Jennings Cottage (#52) in background, other faculty house Orchard B (#55) in distance.



Archival photograph, no date: *Scenes Orchard*. Blacksmith's House (#46) in distance.



Archival photograph: *Orchard, Courtyard Gate, 1972.*

Orchard Houses A-F, c. 1945 **Historic District Map Nos. 54-59**

Current status and potential future uses:

The six Orchard Houses were built as faculty and staff housing and continue in this use. They are contributing structures in the Bennington College National Register Historic District (sites 54-59). Continuing this function is appropriate.

Historic Character:

The six Orchard Houses are Colonial Revival style dwellings that are nearly identical. These two-story, gable roof cottages have classical details such as clapboard siding, six-over-six windows, simple but full entrance entablatures with pediments on most dwellings, center brick chimneys, no eaves overhang, and second story windows that extend to the eaves. The one-bay garages and wings that project from the gable ends of most of the houses do not project from the same side on each building. Although different in size and detail, the six Colonial Revival style Orchard Houses reflect a similarity in concept to the grouping of twelve Student Houses built about 15 years earlier.

Architectural features:

Style: Colonial Revival.

Wall Structure/covering: wood frame, clapboard siding.

Plan, roof type, and height: rectangular plan, gable roof, two-stories.

Foundation: concrete.

Roofing: asphalt shingle.

Trim: corner boards, molded cornice with returns.

Entry features: full entablatures, some pedimented.

Windows: six-over-six.

Doors: paneled.

Porches: Orchard F has a modern, one-bay entry porch.

Dormers: none.

Chimneys: corbelled brick.

Other appendages/features: Orchard E has a skylight on the wing roof.

Interior floorplan/features: domestic.

Setting/landscape:

The quiet setting in the Orchard complex is partly open and partly wooded, and includes fruit trees.

Condition/physical problems:

The Orchard Houses appear in generally good condition. They have recently been painted on the exterior.

Appropriate rehabilitation treatments:

- 1) Continue to preserve the integrity of these historic dwellings by maintaining the distinctive features noted above.

Current photographs (April 2006), archival images courtesy of Bennington College



Orchard A.



Orchard B.



Orchard C.



Orchard D.



Orchard E.



Orchard F.