

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The North Bennington Historic District encompasses the principal commercial and residential areas of North Bennington - an incorporated village within Bennington township - comprising about 175 buildings of architectural or historical significance. Along its north edge, the settlement (and historic district) overlaps the village boundary into the adjoining township of Shaftsbury; buildings #1-10 of the historic district stand in the latter township but are considered unofficially part of North Bennington village.

Topographically, the village occupies generally undulating terrain bisected by the narrow valley of Paran Creek, a tributary of the Walloomsac River. The creek falls a total of 110 feet over a series of dams and cascades while flowing through the village from its northeast to south boundaries. Southeast of the creek valley, the village climbs the north slope of 750-foot Bingham Hill.

The water power of Paran Creek provided the original impetus for the settlement of North Bennington, and a succession of mill-ponds along the course of the Creek marks the sites of former or existing mills and factories that constitute a linear industrial area. The largest pond, known as Lake Paran, lies northeast of the village; its dam was constructed to serve also as the embankment for the railroad that connects North Bennington with Bennington village five miles to the southeast.

The modest commercial center of North Bennington ascends the slope northward from the creek along Main Street (the principal north-south axis) to the main railroad line (an east-west axis) that passes through the north section of the village. More precisely, there are two small clusters of commercial buildings standing at the street line: an older (early nineteenth century) one surrounding Lincoln Square at the foot of Main Street and a slightly larger (and somewhat later) one occupying the vicinity of the Bank Street intersection. The other stretches of Main Street are residential in character with detached houses set back from the street, although interrupted by the railroad and related buildings north of the commercial center. The principal residential areas of the village radiate from the commercial center along intersecting streets.

North Bennington retains nearly intact its nineteenth century architectural character. Vernacular interpretations of the Greek and Italianate Revival styles predominate, overlaid in some cases with decorative elements from later styles. A few examples of other styles are interspersed, including the Federal, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, and Queen Anne. A small number of twentieth century buildings includes an example of the Georgian Revival style.

Gable-roofed buildings of domestic scale constitute the characteristic building form in the village. Most are constructed of wood; a few are of brick (generally the larger institutional buildings), while only three stone structures (including a bridge) exist in the historic district. A majority of the buildings are painted white, generally with contrasting trim.

A distinctive ornamental device appears on many of the village's numerous slate-roofed buildings. An extraordinarily high proportion of these roofs - both on principal buildings and barns or sheds - display alternating bands of imbricated shingles arranged in various patterns. The incidence of this ornamental device suggests that the same local craftsmen were responsible for slating many of the roofs in the village.

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The street plan of North Bennington evolved through a period of about a century, becoming a roughly radial pattern surrounding the village core; most street intersections occur at oblique angles. Building setbacks along the streets vary with the terrain, building types, and period of development. Scattered small parks and the triangular Lincoln Square contribute landscaped open spaces, especially along Main and Prospect Streets. Where the latter street crosses Paran Creek, mini-parks provide openings to the millponds both upstream and downstream of the arch bridge.

Along most of the streets of North Bennington there stand large deciduous shade trees, most commonly maples and elms. In recent decades, however, many of these trees have succumbed to encroaching vehicle traffic, highway salt, and disease, leaving an increasing number of gaps in the formerly luxuriant street-side canopy.

Beneath that canopy, remnants of marble slab sidewalks constitute a distinctive element of the village's street environment (similar to a number of other towns in the so-called "Marble Belt" of western Vermont). The marble slabs may have been the product of a marble sawing mill that operated on Water Street early in the nineteenth century. Only a few short stretches of the slabs remain in place - principally along Main and Bank Streets - and many slabs are cracked or broken.

The railroad that dominates the north section of North Bennington village (now known as the Vermont Railway) traverses western Vermont and connects at the New York border about two miles west of the village with a line to the Hudson Valley. The Bennington branch line joins the main line in the small switching yard that surrounds the still-active freight house (#17). The latter stands to the east of the former North Bennington depot (#18; now converted to municipal and private offices) that occupies a prominent position at the Main Street crossing.

North Bennington achieved the pinnacle both of its architectural development and its commercial and industrial expansion around 1880, the year marked by the construction of the distinguished Second Empire style depot. By then the area of the historic district had been almost completely developed. Numerous mills and workshops concentrated at dam sites along Paran Creek employed hundreds of persons. Many stores and offices, two hotels, and various craftsmen's shops contributed to the activity along Main Street. Within the same decade, however, this activity began to recede when major fires destroyed (in 1884) the large shoe factory at the foot of Main Street and (in 1886) much of the Main Street commercial center north of Houghton Street; half of the latter area was never rebuilt (now Main Street Park).

Successive fires, demolition, and economic changes have further depleted the village's nineteenth century commercial and industrial buildings, and some of the remaining ones have been converted to other uses. As a result, the village has an increasing preponderance of residential buildings. Detached single-family houses account for the majority; there are also several duplex and multiple apartment buildings that reflect the historical need for workers' housing. The latter is represented more archetypically by two surviving complexes of mill houses, "Brick Row" on Greenwich Street (#1-7) and the early nineteenth century group along Sage Street (#167-176). At the other end of the residential spectrum stands the extravagant Park-McCullough mansion (#177) at the southwest corner of the village, now adapted to a cultural center.

Interspersed along the residential streets of the village, a small number of religious and educational buildings constitute important visual focuses and architectural landmarks. The

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Greek Revival style Baptist Church (#79) holds the elevated position traditionally accorded Vermont village churches, rising from the height of land on its namesake Church Street. Slightly below and to the east, the twice-enlarged North Bennington School (#86) extends along School Street, now lacking many of its original Italianate features. The largest church in the village, the High Victorian Gothic style Congregational Church (#66), thrusts its abruptly vertical form above the intersection of School and Bank Streets. To the east on Houghton Street, the modestly eclectic (and towerless) Roman Catholic Church (#48) exerts a less dramatic influence on its neighborhood.

Most of the commercial buildings along Main Street share the Greek Revival or Italianate characteristics, materials, and scale of the predominant residential buildings. Only three brick commercial blocks exist in the historic district, and they represent three disparate fashions of commercial architecture spanning the latter seventy years of the nineteenth century. They range from a circa 1833 Greek temple of commerce (#113; now Powers' Market) to the elaborate High Victorian Italianate style Catamount Bank (#50) built in 1864 to the plain Commercial style Dwyer Block (#36) of 1903.

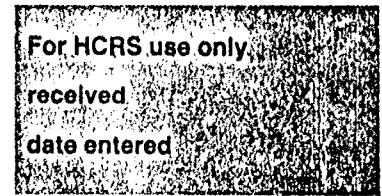
The few surviving industrial buildings in the historic district represent a variety of enterprises and building types, and none remains in its original use. The stone former Stark Paper Mill (#124; previously a grist mill, now converted to a residential complex) is the only extant example of the early nineteenth century water-powered mills that gave North Bennington its industrial character; this mill was constructed in 1833 on the site of the first mill in the village (built circa 1770). Situated next upstream of the Stark mill, the wood-framed Walbridge Red Mill (#129; now being converted to an educational center) represents especially the stereoscope manufacturing that flourished in North Bennington during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. On a third mill site along Paran Creek (at the corner of Sage and North Streets) there now stands a brick factory (#164) constructed in 1920 to replace a large circa 1850 three-story, wood-frame textile factory destroyed by fire in 1913; the original mill on this site was built in 1811 and may have been the first cotton mill in Vermont.

Former milldams remain in place at two sites in the historic district: one at the former Stark Paper Mill (rebuilt in concrete in 1913) and the other immediately upstream of the Prospect Street bridge. Both dams have lost their original function of providing water to drive mill wheels; moreover the Prospect Street dam has also lost both of the mills that formerly stood next to its ends, the south bank site now converted to a small park and the north bank site now being occupied by the fire station (#119). Nevertheless, the dams and millponds remain important scenic resources in North Bennington's contemporary environment.

The buildings in the North Bennington Historic District are maintained almost universally in good condition. Several have been altered somewhat by the removal of porches or ornamental details, in some cases done to facilitate the application of metal or composition siding - notably the Roman Catholic rectory (#47) and the Congregational parsonage (#67). During recent years, preservation and rehabilitation have become more prevalent; several prominent buildings - including the former firehouse (#127), the Park-McCullough House (#177), the former railroad station (#18), Stark Paper Mill (#124), and Walbridge Red Mill (#129) - have undergone refurbishment and adaptation to contemporary uses. (A more detailed discussion of this preservation activity appears in Section 8.)

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The buildings and structures included in the North Bennington Historic District are as follows (numbers refer to enclosed sketch map):

1-7. "Brick Row" complex (Greenwich Street). This complex of seven duplex houses was built circa 1867 by the North Bennington Boot and Shoe Company for the employees of its large factory at the foot of Main Street (now the site of the McCullough Library, #105). Originally the complex contained two additional buildings, both of which have been demolished: a brick duplex that stood on the north side of Greenwich Street at the east end of the row and, directly to its north along a cul-de-sac, the only four-tenement block in the complex (also brick).

Five of the existing houses (#3-7) are constructed of brick, the other two being wood-framed. The brick houses share a common design with some Italianate Revival characteristics and retain most of their original fabric. Oriented parallel to the street, the six-bay houses stand on stone foundations and rise two stories to the bracketed cornices of jerkinhead roofs that are sheathed with slate shingles; houses #3 and 6 retain their original paneled interior end chimneys with corbeled caps while #4, 5, and 7 have rebuilt chimneys. The door and six-over-six window openings are segmental-arched; heavy marble lintels mark the cellar windows, except for brick lintels on house #6. A shed-roofed entrance porch with bracketed posts and balustrade shelters the central side-by-side doorways beneath a center gable ornamented by scrollwork at its peak. On the rear of each house, a one-story brick ell provides a private entrance porch for each tenement.

The two wood-framed houses (#1 and 2) stand on the south side of the street at the east end of the row. They share the basic characteristics of the brick houses on a slightly smaller scale although they lack most of the ornamental details; these two houses are now sheathed with composition siding.

8. Reuben Green House (Greenwich Street): post-1894, 2½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roofs with slate shingles, bull's-eye windows in gable ends, porch across west elevation, around southwest corner.

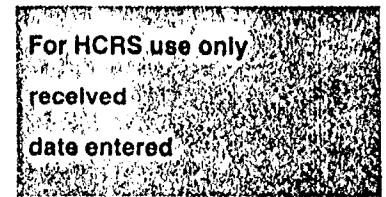
9. Walsh House (Main Street): post-1894, 2½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some rows imbricated), porch across west elevation, around northwest corner, 1½-story east wing.

10. Ciocca House (Main Street): pre-1869, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, porch across east elevation, around southeast corner.

11. Milo C. Huling House (66 Main Street): Built by William E. Hawks prior to 1869, this two-story, five-bay house is wood-framed and sheathed with clapboards. Rising above a scroll-bracketed, denticulated cornice, its hipped roof is shingled with imbricated slate and capped by a raised deck (whose original perimeter cresting has been removed). The first story windows are segmental-arched, including a bay window with a bracketed cornice at the southeast corner of the house. A veranda extends across the east facade; from a jig-sawn balustrade, slotted posts rise between large jig-sawn curvilinear brackets to support a full entablature with a paired bracketed cornice. The veranda shelters a central round-arched, double-leaf main doorway. Attached to the west elevation of the house is a 1½-story, gable-roofed ell with an entrance porch on its south elevation.

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11A. Huling Carriage Barn: One of the few elaborate carriage barns remaining in the North Bennington Historic District, this two and one-half story, wood-frame, clapboarded barn stands to the southwest of the Huling House. Its gable roof rises above a bracketed cornice and is shingled with imbricated slate. Atop the roof stands a square louvered cupola also with a bracketed cornice; it is crowned by a weather vane in the form of a horse. The east facade of the barn is dominated by a central gabled pavilion entered by double doors.

12. Shanahan House (63 Main Street): pre-1856, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-framed, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, porch around west elevation.

12A. Shanahan Barn: 1½ stories, wood-framed, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles.

13. Darling House (59 Main Street): pre-1856, 1½ stories, wood-framed, clapboarded, cross-gable roof, 1½-story east ell with south entrance porch.

14. Edward D. Welling House (58 Main Street): This large Italianate Revival style house dominates upper Main Street from its position on a knoll above the railroad. Constructed by Norman Douglas after 1869, the wood-framed, clapboarded house is two stories high and extends five bays across its symmetrically arranged east facade. Its hipped roof rises from a heavy paired bracketed cornice to a deck encircled by a perimeter cresting.

Fenestration consists mostly of two-over-two sash enframed by molded surrounds, with those on the first story of the main facade being segmental-arched. Beneath a small center gable punctuated by a bull's-eye, a gabled entrance porch supported by triplet paneled posts shelters the semi-elliptical-arched, double-leaf main doorway, itself enframed by a rectangular molded surround. Originally a veranda extended across the facade, its slotted posts supporting a bracketed cornice surmounted by a center gable above the entrance.

Attached to the west elevation of the house is a two-story, gable-roofed ell with an entrance porch on its north elevation; a one-story solarium projects from its south elevation. The house has been adapted to a residence for Bennington College students.

14A. E.D. Welling Carriage Barn: 1½ stories, wood-framed, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, bracketed cornice, overhead door added to east facade.

15. former Marshall's Garage (Main Street): This wood-framed, mostly stuccoed building has been severely altered to suit various disparate uses, making it an example of incompatible adaptation. Built with Italianate Revival features prior to 1869 as the North Bennington Hotel (located conveniently across the track from the depot), it originally rose two clapboarded stories (three stories on the south elevation) to a hip roof topped by a square cupola. A two-story polygonal pavilion projected from its northwest corner, abutting a veranda with jig-sawn balustrade that extended across the main (west) facade and turned the corner to become a two-story gallery on the trackside (south) elevation.

Probably during the 1910's, the building was converted to a trucking company garage, being reduced in the process to its present one-story height (two stories on the south elevation) with a flat roof surmounted by a high parapet carrying a prominent projecting cornice; the veranda has been enclosed on the west and removed from the south elevation. The building was converted again circa 1970 to contain offices and, more recently, a restaurant.

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16. Whitman's Feed Store (off Greenwich Street): post-1869, 2 stories, wood-framed, clapboarded, gable roof, 1-story north wing, enclosed loading dock on track (east) side. This building was originally constructed for a soap factory, another of North Bennington's defunct nineteenth century industries.
17. Vermont Railway freight house (off Houghton Street): Probably erected prior to 1869, this one-story, wood-framed, clapboarded building rises from a marble block foundation to a hip roof shingled with slate; deep roof overhangs supported by outriggers shelter three loading bays arranged along each side of the building. On the west end, the building terminates in a polygonal office bay capped by a pyramidal roof; its windows and doors are headed by rectangular transoms.
18. former North Bennington Depot (Vermont Railway track and Main Street): This building was entered in the National Register on April 11, 1973.
19. U.S. Post Office (Main Street): 1957, 1-story, brick, flat roof, surrounded by paved yard. Does not contribute to historic character of district.
20. Coal shed (Depot Street): post-1869, 1-story, wood-frame, shed roof, elevator tower on track (north) side.
21. former Stark Paper Company storehouse (Depot Street): post-1869, 1½ stories, three loading bays along sides, wood-frame, metal sheathing (also cornices), gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), ornate cylindrical metal ventilator near each end of ridge, 1-story east wing.
22. Frank Green House (Depot Street): post-1869, 1½ stories, three bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story east ell with entrance porch.
23. House (Depot Street): post-1869, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, flat roof with bracketed cornice, porch on north facade with turned posts.
24. House (Depot Street): post-1869, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof, porch on north facade with bracketed slotted posts, 1-story east ell.
25. Bake Shop House (Main Street): pre-1856, 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof, enclosed entrance porch on west facade.
26. House (48 Main Street): post-1894, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, flat roof, prominent cornice with terminal brackets above floriated frieze, porch on east facade with bracketed turned posts; porch shelters bay window and entrance recessed into north elevation.
27. W. Bernice Simmons House (46 Main Street): post-1894, similar to #26 with facade arranged in mirror image and triplet windows on second story; porch rebuilt with boxed posts.

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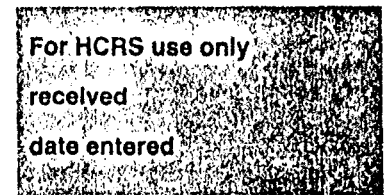
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28. House (45 Main Street): post-1894, 2½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof with slate shingles, porch on west facade, bay window on south elevation.
29. Frederick Simmons House (42-44 Main Street): pre-1869, 2 stories, 3 bays on main block, wood-frame, clapboarded, flat roof with denticulated cornice; segmental-arched labeled windows, paneled porch on east facade, similar-scale 3-bay north wing, 1-story west wing.
30. H. Clayton Simmons House (40 Main Street): pre-1856, Greek Revival, 2½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, pedimented east facade, corner pilasters support full entablature at eaves; 1-story flat-roofed south wing added with enclosed east entrance porch; built by G.W. Simmons.
- 30A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, two open stalls on south facade.
31. Dr. Edward A. Tobin House (Main Street): pre-1856, main block similar to #30, slate shingles with some imbricated courses, hooded double-leaf main (west) doorway, complex 1-story south wing added with entrance porches, bracketed bay window, 1-story east wing with entrance porch; built by Gardner S. Wright. The Greek Revival main block of this house appears similar to that of #30 across the street, however, it has been encrusted with additions bearing Italianate details (including the main entrance).
- 31A. Carriage Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof.
32. Willis' Garage or former Simmons Boiler Shop (38 Main Street): Constructed by H. Clayton Simmons in 1900, this two-story, wood-frame, clapboarded commercial block originally contained another of North Bennington's industrial enterprises - the manufacture of Simmons' patented fire-tube steam boiler. The building remained in that use until circa 1940, subsequently being converted with only minor alterations to a garage and gas station.
- A prominent, stamped-metal cornice with a swag-and-triglyph motif encircles the building, constituting its principal ornamental feature; an original sign parapet bearing Simmons' name has been removed from the east facade. A similar smaller-scale cornice surmounts the first story of the facade, rising above the transoms of the recessed double-leaf main doorway, the flanking display window, and the side-bay doorway to the upper floor. On the south elevation, large overhead doors have been installed to provide access to the service stalls. A 1½ story, gable-roofed wing is attached to the west elevation.
- 32A. former H. C. Simmons foundry (off Main Street): 1914, 1-story, concrete block, hip roof; metal smokestack at north end.
33. Cobblestone or Dr. Newton House (Main Street): The most distinctive residential component of the Main streetscape, this house displays an unusual blend of cobblestone facing and Carpenter Gothic stylistic features. Warren Dutcher, a local entrepreneur and inventor, built the house in 1848 - and then raffled it for tickets costing one dollar each.

The L-plan house rises one and three-quarter stories to a steeply pitched cross gable roof, whose bargeboards are decorated with pendant finials. The exterior wall surfaces are faced

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with coursed cobblestones of two sizes enframed at the corners by brick quoins; dressed stone is used for window lintels and sills and the water table. An enclosed entrance porch occupies the interior corner between the main blocks. A one-story, clapboarded, flat-roofed wing is attached to the rear (east) elevation.

33A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof.

34. Fannie Hinsdill House: pre-1856, 1½ stories, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof with two gabled dormers on east slope, bracketed canopy over main (east) entrance, 1-story west ell; large window on right side of east facade reflects former use as barber shop.

35. Stone House (28 Main Street): The only stone example of its type within the North Bennington Historic District, this finely detailed Greek Revival style house was constructed probably circa 1840. The 1½-story house is oriented with its three-bay east gable front to the street, the coursed rubble wall being complemented by dressed stone lintels, sills, and water table. The central doorway is flanked by pilasters that support a full entablature with a denticulated cornice beneath the stone lintel. The side elevations of the house are distinguished by a full entablature that terminates with the partial cornice returns on the main facade; only the denticulated cornice continues along the raking edges of the slate-shingled roof.

A one-story, wood-frame, flush-boarded ell projects from the north elevation of the house replete with classical detailing, including corner pilasters, full entablature, and a pediment on the north gable end. On the opposite elevation, a similar-scale but plainer ell contains a balustraded entrance porch next to a garage bay.

36. Dwyer Block (Main Street): 3 stories, 4 bays, brick, stone foundation, steps, sills, and lintels, flat roof with prominent stamped metal cornice; west facade marked by recessed wall plane enframed by corner piers and corbeled brickwork below cornice.

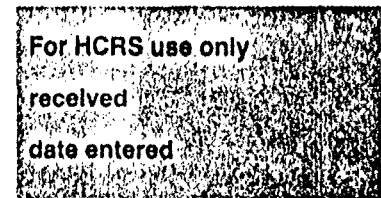
The only brick example of the Commercial style in the historic district, this commercial block was erected in 1903 by H. C. Simmons diagonally across the street from his boiler shop (#32). Recently the first story of its facade has been altered by the addition of an inappropriate false mansard and the partial infilling with brick of the original storefronts.

37. Morris Block (Main Street): The most elaborately detailed example of a wood-frame, flat-roofed commercial block in the North Bennington Historic District, this post-1886, two-story, clapboarded building presents to the street a west facade almost fully shielded by a large two-story porch. The first story is occupied by two storefronts with central entrances; transom lights surmount both the doors and windows. The chamfered-post, bracketed porch rises to an intermediate cornice, above which its jig-sawn-balustraded upper level shelters the four-bay second story of the building. A prominent bracketed, denticulated cornice set between figured terminal brackets projects above the porch roof. On the north elevation, an outside staircase ascends to the second story.

38. Panos Block (Main Street): post-1886, built by Fred L. Bottom, 2½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, 3-bay main block marked by bull's-eye in west gable front and altered first story (inappropriate new windows); north ell (attached also to Morris Block, #37) has storefront with embayed display windows flanking central entrance under shed roof.

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39. Rich House (Houghton Street): pre-1886, 2½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, porch across south facade, around southwest corner, 1-story east ell (garage).
40. Lowre House (Houghton Street): pre-1894, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses); ex-barn attached to north elevation has similar shingles, various alterations.
41. Mary Meagher House (Houghton Street): pre-1856, Greek Revival, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), corner pilasters; main (south) entrance has recessed sidelighted doorway enframed by paneled pilasters supporting denticulated cornice; 1-story west wing with turned-post/balustraded porch, 1½-story north wing; built by Warren Dutcher.
42. Austin House (Houghton Street): c. 1930's, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gambrel roof with shed dormer, pilastered main (south) doorway.
43. Young House (Houghton Street): post-1894, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, hip roof with slate shingles, porch on south facade.
44. McGuire House (Houghton Street): post-1894, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, hip roof with slate shingles, columned porch on south facade, bay window on east elevation, enclosed north porch.
45. Stevens House (Houghton Street): post-1894, 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), entrance porch on west elevation, 1976 2-story south wing.
46. Coy House (Houghton Street): pre-1856, double house on T-plan, 2½ stories, 6 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof parallel to street with slate shingles, full pediment on each gable end; central pavilion on north facade has first story entrance porch and 2-bay second story under projecting pedimented center gable; rear entrance porch at each interior corner between blocks of house.
47. Roman Catholic Rectory (Houghton Street): pre-1869, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, metal siding, hip roof with deck, center gable on north slope, bay window on east elevation, 1-story wing on west elevation, 1½-story wing on south elevation; altered by removal of slotted-post, bracketed porch around north, west elevations along with other ornamental details and replacement of windows; moved from site of church (#48) prior to its construction.
48. St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church (Houghton Street): The most recent of North Bennington's churches, this modest brick structure was erected in 1928 to replace a previous church located on Water Street. The architect, John P. Heffernan of Boston, applied Romanesque ornamental details to a stone-trimmed brick shell capped by a slate-shingled gable roof.

The north facade is dominated by a slightly projecting central entrance pavilion that culminates in a gable-peaked bellcote with a round-arched bell chamber. The double-leaf entrance is sheltered by a gabled canopy whose stilted round-arched ceiling is supported

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by stone columns. Paired round-headed windows set between colonnettes in stone surrounds flank the stone-banded pavilion and are flanked in turn by stylized brick buttresses at the corners of the building. Paired and triplet round-headed, stone-silled windows range along the side elevations, grouped between buttresses. Small entrance pavilions define the rear corners of the original block; a more recent south extension at the same scale is marked by paired flat-topped windows.

49. Gingerbread or Houghton House (Houghton Street): This excellent example of the Carpenter Gothic style is set picturesquely on a low knoll, shielded from the street by ornamental shrubs and shade trees. Built prior to 1856 by Dwight Corkrin, and long owned by the Houghton family, the wood-frame, clapboarded house stands one and three-quarter stories under a steeply pitched cross-gable roof shingled with imbricated patterned slate, its trefoil scalloped bargeboards converging on pendant finials at the gable peaks. An elaborately decorated veranda surrounds the north and west elevations; its trellised posts rise through a low jig-sawn balustrade to delicate brackets at the eaves. On the east elevation, a one-story, flat-roofed wing detracts from the strongly vertical proportions of the house.

49A. Carriage Barn: To the east of the Gingerbread House stands its 1½-story, wood-frame, clapboarded carriage barn on a T-plan. The steeply pitched cross-gable roof is shingled with slate; its raking edges are embellished with wave-patterned bargeboards.

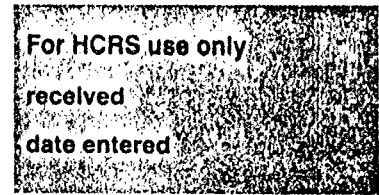
50. First National (now Catamount) Bank (Bank and Main Streets): The pivotal component of North Bennington's commercial center, this handsome High Victorian Italianate style commercial block defines the north corner of Bank and Main streets with its south facade facing the intersection. Erected in 1864, the two-story brick structure is trimmed with brownstone and capped by a metal-sheathed hip roof.

The eight-bay south facade is articulated by two slightly projecting single-bay pavilions arranged symmetrically among three flanking two-bay recessed panels. On the first story, the window and door openings are round-headed with brownstone labels and sills; those on the upper story are segmental-arched. Occupying the left pavilion, the main entrance consists of a double-leaf doorway surmounted by a semicircular fanlight, the whole enframed by a quoined and keystone brownstone surround. The projection of the pavilions is carried upward through the denticulated cornice, with each cornice projection defined by paired scrolled brackets and surmounted by a segmental pediment displaying a heraldic emblem; the paired brackets occur also at the corners of the building.

The bank block has been altered somewhat both in appearance and use. Originally the building contained the village post office in the three-bay Main Street (east) end; its central pavilion entrance (similar to that on the south facade) has since been removed - along with the post office - and replaced by a window. Another similar entrance originally occupied the right pavilion on the south facade, leading to a public hall on the second story; that entrance has also been replaced with a window. Other prominent features have been removed from the building's roof: a balustrade formerly enclosed its perimeter, and three paneled chimneys with corbeled caps stood symmetrically along the south slope. Recently the building has been apparently sandblasted, exposing the brick to increased spalling.

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In recent decades, a one-story, flat-roofed, brick office wing with round-headed windows has been added to the west end of the building. On the rear (north) elevation, a vehicle service window has been installed with a large flat-roofed shelter above the parallel driveway. To clear the site for the latter, the Greek Revival style Meagher Store was demolished in 1964; that wood-frame, clapboarded building rose 2½ stories to a gable roof with a full pediment above its Main Street storefront.

51. White Apartments (9 Bank Street): The first house built (by James Elwell) on the newly opened Bank Street in 1851, this Italianate Revival style, wood-frame, clapboarded house rises two stories on a cruciform plan to a cross-gable roof shingled with slate. The gable peaks display jig-sawn screens surmounted by finials; similar forms appear on the corner brackets of the modillion cornice. A similarly bracketed, chamfered-post veranda with a jig-sawn balustrade surrounds the south facade and west elevation. A two-story bay window with a modillion cornice dominates the east elevation. At the rear of the house, a two-story ell extends eastward with a two-story enclosed porch facing the street.

The house has been subdivided internally to contain apartments, with the ell having been enlarged for that purpose. A large carriage barn formerly stood to the rear of the house; in 1917-18 it was moved forward to the street line on the west side of the house and converted to a fraternal lodge (#52).

52. Masonic Lodge (Bank Street): The former carriage barn of #51 until it was moved and converted to its present use in 1917-18, this two-story, three-bay, wood-frame, clapboarded building has a cross-gable roof shingled with slate; the main (south) gable peak is decorated with a jig-sawn screen while the side cross-gables display ornamental stickwork. Atop the cross of the roof stands a square louvered cupola bearing a modillion cornice and a horse weathervane. A hip-roofed entrance porch has been added to the main facade along with second-story windows; the original carriage entrance has been infilled.

53. Edward Phillips House (Bank Street): pre-1869, 2½ stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, room-height windows on first story of south facade, 1-story east entrance wing with attached ell (shed) to rear; built by Brad Sherwood.

53A. Carriage Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, board and batten, gable roof.

54. Gaul House (15 Bank Street): pre-1869, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), gabled pavilion on east elevation with bay window, entrance porch on south facade, 1-story ell on north elevation.

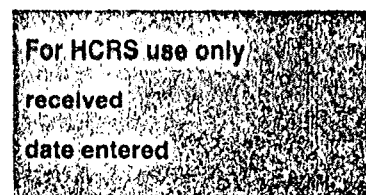
54A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof.

55. Myron Jones House (17 Bank Street): c. 1910, 2 stories, wood-frame; clapboarded on first story, wood-shingled on second; hip roof with slate shingles, dormers on west, east slopes, shingled entrance porch on south facade, shingled enclosed porch on east elevation.

56. Loveland House (19 Bank Street): post-1894, 2 stories, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof with slate shingles, 2-story entrance porch on south facade, 1-story north wing.

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57. Hanrahan House (21 Bank Street): post-1894, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, porch with bracketed turned posts on south facade.

58. Russell House (23 Bank Street): pre-1894, 2 stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), entrance porch on east elevation.

59. Grocery store (Bank Street and Vermont Route 67): c. 1920's, enlarged 1979, 1 story, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, converted from gas station. Does not contribute to historic character of district.

60. former Bennington and Hoosick Valley Railway carbarn (Bank Street and Vermont Route 67): The Bennington and Hoosick Valley Railway Company erected this one-story, four-stall, brick carbarn in 1897 at the junction of its electric trolley line and the main line railroad through North Bennington. Oriented parallel to the railroad, the building faces Bank Street with its east facade still showing remnants of the original round-arched stall openings. The trolley line was abandoned after a disastrous flood in 1927; subsequently the building has been altered somewhat and adapted to other uses.

On the facade, the left pair of stall openings has been infilled with concrete block although the original arches remain in place. The right pair has been nearly obliterated by brick infilling to accommodate a later rectangular doorway; the latter in turn has been infilled with concrete block. A marble plaque bearing the inscription "B. & H. V. Ry. Co. 1897" remains inset on the gable end. The top of the brick wall is articulated by corbeled string courses and a saw-tooth course that meet the eaves of the shallow-pitched gable roof.

The north (trackside) elevation is subdivided by brick piers into eight uniform panels, each occupied by a segmental-arched, marble-silled square window. A three-bay, shed-roofed brick wing along the west end of the wall has been extended eastward with concrete block and its original windows have been infilled. The south elevation lacks piers but its fenestration corresponds to that on the opposite wall. The west elevation has been completely sheathed with inappropriate materials and now contains the main entrance to the building.

61. Sidney Colvin House (24 Bank Street): 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, 1-story flat-roofed east wing with recessed north entrance porch, 1-story gable-roofed south wing with east entrance porch. Built by Sidney Colvin in 1855, this Greek Revival style house is set back from the street amid shade trees. Its stylistic features include corner pilasters that support a full entablature and, on its north facade, a recessed main doorway with sidelights and transom enframed by paneled pilasters and a denticulated cornice.

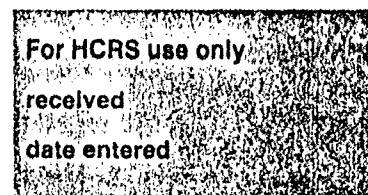
61A. Barn: wood-frame, flush vertical boards, gable roof. The barn stands to the west of the house at the edge of a large open meadow that flanks this northwest corner of the village.

62. Krum House (16 Bank Street): pre-1869, 2½ stories, 5 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, entrance porch on north facade with turned posts, porch on east elevation with turned posts, 1½-story south ell; built by Charles Colvin.

63. Ralph Jones House (14 Bank Street): pre-1869, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story east wing with recessed north entrance porch, 1-story south wing with enclosed east porch. Standing at the facade line of the

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street, this Greek Revival style house repeats closely the design of the Sidney Colvin House (#61) to the west, bearing the same ornamental features.

64. Amy Surdam House (12 Bank Street): pre-1856, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof, 1-story east wing with recessed main entrance porch (jig-sawn balustrade), 1-story south wing with enclosed east-west porches; built by A. Safford. This Greek Revival style house repeats the basic form and ornamental features of #63 and 61 but lacks the main doorway on its north elevation.

64A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof.

65. Herbert White House (10 Bank Street): pre-1856, duplex (converted from single house), 1½ stories, 6 bays with center entrance for each apartment, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, slotted-post, turned-balustraded porch on north facade, 1-story, shed-roofed south wing.

66. Congregational Church (Bank and School Streets): Standing at the corner of Bank and School streets, the Congregational Church exhibits a fully developed High Victorian Gothic style expressed polychromatically in brick, marble, slate, and wood, ranking it among the most elaborate buildings in North Bennington. A Boston architect, S. S. Woodcock, designed the church, which cost \$15,000 to built in 1873. Its strongly vertical composition, emphasized by a multi-stage bell tower and spire at its northeast corner, gives the church a dominant presence in the area just west of the upper Main Street commercial cluster.

Aside from the tower, the north gable facade is distinguished by a huge pointed-arch central panel inset with a large stained-glass wheel window surmounted by a smaller circle of blind quatrefoil tracery. Centered below is a band of five slender pointed-arch windows trimmed with marble. The wall plane is framed by marble-capped buttresses and a marble water table (the latter encircles the church). A hip-roofed entrance vestibule is recessed into the northwest corner of the building; its double-leaf doorway is balanced by another in the first story of the tower at the opposite corner.

The square brick tower rises between culminating buttresses and paired pointed-arch windows on the second story to a third-story bell chamber marked by pointed-arch louvered openings. The tower is capped by a spire that rises through a tapered slate-sheathed base stage with pointed-arch blind tracery panels to an intermediate straight-sided stage with circular panels and ultimately to a slate-sheathed bellcast pyramidal peak.

The single-story side elevations display a range of pointed-arch, marble-silled windows below a denticulated cornice. Balancing the entrance vestibule at the northwest corner, a side gable projects above a buttressed wall panel at the southwest corner of the church. The steeply pitched main roof is shingled with polychrome slate; a range of four triangular dormers is interspersed with diamond slate figures at mid-slope, bounded both above and below by polychrome imbricated bands.

Attached to the rear (south) elevation of the church is a later one-story, flat-roofed brick wing containing offices and meeting rooms; a similar extension to the southeast contains a kitchen.

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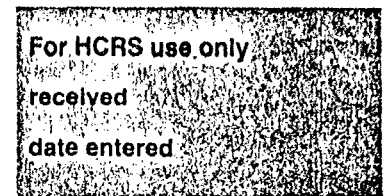
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67. Congregational Parsonage (6 Bank Street): pre-1856, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, metal siding, cross-gable roof with slate shingles, bay window on east elevation. 2-story south wing with recessed southeast corner entrance. This house shares the cruciform plan and proportions of the White Apartments (#51) diagonally across the street although its ornamentation (including corner pilasters and partial cornice returns) is more conservatively classical. Its north-facade Italianate veranda also appears similar to that on the other house, with chamfered posts rising through a jig-sawn balustrade to a denticulated cornice with a projecting pavilion over the central steps. Another run of the veranda originally followed the east elevation from a side entrance to common steps at the northeast corner of the house.
68. Gas station (Bank and Main Streets): c. 1960, 1 story, brick facing, flat roof with false mansard; set back from street amid large paved yard; built on site of demolished Hotel White. Does not contribute to historic character of district.
69. Ross House (1 Church Street): 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof, entrance porch on east facade, 1-story, shed-roofed south wing.
70. Toomey House (Church Street): Bungalow, 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, stuccoed, gable roof with slate shingles, gabled wood-shingled dormer on east slope, bracketed eaves, bay window on north elevation, enclosed porch on east facade under extension of roof.
71. Davis House (Church Street): post-1894, 2 stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded on first story, wood-shingled on second, hip roof with gabled dormer on east slope, enclosed porch on east facade, entrance porch on south elevation.
72. Dr. Woodhull House (Church Street): post-1869, 2½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof, enclosed porch on west facade, entrance porch on south elevation.
73. Bazino House (6 Church Street): post-1869, 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, porch on west facade, 1-story east wing with south entrance porch.
74. Parker House (5 Church Street): pre-1869, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, flat roof, paired scroll-bracketed cornice, porch on east facade with bracketed turned posts, balustrade.
75. McCarthy House (7 Church Street): pre-1869, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, hip roof with slate shingles, paired scroll-bracketed cornice, raised paneled frieze, slate-shingled porch on east facade with bracketed turned posts, 2-story, gable-roofed west wing with north entrance porch.
76. Welch House (9-11 Church Street): pre-1894, duplex, 2½ stories, 4 bays with center entrances, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles; 3 wood-shingled, pedimented dormers break cornice on east slope (larger center dormer has two bays); porch on each facade, 1½-story west ell.

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77. Vetal House (12 Church Street): pre-1894, 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, pedimented entrance porch on west facade with turned posts, 1½-story north ell with west entrance porch.

77A. Shed: 1-story, wood-frame, novelty siding, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses).

78. Howe House (13 Church Street): pre-1869, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, sidelighted doorway on east facade; turned-post/balustraded porch curves around east facade into bracketed slotted-post extension on south elevation; 1-story west wing with south bay window, garage attached to wing.

79. Baptist Church (Church Street): The Baptist Church and its adjacent parsonage (#80) occupy the height of land along Church Street, overlooking most of the village to the east. Built in 1845 a short distance to the west at the corner of West and Park streets, the church was moved to its present site in 1865. The Greek Revival style, wood-frame, clapboarded building presents its three-bay pedimented east gable front to the street; a central rectangular stained glass window (similar to the three arranged along each side elevation) is flanked by identical doorways in the side bays, each enframed by pilasters and denticulated entablatures. The corners of the building are defined by pilasters that support a full entablature; the latter is carried also along the raking edges of the gable roof. Astride the east end of the ridge stands a two-stage square tower; its pilastered base stage displays blank clock faces while the pilastered upper stage is marked by a louvered bell chamber and crowned by corner pinnacles.

Attached to the west elevation is a two-story, gable-roofed wing. A one-story, clapboarded, gable-roofed chapel ell was added to the wing in 1972, oriented to Hall Street; this addition stands near the site of wood-frame horse sheds that formerly stood behind the church.

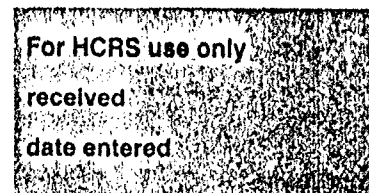
80. Baptist Parsonage (Church Street): c. 1890, L-plan, 2½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), entrance porch on east facade with turned posts, balustrade, bay window on south elevation, 2-story, flat-roofed west wing. This house displays a simplified expression of the Queen Anne style, a style not much used in North Bennington owing to the earlier nineteenth century development of the village. On the east gable front, a two-story bay window with diagonally boarded span-drels rises to a projecting pediment infilled with stickwork surrounding a slender strip window; the south gable is decorated similarly.

80A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses).

81. Harrington House (West and Church Streets): 1847, 1½ stories, 3 bays, brick, stone lintels, sills, steps, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses); 1-story, wood-framed, clapboarded north wing. This house represents the Greek Revival style expressed in brick, an uncommon association in North Bennington. A corbeled denticulated cornice constitutes its principal stylistic feature, complemented by square pillars on the entrance porches of the one-story brick wings that flank the main block (itself lacking corner pilasters). Prior to the construction of the present parsonage circa 1890, this house served as the Baptist parsonage, facing the original site of the church across West Street.

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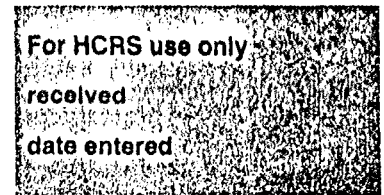
- 81A. Garage: c. 1970, 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof. Does not contribute to historic character of district.
82. Van Ben Thuysen House (West Street): pre-1856, Greek Revival, 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roofs; corner pilasters support full entablature on main block; 1½-story east ell with pilastered recessed south entrance porch, enclosed porch on west elevation, 1½-story north ell; built by Nathaniel Hall.
83. Prospect School (Park Street): original block pre-1856 (built by Martin B. Scott), 1½ stories, 5 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with wood shingles, 3 paired-window dormers on west slope, corner pilasters; entrance porch on west facade shelters sidelighted doorway; 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed north, south wings. Formerly part of the Park-McCullough estate across the street and known as "The Lodge," this house has been converted to a private school and encrusted with several substantial additions; a 1 3/4 story east block now dominates the building.
- 83A. Garage: 1-story, concrete block, wood-framed gable roof. Does not contribute to historic character of district.
84. Ashael Salmon House (School and West Streets): pre-1869, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof, 2 shed dormers on east slope, gable entrance pavilion on east facade, bay window on south elevation.
85. Knapp House (15-17 School Street): post-1894, 2 stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, hip roof with slate shingles capped by small deck, dormer on east slope, enclosed entrance porch on east facade, recessed bay window with corner pendant to left of porch; 2½-story, gable-roofed (slate shingles) north wing with bull's-eye in gable end and east entrance porch.
86. North Bennington School (School Street): This large two-story (plus exposed basement) brick elementary school extends nine bays across its east facade. The symmetrical facade is subdivided into two three-bay gabled pavilions flanking a flat-roofed central section distinguished by triple overscaled, round-arched, fanlighted, multi-paned windows that light a ground-story gymnasium. The second-story fenestration on the central section consists of paired marble-silled, straight-topped sash, repeated in the central bays on both stories of the pavilions; the side-bay pavilion sash are segmental-arched, and a bull's-eye punctuates each gable end.

The south gabled pavilion constitutes the original block of the school, erected in 1871 with Italianate Revival ornamentation. However, only the stained outline remains of a paired scroll-bracketed, denticulated cornice; an ornate square louvered cupola with matching cornice and capped by a bellcast truncated pyramidal roof with crested deck has been displaced by a circular metal ventilator (presumably in 1930, when the school was expanded to its present size). On the seven-bay south elevation, the original recessed segmental-arched, marble-silled fenestration survives, repeated on the 1898 three-bay annex at the southwest corner. An iron-pillared main entrance porch occupies the interior corner of the intersecting blocks, continuing their marble water table. The gable front of the original block has been disfigured by the addition of a two-story steel fire escape and a projecting basement entrance vestibule.

The school is sited about equidistant from School Street at its front and Church Street at its rear. The front grounds remain landscaped with ornamental shrubs and shade trees while the rear yard has been paved.

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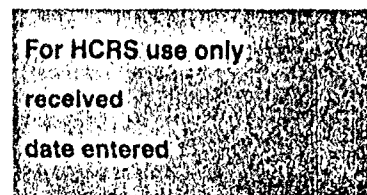
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87. Briggs House (School Street): post-1894, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with wood shingles, shed dormer on south slope, porch on west facade with slotted posts, bay window on south elevation, 1-story east wing.
88. Ransom Salmon House (School Street): post-1894, 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, enclosed porch on west facade, 1-story east wing.
89. Major Holt House (School Street): post-1894, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, hip roof with deck, 2 hipped dormers on west slope, modillion cornice, enclosed entrance porch on west facade with modillion cornice, bay window on south elevation with same cornice, 1-story east wing.
90. Sam Tessier House (16 School Street): pre-1894, 1½ stories, 5 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses); 1-story, shed-roofed east wing.
91. LaVigne House (School Street): post-1894, 1½ stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles.
92. House (West and School Streets): pre-1894, 1½ stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof with slate shingles, 1½-story north ell with full-length shed dormers.
93. Kenyon House (West Street): pre-1856, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles; pedimented gable with quadrant windows on east elevation shelters main entrance under its northeast corner; half-moon window in north gable end, paneled corner pilasters.
94. House (West Street): pre-1856, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story, shed-roofed south wing.
95. House (West Street): post-1894, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story north wing with attached hip-roofed garage.
96. House (West Street): post-1894, 1½ stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, bracketed porch on north facade, 1-story south ell.
97. Miles House (West Street): pre-1869, 1½ stories; altered from original 5 bays by "picture" window on left side of center entrance; wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, porch on south facade with bracketed turned posts, 1-story north ell.
98. House (West Street): post-1894, 2 stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, porch on north facade with bracketed chamfered posts.
99. House (West Street): post-1894, identical to #98.
100. Albert S. Hathaway House (West Street): pre-1869, 2½ stories, 3 bays, brick, gable roof with slate shingles, 2-story, wood-frame, clapboarded north wing with its own 1-story north wing; built by Amos Doty. The only Italianate Revival style brick house in the historic district, this house displays on its south gable front a main doorway flanked by

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paired fluted pilasters with intermediate sidelights and headed by a semi-elliptical fanlight, the whole sheltered by a chamfered-post entrance porch with balustrade and valance. A round-headed window occupies the gable end beneath a scroll-bracketed cornice. On the east elevation, a two-story bay window with figured surrounds rises to a bracketed cornice atop each story.

100A. Carriage Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, square louvered cupola with cross-gable roof (slate shingles), overhead doors added to west elevation.

101. House (West Street): post-1894, duplex similar to #98-99, 2½ stories, 4 bays with center entrances, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, porch on north facade with bracketed turned posts, balustrade.

102. William J. Harrington House (West Street): pre-1869, duplex, 2½ stories, 4 bays with side entrances, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, pedimented south gable, full entablature, porch on south facade with turned posts. This austere example of the Greek Revival style was constructed by Amos Doty to contain a private school and meeting hall.

103. Franklin Scott House (West Street): pre-1894, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, flat roof, bracketed cornice with paneled frieze; second-story central bay window on south facade rises through cornice; deteriorated open porch with partial scrollwork balustrade sheltered by full-length bracketed canopy with perimeter dropped fleur-de-lis; first-story windows have curvilinear paneled surrounds and spandrels, colonetted paneled bay window with bracketed cornice on east elevation.

104. House (10 West Street): c. 1940, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, gabled dormers on both slopes, entrance porch on north facade; built on site of Henry Allen's combined house/commercial block ("The Beechnut"), 2½-story, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable-roofed building razed in 1936.

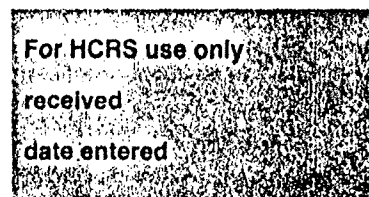
105. McCullough Library (Main and West Streets): The most prominent twentieth century building in the historic district and the only representative of the Georgian Revival style, this two-story, hip-roofed (with slate shingles) brick library stands on a marble-block foundation at the south end of Main Street, defining the west side of Lincoln Square. J. Lawrence Aspenwall of James Renwick's firm in New York designed the building; it was erected in 1920-21 and donated to the Village by the wife of John G. McCullough, a former governor of Vermont and owner of the Park-McCullough House (#178).

Oriented with its five-bay south elevation parallel to the intersecting West Street, the library presents its three-bay east facade to Main Street. A triple Corinthian-columned entrance porch with denticulated entablature and crowned by an ironwork balustrade shelters the double-leaf main doorway, itself enframed by paired Corinthian pilasters and a semi-circular fanlight. On the second story, a double-leaf doorway flanked by paired paneled pilasters and surmounted by a semicircular fanlight opens onto the porch roof. Brick quoins define the corners of the building, rising to a sub-cornice band of headers in stack bond.

The symmetrically arranged fenestration is set, on the first story, into recessed round-arched panels with marble sills, impostes, and keystones; on the West Street elevation, the three central windows are surmounted by semicircular fanlights.

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106. Dr. J. B. Armstrong House (8 Main Street): c. 1825, 2½ stories, 3 bays, brick (painted white), gable roof with slate shingles (polychrome figured band around perimeter); 2-story, wood-frame, clapboarded west wing with its own 1-story, hip-roofed south wing; 1-story north wing. This one-time boarding house built by George Briggs together with the similar George Welling House (#112) across the street represent the Federal style along the stylistically diverse Main Street. Its ornamental features are applied almost exclusively to the east gable front: a gabled entrance porch with square pillars and a semi-elliptical ceiling shelters a side-bay, sidelighted doorway surmounted by a semi-elliptical fanlight. An oval keystone, louvered fan penetrates the gable end above the regular fenestration whose openings are relieved by splayed, flat-arched lintels.

106A. Carriage Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof; overhead doors added to east elevation.

107. Dr. David Gleason House (Main Street): This elegantly detailed house built by Hiland Knapp represents a blend of Federal and Greek Revival style characteristics. The two-story, five-bay house is constructed of salmon brick laid up in Flemish bond and complemented by dressed marble lintels, sills, and water table. Its shallow-pitched gable roof is shingled with slate and surmounted by interior end chimneys with corbeled caps.

The east facade is distinguished by an Adamesque recessed central entrance whose sidelighted paneled door is sheltered by paired attenuated Ionic columns carrying an entablature embellished with a guilloche motif and surmounted by a slender small-paned transom beneath the heavy marble lintel. The guilloche motif is reiterated on a larger scale at the eaves. Attached to the rear (west) elevation is a one-story, wood-frame, clapboarded ell.

107A. Carriage Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (staggered butts).

108. Ranney House (Main Street): post-1894, 2 stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gambrel roof; second-story jetty shelters enclosed entrance porch under northeast corner.

109. former Rosier drygoods store (16 Main Street): pre-1894, 2 stories, 4 bays with two entrances, wood-frame, metal siding, flat roof, paired scroll-bracketed cornice with raised paneled frieze, similar smaller-scale cornices on east facade porch, 1-story west wing; built by Daniel O'Brien.

110. Babson House (18 Main Street): pre-1856, 2½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, blind half-moon in east gable end, paneled corner pilasters, sidelighted east entrance, enclosed entrance porch on south elevation; 1-story, flat-roofed north wing, 1½-story west wing; built by Sam C. Loomis.

111. Meagher-Brundage House (21 Main Street): pre-1856, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, hip roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), pedimented center gable on west slope, corner pilasters, molded window surrounds, room-height windows on west facade first story, west facade porch removed; 1-story, gable-roofed east wing with attached 1½-story barn (slate shingles on both with some imbricated courses); built by Levi Gould.

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112. George B. Welling House (Main and Sage Streets): A more elaborate example of the Federal style than the similar Armstrong House (#106) across the street, the two and one-half story original brick block of this house presents to Main Street a three-bay west gable front and to Sage Street a five-bay south elevation with an entrance porch. The house was built circa 1825 by G. B. Welling's elder brother, Edward M. Welling, the prominent local entrepreneur who constructed his adjacent store (#113) and nearby mill (#124) a few years later. Its gable roof is shingled with slate, with some courses being hung in an imbricated pattern; an original interior chimney with a corbeled cap rises above each end of the ridge. Now painted white, the house is approached by marble slab walks and steps.

The west gable front displays a side-bay entrance distinguished by paired engaged columns whose capitals carry a semicircular fan set in a keystone round arch. The window openings are relieved by splayed flat-arched lintels; an elliptical keystone fan punctuates the gable end. The south elevation is marked by the central gabled entrance porch whose single columns support a denticulated entablature beneath a round-arched ceiling; the doorway is enframed by pilasters carrying a semicircular fan. On the second story, a circular keystone fan is centered above the entrance porch.

Subsequent to 1890, a two and one-half story gabled pavilion has been added to the southeast corner of the house, its first and second stories being lighted by triplet windows. Also since 1890, an Italianate veranda with chamfered posts and a bracketed cornice has been removed from the south and west elevations; however, a similar entrance porch remains in place on the north elevation. Attached to the east elevation is a one and one-half story, wood-frame, clapboarded wing with an entrance porch on its south elevation.

112A. Carriage Barn: 2½ stories, wood-frame, vertical flush boards, gable roof with polychrome slate shingles (some imbricated and figured courses); overhead doors added on south elevation; 1½-story clapboarded south ell (garage).

112B. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, vertical flush boards, gable roof with slate shingles.

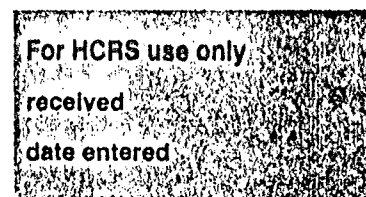
113. Powers' Market (Main and Sage Streets): A unique example (both in North Bennington and Vermont) of the early nineteenth century penchant for adapting the Greek temple form to secular uses, this two and one-half story brick (painted white) building has remained continuously a store since Edward M. Welling constructed it circa 1833. Its three-bay west gable front consists of a simplified Doric portico surmounted by a full pediment; the four smooth-faced columns are constructed of brick molded to the appropriate curvature and stand on a marble-slab porch deck that suggests a stylobate. The storefront's center entrance is flanked by slightly embayed display windows. The classical character of the portico has been impaired by the addition in the 1920's of a wood-frame extension of the second story forward to engage the columns.

The prominent entablature of the gable front is carried also around the side elevations of the building. The gable roof is shingled with slate hung partly in imbricated and patterned courses; an interior chimney stands at each end of the ridge.

A two and one-half story, wood-frame, clapboarded ell is attached to the south elevation. Its gable roof is also shingled with polychrome slate hung partly in imbricated courses

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with a figured border. At the interior corner of the two blocks, a clapboarded secondary entrance vestibule extends from the portico to the ell.

114. Storefront (Main Street): c. 1955, 1-story, concrete block, flat roof; built on site of former O'Brien Store, destroyed previously by fire. Does not contribute to historic character of district.

115. former Union Store (Main Street): c. 1820?, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof; slightly embayed display windows flank central entrance on west facade; outside staircase to second story on north elevation. The middle (and probably the oldest) member of an extraordinary row of three similar neoclassical commercial blocks (#113, 115, 116) that define the east side of Lincoln Square, this former general store was originally constructed by a stock or union company on the opposite side of the square at the corner of Main and West Streets (now the site of the McCullough Library, #105). When the North Bennington Boot and Shoe Company factory was erected on that lot in 1867, the store was moved across the square to its present site. Subsequently it has served a variety of commercial uses, including Horton's plumbing shop and Ciocca's fruit market, until recently being converted to a residence.

116. Percey's Store (Main and Prospect Streets): Similar both in scale and style to Powers' Market (#113) at the opposite end of the neoclassical commercial row, this 2½-story, three-bay, wood-frame, composition-sided store was built prior to 1852 by P. L. Robinson. This building differs from its counterpart in the stylistic interpretation of its west gable front: instead of a Doric portico, it displays prominent corner pilasters and a flush second story beneath its entablature and pediment. The first-story storefront consists of four double-doored bays delineated by paneled pilasters, surmounted by slender transoms, and now sheltered by an added full-width canopy suspended beneath the original first-story cornice.

The rear (east) elevation is marked by three loading doorways aligned vertically beneath a hoist at the projecting gable peak. The gable roof is shingled in slate hung with some imbricated courses. A one-story, clapboarded, flat-roofed wing is attached to the north elevation.

117. former Andrew J. Nash blacksmith shop (Nash Street): pre-1894, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles; overhead door added to original double-leaf doorway on west facade.

118. former Shanahan's livery stable (Nash Street): post-1894, 2½ stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, novelty siding, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), conical-capped metal ventilator atop ridge, first-story range of small stable windows on rear (east) elevation.

119. North Bennington fire station (Prospect Street): 1965, Benjamin Thompson, architect; 3 bays, brick, flat roof, articulated chimney shaft' at northwest corner, 3 engine stalls on west facade.

120. Bevis House (Water Street): pre-1856, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, gabled entrance porch on east facade with columns.

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121. Driscoll House (Water Street): pre-1856, 1½ stories (plus exposed basement on east facade), wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof, 2-story, shed-roofed north wing.

122. Mackey House (Water Street): pre-1856, L-plan, 1½ stories (plus exposed basement on east facade), wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles, shed dormers on east and north slopes, porch on south block.

123. "Baby Tom" Powers House (Water Street): pre-1856, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof, 1½-story north ell.

124. former Stark Paper Mill (off Water Street): The most important surviving representative in the historic district of North Bennington's industrial architecture, this three and one-half story (one story less on the east facade), five-bay, stone mill stands below Water Street beside the falls of Paran Creek. Edward M. Welling constructed the mill in 1833 on the site of Joseph Haviland's pioneer grist mill, using halves of grindstones from the original mill for some lintels. Other lintels and sills are mostly of dressed stone; the oversized lintel of the second story window (formerly a loading door) above the main entrance on the east facade bears the inscription: "Edward M. Welling 1833 The immovable pillars of the independence of our country, our agriculture and domestic manufactures." The coursed rubble used in the walls was quarried from the vicinity of the site.

The north and south end walls of the building rise to stepped parapets that project above the slate-shingled gable roof, now penetrated by an array of skylights. A tall gabled dormer (whose former loading door has been replaced by a window) centered on the east slope formerly bore a hoist for raising materials to the upper stories. A square-section brick chimney stands at the northeast corner of the building, tapering gradually upward to a corbelled cap.

The mill has been encrusted through time with various wings; however, excepting the 1½-story, gable-roofed stone office wing attached obliquely to the northeast corner, only remnants of them survive. On the south (creekside) elevation, a former three-story, wood-frame, clapboarded wing has been demolished; an attached 1½ story, wood-frame, gable-roofed south wing on a high stone foundation has recently been refurbished and sheathed with vertical flush boards. Formerly attached along the west elevation of the mill was a one-story, shed-roofed stone wing with a high center gable punctuated by a bull's-eye; now only its stone west wall remains standing above the tailrace channel.

The mill stands to the west of its dam a short distance back from, and almost perpendicular to, the creek. The dam, which was rebuilt in concrete in 1918, diverted water from the pond to twin penstocks that have been dismantled. The penstocks delivered the water to a horizontally-mounted turbine in the mill's basement (also dismantled). Downstream of the mill, the tailrace remains evident and partly filled with water.

The building has served various uses during its nearly 150-year history. Between 1833 and the catastrophic flood of 1852, Edward Welling used it alternately as a saw mill, grist mill, and starch mill. A grist mill at the time of the flood, it was engulfed and its contents destroyed; thereafter Welling converted it to a paper mill and it continued in that operation under the name Stark Paper Co. until circa 1925. During the succeeding half-century, it was used mostly for storage, with the North Bennington Village offices occupying

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the northeast wing. Then in the late 1970's the building became an outstanding example of historic preservation activity in North Bennington, being converted to a residential condominium complex by the architect, Timothy D. Smith.

124A. Stock barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, boards/battens, gable roof with slate shingles; stands at north end of dam.

124B. Garage: c. 1979, 2 stories, wood-frame, boards and battens, gable roof with slate shingles. Does not contribute to historic character of district.

125. former James E. Powers' clothing store (Prospect and Water Streets): c. 1890, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, flat roof, bracketed cornice on north facade; 2-story porch on north facade shelters first-story storefront with plate glass display windows flanking entrance; shouldered window surrounds on west elevation; adapted to restaurant.

126. Lizzie Ryan House (Prospect Street): c. 1890, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles; turned-post porch on north facade shelters side-by-side double-doored, transomed entrances on right; 1-story, shed-roofed south wing; built by Sam Watson for residence and fruit market.

127. former North Bennington firehouse (Prospect Street): Facing its modern counterpart (#119) across Prospect Street, this former firehouse of the J. G. McCullough Engine Co. No. 1 served the village in that use from 1878 to 1965, when the new fire station was completed. P. E. Ball erected the building prior to 1856 to contain his blacksmith shop, and Andrew J. Nash also plied the trade here before moving to his later shop on Nash Street (#117). Since 1965, it has undergone another major adaptation to become a private residence.

The two and one-half story, wood-frame, clapboarded building rises another full story above Paran Creek on an exposed rubble-stone basement. Its gable roof is shingled with slate, some courses of which are hung in an imbricated pattern. On the side elevations, the cornice is decorated with jig-sawn brackets.

The north facade preserves intact its appearance from the late nineteenth century. On the first story, two former engine stalls are marked by double-leaf doorways, flanked on the left by a pedestrian entrance; the original upper panel glazing in these doors has been blanked. The three doorways along with the two bays of paired windows on the second story are headed by floriated moldings; inappropriate arcs of wide dimension stock have been added above the engine stalls possibly to suggest the slender round-arched firehouse sign that formerly surmounted the stall openings. The second story is delineated by paneled bands carried across the facade. The gable end displays an original round-arched band inset with imbricated wood shingles.

128. Prospect Street Bridge: Levi Gould constructed this one-span stone arch bridge in 1876 to carry Prospect Street over Paran Creek. During the middle twentieth century, the bridge was completely encased in concrete, thereby concealing its original appearance. Five-bar railings supported by cruciform iron posts remain in place to protect its road and walkways.

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129. Walbridge Red Mill (Prospect and Pleasant Streets): This former industrial building sits on the steep south bank of Paran Creek across from the former firehouse (#127). On its Pleasant Street (south) facade only one story is exposed, corresponding to the second story of the north elevation which rises two and one-half stories above a massive coursed rubble basement story whose foundation is washed by the creek. Constructed by Bronson Harmon prior to 1856, the wood-frame, clapboarded building is capped by a gable roof sheathed with stamped metal. Entrances exist both on the Pleasant Street facade and one story below on the Prospect Street elevation, which also has a loading doorway in its gable end. Attached to the west elevation is a two-story, flat-roofed wing, connected in turn to a perpendicular two and one-half story, gable-roofed block.

The building has served many different industrial and commercial uses during its history. Originally a shop for making carpenter's squares, its principal occupancy occurred from 1883 to 1911 when the H. S. Walbridge Co. used it to manufacture stereoscope equipment. Subsequently a saw mill owned by George Elwell and a hardware store among other uses, the building is currently (1980) being refurbished and converted to an educational center by the Prospect School (#83).

130. Frank Watrous House (Pleasant Street): 1½ stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story north ell; main block originally part of #136 to the north, detached post-1894.

131. G. B. Mattison House (Pleasant Street): pre-1869, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof, porch on west facade with bracketed turned posts, 1-story east wing, built by A. B. Phillips.

132. James Morrissey House (Pleasant Street): Greek Revival, pre-1856, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), corner pilasters support overscaled entablature inset with eyebrow windows on south elevation; side-bay main entrance on west facade enframed by pilasters bearing entablature; 1-story, shed-roofed north wing with full cornice return; 1-story, gable-roofed east wing; built by Rufus Towsley.

133. Louis Lassour House (Pleasant Street): pre-1869, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), porch around south-west corner with fluted posts and turned balustrade, 1-story east wing; built by Herbert S. Walbridge.

133A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof.

134. Charles Corcoran House (Pleasant Street): pre-1894, 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded cross-gable roof with slate shingles (some imbricated courses), gabled dormers on east, west slopes, porch on west facade with bracketed turned posts; built by Michael Madden.

135. James Pever House (Pleasant Street): 1½ stories, 5 bays, brick with marble lintels, gable roof with slate shingles, gabled dormer on west slope; 1-story, wood-frame, clapboarded south wing. One of two vernacular Greek Revival style brick houses in the historic district (the other being #81), this house displays a corbeled denticulated cornice and a pilastered central entrance on its west facade facing Paran Creek. For a decade or so following its construction by A. B. Phillips in 1848, the house was approached via a bridge from Water Street rather than the subsequent extension of Pleasant Street.

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136. House (Prospect Street): pre-1856, L-plan, 2 stories on west block, 1½ stories on east, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles, interior corner entrance porch on north facade with turned posts.

137. James McGovern House (Prospect Street): pre-1856, L-plan, 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles, paneled corner pilasters (also on main doorway), porch on east facade with bracketed chamfered posts and jig-sawn balustrade; built by W. J. Watson.

138. Hattie S. Welling House (Prospect Street): L-plan, 2½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded cross-gable roof with slate shingles, half-moon windows on gable ends; 1-story wing on interior corner adds fourth bay to east facade; bay window on south elevation, 1½-story south wing with porch, 2-story west wing. Built by P. L. Robinson prior to 1856, this house appears similar to the contemporary White Apartments (#51) on Bank Street. Its east facade is dominated by an Italianate veranda with bracketed chamfered posts and a jig-sawn balustrade. Other ornamental details include a bracketed cornice and jig-sawn screens at the gable peaks. Now adapted to a residence for Bennington College students, the house is set back from the street amid landscaped grounds and shade trees.

139A. Carriage Barn: One of the most elaborate carriage barns in the village, this one and three-quarter story, wood-frame barn stands to the northwest of the house sheltered by tall coniferous trees. Its steeply pitched cross-gable roof is shingled with slate and crowned by a square louvered pyramidal-peaked cupola atop its cross. The raking edges of the roof are trimmed with decorated bargeboards that converge on ornamental scrollwork at the gable peaks. The gable ends are sheathed with diagonal flush boards in contrast to the clapboarded first story.

139. Fred Welling House (Prospect Street): This one and one-half story, three-bay brick (painted white) building was erected prior to 1856 as the schoolhouse for District No. 10. After the construction of the village's central school (#86) in 1870, this building was converted to a residence. Its east facade is marked by a porch with a clapboarded balustrade; the gable end is punctuated by two intermediate quadrant windows and a round-arched louver at the peak. The gable roof is shingled in slate, with gabled dormers on both slopes.

A similar-scale, wood-frame, clapboarded wing extends westward from the main block with an entrance porch on its north elevation. On the south elevation, a gabled pavilion projects a clapboarded upper story above an open first story that serves as an entrance porch for a side doorway.

140. Ed Nash House (Prospect Street): pre-1856, 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded gable roof, porch on east facade, 1-story north wing with enclosed porch.

140A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof.

141. Ed Mosher House (Prospect Street): pre-1894, 2½ stories, 2 bays with 2-story polygonal tower at northeast corner, gable roof with slate shingles, porch on east facade with turned posts/balustrade and pedimented gable above entrance steps, 2-story west wing.

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142. Elizabeth Dwyer House (Prospect Street): post-1894, 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, 1-story north wing with bracketed entrance porch, 1-story west wing with bracketed entrance porch.

143. Col. J. H. Walbridge House (34 Prospect Street): Although converted to a nursing home circa 1960, this house retains most of its original character, including an ornate veranda almost identical in style to that on the Milo C. Huling House (#11) on Main Street. Levi Gould built the two-story, three-bay, wood-frame, clapboarded house prior to 1856. Rising above a paired scroll-bracketed denticulated cornice, its hip roof is shingled with slate.

The veranda extends across the west facade and continues around both the north and south elevations. From a stickwork balustrade (probably altered), slotted posts rise between large jig sawn curvilinear brackets to support a full entablature whose cornice reiterates on a smaller scale the design of the main cornice. The veranda shelters a side-bay, side-lighted main doorway and room-height windows, all with molded surrounds. A one-story, flat-roofed wing extends the line of the veranda from the north elevation of the main block along a two-story east wing.

143A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof.

144. Watson House (Prospect Street): c. 1930's, 1½ stories, wood-frame, composition siding; steeply pitched gable roof with shed dormers on both slopes curves outward to cap 1-story south wing; exposed rafter ends, gabled entrance porch on west facade with arched ceiling.

145. Herbert S. Walbridge House (Prospect Street): pre-1894, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, porch on west facade with turned posts, jig-sawn balustrade, bay window on north elevation, 1-story east wing with false front on east elevation.

146. Andrew J. Nash House (48 Prospect Street): pre-1856, 1½ stories, 5 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles, large center gable on west slope, corner pilasters, porch on west facade with bracketed chamfered posts, jig-sawn balustrade, pilastered sidelighted central doorway, 1-story east ell; built by P. E. Ball, who also built the former firehouse (#127) as his blacksmith shop, subsequently operated by Andrew J. Nash before he built his later shop (#117).

146A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles.

147. George H. Elwell House (Prospect Street): The finest residential expression of the Greek Revival style in the historic district, the original temple-form block of this 2½-story, three-bay, wood-frame, clapboarded house was built prior to 1856 by a Dr. Whipple. The imposing west facade presents to the street a tetrastyle portico surmounted by a clapboarded pediment inset with a semi-elliptical fanlight; beneath the pediment, the recessed two-story wall plane is entered by a right-bay doorway and bounded by corner pilasters. The gable roof is shingled with slate.

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The main block has been encrusted with small eclectically-styled wings. A 1½-story south ell is capped by a gable roof shingled with imbricated slate; its scroll-bracketed, chamfered-post west entrance porch carries a dropped trefoil band on the cornice. The latter detail continues around the cornice of an attached flat-roofed south wing. Another 1-story, flat-roofed wing projects from the north elevation with a similar larger porch having a jig-sawn balustrade. A 1½-story wing extends also from the rear (east) elevation.

147A. Carriage Barn: Somewhat below the house to the northeast stands a large 1½-story, wood-frame, clapboarded carriage barn. Its cross-gable roof rises above a modillion cornice with corner brackets and is shingled with slate. The barn roof is crowned by a square lowered cupola with corner pilasters and a bracketed cornice; its roof is surmounted by a short spire topped by a horse weathervane.

148. Catherine Elwell House (Prospect and Mechanic Streets): post-1894, 2½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles; porch on west facade, around northwest corner with bracketed turned posts, balustrade; 2-story north pavilion terminates both main porch and north entrance porch of 2-story east wing; 1½-story south ell.

149. House (Prospect and Mechanic Streets): post-1894?, 1-plan, 2 stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles; interior corner entrance porch with bracketed turned posts, balustrade, valance; 1½-story east ell.

150. House (Mechanic Street): post-1894, similar to #148 but different orientation; entrance porch probably rebuilt, lacks turned post, etc.; west garage wing (recent?) has fan light over right-bay door.

151. House (Mechanic Street): post-1894, duplex, 2½ stories, 6 bays with central entrances, gable roof with slate shingles, center gable on south slope; entrance porch on south facade with bracketed turned posts, balustrade; 1-story north wing with entrance porch at each end.

152. House (Mechanic Street): post-1894, similar to #148 on larger scale, 2½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles; interior corner entrance porch with bracketed turned posts, balustrade, valance; 2-story, flat-roofed south wing.

153. C. W. White House (Mechanic and North Streets): c. 1903, 2 stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, hip roof with slate shingles capped by balustraded deck, modillion cornice (also on porches, bay window), enclosed entrance porch on south facade with segmental pediment above doorway; paired windows on facade's second story flank oval stained glass window; bay window on west elevation, 2-story, hip-roofed north wing with west entrance porch, large concrete foundation being built at rear.

153A. Garage: 1-story, wood-frame, wood-shingled, hip roof.

154. House (Mechanic Street): post-1894, similar to #150 without center gable, duplex, 2 stories, 6 bays with central entrance on each half, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles; entrance porch on north facade with bracketed posts, balustrade, valance; 2-story south ell with side entrance porches.

155. Richard Corcoran House (Mechanic Street): pre-1894, 2 stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof with slate shingles, 2-story west pavilion; interior corner entrance porch with bracketed turned posts, plain balustrade; 1-story south wing.

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156. House (off Mechanic Street): 2½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof, corner brackets at eaves; possibly converted former barn of #157.

157. Mooney House (19 Mechanic Street): pre-1894, 2 stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof; porch on north facade with bracketed posts shelters main entrance on 1-story west wing; bay window on west elevation with bracketed cornice, 1-story south wing; built by Riley Worthington.

158. Goodermote House (23 Mechanic Street): pre-1869, T-plan, 2½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof; porch on north facade with bracketed turned posts, balustrade; second-story bay window recessed into second-story west wing, 2-story south ell.

158A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, vertical flush boards, gable roof.

159. Rufus Towsley House (25 Mechanic Street): pre-1869, 2 stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, flat roof, paired bracketed cornice with paneled frieze; 1-story, flat-roofed west wing with enclosed porch; 1-story, gable-roofed south wing with east entrance porch; 1½-story, gable-roofed, clapboarded barn attached to south wing.

160. Burton Bromley House (Mechanic Street): pre-1894, 2 stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with decorated eaves, porch on north facade along west elevation; 2-story, flat-roofed south wing.

160A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof.

161. Arthur Shepard House (26 Mechanic Street): c. 1856, 1½ stories, 5 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, canopied central entrance on south facade, 1-story east wing with south entrance porch (bracketed turned posts), 1-story north ell; built by Shalom W. Worthington.

161A. Barn: 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles; overhead door added on south elevation; recent 1-story east wing (garage).

162. House (North and Mechanic Streets): pre-1894, duplex plan but converted to single; 1½ stories, 6 bays with flanking central entrances, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story wing at each end; built by Vermont Mills Co. for employee housing (see #165-176).

163. North Street Bridge: Carrying North Street over Paran Creek, this one-span pony truss bridge possesses double outside walkways and constitutes one of the last examples of its type in Vermont. The date of its construction is uncertain; the street was opened in 1857-58 and records do not exist of a different bridge on the site.

The trusses extend 42 feet in length and carry a 20-foot wide plank deck. The 6.5-foot outside walkways have similar decks and are protected by diamond-patterned railings terminated by chamfered iron posts. Except at the southeast corner of the bridge, five-bar iron railings (similar to those on the Prospect Street bridge, #177) extend along the edges of the dry-laid stone slab abutments. The Village plans to replace the bridge in the near future.

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164. former Payne's Shop (North and Sage Streets): 1919-20, L-plan, 3 stories, brick, flat roof, large multi-pane windows, 1-story brick south block with attached wood-frame sheds, tall square brick chimney at west end of latter block, 1-story wood-frame shed on north ell. Constructed on the site of the first cotton mill in North Bennington, this factory represents the last generation of industrial buildings along Paran Creek in the historic district. A. S. Payne formerly used the building to manufacture small furniture.

165-176. Mill Houses (Factory Lane or Sage Street): All except #174 and #176 of these diminutive single and duplex houses along Sage Street were built for the employees either of the original circa 1811 cotton mill or its circa 1850 successor on the site of the later Payne Factory (#164). The 1869 Beers map shows the completed row of seven houses along the north side of the street, all owned by the contemporary occupant of the cotton mill (Vermont Mills Co.); during the present century, a duplex has been removed from each end of the row, the duplex west of #175 being demolished in 1975. The same map shows only five houses along the south side of the street instead of this seven now standing (their locations indicate that #167 and 176 were added to the row after 1869); Vermont Mills Co. then owned four of the houses, apparently #166, 169, 170, and 172. In any case, the original core of houses now constitutes the oldest complex of mill housing in Vermont; the houses remained in common corporate ownership until sold separately in the mid-1950's.

165. House (32-34 Sage Street): duplex, 1½ stories, 6 bays with central entrances beneath eyebrow windows, wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof with slate shingles, entrance porch on south facade.

166. House (Sage and North Streets): 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles, entrance porch on east facade, 1½-story south wing.

167. House (27 Sage Street): 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles; 1-story, shed-roofed east wing; 1-story south wing.

168. House (28-30 Sage Street): duplex, 1½ stories, 6 bays (originally 8?), wood-frame, metal siding, gable roof with slate shingles, central entrances beneath eyebrow windows on south facade, recent enlarged multi-pane windows flank entrances; 1½-story north ell with recent 1-story, flat-roofed west wing (and carport).

169. House (Sage Street): 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story south shed.

170. House (23 Sage Street): 1½ stories, 2 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, enclosed east entrance porch, 1-story south shed.

171. House (Sage Street): 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story north wing.

172. House (19 Sage Street): duplex, 2 stories, 4 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, 1½-story south ell with entrance porch on each side, 1-story south wing being added to ell.

173. House (18 Sage Street): 1½ stories, 3 bays, wood-frame, clapboarded, gable roof with slate shingles, 1-story north wing.

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174. Loomis House (15 Sage Street): 1½ stories, wood-frame, clapboarded, cross-gable roof with slate shingles, 1½-story west ell with entrance porch on north facade.

175. Vedakin House (14-16 Sage Street): Among the houses of the Sage Street complex, this 1½-story, eight-bay, wood-frame, clapboarded duplex represents most nearly its original appearance. Its south facade is arranged in a mirror image: the side-by-side main entrances are surmounted by rectangular transoms and a common entablature while the next bay outward on each flank is marked by six-over-six sash on the first story beneath an eyebrow window set immediately below the simplified entablature at the eaves; two more flank window bays complete the symmetrical facade. The two-bay gable end elevations display partial cornice returns. The gable roof is shingled with slate; an interior chimney stands at the ridge over each half of the house. A smaller-scale 1½-story ell projects from the rear (north) elevation with an attached one-story north shed.

176. House (9 Sage Street): pre-1894, 1½ stories, 5 bays, wood-frame, composition siding, gable roof with slate shingles; 1-story, gable-roofed east wing; 1-story, shed-roofed south wing.

177. Park-McCullough House (Park Street): This house was entered in the National Register as the Governor McCullough Mansion on October 26, 1972.

177A. Carriage Barn: entered in the National Register together with the Park-McCullough House, q. v.

177B. The Playhouse: entered in the National Register together with the Park-McCullough House, q. v.

177C. Garage: 1½ stories, concrete block, wood-framed gable roof with clapboarded gable ends. Does not contribute to the historic character of the district.

178. Governor Highland Hall Farmhouse (off Park Street): entered in the National Register together with the Park-McCullough House (#177), q. v.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
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		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village (and historic district) of North Bennington ranks among the oldest concentrations of industrial activity in Vermont, its late eighteenth and nineteenth century industrial development based on the water power of Paran Creek. Although none of the earliest mills remains extant, the mill housing along Sage Street constitutes the oldest surviving complex of its kind in the state, having been built circa 1811. Textiles, paper, and grain dominated North Bennington's nineteenth century output; additionally, the village became a center of stereoscope manufacturing during the last quarter of the century. The arrival of the railroad (at mid-century) placed North Bennington at the junction of two standard lines, augmented later by an electric street railway; during the latter part of the century, railroad company headquarters were located in the village.

Subsequent economic changes and numerous disastrous fires have substantially reduced the industrial and commercial activity in North Bennington. That economic decline, however, contributed to the survival of the village's nineteenth century architectural fabric, whose integrity remains almost unimpaired by intrusions. Recently several important buildings - including the railroad station, two mills, and a firehouse - have been refurbished and adapted to contemporary uses, bringing North Bennington to the forefront of historic preservation efforts in Vermont.

Settlement of what became North Bennington began in 1761 when Joseph Haviland arrived and built a house near the present W. J. Harrington House (#102); somewhat later he built the first gristmill on the water privilege that became the site of the Stark Paper Mill (#124). Both the place and the stream were known by his name until 1776, when Haviland was declared a Tory and his property was seized. Consequently the name of the stream was changed to Paran Creek (possibly after the Biblical name for wild places) and the place was renamed Sage's City after Moses Sage, who took over the mill. Sage continued to operate the mill until early nineteenth century transfers of ownership brought Edward M. Welling into control.

Joseph Haviland opened West Street, the first street in the village, to connect his house and mill. Later in the 1760's, Main Street was built northward from West Street into Shaftsbury township. In the opposite direction, Prospect Street was extended southeastward over Bingham Hill prior to 1781. The accompanying residential development of the village achieved architectural distinction by the turn of the nineteenth century; its finest expression from that period is the elegantly detailed Federal style Dr. Gleason House (#127) on lower Main Street.

The village received a major impetus to its industrial expansion in 1811 when a cotton mill was erected on the site of the later Payne Mill (#164) at the end of a new lane from Main Street. This was possibly the first cotton mill established in Vermont, coming

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barely two decades after the first textile mill in the United States had been opened in Rhode Island; construction of the North Bennington mill was probably precipitated by the surge of activity in the cotton industry brought about by the Embargo Act and the imminent War of 1812. At the same time, a group of small-scale houses was built along the lane (now Sage Street) for the mill workers. Except for one duplex at each end of the street, the houses (#165-176) have survived to become the oldest complex of mill housing in Vermont; they remained in common corporate ownership until the 1950's. The mill itself was demolished about the middle of the century and replaced (by Robinson and Parsons) with a much larger mill; the latter burned in 1913 and was in turn replaced by the existing one (#164).

Also in 1811 or 1812, a marble sawing mill was erected by William Cardell at the next site downstream from the original Haviland mill (south of the historic district boundary). Using marble quarried in nearby West Shaftsbury, this mill may have produced the marble slabs used to pave sidewalks in the village; sections of marble sidewalks remain in place, primarily along Main and Bank Streets. The marble mill lasted only until 1816 but the site remained in nearly continuous use; a lane (later extended to become Water Street) was opened to the site about 1825.

In 1828, a post office was established under the name of North Bennington to serve the expanding village, thereby introducing its permanent name. Another village street was opened prior to 1835, when Houghton Street was constructed northeastward into Shaftsbury to avoid a hill on the Main Street route.

The village acquired an industrial landmark in 1833, the year Edward M. Welling built his large stone Paran Creek Mill (#124, later the Stark Paper Mill) on Haviland's original water privilege at the foot of Main Street; during its first two decades, the structure served as a saw mill, grist mill, and starch mill. Two architectural features give the stone mill particular distinction: its stepped gable ends (rare in Vermont) and the half-millstones used for lintels on some windows (salvaged from Haviland's mill).

Probably in the same year, E. M. Welling also built a mill store (#113, now Powers' Market) a short distance uphill on lower Main Street. This brick mercantile version of a simplified Greek temple with unique curved-brick columns has remained a dry goods or grocery store continuously to the present day, ranking it among the oldest active stores in Vermont.

The first church in North Bennington appeared in 1845 when the Greek Revival style Baptist Church was constructed on its original site at the west corner of Park and West Streets. Three years later, Warren Dutcher provided Main Street with an example of architectural whimsy, the Cobblestone House (#33) faced with oval cobblestones and decorated by bargeboards dripping pendant finials; upon its completion, Dutcher raffled the house for tickets that cost one dollar each. A more elaborate example of generic Carpenter Gothic, the Gingerbread House (#49), appeared about the same time on Houghton Street. Also in 1848, Warren Dutcher invented a loom temple that came into widespread use, and during the following decade he operated a factory on Main Street for its production (later moved to Massachusetts).

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At the midpoint of the century, the North Bennington street network was expanded to serve new residential development. In 1850-51, Pleasant Street was begun (and completed prior to 1869). Bank Street was opened in 1851 to the first house built along it (#51), and then extended the remainder of its length in 1853-54.

About the same time, the development of North Bennington received a calamitous setback. Early in 1852, the Western Vermont Railroad - being constructed southward from Rutland - reached North Bennington, bringing the prospect of vastly improved transportation to the area. Before that improvement became reality, however, the building of the railroad caused the greatest catastrophe in the history of the village: the destruction of its entire industrial district along Paran Creek.

During the winter of 1852, the railroad continued track construction southward toward Bennington village. At the crossing of Paran Creek, a long embankment was hastily filled with frozen and unstable material, impounding the water of the creek to create a pond (later called Lake Paran). Soon water began to seep through the embankment and, on February 11, 1852, the leak grew to a torrent that undermined the crude dam. The ensuing "avalanche of water" swept down the valley through the village, carrying away milldams, bridges, twelve to fifteen buildings (mills, shops, and houses), and the contents of several others. Only E. M. Welling's stone mill survived the flooding.

After that catastrophe, the arrival in May of the first train from Rutland must have seemed anti-climactic; nevertheless, the completion of the connecting line westward to Troy, New York, (the Troy and Bennington Railroad, later leased to the Troy and Boston Railroad) was celebrated with a 100-gun salute. On December 18, the first regular trains between Troy and Rutland entered service through North Bennington, and the village gained ready access to the world beyond the Paran Creek valley.

An 1856 map¹ of North Bennington shows that the village soon rebounded from the shock of the flood. A new mill for the manufacture of carpenter's squares appeared on the water privilege now occupied by the fire station (#119) upstream of the Prospect Street bridge. (This business later moved farther upstream to a dam site at South Shaftsbury and expanded into a leading national producer of carpenter's tools under the name Eagle Square, now Stanley Tools.) Altogether, the 1856 map shows some 100 buildings within the boundaries of the historic district. A small railroad terminal had been developed east of the Main Street crossing, including a depot, freight house, engine house, turntable, and switching yard. The village's first hotel, the Paran Creek House (later demolished; site of #68) was located at the south corner of Main and Bank Streets.

In 1857-58, another public crossing of Paran Creek was created by the opening of North Street: the present pony truss bridge with double outside walkways (#163) may have been built at that time. From the south end of North Street, Mechanic Street was opened to the east at the same time while the section between North and Prospect Streets was completed in 1868.

¹ H.S. Walbridge, The History and Development of North Bennington, Vermont (1937), p. 10f.

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The decade of the 1860's brought another spate of industrial and architectural development to North Bennington - along with more trouble from the railroad. In 1864, the village gained an architectural landmark when the newly organized First National Bank erected its imposing brick High Victorian Italianate style headquarters (#50); the building continues to dominate the intersection of Bank and Main Streets. The president of the bank was Tremor W. Park, a wealthy lawyer and aspiring railroad magnate, who built in 1864-65 his extravagant Second Empire style mansion (#177; entered in the National Register as the Governor McCullough Mansion on October 26, 1972) at the southwest corner of the village. To clear the grounds for his house, Park provided for the opening of Church Street and the removal of the Baptist Church to its present site on that street. The following year (1866), the Vermont Legislature recognized the growing importance of North Bennington by granting it the legal status of an incorporated village.

The so-called "Railroad War"² erupted soon thereafter, in 1867. In 1864, Park had bought control of the Western Vermont's corporate successor, the Bennington and Rutland Railroad, then under lease to the Troy and Boston company. On the expiration of the lease in January 1867, Park sued the Troy and Boston for mismanagement of the Bennington and Rutland, and immediately obtained a court attachment of two Troy and Boston engines standing in the North Bennington yard. Their evicted crews telegraphed headquarters in Troy, and a rescue train was hastily dispatched to North Bennington. Upon arrival, the raiding party easily overwhelmed the sheriff's deputies guarding the engines and then riced them the two miles back across the New York border to legal safety.

In retaliation, the Troy and Boston embargoed service to North Bennington, leaving it isolated at the end of the line from Rutland. Confronted with the impoverishment of his Bennington and Rutland, Park decided to build a new railroad to restore the New York connection. The new line extended southward through Bennington to Chatham, New York (and a connection with Vanderbilt's Harlem line to New York City) and was completed by 1869, thereby breaking the Troy and Boston blockade of North Bennington. The latter company eventually relented and through service was restored between Troy and Rutland; thereafter the line to Chatham languished and was eventually abandoned (in 1953).

Meanwhile in 1867, one of the largest industrial enterprises ever established in the village, the North Bennington Boot and Shoe Company, built a three-story brick factory on the corner of Main and West Streets (site of the McCullough Library, #105). For its employees (many of whom came from nearby Greenwich, New York), the company also built the "Brick Row" originally of nine tenement houses along the newly opened Greenwich Street in the Shaftsbury part of the village (only #1-7 remain standing).

By the time Beers atlas was published³ in 1869, North Bennington had expanded to the limits of the historic district, and contained about 125 buildings. Among the streets, only School Street does not appear on the map; it was opened the following year when the growth of the village required the replacement of the various small schools (including the brick building on Prospect Street later converted to a house #139) with a larger central school.

² See Shaughnessy, The Rutland Road (Berkeley, Calif.: Howell-North Books, 1964), p. 77ff.

³ F.W. Beers, Atlas of Bennington County, Vermont (New York, 1869), p. 25.

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Once again, T.W. Park provided the new street along with the lot and the foundation, and the brick Italianate Revival building (#86) was completed in 1861. (Subsequently it has been enlarged twice and stripped of many decorative features.) Two years later (in 1873), another landmark arose at the east corner of School and Bank Streets in the High Victorian Gothic form of the Congregational Church (#66), designed by S.S. Woodcock of Boston.

Perhaps North Bennington's most unusual industry emerged in 1873 when the H. S. Walbridge Co. began making stereoscope equipment in the mill building (#129) at the corner of Prospect and Pleasant Streets. Another manufacturer (the H.C. White Co.) entered the business about the same time at a mill site on the creek south of the historic district. The Walbridge firm continued making stereoscopes until 1911, then presumably succumbing to changing photographic technology.

The architectural development of North Bennington culminated in 1880-81 with the construction of the elaborate brick Second Empire style railroad station (#18; entered in the National Register on April 11, 1973). T.W. Park was undoubtedly responsible for such a pretentious depot in a village the size of North Bennington; the building contained the general offices of his Bennington and Rutland Railroad on the second floor above a large inter-story cistern that supplied its advanced flush plumbing system.

The construction of the new depot also marked probably the culmination of North Bennington's commercial and industrial activity. A contemporary account states that "the village contains three churches, (Cong., Bap. and R. C.,) [sic] one graded school, two cotton factories, one paper mill, one manufactory of stereoscopic lenses, one grist mill, twelve or fifteen stores, two hotels besides several wagon, blacksmith, harness and other shops, saloons, etc., and about 700 inhabitants."

Only three years after that account was published there occurred the first in a series of disastrous fires that eventually destroyed a substantial portion of North Bennington's industrial and commercial enterprises. In August of 1884, the North Bennington Boot and Shoe factory burned, and was never rebuilt. The same month in 1886, the village suffered the worst fire in its history when a conflagration swept the east side of the Main Street commercial district. Six consecutive buildings containing stores and offices were lost from Houghton Street northward to the Cobblestone House (#33), and the south half of the area was never redeveloped (now Main Street Park). The third major fire of that decade followed in 1889 when Milo C. Huling's general store, post office and tenement annex at the corner of Prospect and Water Streets was destroyed (now the site of buildings #125 and 126).

Another brief spurt of industrial expansion occurred around the turn of the twentieth century. In 1894, H. Clayton Simmons obtained a patent on a fire-tube boiler which he had designed; six years later, he built a wood-frame block (#32; now Willis' Garage) on Main Street to manufacture the commercially successful steam heating system, adding a foundry in 1914 (#32A). Simmons contributed another major commercial block to Main Street

⁴ Hamilton Child, comp., Gazetteer and Business Directory of Bennington County, Vermont for 1880-81 (Syracuse, N.Y., 1880), p. 93.

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in 1903 when he built North Bennington's largest example of that type (#36) diagonally across the street from the boiler shop. Another new industry, the Unity Collage and Cuff Co., built a substantial factory on Depot Street in 1898; however, it burned only four years later and was never rebuilt.

Public transit reached North Bennington in February 1898 when an electric street railway started service to Bennington; five months later, the line was extended to Hoosick Falls, New York. The Bennington and Hoosick Valley Railway Co. built its four-stall brick car-barn (#60; now a roller skating rink) on Bank Street at the junction between the trolley line and the standard railroad (the latter would become part of the Rutland Railroad system in 1900). From there, the trolley line ran along Bank Street, Main Street, and thence along Water Street toward Bennington, providing both passenger service and local freight service to Water Street factories. (At Bennington, the line connected with an extensive electric interurban network that continued southward into Massachusetts, reaching ultimately to Boston.)

The succession of disastrous fires in North Bennington continued in October 1913 with the destruction of the large three-story, wood-frame mill and several outbuildings at the end of what was then called E Z Street (Sage Street) after the corporate occupant. The company manufactured the nationally distributed E Z knit waists for children but succumbed with the fire, following the contemporary decline of the Vermont textile industry; in 1919-20, the existing brick factory (#164) was built on the site.

The redevelopment of the shoe factory lot on the corner of Main and West Streets occurred in 1922-23 with the erection of the brick Georgian Revival style McCullough Library (#105). It was designed by J. Lawrence Aspenwall (of James Renwick's firm in New York) and given to the village by the wife of John G. McCullough, son-in-law of T. W. Park and Governor of Vermont in 1902-04.

During the middle of the same decade, North Bennington's second oldest mill fell vacant when the Stark Paper Co. ceased production. About the same time, the great flood of 1927 caused so much damage to the street railway that the line, already losing much of its traffic to automobiles, was abandoned and dismantled.

The decline of North Bennington's nineteenth century industrial enterprises was succeeded in the 1930's by the emergence of markedly different economic - and cultural - activity. The Bingham Hill estate (southeast of the historic district) of Frederick B. Jennings, son-in-law of T. W. Park, was converted to a new liberal arts college for women. Subsequently Bennington College (now coeducational) has expanded to become a major employer, and the college community occupies a substantial portion of the village's housing stock. The presence of the college has also stimulated an increasing variety of cultural activity in North Bennington.

The national decline of railroad passenger service reached North Bennington in the late 1940's. Service on the Rutland Railroad dwindled until June 1953 when a strike brought the last passenger train to the depot where as many as eighteen trains per day had stopped in the 1920's. After the strike ended, the depot was closed and the agent's office was moved to the freight house (#17).

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While the depot stood abandoned and deteriorating in the 1960's, historic preservation activity emerged in North Bennington and began to revive significant but outmoded buildings. After the village built a new fire station (#119) in 1965, the former firehouse (#127) was sympathetically refurbished and converted to a private residence. Toward the end of the decade, the Park-McCullough House (#177) was adapted to become a center for cultural performances and exhibitions.

The first large-scale rehabilitation of an historic building in North Bennington came in 1972-73 when the depot was rescued both from advanced deterioration and a threatening highway project (the latter subsequently stopped by local opposition). The building now contains the North Bennington Village offices together with those of the project architect, Timothy P. Smith. With this project, the depot became the first major railroad station so treated in Vermont and the symbol of historic preservation activity in North Bennington.

Later in the 1970's, the same architect undertook another major project by designing the conversion of the vacant Stark Paper Mill (#124) to a residential complex. Currently (1980) preservation activity continues with the former Walbridge Red Mill (#129) being refurbished and adapted to an educational center, thereby complementing its firehouse and paper mill neighbors across Paran Creek. In all of these cases, the original architectural character of the buildings has been preserved with only minor alterations being made to accommodate the adaptive uses.

The nineteenth century architectural integrity of the North Bennington Historic District remains to an extraordinarily high degree uncompromised by recent intrusions. Only in one case has a significant historic building been displaced by an intrusion: the Greek Revival style, two and one-half story, wood-frame, pedimented gable-roofed Hotel White that formerly defined the south corner of Bank Street opposite the Catamount Bank (#50) and presented a two-story gallery porch to Main Street was demolished circa 1960 and replaced by a small gas station (#68). The other intrusions (#19, 59, and 114) consist of small one-story buildings that have been inserted within the existing historic fabric of the village.

Three factors conjoin to give North Bennington an unusually cohesive historic environment for a "working" village: (1) its surviving nineteenth century architectural fabric that exerts a strong sense of its original character, (2) the relative absence of recent intrusions, and (3) the sympathetic adaptation of several pivotal buildings to compatible contemporary uses. These characteristics are enhanced by the natural surroundings of the village, whose appearance continues to reflect the agricultural character that prevailed during the nineteenth century.

The boundaries of the North Bennington Historic District enclose essentially⁵ the entire nineteenth century village - as shown, for example, in the 1869 Beers atlas. Representative mill sites along upper Paran Creek are included in the historic district but not those to the south along the lower creek that have been more extensively redeveloped in the present century. On the southeast, the historic district extends to the perimeter of the former Jennings estate (now Bennington College). The southwest corner of the district boundary encloses the Park-McCullough House (#177) and related buildings owing to their integral association with the village. Along both the east and west edges, the historic

⁵Beers, loc. cit.

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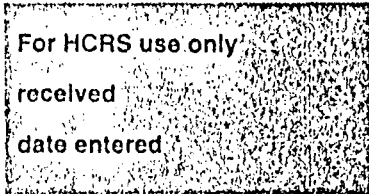
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district corresponds to the limits of village settlement - excluding only a 1923 subdivision west of Church Street - beyond which lies relatively open countryside. On the north, the boundary reflects diminishing concentration of significant buildings along Bank, Main, and Greenwich Streets.

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3. Bromley, Burton L. Things and Happenings I Remember In and Around North Bennington. North Bennington, Vt.: River Road Press, 1967.
4. Child, Hamilton, comp. Gazetteer and Business Directory of Bennington County, Vt. for 1880-81. Syracuse, N.Y., 1880.
5. Hall, Hiland. The Local History of Bennington, 1860-1883. Chicago, 1887?
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9. Shaughnessy, Jim. The Rutland Road. Berkeley, Calif.: Howell-North Books, 1964.
10. Those Were the Days. 2 vols. Bennington, Vt.: Park-McCullough House Association, 1970-1974.
11. Walbridge, Herbert Stebbins. The History and Development of North Bennington, Vermont. 1937.
12. Map of Bennington, Bennington County, Vt. New York: D.L. Miller and Co., 1894.
13. Personal interview of Fred Welling, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Village of North Bennington, on January 10, 1980 by Hugh H. Henry.

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The boundary of the North Bennington Historic District begins at a Point A at the intersection of the north edge of the Greenwich Street right-of-way and the east property line of Building #3 in the historic district; thence the boundary follows said property line to a Point B at the northeast corner of said property; thence the boundary turns westerly and follows the rear (north) property lines successively of Buildings #3, 4, 7, and 8 to a Point C at the intersection of the lattermost property line and the east edge of the Main Street right-of-way; thence the boundary turns southerly and follows the east edge of said right-of-way and an extension thereof across the Greenwich Street right-of-way to a Point D at its intersection with the south edge of the Greenwich Street right-of-way; thence the boundary turns westerly across the Main Street right-of-way and follows the south edge of the Hawks Street right-of-way to a Point E at its intersection with the rear (west) property line of Building #10; thence the boundary turns southerly and follows said property line and continues southerly along a line parallel to, and 250 feet west of, the west edge of the Main Street right-of-way, crossing the Vermont Railway right-of-way to a Point F at its intersection with the south edge of said right-of-way; thence the boundary turns westerly and follows the south edge of said right-of-way to a Point G at its intersection with a line parallel to, and 25 feet west of, the west elevation of Building #60; thence the boundary turns southerly and follows said line to a Point H at its intersection with the north edge of the Vermont Route 67 right-of-way; thence the boundary turns easterly and follows the north edge of said right-of-way to a Point I at its intersection with a northerly extension across said right-of-way of the west property line of Building #61; thence the boundary turns southerly and follows said extension and property line and successively the rear (west) property lines of Buildings #74, 75, 76, and 78, crosses the Hall Street right-of-way, and continues along the corresponding rear property lines of Buildings #79, 80, and 82 and a southerly extension of the west property line of Building #82 across the West Street right-of-way to a Point J at its intersection with the south edge of said right-of-way; thence the boundary turns westerly and follows the south edge of said right-of-way to a Point K at its intersection with the west property line of Building #177; thence the boundary turns southerly and follows said property line to a Point L at the southwest corner of said property; thence the boundary turns first westerly and then southerly following the centerline of a driveway past the west elevation of Building #177A and continuing along said centerline first southerly and then easterly (south of Building #178) to a Point M at its intersection with the west edge of the Park Street right-of-way; thence the boundary turns northerly and follows the west edge of said right-of-way to a Point N at its intersection with a westerly extension across said right-of-way of the south property line of Building #83; thence the boundary turns easterly and follows said extension and property line and successively the corresponding rear property lines of Buildings #93, 94, 96, and 123 and an easterly extension of the south property line of Building #123 across the Water Street right-of-way to a Point O at its intersection with the east edge of said right-of-way; thence the boundary turns southerly and follows the east edge of said right-of-way to a Point P at its intersection with a westerly extension across Paran Creek of the south property line of Building #135; thence the boundary turns easterly and follows said extension and property line to a Point Q at the southeast corner of said property; thence the boundary turns northerly and follows the east property line of said building to a Point R at its intersection with the south property line of Building #134; thence the boundary turns easterly and follows said property line and successively the corresponding property lines of Buildings #139 and 142 to a Point S at the southwest corner of the lattermost property; thence the boundary turns northeasterly and follows the east property line of said building and an extension thereof

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across the Prospect Street right-of-way to a Point T at its intersection with the east edge of said right-of-way; thence the boundary turns southeasterly and follows the east edge of said right-of-way to a Point U at its intersection with the south property line of Building #143; thence the boundary turns northeasterly and follows said property line to a Point V at the southeast corner of said property; thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows the east property line of said building to a Point W at its intersection with the south property line of Building #156; thence the boundary turns first north-easterly and then easterly following the rear (south) property lines successively of Buildings #156-160 to Point X at the southeast corner of the lattermost property; thence the boundary turns northerly and follows the east property line of Building #160 to the south edge of the Mechanic Street right-of-way, crosses said right-of-way, and continues approximately 250 feet along the east property line of Building #161 to a Point Y at the northeast corner of said property; thence the boundary turns westerly and follows the north property line of said building and the corresponding property line of Building #162 to a Point Z at its intersection with the east edge of the North Street right-of-way; thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows the east edge of said right-of-way across Paran Creek to a Point AA at its intersection with the south property line of Building #164; thence the boundary turns northeasterly and follows said property line to a Point BB at the southeast corner of said property; thence the boundary turns northerly and follows the east property line of said building to a Point CC at the northeast corner of said property; thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows a straight line to the northeast property corner of Building #45 and continues along the east property line of said building and an extension thereof across the Houghton Street right-of-way to a Point DD at its intersection with the west edge of said right-of-way; thence the boundary turns northeasterly and follows the west edge of said right-of-way to a Point EE located opposite the intersection of the Lake Paran road; thence the boundary turns northerly and follows a straight line to a Point FF at the intersection of the centerline of the east driveway of Building #16 and the south edge of the Greenwich Street right-of-way; thence the boundary turns westerly and follows the south edge of said right-of-way to a Point GG opposite the Point A already established in the north edge of said right-of-way; thence the boundary turns northerly and crosses said right-of-way to Point A, the point of beginning.

COGNOMINAL REFERENCES

See Continuation sheet 9-1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Quad. Name: Bennington, VT

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 112

Quad. Scale: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	64,38,3,0	4,75,47,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	64,29,3,0	4,75,38,6,0

B	1,8	64,38,4,0	4,75,38,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	1,8	64,29,1,0	4,75,47,8,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Hugh H. Henry

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

May 26, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Chilien Building

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont 05602

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Purney

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-3-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER