



STATE OF VERMONT

AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

January 4, 1999

Carol Shull, Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register, History & Education
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

DEPARTMENT
OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the National Register nomination for the following property:

Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, Vermont.

Divisions for

- * Community Development
- * Historic Preservation
- * Housing Planning

National Life
Building
Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT
05620-0501

Telephone:
802-828-3211
800-622-4553
Fax:
802-828-2928

Historic
Preservation Fax:
802-828-3206

This property is being submitted under the Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Elsa Gilbertson
National Register Specialist

Enclosures

Elsa Gilbertson

From: Edson_Beall@nps.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 1999 3:41 PM
To: bfriedberg@sec.state.ma.us; callahan@nebraskahistory.org; chandler@scdah.state.sc.us; christensenro@sosmail.state.mi.us; cjensen@history.state.ut.us; cshiver@mail.dos.state.fl.us; Jim.Draeger@Mail.admin.Wisc.edu; frank_hurdis_at_dnrln@ima.isd.state.in.us; ggoodwin@mail.dos.state.fl.us; ElGilbertson@dca.state.vt.us; Julie.OSBORNE@state.or.us; Ken_Thomas@mail.dnr.state.ga.us; Leslie_Sharpe@mail.dnr.state.ga.us; Rusty.Logan@mail.house.gov; hp@crt.state.la.us; bmattick@mail.dos.state.fl.us; mperry1@mail.state.ky.us; mrharmon@clan.lib.nv.us; hattori@unr.edu; nrmitcs@mail.dnr.state.mo.us; nwright@freenet.columbus.oh.us; rroper@history.state.ut.us; PBergen@sec.state.ma.us; power@scdah.state.sc.us; rjones@mail.dos.state.fl.us; susan.roth@mnhs.org; rtenglert@aol.com; nhdhr@lilac.nhsl.lib.nh.us; sbrich@missc.state.wy.us; Stephen.Rogers@state.sd.us; kens@dah.state.ar.us; aswallow@hpa084r1.state.il.us; wcollins@pr.state.az.us
Subject: National Register Weekly List 02/19/99

Celebrate African American History Month with The National Register of Historic Places:
www.cr.nps.gov/nr

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR February 19, 1999
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MAIL STOP 2280, SUITE NC 400
1849 C STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20240

PLEASE NOTE PHYSICAL LOCATION ADDRESS
(FEDEX, UPS, SPECIAL DELIVERIES, AND VISITORS):

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
SUITE 400 (OFFICES) or SUITE LL99 (ARCHIVES)
800 NORTH CAPITOL STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places.

For further information contact Edson Beall via voice:
(202) 343-1572, fax: (202) 343-1836, regular or E-mail:
Edson_Beall@nps.gov

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 2/08/99 THROUGH 2/12/99

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ALABAMA, AUTAUGA COUNTY
Bell House,
550 Upper Kingston Rd.
Prattville, 99000150,
LISTED, 2/12/99

ALABAMA, CLARKE COUNTY
Thomasville Historic District,
Roughly bounded by AL 43, 1145 W. Front St. Wilson St. and 818 W Third St.
Thomasville, 99000151
LISTED, 2/12/99
(Clark County MRA)

UTAH, WASHINGTON COUNTY
Leavitt, Lemuel and Mary Ann, House,
1408 Quail,
Santa Clara, 99000215,
LISTED, 2/12/99
(Santa Clara, Utah MPS)

UTAH, WASHINGTON COUNTY,
Reber, Frederick, Jr. and Mary F. House,
3334 Hamblin Dr.,
Santa Clara, 99000214,
LISTED, 2/12/99
(Santa Clara, Utah MPS)

VERMONT ADDISON COUNTY
Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House,
VT 22A, N of jct. with Middle Rd.
Bridport, 99000218,
LISTED, 2/12/99

VIRGINIA, HENRICO COUNTY
Sholom, Emek, Holocaust Memorial Cemetery,
4000 Pilots Ln.
Richmond vicinity, 99000072,
LISTED, 2/10/99

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House

other names/site number Bridport Historical Society

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route 22A, north of intersection of Middle Road Not for publication

city or town Bridport Vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Addison code 001 zip code 05641

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Elise Gilbertson National Register Specialist January 4, 1999
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain.) _____

Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House,
Name of Property

Addison County, VT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter 'N/A' if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood

Narrative Description

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

Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Name of Property

Addison County, VT
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark 'x' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark 'x' in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

c. 1813 - 1875

Significant Dates

c. 1813 - c. 1815

c. 1826

1875

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Bridport, VT, Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, VT

The Paris and Anna Fletcher House in Bridport, Vermont, is a late Federal-period sidehall structure constructed c.1826. Behind the main mass is an earlier kitchen ell, constructed c.1813-15. The building faces west on Vermont Route 22A in Bridport, and lies within the easternmost section of the Bridport Village Historic District, which is listed on the Vermont State Register of Historic Places. The main mass is nearly a perfect cube, and is three bays wide and one bay deep. The treatment of the front facade suggests that perhaps the builder had never seen a classical portico and assumed from patternbook engravings that porticos did not project, or perhaps they simply did not feel bound to rigid interpretation of patternbook design. Furthermore, the mutule blocks in the entablature composition are flat blocks with rows of holes drilled in them to simulate the more typical (and expensive) fully carved cones that hang from flat blocks. The building rests on a rubblestone foundation, which projects less than a foot above grade. The entire building is sided with wooden clapboards. The interior of the house is significantly less lavish than the front facade, which may suggest that the Fletchers were more concerned with outward appearances than interior enrichment. The Paris and Anna Fletcher House retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

The building sits about twenty feet back from VT Route 22A. Immediately to the south of the building stands a Federal-style brick store building, which is historically associated with the Fletcher House. The boundary between them is marked by a row of deciduous trees. About one hundred feet to the north of the Fletcher House sits a trailer with various additions. The ground to the east (behind the house) is low and swampy and has numerous large, deciduous trees. Directly in front of the Fletcher House is a gravel parking lot, which is about as wide as the main facade.

The primary character-defining feature of the Fletcher House is the two-story Doric portico on the front of the building, which is treated in a rather unusual manner. Though the portico is free-standing, it only projects about one inch from the facade instead of the more common projection of about six feet. A pedimented gable of modest pitch rests atop four fully rounded, attenuated columns on plinths. The windows do not line up exactly between the columns of the portico, though they are symmetrically arranged on the front facade of the building. While the center bay is centered between the columns, the end window bays are aligned toward the inner two columns. The windows are flanked by late nineteenth or early twentieth-century wooden louvered shutters. The tympanum of the pediment is finished with flush boards. The pediment

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gable woodwork quotes the Doric order, and is quite similar in detail to plates 4 and 8A in Asher Benjamin's *Country Builder's Assistant*. However, instead of having carved, three-dimensional cones that hang from a flat block, these mutules have rows of indented holes drilled into the flat block, which evokes a similar effect when viewed from the ground. This entablature extends across the eave lines of the north and south facades as well.

The front door of the main mass is positioned in the right-hand bay. The door itself is a simple six-panel Christian door, which sits in a shallow flat-paneled recession. The front door is flanked by two-thirds length engaged sidelights, which are glazed with single panes of glass. One original sidelight sash, consisting of five vertical panes of 8 X 10-inch glass, survives in the cellar. Below the sidelights are recessed, flat panels. The door and sidelights are framed by extremely thin, attenuated engaged pilasters. A semi-elliptical louvered fanlight tops the entire front door composition.

The south facade of the main mass has only one bay of windows. It is located off-center toward the west, or front corner of the facade.

The north facade of the main mass is organized into two bays, which are symmetrically arranged. A cylindrical metal furnace vent rises between the two window bays and extends about two feet from the eave line. The western second-story window (to the right, as one faces the north facade) is concealed by a pair of early Federal-period louvered shutters, which may be original to the building. To the right of the western first-floor window, very near the corner of the building, is the electric meter.

The east gable of the main mass does not have any windows. However, a chimney leaves the roof at the peak. This chimney is not original, and may have vented an earlier furnace. Directly in front of the chimney as one faces the west gable is a television antenna.

The window openings in the main mass retain their original overall proportions and architraves, which consist of flat boards with cap moldings. The original sash, which were probably six-over-six sash with eight- by ten-inch panes, have been replaced with mid-to-late nineteenth-century two-over-two sash.

A kitchen ell, the earlier portion of the building, constructed between 1813-1815, extends from the rear wall of the main mass. It is also two stories high with a shallow gabled roof. The roof of the kitchen ell has a slightly steeper pitch than the roof of the main mass. The eave line of the

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Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, VT

kitchen ell is about a foot lower than that of the main mass of the building. The ground slopes slightly toward the east, and as a result, there is about a three-foot exposure of the stone foundation at the point of the rear (east) wall of the kitchen ell. This portion of the building is also sided with pine clapboards, which have about a five-inch reveal.

The south facade of the ell, which was originally the front of the building, is presently asymmetrical, and does not appear to retain its original fenestration. There are three second-story windows and three first-story windows. The two pairs of upper and lower windows on the south facade furthest to the east (left, as one faces the south facade) line up into bays. However, the third first-story window (to the right) and the door immediately to the right of it do not line up with the second-story window above, which is placed slightly more to the left. Here the original window sash, which were probably nine-over-six sash, have been replaced with nineteenth-century two-over-two sash. The plain boxed cornice projects about five inches. A wide porch with a shallow hipped roof shelters the door.

The east (rear) facade of the kitchen ell has three bays on the first floor and two on the second floor. First and second floor windows are 2/2 sash. There are flush eaveboards in the gable instead of built-up eaves. The corner boards are very thin (only about four inches wide) in keeping with the Federal style. The door, which is in the northern-most bay, is late nineteenth-century and is glazed with eight lights; two lights wide and four tall, which fills the top two-thirds of the door. Below the glazed portion is a single flat panel. Directly under this window a bulkhead leads to the cellar. Between this window and the first-floor window in the southern bay is a wooden utility box from the mid-twentieth century, which is sided with clapboards and covered with a shed roof. It is approximately four feet wide, two and one-half feet tall, and protrudes about one foot. It is attached to the west facade about three feet up from the foundation, so that the bottom lines up with the sills of the first-floor windows. The attic window in the gable appears to retain its original six-over-six sash. The chimney to the kitchen fireplace, which leaves the roof at the peak of the east gable of the kitchen ell, partially blocks the attic window. The chimney leaves the roof slightly south of the peak, and the north wall of the chimney lines up with the ridge of the roof. Because of the drop in grade, the rubble stone foundation is exposed over two feet on the east facade.

The north facade of the kitchen ell has three bays of windows. The rather plain boxed cornice projects about five inches. The middle window bay is slightly off-center to the east (right, as one faces the north facade). Immediately to the left of the center first-floor window is a small early-twentieth-century kitchen window, which is approximately fourteen inches wide and

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Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, VT

sixteen inches tall, and is glazed with a single pane of glass. It is placed so that its head jamb lines up with the head jamb of the larger window about eight inches to the right of it. A cylindrical metal furnace vent, which comes out of the foundation, rises between the two windows. The furnace vent rises the full two stories and extends about two feet above the cornice. A second metal pipe comes out of the wall at the second-floor level to the left of the westernmost window and also extends about two feet above the cornice.

Attached to the rear or east side of the kitchen ell is a late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century single-story woodshed. It is sided in wooden clapboards, which extend all the way to grade. The shed is topped by an uneven gable roof, with a long, broad southern slope and a very steep, short northern slope.

The southern facade of the woodshed is divided into two sections. The western section (to the left as one faces the southern facade) is recessed so the plane of the wall matches that of the kitchen ell. A partially enclosed porch of two bays with simple, squared posts, rail and balusters extends outward about six feet. This porch extends to shelter the door and window of the kitchen ell. The wall plane of the eastern section of the woodshed extends outward about six feet to the plane of the porch rail. Two tall, narrow windows glazed with single panes of glass flank a centrally placed wooden board and batten door.

The eastern, or rear wall of the woodshed has two doors. One is nearly centrally placed, and is a late nineteenth-century door glazed with a two-thirds length single pane of glass. The second door, to the right, is a smaller and much earlier beaded board-and-batten door with a single cut-through glazed windowpane. This door was possibly salvaged from another building or brought from an older section of the house.

The northern facade of the woodshed has no doors or windows.

INTERIOR

The Fletcher House is a two-story, sidehall structure with a kitchen ell to the rear. The front section consists of one first-floor room and one second-floor room, with a formal stair hall in the right-hand (south) bay.

When entering the building through the front door, the main hall passes through the front section of the building to the kitchen ell. The architectural woodwork in the main hall is extremely plain

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Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, VT

when compared to the architectural treatment of the main facade. Simple Federal-period architraves, consisting of a molded cap and beaded frieze, surround the interior front door composition, the door on the left-hand wall leading to the parlor, and the door leading to the kitchen ell. A similar molding profile is used on the chair rail on three sides of the hall. These molding profiles are similar to those in Plate 14 of Asher Benjamin's *Country Builder's Assistant*.

The interior walls of the hall retain their original lath and plaster, and are covered in mid-twentieth-century wallpaper. The ceiling also appears to retain its original lath and plaster. The floor treatment in the hall is gray mid-twentieth century linoleum tile. Where the linoleum is chipped near the front door plywood is visible underneath. However, this appears to be a patch or replacement flooring. The original subflooring is intact and visible from the cellar:

The front door itself is a late Federal-period frame-and-panel, six-panel Christian door, with thin echinus moldings surrounding the flat panels on both sides. The door leading to the parlor is also a Christian-type door with flat panels and thin echinus moldings. The door leading to the kitchen ell is a slightly earlier, beaded flush-panel, four panel door.

The staircase, which rises on the right-hand wall, has a thin banister rail elliptical in section, a simple turned newel post, and attenuated, square balusters. The banister profile is similar to one in Plate 12 of Asher Benjamin's *Country Builder's Assistant*. Approximately three quarters of the way up is a landing, where the stairs turn to the left for their final ascent to the upper hall.

From the interior, the front door composition is sunken in flat paneled recesses. These recesses are possible because the exterior front wall is about eight inches thick. As a result, the corner posts of the braced frame do not protrude into the interior rooms, which is usually an identifying feature of braced-frame construction. The original glass in the fanlight was replaced in the early twentieth century with purple and orange textured glass. The five-pane sidelights were replaced with single panes of early twentieth century translucent white glass.

The front parlor retains its original woodwork, which is the same as that in the hall. The fireplace mantel is quite plain, and seems to be a simplified interpretation of Plate 20 of *Country Builder's Assistant*, with attenuated, engaged pilasters, a plain frieze, and shallow shelf. The chimney has been removed. The floor treatment in the parlor is also gray linoleum.

The second-floor stair hall has the same woodwork as that on the first floor. However, the door leading to the parlor chamber and the door leading to the rear kitchen ell are of the flush, beaded

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Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, VT

panel type. The floors in the upper hall has highly intact nineteenth-century grain painting on them.

The chamber above the parlor has similar woodwork to that in the parlor below. but there is no surviving mantelpiece.

The first floor of the kitchen ell consists of four rooms. The largest room, which takes up the majority of the first floor, southwest portion of the kitchen ell, retains original flush-panel doors, cupboard, and enclosed staircase. It was probably the primary living space of the earlier structure. This room has early 20th century hardwood floors and late 1960s wallpaper. To the right of the door leading into the formal front stair hall of the front section of the house is a tall, narrow cupboard. From the floor it is about six feet tall, and has a flush-beaded panel door.

A smaller room, which is north of the large room, also retains original flush-panel doors and chimney cupboards, though the chimney has been removed. This room was probably a bedroom or workroom. The cupboards, which are above and around the fireplace opening, are only about eight inches deep. They have flush, beaded panel doors.

The rear, or east, room in the kitchen ell is the original kitchen. It is now used as a kitchen for both the Bridport Historical Society and an apartment on the second floor of the kitchen ell. It retains original beaded trim, flush-panel doors, and cellar entry under the enclosed stair. This staircase is accessible from the larger room and this room from separate doors. The cooking fireplace, which is on the rear or west wall, survives intact with woodbox and bake oven. The firebox is in the Rumford style, being quite shallow and tall, and is about four feet wide, three feet tall, and eighteen inches deep. The bake oven is positioned over the woodbox, and both have small openings about twelve inches square. They are located outside and to the right of the main firebox, which is typical post-Revolutionary cooking fireplace construction. The northern section of the kitchen is partitioned off into what was probably a small pantry. Today it houses the kitchen appliances.

Above the kitchen ell are four small rooms that were inaccessible at the time of the survey. They are presently used as an apartment. The curator of the Bridport Historical Society reports that they retain early floorboards, trim, and doors similar to those on the first floor.

The cellar is accessed by a staircase underneath the kitchen stairs as well as a bulkhead on the west wall of the kitchen ell. The cellar consists of two rooms: one under the front section of the

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Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, VT

house, and one under the kitchen ell. The room under the front section is very low with a dirt floor and rubblestone walls. The floor joists are whole tree trunks (pine) with the bark still on them. Many appear to have been recycled from an earlier structure, as they have unused, randomly placed mortise joints in them. One original five-pane sidelight from the front door composition survives in the cellar, leaning against the north wall.

The rear room under the kitchen ell retains the footing to the cooking fireplace on the western wall. The chimney footing is brick and stone with squared-log cribbing at joist level. Directly in front of this is a large stone cistern with a board-and-batten lid.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, VT

The Paris and Anna Fletcher House in Bridport, Vermont, built c. 1815 and c. 1826, is an excellent and well-preserved example of late Federal-period architecture in rural Vermont. It is representative of a perhaps naive interpretation by rural craftsmen of high-style pattern-book design, as the treatment of the front facade suggests that the builder had never seen a classical portico and assumed from available engravings that porticoes were flush and did not project, or perhaps they did not feel bound to rigid interpretation of high-style patternbook design. The Fletcher House is also an important representation of the types of buildings that were built in connection with trade and commercial patterns in early 19th century Vermont. From 1826 to 1875, Paris Fletcher operated a general store next to the house. Vermont Route 22A, on which this house is located, was a primary trade route in western Vermont, paralleling Lake Champlain, and saw a lot of commercial activity from the lake, the Champlain Canal, and later the railroad.

Bridport, Vermont, was chartered in 1761 and consisted of 25,000 acres along "Wood Creek" which was the name at that time for the southern neck of Lake Champlain. It was granted to Ebenezer Wiswall and sixty-three other proprietors, most of whom were from Worcester County Massachusetts. Bridport was not settled until after the Revolutionary War, when the region was more politically stable and a large influx of settlers began to arrive, primarily from Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Since its earliest days, Bridport has been an agricultural community. During the first few decades of settlement, when a great deal of wood was being burned in order to clear the land, wood ash was plentiful. Potash was shipped to Albany and Troy, New York, and sometimes Quebec Province. When the land was cleared, wheat was the first general crop that was produced. It was also shipped to these markets and was usually exchanged for goods rather than cash. In 1823, the same year that the Champlain Canal opened, sheep, cattle, and horse husbandry became more prominent in Bridport. As the land had been sufficiently cleared for grazing, sheep farming had become the primary agricultural industry in Vermont by 1820.

Prior to the introduction of the railroad in Addison County in the late 1840s, both Lake Champlain and present-day Vermont Route 22A, which was the stage route between Burlington and Whitehall, New York, were the major commercial routes between the northern markets of Burlington and Quebec, and Albany, Troy and New York City to the south. The period between 1810 and 1830 was a time of considerable commercial growth in Bridport. Three ferry licenses were issued in 1820 alone. The center of commercial activity was located at "the Corners" the present intersection of VT Route 22A and Middle Road, which is presumably where goods brought by canal boat to Bridport were distributed. Commercial buildings such as

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Bridport, Addison County, VT

Paris Fletcher's general store sprang up at this intersection. Other businesses that were in close proximity to the Corners between 1825 and 1830 were Mather Noble's tannery, three blacksmith's shops operated by Orville Howe, Albert and Henry Foster, and John Burwell, Charles Eager's carriage and wagon shop, Lemuel Derby's cabinet shop, hatter John Brainerd, and tailor Norman Allen.

Paris Fletcher was born in Woodstock, Vermont, on 24 March, 1794. At age 16, he came to Bridport to join his brother James, who had been there for two years, in the saddle and harness-making trade. In 1817, he married Anna Miner. A life of speculation seems to have appealed to Paris Fletcher. Though trained as a saddle and harness maker, he began in Bridport as a shop boy, and by the end of his life he had been a general merchant, one of the original directors of the Rutland and Burlington Railroad, and had been both the president and director of the Middlebury Bank at different times for a total of fifty years. Fletcher was elected to the board of directors for the Bank of Vergennes in 1827. His wife Anna died in 1854. Fletcher finally resigned from the Bank of Middlebury in 1877 because of the effects of old age, and died in 1880.

This building, which now houses the Bridport Historical Society on VT Route 22A in Bridport, is historically the most closely associated with Paris Fletcher and his activities. The rear ell, which is the oldest portion of the building, was constructed about 1813-15 by Ephraim Gray. The gable end faced Route 22A and the south facade was the front of the building. In 1819 the property was sold to Paris Fletcher, who built the west addition, probably around 1826. This formal, two-room gable-front addition with the main stair hall facing Route 22A became the front of the building. In 1826 Paris Fletcher built the brick store immediately to the south of the house. In 1831 he went into partnership with Daniel Miner, who died in 1839. Paris Fletcher's son, F. C. Fletcher, took over the store at that time. He appears on the 1871 Beers Atlas as the owner of the store and the house. Nathan S. Bennett bought the house and store from F. C. Fletcher on October 23, 1875. However, Paris Fletcher's grandson Thomas W. Fletcher occupied the house in 1888. Successive owners through the twentieth century have been Kenneth Myrick, Frank Rother, and Philip Gerbode, who sold the building to the Bridport Historical Society for one dollar in December 1974.

Architecturally, the Paris Fletcher House is significant both for its architectural treatments and how they relate to local trends. The rear kitchen ell was the first structure on the site. It is significant that this portion of the house faces south with its gable end facing east toward the road (VT Route 22A). Modest houses which were built with such orientation with the intention

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of adding a formal section that faced the road was common trend in the Champlain Valley. In this respect, the Paris and Anna Fletcher House can be compared to Rokeby in Ferrisburgh, Vermont (National Historic Landmark, 12/9/1997). This building consists of a modest c.1790 kitchen ell, which faces south with its gable end oriented toward the road, to which the formal front gable end section was added, facing west toward US Route 2, about 1814. This portion of the building survives with a high degree of architectural integrity.

The present front section is a sidehall plan house. The main facade is an excellent example of late Federal-period design. It is an important statement of the transmission of architectural style from urban to rural areas, as the temple-front sidehall plan is usually seen in more urban areas where the building lots were narrower. The details of the front facade and the profiles of many interior moldings show similarities to several plates in Asher Benjamin's *Country Builder's Assistant*, which was first published in 1797 and went through several editions by 1806. This patternbook had a profound effect on rural architecture by bringing the rudiments of high style to outlying areas within a very short period of time. The temple-front form is important for its association with wealth and prosperity in the Lake Champlain valley in the early nineteenth century. In this respect, the Paris Fletcher house can be compared to the c.1823 Potwin-Winterbotham house on the corner of Main Street and Willard Street in Burlington, Vermont. This building has a fully articulated, projecting Ionic portico, but no pediment. The Dr. Frederick Ford House in Cornwall, Vermont, is another good Addison County example of a Federal period sidehall plan house with a gable front pediment. This house has no portico or columns and has an elliptical louvered fan in the pediment's tympanum.

The treatment of the portico on the Paris Fletcher house, which only projects about one inch from the facade, is strikingly similar to another example on the 1811 Baptist Church in Monkton, Vermont (listed in the National Register on January 5, 1989). A c.1818 tavern, within the Bridport Village Historic District, which is listed on the Vermont Register of Historic Places, has a nearly identical entablature treatment. (This building is # 86 on the map of Bridport in *The Historic Architecture of Addison County*.) A c.1810 house (#37 in *The Historic Architecture of Addison County*), which lies outside of the Bridport historic district, also has related exterior architectural woodwork. The woodwork on these three buildings may indicate the work of a single carpenter who was working in the region in the first three decades of the nineteenth century.

The interior treatment of the building is significantly less lavish than the exterior facade, which is an indicator of the values of the homeowner. Paris Fletcher may have been more concerned with

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his public image than personal or private enrichment. The main staircase and the front parlor mantelpiece are simplified versions of examples in Plates 12 and 20 of Asher Benjamin's *Country Builder's Assistant*.

Both the ell and front sections were framed in the traditional New England braced-frame manner. One hallmark of this style is protruding cornerposts, which are visible in the interior living space. However, in the formal front section of the Fletcher house, the interior planes of the exterior walls are brought inward so that the corner posts do not protrude into the living space. The first-floor framing is constructed of whole pine logs, most of which survive with their bark. Many of the first-floor framing members in both sections of the building have random mortises and other cut-outs that seem to suggest that the building materials were recycled from an earlier structure. In the cellar below the rear ell, in front of the kitchen chimney cribbing, is a large, round stone cistern with an early board-and-batten lid. This is significant because due to the low-lying terrain and lack of many underground springs, the water in Bridport has historically been of poor quality, and has a rather brackish or salty taste. Therefore, cisterns were used to collect rainwater for household use.

The Paris and Anna Fletcher House is an excellent resource of the study of architecture, social values, and commerce in early nineteenth-century Vermont. Its design illustrates the transmission of high-style design into outlying areas and is an important statement of rural peoples' desire for, and understanding of urban culture. The building is also significant for its connection with commercial trade in the Champlain Valley before the introduction of the railroad, being historically associated with the brick store next to it. It also survives with a high degree of architectural integrity both on the interior and exterior.

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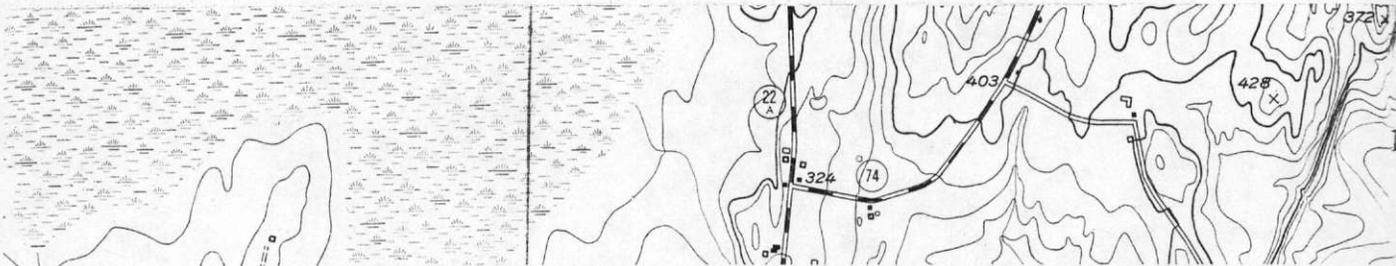
Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, VT

Verbal Boundary Description

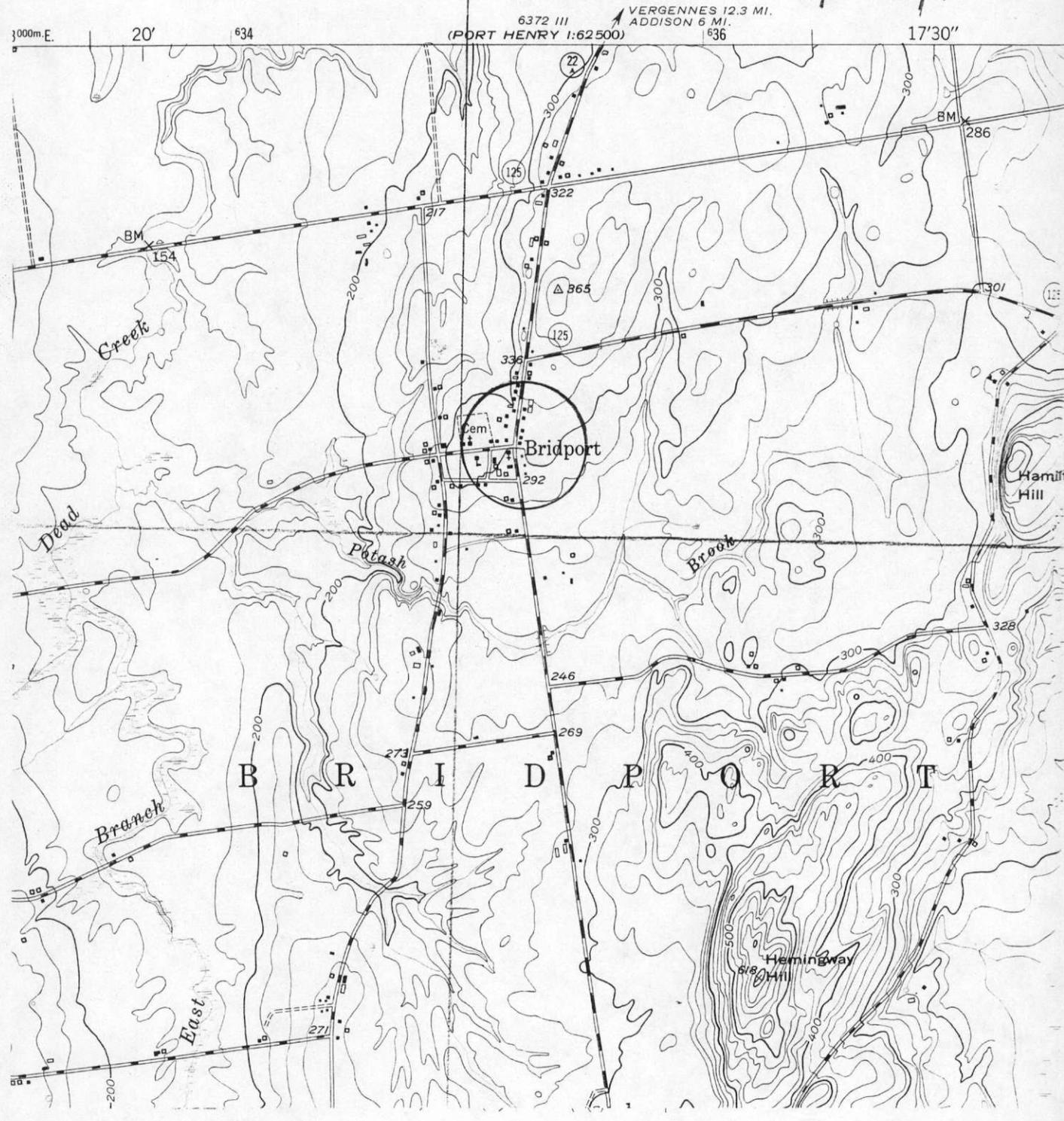
The boundaries of this property are as follows: beginning at the southwest corner of the lot, which is the easterly right of way of Vermont Route 22A approximately 20 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the house, thence proceeding easterly 201.26 feet to the point marked by an iron pipe (south boundary line), thence turning north 68 degrees and proceeding northerly for 38 feet and thence turning north 69 degrees and proceeding another 4 feet (easterly boundary line), thence turning 90 degrees west from this point and proceeding directly west for a distance of approximately 230 feet to the eastern right of way of Vermont Route 22A (northern boundary line), and thence turning south proceeding 100 south along the easterly right of way to the point of beginning (westerly boundary line). The deed for this parcel is recorded in Volume 24, pages 54 and 55 of the Bridport, Vermont, Land Records for 1972.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of a portion of the parcel historically associated with the original Paris and Anna Fletcher property. The parcel on which the house stands was subdivided from the larger parcel, which includes the land to the south on which the store sat, in 1974. The current parcel is sufficient to convey the historic significance of the Paris and Anna Fletcher House.



PAUL FLETCHER HOUSE
 BRIDPORT, ADDISON COUNTY,
 UTM REFERENCE:
 18/635260/487410





Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, Vermont

Credit: Steven C. Mallory

Date: May 1998

Negative at VT Division for Historic Preservation

View looking NE, context with Fletcher Store Photo 1

#X-3



*Bridport
Historical
Society*

#X-2

Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, Vermont

Credit: Steven C. Mallory

Date: May 1998

Negative at VT Division for Historic Preservation

View looking E, main facade.

Photo 2



#X-11

Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, Vermont
Credit: Steven C. Mallory
Date: May 1998
Negative at VT Division for Historic Preservation
View looking SE, rear and north side of house Photo 4



#X-15

Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, Vermont
Credit: Steven C. Mallory
Date: May 1998
Negative at VT Division for Historic Preservation
View looking NE, front and south side of house Photo 3



#X-9

Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House

Bridport, Addison County, Vermont

Credit: Steven C. Mallory

Date: May 1998

Negative at VT Division for Historic Preservation

View looking E, front (W) wall, roof detail Photo 6



Fletcher, Paris and Anna, House
Bridport, Addison County, Vermont

Credit: Steven C. Mallory

Date: May 1998

Negative at VT Division for Historic Preservation

View looking E, front door

Photo 5

#X-14