

Allen, Ethan, Homestead

Burlington



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

SEP 17 1986

AUG 15 1986

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning August 3, 1986 and ending August 9, 1986. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ALASKA, Bristol Bay Borough, Dillingham, Pilgrim 100B Aircraft, Dillingham Municipal Airport (08/07/86)

ARKANSAS, Jefferson County, Pine Bluff, Sorrells, Walter B., Cottage, Off AR 104 (08/04/86)
ARKANSAS, Washington County, Fayetteville, Happy Hollow Farm, CR 10 (08/06/86)

CONNECTICUT, Middlesex County, Middletown, Woodrow Wilson High School, Hunting Hill Ave. and Russell St. (08/06/86)

GEORGIA, Walker County, Rossville, Rossville Post Office, 301 Chickamauga Ave. (08/06/86)

IOWA, Keokuk County, Harper vicinity, Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, SE of Harper (08/06/86)

IOWA, Scott County, Davenport, SAINTE GENEVIEVE (dredge) (Davenport MRA), Antoine LeClaire Park off US 67 (08/04/86)

KENTUCKY, Daviess County, Owensboro, Carnegie Free Library (Owensboro MRA), 901 Frederica Ave. (08/06/86)

MINNESOTA, Kandiyohi County, Spicer vicinity, Spicer, John M., Summer House and Farm, 600 S. Lake Ave. (08/06/86)

MISSOURI, St. Louis (Independent City), St. Matthew's Parish Complex, Sarah and Kennerly (08/06/86)

NEBRASKA, Saline County, Pisar, Frank, Farmstead (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Douglas County, Minden, Douglas County Courthouse (Architecture of Frederick J. DeLonchamps TR), 1616 Eighth St. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Douglas County, Minden, Farmers Bank of Carson Valley (Architecture of Frederick J. DeLonchamps TR), 1597 Esmeralda Ave. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Douglas County, Minden, Minden Butter Manufacturing Company (Architecture of Frederick J. DeLonchamps TR), 1617 Water St. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Douglas County, Minden, Minden Inn (Architecture of Frederick J. DeLonchamps TR), 1594 Esmeralda Ave. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Douglas County, Minden, Minden Wool Warehouse (Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps TR), 1615 Railroad Ave. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Washoe County, Reno, Bell Telephone of Nevada (DeLongchamps, Frederic J., Architecture TR), 100 N. Center St. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Washoe County, Reno, Reno National Bank--First Interstate Bank (DeLongchamps, Frederic J., Architecture TR), 204 N. Virginia St. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Washoe County, Reno, Riverside Hotel (DeLongchamps, Frederic J., Architecture TR), 17 S. Virginia St. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Washoe County, Reno, Vachina Apartments--California Apartments (DeLongchamps, Frederic J., Architecture TR), 45 California Ave. (08/06/86)

NEVADA, Washoe County, Reno, Washoe County Courthouse (DeLongchamps, Frederic J., Architecture TR), 117 S. Virginia St. (08/06/86)

OHIO, Perry County, Somerset vicinity, Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, 5757 OH 383 (08/07/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Ambrose, H. W., House (Conway MRA), 1503 Elm St. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Beaty--Little House (Conway MRA), 507 Main St. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Beaty--Spivey House (Conway MRA), 428 Kingston St. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Burroughs, Arthur M., House (Conway MRA), 500 Lakeside Dr. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Conway Methodist Church, 1898 and 1910 Sanctuaries (Conway MRA), Fifth Ave. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Holliday, J. W., Jr., House (Conway MRA), 701 Laurel St. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Kingston Presbyterian Church Cemetery (Conway MRA), 800 Third Ave. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Quattlebaum, C. P., House (Conway MRA), 219 Kingston St. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Quattlebaum, C. P., Office (Conway MRA), 903 Third Ave. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Quattlebaum, Paul, House (Conway MRA), 225 Kingston St. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Waccamaw River Warehouse Historic District (Conway MRA), Roughly bounded by Second Ave., Waccamaw River, Main and Laurel Sts. (08/05/86)

SOUTH CAROLINA, Horry County, Conway, Winborne, W. H., House (Conway MRA), 1300 Sixth Ave. (08/05/86)

The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

CONNECTICUT, New London County, Norwich, U.S. Post Office--Norwich Main, 340 Main St. (07/17/86)

MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Bergin Block (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 330 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)

MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, College Block--Lisbon Block (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 248--274 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)

MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, First Callahan Building (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 276 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)

MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, First McGillicuddy Block (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 133 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)

MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, First National Bank (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 157--163 Main St. (04/25/86)

MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Lewiston Trust & Safe Deposit Company (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 46 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)
MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Lord Block (379 Lisbon Street) (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 379 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)
MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Lyceum Hall (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 49 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)
MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Maine Supply Company Building (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 415--417 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)
MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Manufacturer's National Bank (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 145 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)
MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Odd Fellows Block (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 182--190 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)
MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Osgood Building (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 129 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)
MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Second Callahan Block (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 282 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)
MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Union Block (Lewiston Commercial District MRA), 21--29 Lisbon St. (04/25/86)

MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire County, Williamstown, U.S. Post Office--Williamstown Main, 63 Spring St. (07/17/86)

MONTANA, Lewis and Clark County, Helena, Helena South-Central Historic District, Roughly bounded by Broadway, S. Davis St., city limits, and S. Warren St. (07/28/86)

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Belknap County, Laconia, United States Post Office--Laconia Main, 33 Church St. (07/18/86)

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Coos County, Lancaster, U.S. Post Office--Lancaster Main, 120 Main St. (07/17/86)

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Grafton County, Littleton, United States Post Office and Courthouse--Littleton Main, 165 Main St. (07/17/86)

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Hillsborough County, Peterborough, U.S. Post Office--Peterborough Main, 23 Grove St. (07/17/86)

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Strafford County, Dover, United States Post Office-Dover Main, 133-137 Washington St. (07/17/86)

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Strafford County, Somersworth, U.S. Post Office--Somersworth Main, 2 Elm St. (07/17/86)

VERMONT, Chittenden County, Burlington, Allen, Ethan, Homestead, Off Van Patten Pkwy. (07/24/86)

Confirmation for the following previously listed property has been accepted:

PENNSYLVANIA, Cambria County, St. Michael, Johnston Flood National Memorial, US 219 at PA 869 (08/04/86)

CORRECTION: The boundaries for West Pulaski Historic District which appeared on the National Register list dated 07/18/86 has been changed to read as follows:

TENNESSEE, Giles County, Pulaski, West Pulaski Historic District, Roughly bounded by W. College, First, Cemetery, and S. Third Sts.

The properties below have been removed from the National Register of Historic Places effective as follows:

TENNESSEE, Knox County, Knoxville, Caswell--Taylor House, 803 N. Fourth Ave. (08/01/86)

TENNESSEE, Knox County, Knoxville, Zeigler, Isaac, House, 712 N. Fourth Ave. (08/01/86)

TENNESSEE, Grundy County, Pelham vicinity, Elkhead Stone Arch Bridge, N of Pelham (08/01/86)

Multiple Resource Areas are identified by MRA

Thematic Resources are identified by TR

NHL designates a National Historic Landmark



STATE OF VERMONT

AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (802) 828-3211

JAMES A. GUEST, SECRETARY

June 5, 1986

DEPARTMENTS OF:

Economic Development 828-3221
Housing & Community Affairs 828-3217

DIVISIONS OF:

Administration 828-3231
Historic Preservation 828-3226
Vermont Travel Division 828-3236
Vermont Life Magazine 828-3241

Mr. Robert Steele
Burlington Planning Commission
City Hall
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Re: Ethan Allen Homestead

Dear Mr. Steele:

We are pleased to inform you that the Ethan Allen Homestead has been submitted to the National Park Service for consideration for entry in the National Register of Historic Places. Notification of acceptance of the district will follow.

Please feel free to contact us if any further information is desired.

Sincerely,

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Eric Gilbertson'.

Eric Gilbertson
Director/Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

EG/mrs



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- Vermont Travel Division 828-3236
- Vermont Life Magazine 828-3241

Bernard Sanders, Mayor
City Hall
Burlington, VT 05401

Re: Ethan Allen Homestead


Dear Mayor Sanders:

We are pleased to inform you that the Ethan Allen Homestead has been submitted to the National Park Service for consideration for entry in the National Register of Historic Places. Notification of acceptance of the district will follow.

Please feel free to contact us if any further information is desired.

Sincerely,

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION


Eric Gilbertson
Director/Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

EG/mrs



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DIVISIONS OF:

Administration 828-3231
Historic Preservation 828-3226
Vermont Travel Division 828-3236
Vermont Life Magazine 828-3241

Arthur Hogan
Chittenden County Regional
Planning Commission
P.O. Box 108
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

Re: Ethan Allen Homestead


Dear Mr. ^{cut}Hogan:

We are pleased to inform you that the Ethan Allen Homestead has been submitted to the National Park Service for consideration for entry in the National Register of Historic Places. Notification of acceptance of the district will follow.

Please feel free to contact us if any further information is desired.

Sincerely,

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION


Eric Gilbertson
Director/Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

EG/mrs



STATE OF VERMONT

AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (802) 828-3211

JAMES A. GUEST, SECRETARY

June 5, 1986

DEPARTMENTS OF:

Economic Development 828-3221
Housing & Community Affairs 828-3217

DIVISIONS OF:

Administration 828-3231
Historic Preservation 828-3226
Vermont Travel Division 828-3236
Vermont Life Magazine 828-3241

Carol Shull, Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

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

Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Chittenden County, Vermont

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

One comment letter was received concerning the nomination. A copy is enclosed.

Sincerely,

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Eric Gilbertson
Director/Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

EG/mrs

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Ethan Allen Homestead

and or common Ethan Allen Homestead

2. Location

street & number Off Van Patten Parkway

N/A not for publication

city, town Burlington N/A vicinity of

state Vermont code 50 county Chittenden code 07

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Winooski Valley Park District

street & number N/A

city, town Burlington N/A vicinity of state Vermont

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Burlington Town Clerk's Office

street & number N/A

city, town Burlington state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ethan Allen Homestead is a starkly plain, recently restored, heavy timber wood frame house that overlooks the Winooski River and intervale. Relatively small scale, 34'x24', it is characterized by a 3x2 bay fenestration pattern and centrally located entrances on both the front and rear facades. The plan circulates around a large chimney mass with a kitchen on the west side and two smaller rooms on the east. Two small bedrooms upstairs are finished while the remainder of the upstairs space is exposed with the wall board and hand hewn framing members in full view.

The Homestead stands on a low bluff overlooking the Winooski River, near where the river empties into Lake Champlain. Surrounding the house are several thousand acres of flood plain and intervale which are for the most part undeveloped open space.

The 3x2 bay, 1 1/2 story post and beam structure, is sheathed in clapboards, protected by a wood shingle gable roof, and rests on a mortared stone foundation. Exterior detailing is minimal with a plain board trimming the roofline and glazed transoms above the two entrances.

A large chimney pierces the center of the ridgeline and 12/8 sash light the symmetrically placed window openings. On both the south and north (front and rear) facades windows flank centrally located entries which open into small entrance vestibules. The vestibules provide access to a kitchen on the west side of the house and 2 small rooms on the east side. An enclosed stairway in the kitchen leads to a deep basement and to the second floor that includes unfinished hallway space and two bedrooms finished with plaster walls and ceilings.

Rooms on the first floor are plastered, except for the kitchen which is sheathed in pine boards. Pine also encases the framing members throughout the first floor. The door and window surrounds are all plain boards and a chair rail surrounds the northeast "parlor". Prominent in the kitchen is a large kitchen hearth while a parlor fireplace occupies that room. The former includes a cupboard to the left of the fireplace opening and a simple mantle above, while the latter has slender, simply detailed, flanking pilasters that rise well above the fireplace opening and support a plain mantle shelf.

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National Park Service**

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The Homestead's present appearance is due to recent restoration activity outlined in the following paragraphs.

Twentieth century siding was removed and clapboards reinstated, the width and size of which were determined when one of the original was found serving as a shim inside a wall. The placement and size of doors and window openings including the transom over the front door, was made evident by the original plank wall boards and framing system, the latter of which was in excellent condition needing little restoration. The proportion of the original windows indicated 12 over 8 sash. These were procured from a house contemporary with the Homestead and installed in all of the openings.

Cuts in the joists and rafters and remnants of the chimney foundation revealed the size and location of the central chimney. It was rebuilt from stone on the property and bricks salvaged from a nearby house of the same era. Stone from the property was also used, with lime mortar that matched the original, in areas of the foundation that needed patching. (Most of the foundation was in good condition due in part to the structure's well-drained sandy site.) Although there was no evidence of the fireplaces' configurations, rotting in a beam, due to the continual scrubbing of the large hearthstone that had once rested on it, determined the location of the kitchen hearth. From this the location of the parlor fireplace was assumed opposite and the floor plan, that of a typical Cape type house, deduced.

Cuts in the second and first floor joists, as well as a well worn board that had once been the uppermost tread on the second floor, and square holes in the second floor floor boards that formerly admitted posts supporting a stair rail, clearly indicated the position of the original staircase, long ago removed. It was rebuilt and sheathed in pine.

Hand split lath marks were discovered in all of the rooms except the kitchen and plaster applied accordingly. A finish of plank wall boards was added in the kitchen. Original pine floor boards which were in good shape beneath modern hardwood floors were exposed throughout the house. There was no evidence remaining of door and window trim or original doors or hardware. Plain board door and window surrounds, in keeping with the house's spartan exterior appearance, were thus applied. Appropriate period reproduction doors and hardware were used where needed.

The nomination photographs show a mobile home type construction

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National Park Service**

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office located immediately to the west of the Homestead. It is located there temporarily and is scheduled to be removed in the spring of 1986.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1787-1799 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ethan Allen Homestead is significant as the only surviving residence of Ethan Allen, Vermont's legendary hero. Allen gained fame and national prominence as founder and "Colonel Commandant" of the Green Mountain Boys, leader of the attack and capture of Fort Ticonderoga and a key player throughout most of Vermont's fourteen years as an independent republic. The Homestead was recently recognized after historic research and examination of the building's physical fabric indicated the association with Allen. Twentieth century alterations were removed and the homestead was carefully restored to its late eighteenth century condition as Ethan would have known it.

Ethan Allen was a native of western Connecticut who moved to the frontier known as the Hampshire Grants (now Vermont) in the 1760s. He first gained notoriety as the charismatic, rabble-rousing "Colonel Commandant" of the Green Mountain Boys, a para-military group which used force and intimidation to oppose the claims of New York to land in present day Vermont already granted by New Hampshire and settled by New Englanders. New York was so annoyed with Allen's actions against surveyors and other officials sent out to collect fees from the settlers that a reward was offered for his capture in 1771 and again in 1774. Allen's commitment to the cause was cemented by his own extensive speculation in land under New Hampshire titles. In conjunction with his shrewd brother Ira and other kin from Connecticut, he purchased large tracts of unsettled land in the Champlain Valley, including most of the town of Burlington, and all of the intervales where he would later build a house and farm, the present Ethan Allen Homestead.

In 1775 when news of Lexington and Concord reached the Green Mountains, Allen startled the British Empire and gained widespread personal fame by leading his small army in the seizure of Fort Ticonderoga, one of the continent's key strategic outposts. Later that year Allen was taken captive by the British when he attempted to lead an ill-fated attack on Montreal. For two years and eight months he was a prisoner of war. Allen was finally released in exchange for a British soldier held by the Americans and was made a Colonel by General Washington in 1778.

On his return to Vermont, again with his brother Ira, Allen helped steer the state through fourteen shaky years as an independent republic. Ethan was appointed Vermont's Attorney

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General and also military commander. Much of his time was spent, however, convincing Congress that Vermont should be the fourteenth State in the Union, a goal that was not reached until 1791 after Allen's death. Allen went to Washington, wrote letters on the subject and even suggested that Vermont join Canada if the new nation would not accept her.

In 1784, Ethan married his second wife Frances Buchanen and in 1787 moved with her to his land holdings in Burlington then a wilderness. Allen traveled extensively and had landholdings throughout Vermont, but chose to settle down on the Burlington Homestead which today retains the undeveloped agricultural environment that Allen would have known. At the time of his marriage, Allen wrote to Ira in Burlington about plans to build a 2-story house, 34'x24' there.¹ This modest size and the spartan character of Ethan's Homestead as it appears today is explained in part by the fact that, although he was a leader in the state, he had little cash, "I am drove almost to death for money,"² he complained in 1784.

Ethan described his 1400 acre farm as having, "350 acres of choice river intervale, a quantity of swales and rich upland meadow, interspersed with the finest of wheatland and pasture land well watered and is by nature equal to any tract of land of the same number of acres that I have ever saw. The country settles fast...little is said about philsofhy here; our talk is of bullocks and our glory is the gad. We mind earthly things."³

Ethan Allen lived a relatively quiet life at his Homestead. He enjoyed the life of a framer, land dealer and revered elder statesman and continued his role as one of the republic of Vermont's founders and leaders. In February, 1789, after being stricken by a stroke while hauling a load of hay across frozen Lake Champlain, he died at home. After a military funeral, Ethan Allen was buried in a cemetery above Colchester Avenue in Burlington.

Despite his martial bluster, audacious backwoodsman's manners, and common school education, Ethan Allen was a self-styled intellectual who frequently signed his correspondence "the Philosopher." During the whole land title conflict and subsequent period of Vermont independence, Allen was a prolific and influential propagandist and pamphleteer. At least one of his literary works is viewed by scholars today as a significant contribution to the American Enlightenment. Reason, the Only Oracle of Man, widely known as "Allen's Bible," was a Deist

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religious treatise which foreshadowed Emerson's transcendentalism, served as the early foundation for Unitarianism, and earned its author the unrestrained loathing of the New England Puritan clergy. A less coherent sequel, The Universal Plenitude of Being, was penned in 1788 at Allen's Burlington farm. The appendix to Reason the Only Oracle of Man was also written there.

In 1814 the Homestead was sold to Cornelius Van Ness and was quietly farmed until the present. In 1862 it was advertised for sale at public auction with the local newspaper describing it as, "...situated on the Winooski River, two miles and half from the village of Burlington, and contains 330 acres of intervale, wood and upland. The farm was the property of General Ethan Allen and upon which he resided at the time of his decease..."⁴

The purchaser of the property in 1902, William Van Patten, rented the farm out and, recognizing its historic significance, set aside 12 acres on a ledge above Ethan's home which he offered to the Sons of the American Revolution to establish a tower in Allen's memory. "The newspaper article which announced the intention of building a memorial tower included a map of the proposed park which clearly identified Ethan's house on the intervale and gave a short history of the farm."⁵ A 1901 postcard⁶ and a Victorian line drawing⁷ also identify the farmhouse as Ethan's.

Allen's probate records indicate his farm occupied lots 34, 33, 32, and part of 31,⁸ the area early Burlington plot maps show as today's Homestead. Litigation proceedings over the farm's ownership that occurred after Allen's death and the subsequent marriage of Fanny to Jabez Penniman describe "a certain messuage [a dwelling house, with adjacent buildings and the adjoining lands] and the farm of land called General Ethan Allen's old farm, and on which the said Ethan Allen lived until the time of his death..."⁹

Despite the recognition gained at the turn of the century with the erection of the Ethan Allen tower, the Homestead went into relative obscurity until the 1980s when it was rediscovered by Vermont historians, most notably Ralph Nading Hill. (Owners during the twentieth century always referred to it as the Ethan Allen House, but this was not publicly recognized.) Examination of the buildings' physical fabric confirmed what historic research revealed--this plain and sturdy cottage was the only surviving home of Vermont's earliest and one of its greatest leaders. Its

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dimensions match those that Ethan described to Ira in his letter of 1784 and it included characteristics typical of a late eighteenth century Vermont house -- a hand hewn post and beam frame, evidence of a former massive central chimney, planks up to 17' long placed horizontally in the front wall and hand forged nails.

Historic archeological investigations conducted in 1979 in the area immediately adjacent to the Homestead revealed a limited amount of information due to extensive bulldozing in the recent past. The general pattern of artifact scatter had a mean ceramic date of 1827.¹⁰

The house was altered throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Besides the removal of the central chimney, an ell, siding and dormers were added, exterior doors and windows changed, and the interior finishes and floor plan altered. During the last four years, however, many of these changes have been reversed and the Homestead faithfully restored as described in Section 7. The funds for restoring the Homestead were appropriated by the State Legislature. Future plans for the site, including the house and grounds, include a historic museum run in conjunction with the Winooski Valley Park District and highlighting Allen's life and times.

With the original framing system and foundation intact, the overall massing, proportion and fenestration of the Homestead are clearly as Ethan knew them. The building's location and presence in an open agricultural landscape that has little changed since the turn of the eighteenth century are also true to the original, while interior detailing is based on careful analysis of any and all evidence with little left to conjecture.

The Ethan Allen Homestead is the only surviving structure associated with Ethan Allen, one of Vermont's founding fathers. Situated in the heart of the Allen clan's landholdings at the mouth of the Winooski, one of the state's major tributaries, it is the site where Allen decided to settle down after a colorful and nationally prominent life that took him throughout Vermont and beyond. He finished his greatest work, Reason the Only Oracle of Man there and died at the place, one of Vermont's most historic sites.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 4

Item number 8

Page 5

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Letter written by Ethan Allen to Ira Allen, August 1784, located in the Wilbur Collection, Bailey Howe Library, The University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.
- 2 Quoted in Yankee Kingdom, Ralph Nading Hill, New York, Harper and Brothers, 1960, p.115.
- 3 Letter written by Ethan Allen to Colonel Stephen Bradley, November 6, 1787, located in the manuscript collection of Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vermont.
- 4 Burlington Free Press, December 18, 1862.
- 5 David J. Blow, "Ethan Allen's Burlington Home 1787-1789" in The Chittenden County Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 12, No. 6, April 1978.
- 6 Postcard in the personal collection of Mr. Douglas Lewellen, Essex Junction, Vermont.
- 7 Myra Himelhock, The Allens in Early Vermont, Barre, Vermont Star Printing and Publishing Company, Inc., 1967, p.26.
- 8 Documents located in the Probate Court, Chittenden County, Burlington, Vermont, "Estate of General Ethan Allen", Vol. 106, p. 223.
- 9 Documents relating to the Ethan Allen Farm in the manuscript collection of Bob Maguire, Shorcham, Vermont.
- 10 Martha Pinello and Peter Thomas, Exploratory Archeological Excavations at the Ethan Allen Farmhouse, Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, Report # 20, 1979.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 140 acres

Quadrangle name Colchester

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	4	1	5	1	4	1	0	4	9	3	1	0	4	8	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing													

B

1	8	6	4	0	8	2	1	0	4	9	2	9	5	5	1	0		
Zone	Easting				Northing													

C

1	8	6	4	0	4	1	4	0	4	9	2	9	5	1	0	1	0	
Zone	Easting				Northing													

D

1	8	6	4	0	3	9	1	0	4	9	3	1	0	1	6	1	0	
Zone	Easting				Northing													

E

1	8	6	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	9	3	1	0	5	1	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing													

F

Zone	Easting				Northing													

G

Zone	Easting				Northing													

H

Zone	Easting				Northing													

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gina Campoli/John Page, Architectural Historians

organization The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

date January 1986

street & number 58 East State Street

telephone (802) 828-3226

city or town Montpelier

state Vermont

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Gina Campoli

title Director, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

date 6/6/86

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 9

Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, Ethan, Letter written to Ira Allen, August 1784, located in the Wilbur Collection, Bailey Howe Library, The University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.

Allen, Ethan, Letter written to Colonel Stephen Bradley, November 6, 1787, located in the manuscript collection of the Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vermont.

The Burlington Free Press, December 18, 1962.

Blow, David, "Ethan Allen's Burlington Home, 1787-1789," Chittenden County Historical Society Bulletin (13:1, April 1978).

Blow, David, title search of Ethan Allen Farmhouse property, conducted in 1977 in Burlington City Clerk's Office.

Documents relating to the Ethan Allen Farm in the manuscript collection of Bob Maguire, Shoreham, Vermont.

"The Estate of General Ethan Allen", probate documents located in the Probate Court, Chittenden County, Burlington, Vermont.

Hemenway, Abby Maria, Vermont Historical Gazetter, Vol. 1, (Burlington, 1867), pp.560-574.

Hill, Ralph Nading, Burlington, Vermont, Interview January 2, 1986.

Hill, Ralph Nading, "The House that Found Itself Out Horizontal Archeology at the Ethan Allen Homestead," Remarks delivered at the annual meeting of the Center for Research on Vermont, April 3, 1984.

Hill, Ralph Nading, Yankee Kingdom, (New York, 1960).

Himelhock, Myra, The Allens in Early Vermont, (Barre, 1967), p.26.

Jellison, Charles A., Ethan Allen, Frontier Rebel (Taftsville, Vermont, 1969), pp.320-334.

Kreuger, Sarah P., "Historical and Cultural Justification of the Ethan Allen Home," prepared in 1979 for the Winooski Valley Park District.

Pinello, Martha, and Thomas, Peter, "Exploratory Archaeological Excavations at the Ethan Allen Farmhouse," Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, Report #20 (1979).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 10

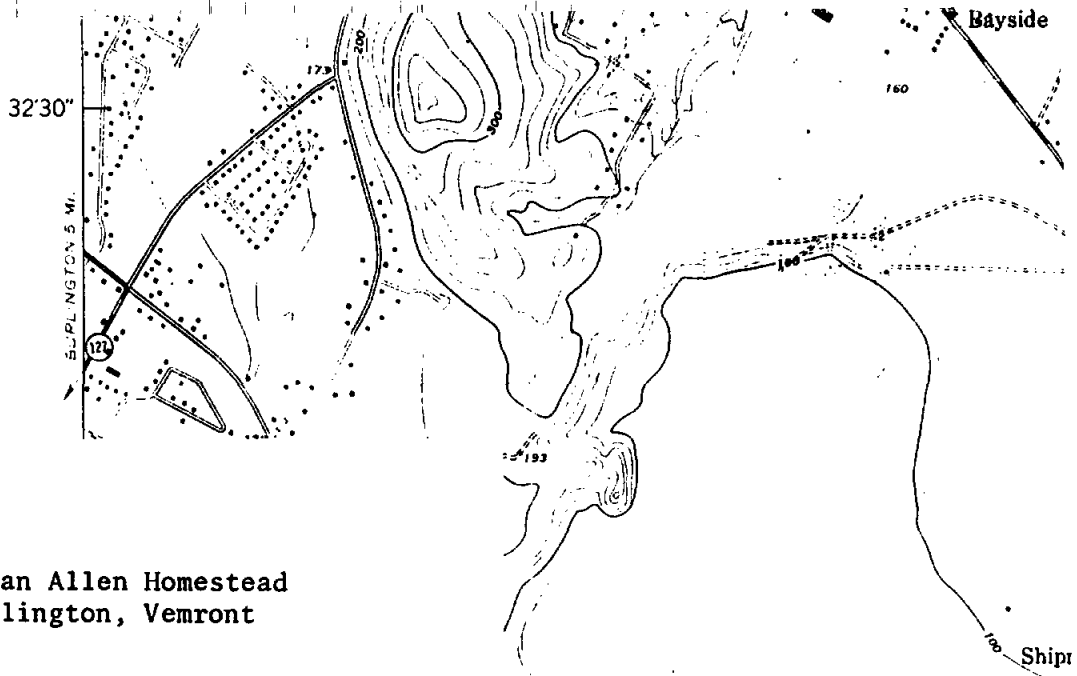
Page 1

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Ethan Allen Homestead begins at Point A, the intersection of the southern bank of the Winooski River and the south boundary of the Winooski Valley Park property. It thence proceeds in a southwesterly direction along said property line to Point B, the intersection of said line and the eastern edge of the park access road right of way. The boundary thence proceeds in a northerly direction along said edge to Point C, the intersection of said edge and the westerly extension of a line 30ft south of and parallel to the south wall of a c.1940 barn owned by the Winooski Valley Park District. It thence proceeds in an easterly direction along said extension, said line and an easterly extension of said line to Point D, the intersection of said extension and the southerly extension of a line 30ft east of and parallel to the east wall of the Winooski Valley Park District Office. The boundary thence proceeds in a northerly direction along said extension crossing a driveway and continuing along said line and a northern extension thereof to Point E, the intersection of said extension and the eastern extension of a line 30ft north of and parallel to the north wall of the Winooski Valley Park District Office. It thence proceeds in a westerly direction along said extension, said line and a westerly extension thereof to Point F, the intersection of said extension and the eastern edge of the Northern Connector right of way. The boundary thence proceeds in a northerly direction along said edge to Point G, the intersection of said edge and the south bank of the Winooski River. It thence proceeds in a northeasterly and then southerly direction following the south bank of the Winooski River to Point A, the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

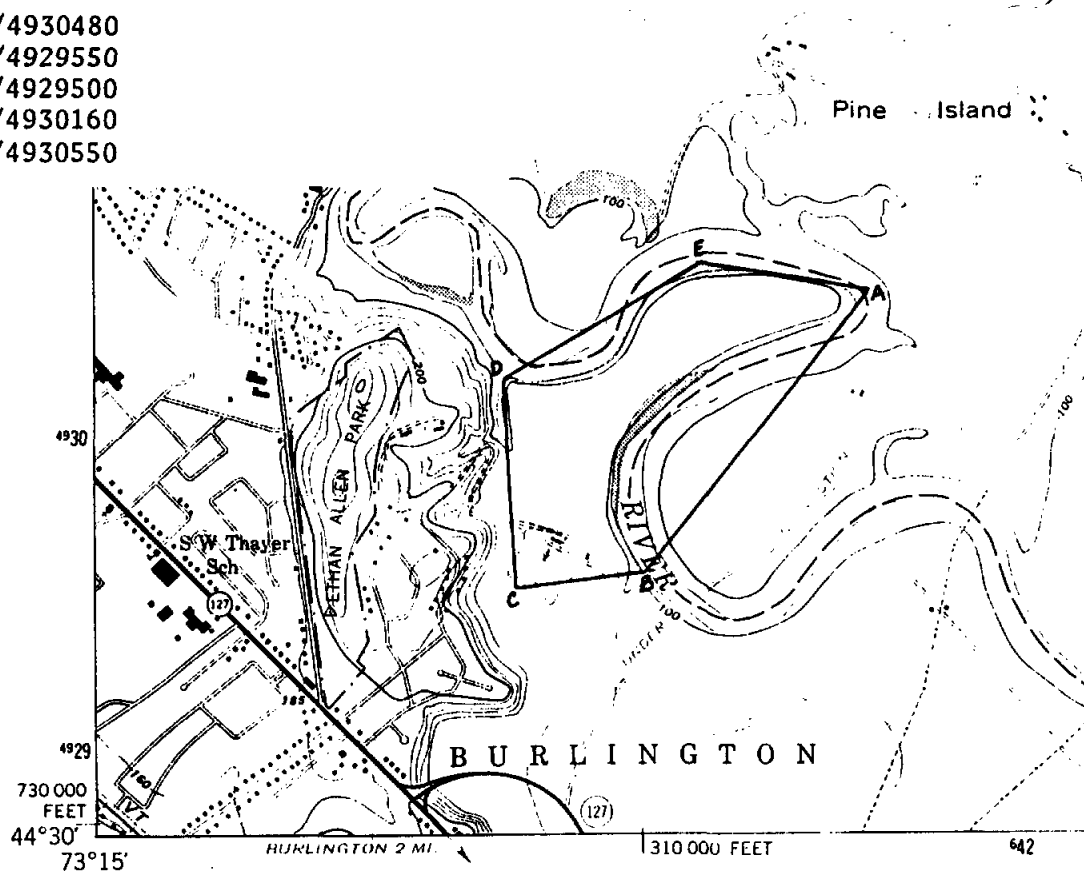
The boundary of the nominated property includes all of the undeveloped and continuously farmed land that remains from the original Ethan Allen farm. It excludes three non-contributing buildings, a c.1940 cinderblock barn, a small c.1940 house, and the Park District Office and garage (built c.1940) that are situated approximately 300 yards to the northeast of the Homestead. The Burlington Northern Connector, a divided highway, and an extensive residential subdivision are situated to the west and southwest and the Winooski River, the boundary of Ethan's farm forms the boundary to the north and east.



**Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Vermont**

UTM References

- A. 18/641540/4930480
- B. 18/640820/4929550
- C. 18/640440/4929500
- D. 18/640390/4930160
- E. 18/640000/4930550



(WILLSBORO) 1:62,500
6372 IV

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

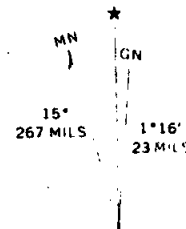
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1948

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Vermont coordinate system

No distinction is made between dwellings, barns,
commercial and industrial buildings

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue



UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



85-576-20

Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Vermont
Credit: Gina Campoli
Date: January 1986
Negative filed at the Vermont Division
for Historic Preservation
Description: Ethan Allen Homestead; view
looking North

Photograph 1



85-576-5

Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Vermont
Credit: Gina Campoli
Date: January 1986
Negative filed at the Vermont Division
for Historic Preservation
Description: Ethan Allen Homestead; view
looking North

Photograph 2



Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Vermont

Credit: Gina Campoli

Date: January 1986

Negative filed at the Vermont Division
for Historic Preservation

Description: Ethan Allen Homestead; view
looking Southwest

Photograph 3

85-576-7



85-576-9

Ethan Allen Homestead

Burlington, Vermont

Credit: Gina Campoli

Date: January 1986

Negative filed at the Vermont Division
for Historic Preservation

Description: Ethan Allen Homestead; view
looking North towards the Winooski from
the Homestead

Photograph 4



85-276-41

Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Vermont

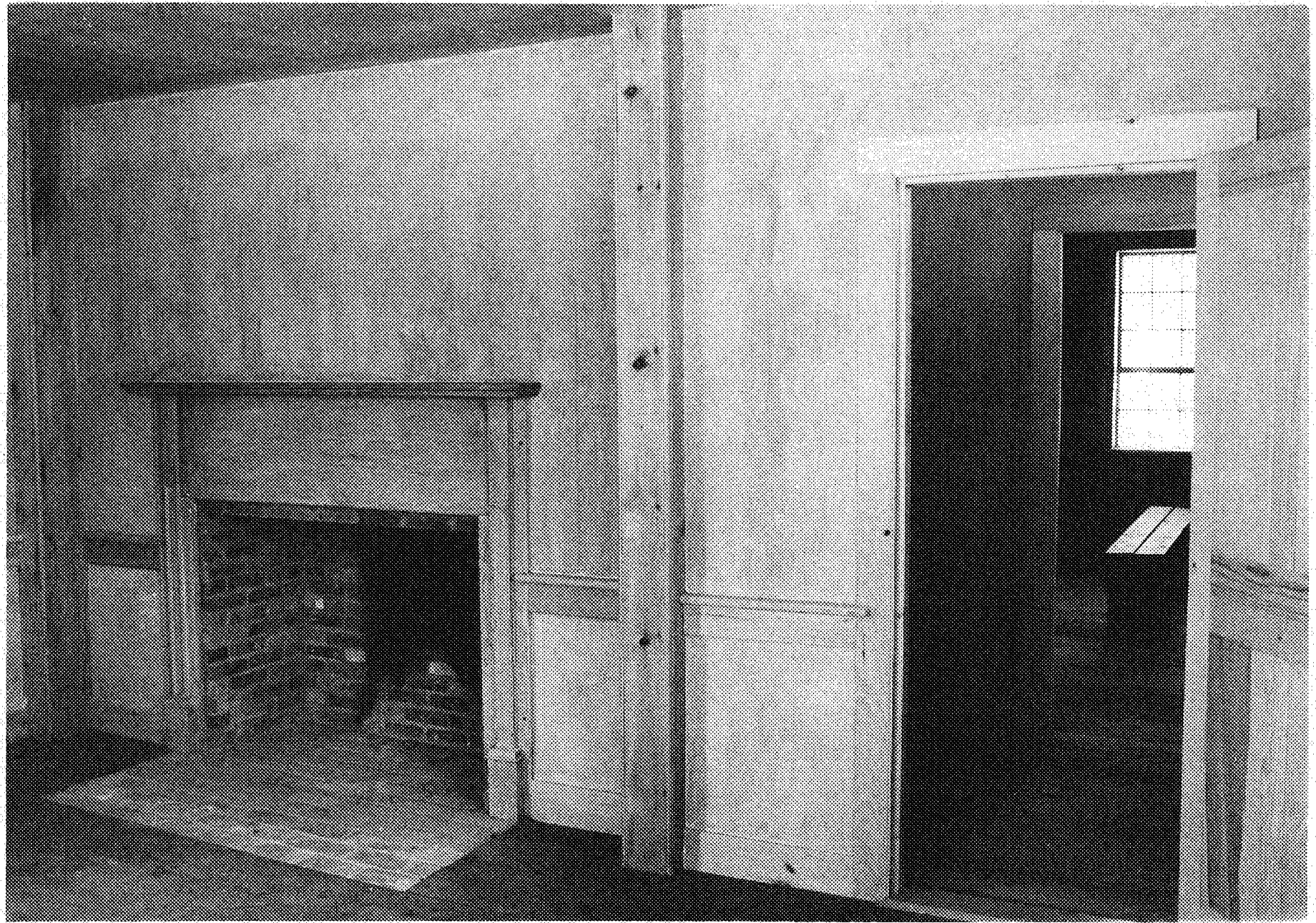
Credit: Gina Campoli

Date: January 1986

Negative filed at the Vermont Division
for Historic Preservation

Description: Ethan Allen Homestead Kitchen

Photograph 5



85-576-4

Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Vermont
Credit: Gina Campoli
Date: January 1986
Negative filed at the Vermont Division
for Historic Preservation
Description: Ethan Allen Homestead Parlor

Photograph 6