April 10 1980

Mrs A J Todd
37 East Ridge Acres
Mendon, VT 05701

Dear Mrs Todd,

We are pleased to inform you that the General John Strong Mansion is being submitted to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation for consideration for entry in the National Register of Historic Places. Notification of acceptance or rejection of the property will follow.

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

Sincerely,

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

William B Pinney
Director/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP rmd

cc Chairman Board of Selectmen Addison
Addison County Regional Planning & Development Commission
April 10, 1980

Ms Carol Shull
Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
440 G Street N W
Washington D.C 20243

Dear Ms Shull

Enclosed please find National Register nomination forms for the following

General John Strong Mansion Addison, Addison County, Vermont
South Walden United Methodist Church, South Walden Caledonia County, Vermont
Wilmington Village Historic District, Wilmington, Windham County, Vermont

These properties are being submitted under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places

Sincerely

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

William B Pinney
Director/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

WBP rmd

Enclosures
The Director of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

Chris Therral Delaporte

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P.L. 89-665 (80 Stat 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong, John, House</td>
<td>Addison vicinity</td>
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<td>Addison County</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Also Notified**

Honorable Robert T. Stafford  
Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Honorable James M. Jeffords

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401
June 10, 1980

Mrs. A. J. Todd  
37 East Ridge Acres  
Mendon, VT 05701

Dear Mrs. Todd,

We are pleased to inform you that the General John Strong Mansion has been officially entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you desire further information regarding this nomination, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

William B. Pinney  
Director/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP rmd

cc Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Addison  
Addison County Regional Planning & Development Commission
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

NAME
HISTORIC: John Strong House
AND/OR COMMON: General John Strong Mansion

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER: Vermont Route A
CITY, TOWN: Addison
STATE: Vermont

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
X STRUCTURE
X SITE
X OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
PRIVATE
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
X UNOCCUPIED
X WORK IN PROGRESS
X ACCESSIBLE
X YES: RESTRICTED
X YES: UNRESTRICTED
X NO

PRESENT USE
X MUSEUM

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME: Vermont State Society, NSDAR, Inc.
STREET & NUMBER: General John Strong Mansion
CITY, TOWN: Addison
STATE: Vermont

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Office of the Town Clerk
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN: Addison
STATE: Vermont

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE: Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey
DATE: June 1977
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CITY, TOWN: Montpelier
STATE: Vermont
The John Strong House is located between West Addison and Chimney Point on Vermont Route 17 in the Champlain Valley. Overlooking Lake Champlain, it is a highly impressive house today and must have awed most when it was built in 1795-6. Combining elements of the Georgian and Federal styles, the presence of the house is enhanced by the solid appearance of brick. In turn, the massing is counterbalanced by refined details such as the Palladian window, a fanlight, a molded cornice with modillions, windows with 12/12 lights, and the entrance porch.

With 5 x 2 bays and two stories, the house presents a symmetrical facade which is capped by a hipped roof. A large brick chimney anchors each side of the roof, though the one on the north side is an interior chimney. The central gable pediment, which emphasizes the rooflines as well as the facade, has a semi-elliptical fanlight with radiating muntins and a raking and horizontal molded cornice with modillions which is continued along the entire cornice line of the house. The Palladian window also emphasizes the central bay as does the entrance. The doorway is flanked by 9/9 sidelights and is protected by the 1-bay gabled porch which is supported by columns and pilasters and repeats the modillion cornice like that of the house. The windows are 12/12 double-hung sash and have jack arches of rubbed brick. Further brick articulation is seen in the high water table of brick and native red stone, the brick stringcourse delineating the first and second floors, and the glazed brick patterns on the two rear walls.

The Palladian window is the most exquisite feature of the facade and exhibits an unusually high degree of craftsmanship. Four fluted pilasters support the window's entablature which repeats the molding profile of the roof cornice on a smaller scale. The arch above the window is composed of brick headers which further define the window.

The interior of the Strong House reflects the same degree of quality as the exterior. The Georgian floor plan revolves around the wide central hallway whose size is magnified by a large wooden keystone arch and a stairway with two runs and a central landing which extends the width of the hall. Many of the original details and hardware remain intact. Particularly fine are several fireplace mantels which have molded cornices, rope moldings, and dentils. The two chimneys serve five fireplaces including the large kitchen fireplace which has a bake oven on the side. Somewhat odd is that there is only one principal bedroom and yet because Strong was about 58 years old when he built the house, it is conceivable that all of his children had left home by that time. On the south side of the second floor opposite the bedroom is a large bathroom a reminder that this house was not only the finest in the area but also an important social and civic meeting place.

1. This porch is a 1930's reproduction of the original porch.
2. These windows were restored in the 1930's.
The John Strong House is one of Vermont's more significant structures because it was built by an eminent Revolutionary War leader and exhibits outstanding architectural features. Built by General John Strong in 1796, this house is an elegant interpretation of the Georgian and Federal styles and ranks as one of the state's grandest examples of early domestic architecture.

John Strong (1738-1816) moved to Vermont from Connecticut in 1765 and built a house near the "Salt licks" which were known for attracting wild game. The site near the present structure had the cellar remains of an old French house and it was on top of this cellar that Strong built his house.

In February 1766, Strong brought his family to Addison and worked his farm until British troops threatened the safety of residents in this area during the Revolution. Strong and his family fled to Dorset, Vermont for the duration and from 1779-82 Strong represented Dorset in the legislature. In 1781 he was elected assistant judge of Bennington County. When the war ended, the Strong family returned to Addison and found that their house had been burned by British troops. So a second house was built and slowly Strong reclaimed his farm land. This house has since been destroyed. By 1795 his prosperity allowed for the construction of the brick house which in a way reflected Strong's standing in the community. Throughout his life, Strong was actively involved in civic affairs.

Architecturally, the John Strong House ranks as one of the most outstanding structures in the state. The design is unusually sophisticated and, considering its early date, is enhanced by the use of brick only sporadically employed at this time in Vermont. While wood has always been the predominant building material in Vermont, settlers in the Champlain Valley sometimes built stone and brick houses because of numerous quarries and the abundance of clay deposits in the region. The Strong House is one of the earliest brick houses in Vermont and is particularly distinguished by the quality of its brickwork. Undoubtedly laid by a skilled mason, the brick's Flemish bond—the favorite choice of 18th century masons—contributes to the stylishness of the house. The inherent checkered pattern of the bond is enhanced by the highly decorative use of glazed headers that form distinctive diamond-shaped patterns in the rear walls. This type of brickwork while relatively common during the 18th century in the mid-Atlantic region and Virginia is extremely rare in Vermont. Only two other examples are known to exist—the Federation Building...
in Middlebury 1804 (entered on the National Register November 13, 1976) and the Chittenden-Martin House in Jericho 1796 (entered on the National Register January 9, 1978).

The details, forms, and massing of the house suggest that either Strong or his builder were familiar with 18th century pattern books and a particularly strong correlation seems to exist between Batty Langley's Practical House Carpenter (London, 1754) and the house. In turn the Strong House appears to have influenced the designs of other buildings in the area yet none attained the same level of architectural distinction.

The John Strong House is important not only for its regional impact but because it shows the quality of design and workmanship which could be attained during Vermont's early years.

3. These three examples of glazed-brick design refer to full-length wall patterns. Others may exist. Glazed designs of a smaller scale may be more or less prevalent. One example is the Spencer House (1830) in Addison (Vermont State Survey 0101-61) which incorporates a small glazed diamond design in each gable pediment, odd is that the date is relatively late for glazed brick, and the diamonds are set into 7 1 American bond.

4. Similarities can be seen in the Clemens House (c. 1800) in Shoreham (Vermont State Survey 0118-4), Page House (c. 1798) in Shoreham (Vermont State Survey 0118-20), Buck-O'Connor House (c. 1805) in Bridport (Vermont State Survey 0102-23), and Audett-Gray House (c. 1810) in Bridport (Vermont State Survey 0102-36).
### Geo graphical Data

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**UTM REFERENCES**

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>4,878</td>
<td>9,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**
The John Strong House is situated on one acre of land bounded on the east by Vermont Route 17 and on the north, south, and west sides by the DAR State Park which is owned by the State of Vermont.

### Form Prepared By

**NAME / TITLE**
Margaret N DeLattre, Architectural Historian

**ORGANIZATION**
Division for Historic Preservation

**STREET & NUMBER**
Pavilion Building

**CITY OR TOWN**
Montpelier

**STATE**
Vermont

**DATE**
March 1980

### State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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**

**TITLE**
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**DATE**
4/11/80

### For NPS Use Only

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

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**DATE**

**ATTEST**

**CHIEF OF REGISTRATION**

**DATE**
The John Strong House
Addison, Vermont

UTM REFERENCE:
18/627200/4878950

Mapped by the Geological Survey
1945

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty
Light-duty
Medium-duty
Unimproved dirt

U.S. Route
State Route

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGIC
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC
John Strong House
Addison, VT
Credit: Margaret N. DeLaittre
Date: March 1980
Negative filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Tear wall of John Strong House showed glazed brickwork pattern.
Photograph 3
John Strong House
Addison, VT
Credit: Margaret N. DeLaittre
Date: March 1980
Negative filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: View looking west.
Photograph 1
John Strong House
Addison, VT
Credit: Margaret N. DeLaittre
Date: March 1980
Negative filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Detail of facade showing second floor's Palladian window; view looking west.
Photograph 2