

November 29, 1972

Mr, Ian Bennett
Equinox House
Main Street
Manchester, Vermont 05254

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We are pleased to inform you that the Equinox House has been officially entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Sincerely yours,

William B. Pinney
Director
Historic Sites Division

WBP:md

November 29, 1972

Mr. Charles Bonenti
Arlington
Vermont 05250

Dear Mr. Bonenti:

We are pleased to inform you that the Equinox House 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 yours,

William B. Pinney
Director

WBP:md

November 29, 1972

Mr. Oakley K. Porter
Town Manager
Manchester, Vermont 05254

Dear Mr. Porter:

We are pleased to inform you that the Equinox House has been officially entered on the National Register of Historic Places. Enclosed is a leaflet which describes the National Register program.

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

Sincerely yours,

William B. Pinney
Director

WBP:md

November 29, 1972

Mr. John G. Simson
Executive Director
Bennington County Regional Commission
Arlington, Vermont 05250

Dear Mr. Simson:

We are pleased to inform you that the Equinox House 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 yours,

William B. Pinney
Director

WBP:md



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service

George B. Hartzog, Jr.

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Liaison 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

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VERMONT

Date Entered NOV 21 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Equinox House	Manchester Bennington County
Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center	Burlington Chittenden County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. George D. Aiken
Hon. Robert T. Stafford
Hon. Richard W. Mallery

August 29, 1972

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Room 3209
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed please find a National Register nomination form for the Equinox House, Bennington County, Vermont. This property is being submitted under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Pinney
Director
Historic Sites Division
State Liaison Officer

WBP:md

Enclosure

August 29, 1972

Mr. Ian Bennett
Equinox House
Main Street
Manchester, Vermont 05254

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We are pleased to inform you that the Equinox House has been submitted to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation for consideration for entry on the National Register of Historic Places. Enclosed is an information leaflet on the National Register. Notification of acceptance or rejection of the property will follow.

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

Sincerely yours,

William B. Pinney
Director
Historic Sites Division
State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation

WBP:md

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont	
COUNTY: Bennington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Equinox House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street (No Street No.)			
CITY OR TOWN: Manchester			
STATE: Vermont	CODE: 50	COUNTY: Bennington	CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted* <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Ian Bennett			
STREET AND NUMBER: Equinox House, Main Street (No Street No.)			
CITY OR TOWN: Manchester	STATE: Vermont	CODE: 50	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Manchester Town Clerk's Office			
STREET AND NUMBER: (No Street Number)			
CITY OR TOWN: Manchester Center	STATE: Vermont	CODE: 50	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Vermont Division of Historic Sites			
STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building (No Street Number)			
CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier	STATE: Vermont	CODE: 50	

*Equinox House is open to visitors during specified hours.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Vermont
COUNTY: Bennington
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Equinox House is located along the west side of Route 7 across from the village green and the cluster of civic, religious, commercial and residential buildings which form the nucleus of Manchester, Vermont; County seat of Bennington County.

The two white, three story clapboarded main buildings of the Equinox House are rectangular in plan with the long sides being parallel (north-south) to the main street and the village green. The buildings are connected by an enclosed wooden bridge at the second story level. The east-west corridor framed by the building ends and the bridge form the visual center of the composition, creating considerable architectural excitement with the limited vista afforded of the interior courtyard.

The north main building resulted from the incorporation of an earlier house and store which stood on the site and was opened as the "Equinox House" in 1853. This building has a flat roof. A steeped wood tower is located at each end of the building. The structure contains the hotel office and desk, located behind a series of arcaded windows, on the south side of the main hall. To the north of the hall is the reception room, a large room recessed below the level of the main hall. The reception room is supported by round, fluted wood and cast iron columns. Extending west from the main building is the dining hall wing which contains the lounging, ball and dining rooms. The main dining room is perpendicular to the west end of the wing and has a barrel-vaulted ceiling.

The south main building began as Munson's Tavern, an early 19th century hostelry. This original building underwent a series of enlargements and expansions until it evolved into its present form. It was known as the "Taconic" (hotel) when the Equinox House opened directly to the north and was unified to the latter by the bridge in 1880. The building has a gabled roof divided into several levels. A large wing extends westward from the building. Both the main building and the wing are divided primarily into hotel rooms.

Both the north and south buildings have the same general scale and massing. The entire composition is unified by a two-story veranda which extends across the street side elevations of both buildings. The colonnade supporting the roof of the veranda is composed of tapered fluted wood round columns along the south building and plain square wood columns along the north building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Bennington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

This colonnaded continuous streetside elevation with its flanking marble slab sidewalk and row of maple trees extending several hundred feet along the Main street is the most significant feature of the Equinox House. Equinox House, coupled with the Bennington County Courthouse and the other outstanding structures around the town green, form one of the most spatially and architecturally distinctive townscapes in Vermont.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1853

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☒ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☒ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Equinox House is one of the most important visual elements of the unique architectural environment of the village center of Manchester, Vermont.

The structure is one of Vermont's last great 19th century resort hotels still standing.

The building symbolizes both the beginnings of the vacation industry, which has played such an important role in the economy of the state, and the impact of the railroad on the development of Vermont towns and cities.

Time has rendered much of the physical plant of the Equinox House obsolete in view of modern tastes and comforts. It is hoped that a redevelopment scheme can be evolved which will allow for modernization of facilities while preserving the unique spacial and architectural character of the town center of Manchester.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bigelow, Edwin L. & Otis, Nancy H., Manchester, Vermont,
Manchester: Town of Manchester, 1961.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	43	09	40
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	73	04	23
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Chester H. Liebs, Supervisor		
ORGANIZATION Vermont Division of Historic Sites	DATE August	
STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building (No Street Number)		
CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier	STATE Vermont	CODE 50

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name _____

Title **Director, Vt. Division of
Historic Sites**

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

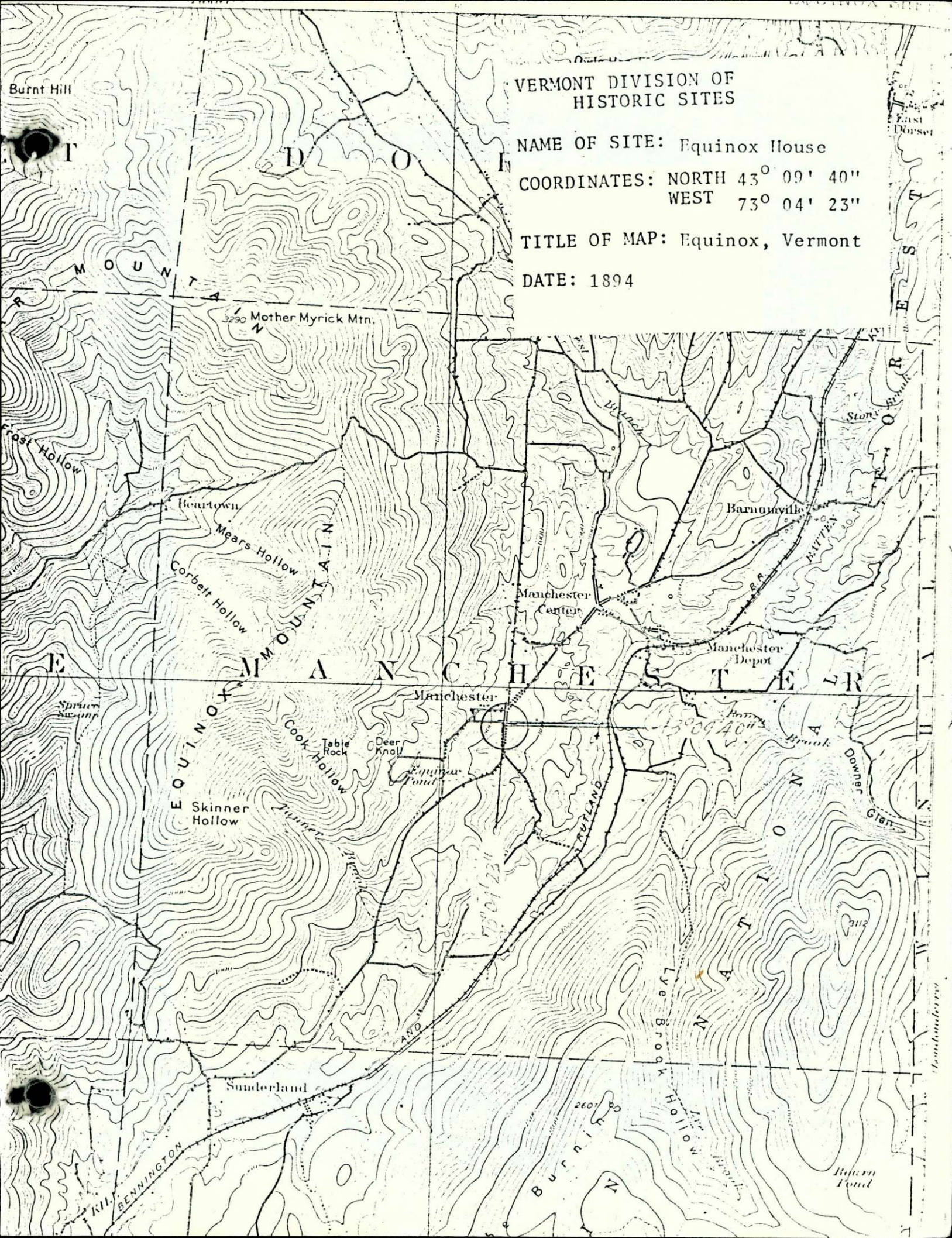
VERMONT DIVISION OF
HISTORIC SITES

NAME OF SITE: Equinox House

COORDINATES: NORTH $43^{\circ} 09' 40''$
WEST $73^{\circ} 04' 23''$

TITLE OF MAP: Equinox, Vermont

DATE: 1894



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Bennington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Equinox House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Main Street (No street No.)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Manchester			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Bennington	003
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle 15 Minute Series			
SCALE:			
1:62,500			
DATE:			
1894			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Bennington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Equinox House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Main Street (No street No.)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Manchester			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Bennington	003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Chester Liebs for Vermont Division of Historic Sites			
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Vermont Division of Historic Sites, Montpelier, Vt.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of buildings opposite Equinox House along Manchester Village green looking north.			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		Vermont
COUNTY		Bennington
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON: Equinox House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Main Street (No street No.)

CITY OR TOWN:

Manchester

STATE:

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY:

Bennington

CODE

003

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Chester Liebs for Vermont Division of Historic Sites

DATE OF PHOTO: August 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Vermont Division of Historic Sites, Montpelier, Vt.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of south building looking north along Main Street.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM.

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Bennington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Equinox House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Main Street (No Street No.)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Manchester			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Bennington	003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Charles Bonenti for Bennington Banner			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Bennington Banner, Bennington, Vermont			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View looking west from Village green.			

EAST (MAIN) FACADE OF EQUINOX
LOOKING SOUTHWEST

PHOTO: CHARLES BONENTI - Bennington Banner
JAN. 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Vermont
COUNTY	Bennington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Equinox House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Main Street (No street No.)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Manchester			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Bennington	003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Chester Liebs for Vermont Division of Historic Sites			
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Vermont Division of Historic Sites, Montpelier, Vt.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Equinox House veranda looking south.			