

Hatch-Peisch House
Main Street
Norwich
Windsor County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-52

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HATCH-PEISCH HOUSE

14. No. 1
VT.

Location: Main Street, Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont.

Present Owner: Archibald M. Peisch, Norwich, Vermont.

Present Occupant: Archibald M. Peisch, Norwich, Vermont.

Present Use: Private residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: This structure is said to be the first frame house in Norwich, Vermont, and one of possibly only three eighteenth century houses surviving in Norwich.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Joseph Hatch original owner from 1773 to 1811. Erastus S. Messenger owned the structure in the second half of the nineteenth century. Present owner since 1931.
2. Date of erection: 1773.
3. Builder: Joseph Hatch, original owner.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Porches added front and south sides. Front porch replaced by entrance porch in 1936. General restoration under way since 1931 by the present owner.
4. References
 - a. Philip Aylwin White and Dana Doane Johnson, Hugh S. Morrison, editor, Early Houses of Norwich, Vermont (Hanover, New Hampshire: Dartmouth College, 1938), 14-17, figs. 11-16.
 - b. Herbert Wheaton Congdon, Old Vermont Houses (Brattleboro, Vermont: Stephen Daye Press, enlarged and revised edition, 1946), pp. 35, 36, figs. 31, 32.
 - c. Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes--North (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1956).
 - d. Old Buildings Project of the Robert Hull Fleming Museum at the University of Vermont, Burlington, 1937-1938.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

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A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: As one of possibly only three eighteenth century houses surviving in Norwich, this structure is an example of the early architecture of the area. The structure has unusually extensive interior paneling which has been restored by the present owners.
2. Condition of the Fabric: The structure is in sound condition and is very well maintained by the present owners.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two and one half story plus cellar, frame, rectangular center block, five bays wide, plus rear ell.
2. Foundations: Large blocks, cut granite.
3. Wall construction: Timber frame, partly exposed on the interior, wood walls and clapboards.
4. Porches: Porches on front and south sides later additions. Present entrance porch added in 1936 replacing an earlier added porch.
5. Chimneys: Center chimney, but original exterior portion above the roof has been replaced and reduced in size.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two entrances. Six panel doors with side lights set in unrelieved frame.
 - b. Windows and shutters: 12/12 double hung windows, mostly replacements since 1931, with aluminum storm windows. Fixed slab shutters. Regionally characteristic pairing of windows on the five bay front side.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Simple boxed eaves, crown mould. Eave brackets at the corners unusual for this area, possibly not original.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Central chimney type plan. Small entrance hall with flanking front rooms plus large kitchen in rear with additional rooms and shed in ell to the rear. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement. VT
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2. Stairways: Two stairways. Main stairway in front, entrance hall, U-shaped with ornamented stringer, turned balusters and moulded handrail.
3. Flooring: Wide Pine board floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Wood and plaster interior finish has all been restored, but the paneling is original. Fireplace walls in two front rooms and in entrance are paneled.
5. Doors: Six panel doors.
6. Trim: Moulded wood trim.
7. Hardware: Wrought Iron hardware, original and restored.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central heating plus five fireplaces including uncovered original kitchen fireplace of brick.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The structure faces west on the main street at the edge of a rural village in a carefully contrived farm setting with extensive meadows, etc., in the rear.
2. Enclosures: Much wood fencing painted white.
3. Outbuildings: Small complex of sheds, barns, etc. to the rear of the structure.
4. Landscaping: Informal with lawn, trees, shrubs.

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Architects, National Park Service
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