

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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The description of The Left Bank, below, is contained in the 1980 petition for designation of the center of the village of North Bennington to the National Register of Historic Places.

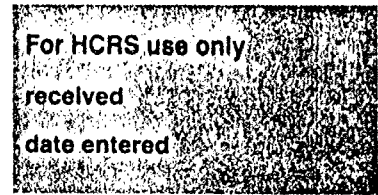
50. First National (now Catamount) Bank (Bank and Main Streets): The pivotal component of North Bennington's commercial center, this handsome High Victorian Italianate style commercial block defines the north corner of Bank and Main streets with its south facade facing the intersection. Erected in 1864, the two-story brick structure is trimmed with brownstone and capped by a metal-sheathed hip roof.

The eight-bay south facade is articulated by two slightly projecting single-bay pavilions arranged symmetrically among three flanking two-bay recessed panels. On the first story, the window and door openings are round-headed with brownstone labels and sills; those on the upper story are segmental-arched. Occupying the left pavilion, the main entrance consists of a double-leaf doorway surmounted by a semicircular fanlight, the whole enframed by a quoined and keystone brownstone surround. The projection of the pavilions is carried upward through the denticulated cornice, with each cornice projection defined by paired scrolled brackets and surmounted by a segmental pediment displaying a heraldic emblem; the paired brackets occur also at the corners of the building.

The bank block has been altered somewhat both in appearance and use. Originally the building contained the village post office in the three-bay Main Street (east) end; its central pavilion entrance (similar to that on the south facade) has since been removed - along with the post office - and replaced by a window. Another similar entrance originally occupied the right pavilion on the south facade, leading to a public hall on the second story; that entrance has also been replaced with a window. Other prominent features have been removed from the building's roof: a balustrade formerly enclosed its perimeter, and three paneled chimneys with corbeled caps stood symmetrically along the south slope. Recently the building has been apparently sandblasted, exposing the brick to increased spalling.

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In recent decades, a one-story, flat-roofed, brick office wing with round-headed windows has been added to the west end of the building. On the rear (north) elevation, a vehicle service window has been installed with a large flat-roofed shelter above the parallel driveway. To clear the site for the latter, the Greek Revival style Meagher Store was demolished in 1964; that wood-frame, clapboarded building rose 2½ stories to a gable roof with a full pediment above its Main Street storefront.