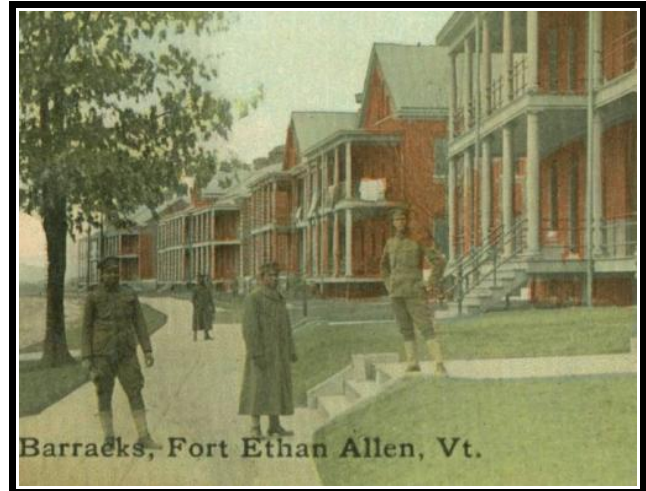
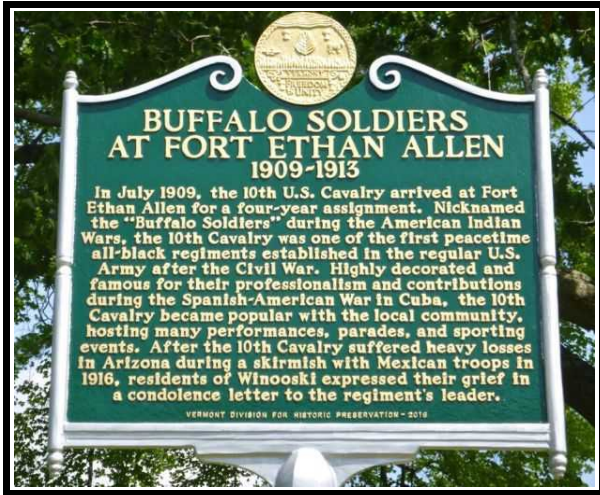


Buffalo Soldiers Historical Marker
Location: 223 Ethan Allen Avenue



The inscription on the marker reads:

"In July of 1909, the 10th U.S. Cavalry arrived at Fort Ethan Allen for a four-year assignment. Nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldiers" during the American Indian Wars, the 10th Cavalry was one of the first peacetime all-black regiments established in the regular U.S. Army after the Civil War. Highly decorated and famous for their professionalism and contributions during the Spanish-American War in Cuba, the 10th Cavalry became popular with the local community, hosting many performances, parades, and sporting events. After the 10th Cavalry suffered heavy losses in Arizona during a skirmish with Mexican troops in 1916, residents of Winooski expressed their grief in a condolence letter to the regiment's leader."

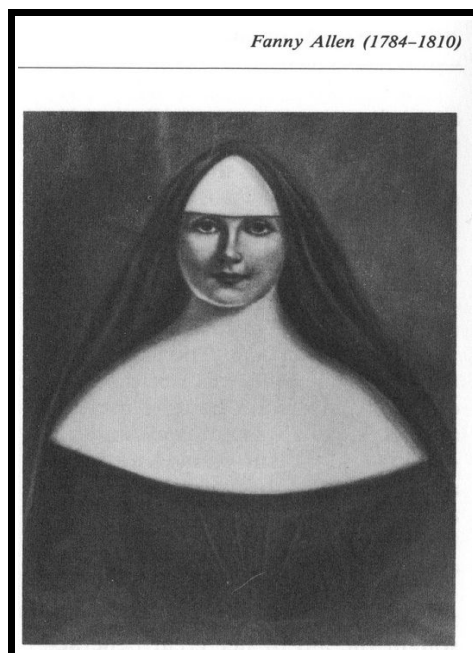
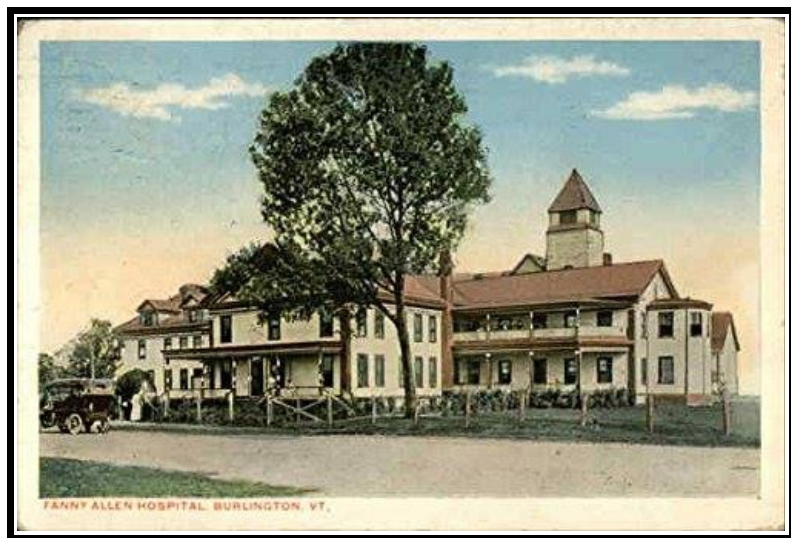
For more about the Buffalo Soldiers, please visit
<http://www.parkinsonbooks.com/fortethanallenmuseum/feampages/buffalosoldiers.html>.

Also, read *The Buffalo Soldiers in Vermont, 1909–1913* by Dr. David Work at
https://vermonthistory.org/journal/73/07_Work.pdf.

Source:

- Photo and information courtesy of the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation

Fanny Allen Hospital
Location: 790 College Parkway



Frances (Fanny) Margaret Allen, daughter of Vermont's most famous Revolutionary War hero, Ethan Allen, was the inspiration for the founding of Fanny Allen Hospital in Colchester. She was the first woman born in Vermont to enter the order of the Religious Hospitalliers of St. Joseph at the Hotel Dieu in Montreal. Tuberculosis took her life at only age 26, but her memory was preserved in the hearts of the women of her congregation in Montreal, as well as in the hearts of many Vermonters, who were inspired and converted to a deeper faith by Fanny's life's example.

The first hospital building was the former Dunbar's Hotel donated by an Irish immigrant. The hospital was founded in 1894 and approved by the American Medical Association as a 75-bed facility in 1940. In the early years, it operated a working farm to help defray expenses. The hospital is known today as the Fanny Allen Campus and is part of the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Source:

- *Walking in the Spirit – Fanny Allen Hospital 1894-1994* by Michael J. Healy (Fanny Allen Hospital, 1993)

Fort Ethan Allen

Location: Junction of Vermont Route 15 and Barnes Avenue



Fort Ethan Allen was authorized by Congress in 1892 and was built on farmland donated to the federal government. Congressional approval was conditioned on the Fort being located on a railroad line between Burlington, Vermont and the Canadian border, and that the land be freely donated to the federal government. William Seward Webb, owner of the Central Vermont Railroad, led the effort to raise the money to purchase the land. The Fort's mission was to be a training base for the Cavalry and to defend Vermont's international northern border. In the early

1900s, field artillery was added to the Cavalry at the base. The grounds, originally consisting of approximately 130 acres, were designed in a military hierarchy with officers' quarters facing the elliptical parade grounds at the front, then non-commissioned officers and the hospital, then enlisted men's barracks, service buildings, and at the rear, the stables and veterinary hospital. Its buildings were constructed using local materials, especially Drury bricks.

Of particular interest is the arrival of the famous "Buffalo Soldiers" – the 10th U.S. Cavalry – who served at Fort Ethan Allen 1909–1913. There were 750 black enlisted men; however, the actual number of black Americans arriving was higher – around 1,500 – because the regiment had a large camp following that included wives, children, other relatives and even small businesses that followed military regiments when they moved. The Buffalo Soldiers were one of the first peacetime all-black regiments established in the regular U.S. Army after the Civil War. In addition to the 10th U.S. Cavalry, sources indicate the Fort was home to the 1st Battalion 77th Field Artillery Regiment; 1st Squadron, 2nd and 3rd Cavalries (1919 -1941); the 7th Field Artillery; the 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry (1928-1931); the 2nd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery (1933-1940); as well as elements of 9th Quartermaster Regiment, and the 84th Quartermaster Battalion.

In its heyday, Fort Ethan Allen featured Officers Row, elegant housing of Romanesque and Colonial Revival architectural styles for its military officers. Additional rows of housing provided barrack-style residences for single cavalry men, as well as larger living quarters for non-commissioned officers and their families. A city within itself, the Fort featured its own water supply system (three wells, water tower, and pump house), three train rail sidings and buildings for storage of supplies for troops and their horses, armory, blacksmith shop, veterinarian clinic, horse stables, indoor horse-riding hall for conducting drills during inclement weather, grass airfield, bakery, administration/post office/post exchange/gymnasium, its own marching band, hospital, church, theater, fire station, morgue, and even a small prison. The men on the base often interacted with the community and Vermont colleges with their own sports teams, including baseball, football, basketball, and polo.

The U.S. Army discontinued using the post in 1944, but for a short time it became the Ethan Allen Air Force Base. In the 1960s, the General Services Administration was tasked with disposing of the base, and some of the Fort property was given to St. Michael's College and the University of Vermont to be used for educational purposes for 20 years or returned to the federal government. After the twenty-year period they could be disposed of by the schools, and much of it has since been sold. The State received parts of the Fort, some of which is now the District Highway Department and State Vehicle Maintenance. Other portions of the Fort have been developed for commercial uses, and some now belong to Camp Johnson, the headquarters for the Vermont National Guard. Various businesses now occupy the former horse stables, and the former indoor riding hall has been elegantly transformed into the Elley-Long Music Center. The former military hospital is now Green Mountain Nursing & Rehabilitation. The water pump house is now the Fort Ethan Allen Museum. Officers Row housing and barracks buildings have become private homes, condominiums, and apartments. Also located within the Fort's former buildings are not-for-profit

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organizations such as Vermont Public (Vermont's unified public media source); Josh's House (a veteran-designed recreation wellness space); and the Vermont Center for Responder Wellness. The water pump house is now the home of the Fort Ethan Allen Museum. The former parade grounds, once the site of military equestrian competitions, band performances, baseball games and military exhibition events, is now jointly owned by the Towns of Colchester and Essex and serves as a popular public park of 19 acres that features an array of outdoor activities.

Fortunately, nearly all of the re-purposed buildings have retained the Fort's historic beauty and integrity throughout the years.

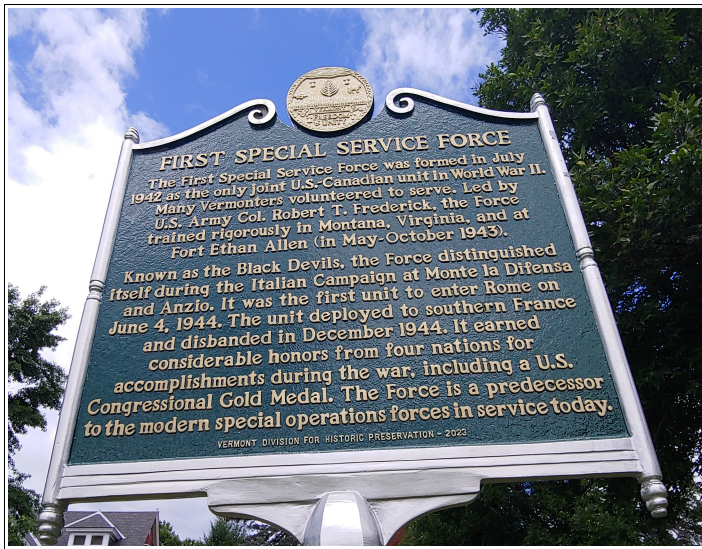
Please enjoy your driving tour around Fort Ethan Allen. The Fort Ethan Allen Museum is located near the water tower and is open by chance or by appointment.

Sources:

- Fort Ethan Allen Museum website at <http://www.parkinsonbooks.com/fortethanallenmuseum/feampages/museumhome.html>
- *Fort Ethan Allen – Step By Step: A Walking History Tour* by William L. Parkinson, Executive Director, Fort Ethan Allen Museum (2017)
- *The Buffalo Soldiers in Vermont, 1904-1913* by David Work https://vermonthistory.org/journal/73/07_Work.pdf
- *Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Ethan Allen*, <https://vermonthistory.org/buffalo-soldiers-at-fort-ethan-allen>
- Vermont Historic Roadside Markers, <https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/roadside-markers>
- Fort Ethan Allen on Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Ethan_Allen.
- For more about the First Special Service Force, visit <https://armyhistory.org/first-special-service-force>.

First Special Service Force Historical Marker

Location: Dalton Drive, within Fort Ethan Allen, at the park between the bandstand and the tennis courts (Note: Parking is available only on the opposite side of the street from this marker.)



The Town of Colchester is proud and honored to have received this Vermont Historic Marker commemorating the First Special Service Force. The unveiling of the marker and a special dedication event was held on Saturday, August 12, 2023. In addition to speakers, the ceremony included a performance by a specially formed choir. The anthem “Vermont is A State I Love” was especially composed by Gene Childers, representing the FSSF Association. The 40th Army Band played a lively march entitled “Frederick's Black Devils” by Paul Murtha.

Attendees included many FSSF Association members and families from around the United States and Canada, as well as an honor guard, bagpipers, a military chaplain, local citizens, and dignitaries. The unveiling was done quickly and with fanfare on a beautiful and sunny morning. At the base of this new historic marker was an FSSF wreath as well as vases of red, white and blue flowers, each bouquet honoring a particular FSSF fallen veteran.

The text on the marker states:

“The FSSF was formed in 1942 as the only joint U.S.-Canadian unit in World War II. Many Vermonters volunteered to serve. Led by U.S. Army Col. Robert T. Frederick, the FSSF trained rigorously in Montana, Virginia, and at Fort Ethan Allen.

Known as the 'Black Devils,' the FSSF distinguished itself during the Italian Campaign at Monte la Difensa and Anzio. It was the first unit deployed to southern France and later disbanded in 1944. It earned considerable honors from four nations for accomplishments during the war, including a U.S. Congressional Gold Medal. The FSSF is a predecessor to the modern special operations forces in service today.”

For more information about the FSSF, please visit <http://firstspecialserviceforce.net>.

Source: Gene Childers, First Special Service Force Association

Saint Michael's College
Location: One Winooski Park



Priests from the Society of Saint Edmund in France came to the United States in 1889 and opened Saint Michael's Institute in 1904 with \$5,000. The first session had 34 male enrollees, ages 10 to 22; tuition and board cost each student \$105. Over time, St. Michael's Institute changed from a high school to a residential college. Graduate programs were offered in 1939 for the first time.

In 1947, Saint Michael's Playhouse was opened. It brought professional summer theater to Vermont and provided students with the opportunity to work behind the scenes. A fire in 1970 burned the playhouse to the ground, but Michael and Margaret McCarthy, two major financial contributors to the college, funded a new theater now known as the McCarthy Arts Center Theater.

After World War II, St. Michael's College's student enrollment was larger than ever. By mid-century, freshmen were required to wear a dress shirt, coat, and tie to classes and for the evening meal. All dorm students recited the rosary before bedtime. The Board of Trustees, in 1970, approved a proposal to accept women into the college.

The St. Michael's College website indicates that "as of spring 2018, there were approximately 1,600 undergraduate students, about 20 percent of the students are in-state. Two percent of the 80 percent out-of-state students are international. Undergraduate students at the college come from 35 states and 17 countries. Saint Michael's has 155 full-time faculty members, creating a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio on campus. There are 439 graduate students who attend the college; over 90 percent are from Vermont."

In 2019, Saint Michael's College Fire and Rescue celebrated its 50th anniversary as an independent, volunteer student-run organization. In addition to their day-to-day academic responsibilities, the students serve the community through fire protection and emergency medical treatment. Its crews respond to fire and rescue emergency calls in the Chittenden County area, especially Winooski, Colchester, and on the college campus. With the dedication and support of Saint Michael's students, alumni, and staff volunteers, the organization serves 24 hours a day, year round.

Sources:

- <https://www.smcvt.edu>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Michael%27s_College
- <http://www.smfronline.org>

Vermont National Guard Library and Museum

Location: 789 National Guard Road at Camp Johnson

(Note: be prepared to show identification at the entrance gate.)



The Vermont National Guard Library and Museum, founded in the 1970s, is dedicated to the accumulation, preservation, and display of military artifacts and memorabilia spanning the history of Vermont and our nation. Currently, exhibits range from the Revolutionary War through the Iraqi conflict.

The museum has both indoor and outdoor exhibits. Its collection has been donated by the military, government, and individuals. Volunteers and directors work to maintain displays to make them available to the general public. The museum is fully supported by memberships, donations, and volunteers.

The library of the Vermont National Guard Library and Museum has approximately 4,000 military books, periodicals, manuals, and regulations, as well as information about the history of the Vermont National Guard and Vermont's military heritage.

Parking and admission are free. The museum is generally open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. but may not be open on some holidays. Call 802- 338-3360 or email museumadm@gmail.com before you go.

Source:

- <https://vt.public.ng.mil/Museum>