

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Vermont</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Chittenden</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>MAY 17</b>	<b>1973</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Williston Congregational Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**North side of Route 2 in the center of Williston Village**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Williston**

STATE <b>Vermont</b>	CODE <b>50</b>	COUNTY: <b>Chittenden</b>	CODE <b>007</b>
-------------------------	-------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input 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) <b>Unoccupied</b>
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Town of Williston**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**(No street number)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Williston**

STATE:  
**Vermont**

CODE:  
**50**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Williston Town Clerk's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route 2, Williston Village**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Williston**

STATE:  
**Vermont**

CODE:  
**50**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
**1970**

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Vermont Division of Historic Sites**

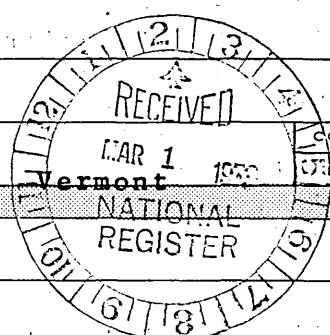
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Pavilion Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Montpelier**

STATE:  
**Vermont**

CODE:  
**50**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: <b>Vermont</b>
COUNTY: <b>Chittenden</b>
ENTRY NUMBER: <b>MAY 17 1973</b>
DATE: <b>1973</b>

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 Williston Church is a small one story rectangular building with walls constructed of brick resting on a foundation of dressed blocks of locally quarried "red stone." The bricks on the side elevations are laid up in common bond while the front (south) elevation is laid up in running bond. The best bricks were used on the front and the burned and distorted bricks on the rear (north) elevation. The general style of the building might be best described as gothic ~~and~~ ~~Greek~~ Revival.

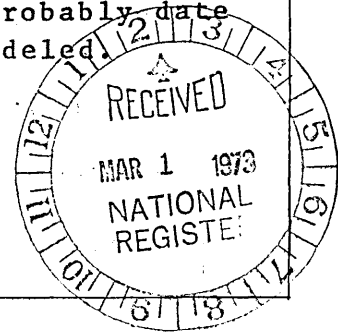
The large gothic arched windows located along the front and sides of the building are an outstanding exterior feature of the structure. Three of these windows are set on each side elevation and are constructed of eight over eight window casings with a louvered wood shutter filling the triangle formed at the top of the arch.

This gothic arched motif is accentuated on the front elevation. Here two large multi-paned windows with gothic sash flank a double raised panel entrance door surmounted by a gothic sash transom light. The arcaded treatment is enhanced by corresponding brick recesses which outline the door and windows. A triangular light with gothic sash is located above the doorway near the apex of the front gable end.

The structure is surmounted by a wood cornice with a partial cornice return. The gable roof is sheathed with slate and a small brick interior chimney with a corbeled cap is located along the roof peak to the rear of the structure. The steeple is built in three tiers the first being rectangular and the second and third octagonal in plan. The corners of each tier are pilastered and the third tier is capped by a dome and finial. The present bell was manufactured by the Jones & Co., Troy Foundry Bell Works, in 1878.

The walls of the large one story meeting room are adorned by applied plaster pilasters which alternate with the windows. The room has an elaborate cove moulding. The remaining paint fragments indicate that the entire interior detailing was polychromed in the mid 19th Century. The niche behind the alter is outlined by a heavy ordered treatment. An organ and choir loft is located at the rear (south side) of the meeting room. Much of the interior detailing and pews probably date from 1860 when the church was substantially remodeled.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

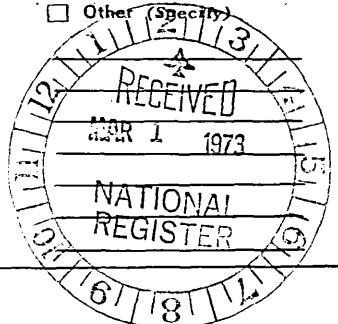
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1832**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of the Williston Congregational Church in 1832 marked the culmination of 32 years of steady growth and influence of the Williston Congregational Society which was established in 1800.

The structure has been recognized as being architecturally outstanding from the time of its construction as evidenced in The Burlington Free Press of February 1, 1832:

The church edifice is well suited to its use, and is highly creditable both to the society and those who superintended its erection. It is built with brick and is of the Gothic order. It is sufficiently large to accomodate six or eight hundred people. In the plan and execution, it combines convenience with simple elegance and good taste. The interior is in modern style. The pulpit is very low; the seats are slips; and there is only one gallery or 'orchestra' for the choir. In all respects the edifice is such that the "blue-eyed goddess" of architecture may look down upon it, if not with pride at least with complacency.

Today the church is one of the outstanding elements of the visual environment of the Burlington-Montpelier transportation corridor. The building can be viewed by all motorists traveling on both U.S. Route 2 and Interstate 89.

In addition to its visual significance, the church has historical associations with Governor Martin Chittenden (1763-1840), son of Thomas Chittenden, Vermont's first Governor, and in his own right one of the major political figures in the formation of the State of Vermont.

The building has been used very little since 1899 when Williston's various church sects amalgamated. Ownership of the structure has recently been deeded to the Town of Williston. A citizens' group is planning to restore the building for use as a community center.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. The Burlington Free Press, February 1, 1832.
2. Moody, F. Kennon; Putnam, Floyd D. The Williston Story.  
Essex Jct., VT: The Roscoe Printing House, 1961. P.28.
3. Rann, W. S. ed. History of Chittenden County Vermont.  
Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., 1886.
4. Wright, Odella Fay (and others). A History of the Town of  
Williston

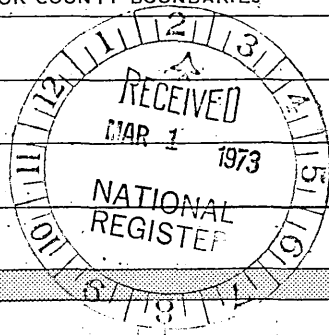
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		44 26 20	73 04 22	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO  
LITH  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Chester H. Liebs, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: 2/23/73

STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>William B. Pinney</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director of Historic Sites</u> <u>State Historic Preservation</u> <u>Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>2/23/73</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>5/17/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. B. Pinney</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>5 15 73</u></p>
---	--

15/003009/192-2200  
41220267  
9-2478-019

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

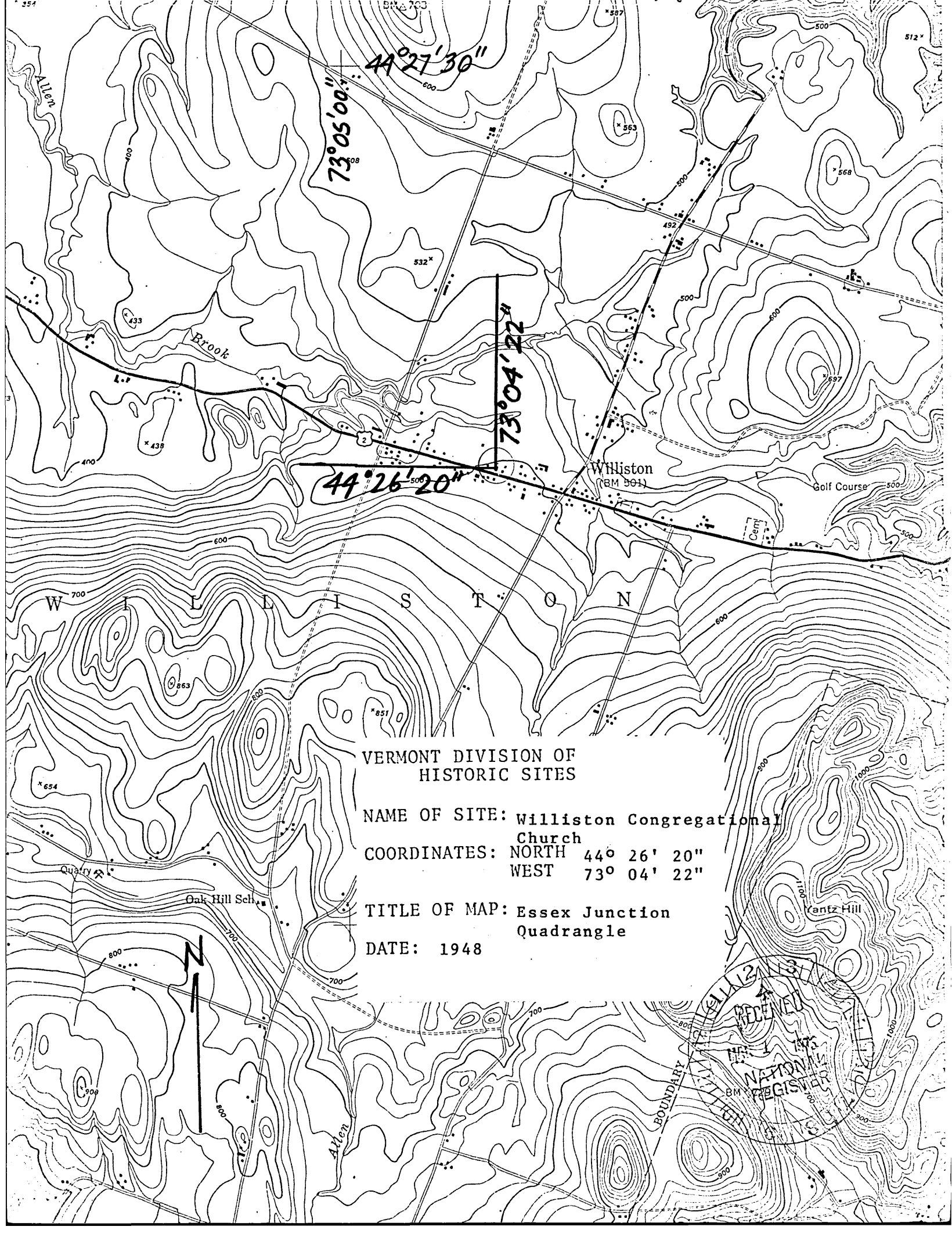
STATE	
Vermont	
COUNTY	
Chittenden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 17 1973

(Number all entries)

Section 9.

4. Williston. Williston, VT: The Historical Committee,  
1913. P.50.





VERMONT DIVISION OF  
HISTORIC SITES

NAME OF SITE: Williston Congregational  
Church

COORDINATES: NORTH 44° 26' 20"  
WEST 73° 04' 22"

TITLE OF MAP: Essex Junction  
Quadrangle

DATE: 1948

