

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | DEC 21 1981 |
| DATE ENTERED | FEB 6 1981 |

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Cambridge Meetinghouse
AND/OR COMMON Old Brick Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Church Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Cambridge Jeffersonville — VICINITY OF Jeffersonville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Vermont CODE Lamoille COUNTY Lamoille CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Cambridge
STREET & NUMBER Town Clerk's Office, Main Street
CITY, TOWN Jeffersonville — VICINITY OF Jeffersonville STATE Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER Main Street
CITY, TOWN Jeffersonville STATE Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey
DATE March, 1979 — FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
CITY, TOWN Montpelier STATE Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cambridge Meetinghouse is a Federal Style brick structure which employs the traditional New England meetinghouse plan of a gabled front elevation with central entrance and belltower. The projecting central pavilion is a variation common to the Federal period. Wall construction is seven-course American bond brick on a stone foundation. The roof is clad with slate. A molded box cornice extends across the front gable and faces the central pavilion as a pediment with fan louver. The brick belltower has large rectangular louvres on all four elevations, a molded cornice, and is surmounted by an octagonal domed cupola. The front entrance has slightly recessed panelled double doors, panelled reveals, and is framed by a surround of pilasters supporting an entablature. First-story fenestration uses twenty-over-fifteen sash; the second story has nine-over-six sash. The east elevation side door has a glazed transom.

The Meetinghouse is located on a main street in Jeffersonville, Cambridge's largest village. It substantially retains its original exterior fabric and appearance. The only significant alterations occurred in 1901 when the interior was completely renovated to change the building from a church to a public auditorium. A large Colonial Revival style shed-like projection was added to the rear to accommodate a theatrical stage. A small ell on this addition is visible from the street and is faced with a corniced parapet. All original interior fabric except for window surrounds were removed at that time. In addition, several front elevation window apertures were bricked in, and two west elevation windows were sympathetically altered to doors with glazed transoms. One of these doors is on the second story and is served by an iron fire escape. The dome may also have been added at this time. Letters reading "Town Meeting Playhouse" were applied to the front pavilion in the 1960's.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1826

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cambridge Meetinghouse, also known as the Old Brick Church, is significant as an example of the New England meetinghouse as it developed in Vermont during the Federal period. The gable-front form with central entrance and belltower first emerged in the eighteenth century, and became a virtual standard building type for churches, academies, and town halls from c. 1800 until c. 1875, when the eclecticism of Victorian architecture required less formal proportions. On this particular meetinghouse a pedimented central pavilion and domed cupola are employed to simulate the monumental portico and multi-tiered steeple often found on higher style examples of the period. Other ornamentation includes a fan louvre in the front pediment, a molded cornice, and Neo-Classical entrance surround. It is one of the most significant examples of the Federal style in Lamoille County.

The Cambridge Meetinghouse was erected in 1826 as a Union Church, to be shared by Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists, and Universalists. This unusually early example of denominational interaction evolved in just a few years into a radical brand of anti-sectarianism which kept the church, and at times the whole town, in a state of "wild excitement," in which "the regular labors and duties of life were broken up, and in some cases dispensed with altogether. Business was suspended." Known in the early years as Truarism, this religious ferment came to a head in the 1840's when members of the church calling themselves Perfectionists established a free love commune in Cambridge. By 1852, they had moved away, mostly to the famous silver-making commune at Oneida, New York, and the church's revolutionary period ended.

In 1866, the Town of Cambridge began to use the meetinghouse as a town hall; in 1871, the present bell was purchased, and in 1889, the Congregationalists built their own church near the center of the village, marking the last use of the building for religious services. The only significant alterations occurred in 1901, when the interior was completely renovated and a large shed-like projection was added to the rear to accommodate a theatrical stage, and the building was converted to an "opera house." Of the original interior fabric, only molded window surrounds and the gallery frame survived. In 1958, the Town moved its offices out of the vestry, and, except for a brief revival as a summer stock theater in the 1960's, the old meetinghouse has been vacant since.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Noble, Winona S., ed., The History of Cambridge, Vermont (Cambridge, 1976).

Hemenway, Abby Maria, ed., Vermont Historical Gazetteer, II (Burlington, 1871).

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Jeffersonville Quad

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,8 | 6,7,1 | 9,7,8 | 4,9 | 4,5 | 4,1,0

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Being a lot of land on the southerly side of Park Street, so-called, in the Village of Jeffersonville, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point marked by an iron pin set at the southeasterly corner of the described premises on the common boundary of the Town of Cambridge property and (See Con. Sheet)

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John C. Page

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Consultant

DATE

August 30, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 49A

TELEPHONE

802-644-2796

CITY OR TOWN

Waterville

STATE

Vermont

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Pinney

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-15-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Lois Carol D. Smith

DATE

2-6-81

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Patricia Andrews

DATE

2/6/81

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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

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

For HCRS use only

received 10 1 1980

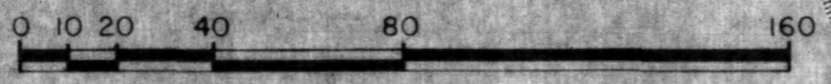
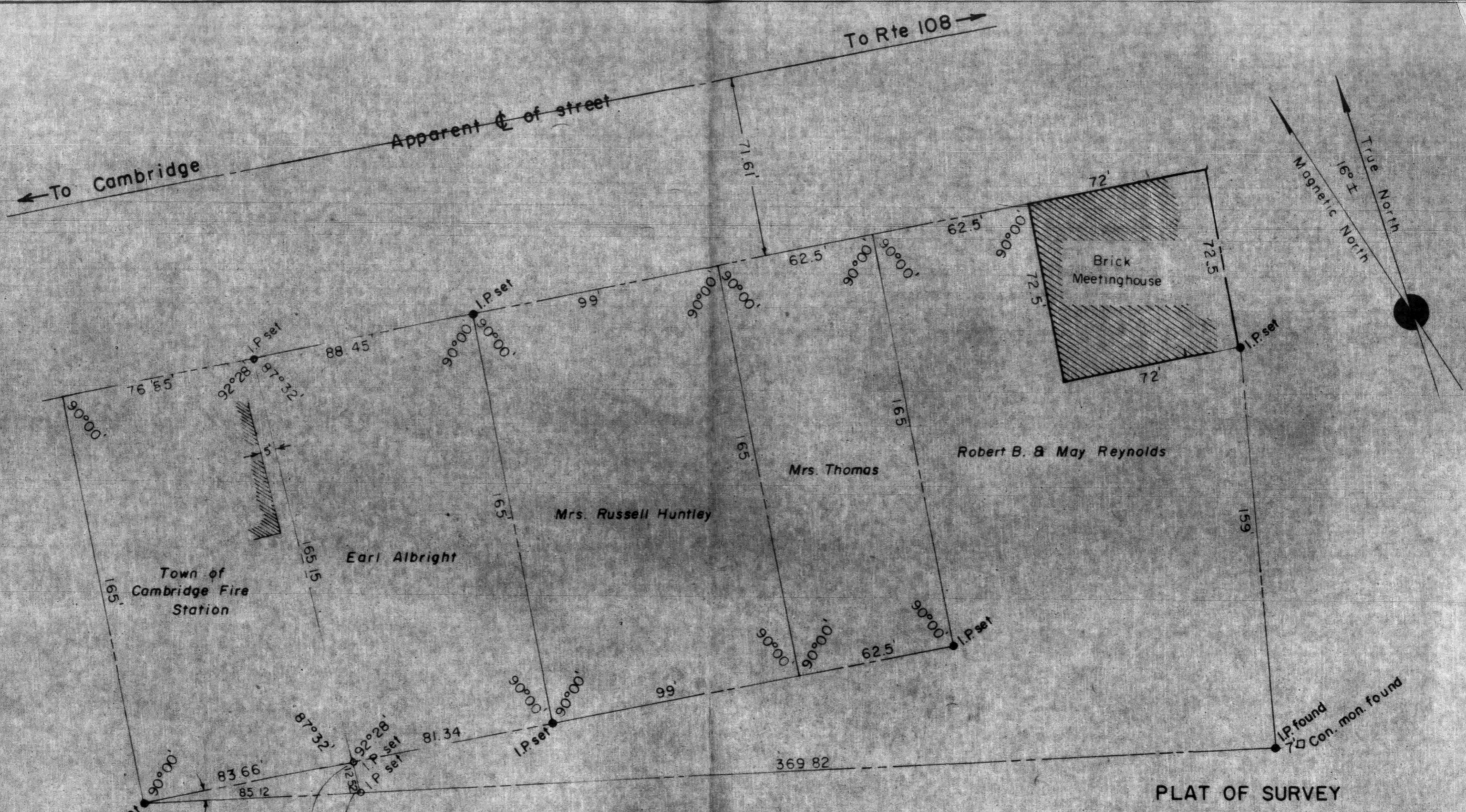
date entered FEB 6 1981

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 10

Page 1

property now or formerly of Reynolds; thence proceeding northerly a distance of 72.5 feet along the common boundary of this property and lands and premises formerly of Lillian Pope to a point; thence turning to the left at an interior angle of 90° and proceeding a distance of 72 feet to a point; thence turning to the left at an interior angle of 90° and proceeding along the boundary of lands and premises now or formerly of Reynolds a distance of 72.5 feet to a point; thence turning to the left and proceeding along the boundary of lands and premises now or formerly of Reynolds a distance of 72 feet to the point and place of beginning.



This map revised in 1975

I hereby certify that this survey is correct to the best of my knowledge based on land records

John A. Marsh
 9/23/80

STATE OF VERMONT
 JOHN A. MARSH
 REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR
 NO. 256

PLAT OF SURVEY
 OF
**LOTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE
 OF MAIN STREET**
 IN THE
VILLAGE OF JEFFERSONVILLE, VT.

SCALE 1" = 40'
 SURVEYED BY JOHN A. MARSH, SEPT 1973
 DRAWN BY DARE MCCUIN