

PH0358363

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 10 1976

DATE ENTERED

AUG 10 1976

**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

Carnegie Building of the Fletcher Free Library

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

College Street, corner of South Winooski Avenue NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Vermont

VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Chittenden

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(s)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: unoccupied

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Burlington

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

VICINITY OF

STATE
Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the City Clerk of Burlington

STREET & NUMBER

Church Street corner of Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

STATE
Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE
Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carnegie Building of the Fletcher Free Library occupies a landscaped corner site in downtown Burlington, one block east of the city's major commercial street. The design of the building is derived from the precepts of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, its immediate inspiration being the style of the English Renaissance, possibly a house designed by Inigo Jones.

The library is a high, one story brick building with a hipped roof. A projecting gabled entrance pavilion on the main (north) elevation articulates the essential division of the library's public areas: two large reading rooms flanking a lofty central hall. A projecting central wing on the rear (south) elevation completes the plan.

Each wing measures three bays wide and three bays deep. The walls, which are laid in common bond, rest upon a rusticated granite foundation with a battered granite basement and pulvinated granite watertable above. The windows rest on a terra-cotta stringcourse and have terra-cotta cornices and architrave surrounds. The framing consists of twin fifteen light casements under large tinted transoms. Rusticated brick corner pilasters topped by terra-cotta capitals support an entablature composed of a terra-cotta architrave, a brick frieze and a highly detailed Corinthian cornice.

The entrance pavilion consists of a high gabled roof with a terra-cotta cornice and partial cornice returns supported by large paired terra-cotta consoles and rusticated brick corner pilasters. Framed by this is a large round arched window (presently boarded; stained glass window removed for safe keeping) with a terra-cotta keystone and archivolt and a pedimented entrance porch. The pediment, which is supported by terra-cotta pilasters and has a console set in the tympanium, frames a segmental arch supported by engaged terra-cotta columns. The library doors, inside the porch, are of modern glass and metal construction and are placed in a segmental arched doorway with interrupted terra-cotta voussoirs. Both the porch pediment and the gable peak of the pavilion are topped with terra-cotta acroteria.

The rear stack wing has a simplified terra-cotta cornice. Below are narrow, doublehung attic windows set over the corbelled cornice and the terra-cotta continuous lintel course which tops the narrow, recessed two story windows lighting the stack room. The stack wing's abstract and functional composition is completed by the basement windows which are in axis with the upper windows, thus forming a bold, vertically banded window and wall pattern.

The building's slate roof is topped with metal cresting. Brick chimneys, decorated with projecting ribs of brick and terra-cotta, stand at the end of both the east and west wings. All of the terra-cotta detailing on the building is glazed and off-white in hue.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-1)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Major interior features include the 37 foot high, barrel vaulted hall with arches springing from plaster capitals supported by paired consoles. The hall opens directly onto the reading rooms as well as onto narrow groin vaulted second floor galleries. Both the entranceway and the fireplaces at the end of each reading room have elaborate pedimented oak surrounds. The rooms on the second story, directly above the two reading rooms, are skylighted and have fireplaces. The two story stack room has metal shelving and glass floors.

In the spring of 1974 the library was affected by severe settling which resulted in the closing of the building and the removal of library operation to a temporary location. Stabilization studies are underway.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1902-04

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Walter R. B. Willcox

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carnegie Building of the Fletcher Free Library is Burlington's outstanding example of Beaux-Arts style architecture. It is also one of the few products in Vermont of the City Beautiful Movement which corresponded with the Beaux-Arts style in America, and possibly the only Carnegie Building in Vermont. The building is also significant for its landscaped siting, visually anchoring the transition from the primarily residential area to the commercial center to the west.

The Fletcher Free Library, established in 1875 by a family which also endowed Burlington's hospital, was criticized by the president of its board of trustees as early as 1888 for the inadequacy of its quarters in the old Chittenden County courthouse. In 1904 a Burlington acquaintance of Andrew Carnegie addressed an inquiry to the industrialist then at the height of his program of library endowments, requesting him to donate funds for a new building to house the Fletcher Free Library. Carnegie offered \$50,000 under the conditions that the city furnish a site and resolve to provide \$5,000 a year to maintain the library. These conditions being met, the city offered a competition for the plan of the new library. In the face of entries from Boston, New York, Buffalo, Montpelier, Vermont, and Lowell, Massachusetts, a young Burlington architect, Walter R. B. Willcox won the commission.

Willcox, who also designed Burlington's Edwards High School and the Burlington Savings Bank, received his training both in the United States and Europe. His design for the Fletcher Free Library shows a typical Beaux-Arts concern for monumental spaces, bilateral symmetry, and massive, articulated ornament. Shortly after the completion of the library Willcox moved to the Pacific Northwest where he established a successful architectural practice. He was active in the American Institute of Architects, serving a term as its vice-president, and later became dean of the University of Oregon School of Architecture, as well as a Fellow of the A.I.A.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. The Burlington-Daily News - May 18, 1904
2. Carlisle, Lilian Baker. Historical Notes relating to the Carnegie Building of the Fletcher Free Library. (Xeroxed essay; on file at Fletcher Free Library).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	642300	4926200	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 R. Axtell, Historic Sites Surveyor

April 23, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

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

William B. Pinney

TITLE

Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Ralph Wilson

DATE

8/18/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles J. [Signature]

DATE

8-18-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

AG