

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont	
COUNTY: Orange	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
017	JUN 16 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chandler Music Hall and Bethany Parish House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
71 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Randolph

STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50** COUNTY: **Orange** CODE: **017**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted * <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	Town meeting	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Randolph (see continuation sheet)

STREET AND NUMBER:
7 Summer Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Randolph** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
7 Summer Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Randolph** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Vermont Division of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Montpelier** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

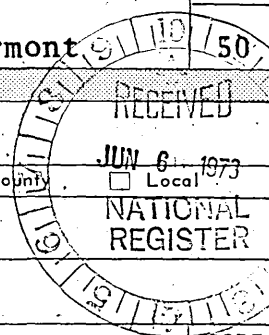
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DATE: **JUN 16 1973**



*Open to public during specified hours.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

2-8-76

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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 Chandler Music Hall and Bethany Parish House are located on the east side of Main Street, two blocks north of the Depot Square Historic District. The Music Hall occupies the main (north) block of the structure. The Bethany Parish House takes the form of a wing located along the south side of the music hall. The complex forms a single architectural entity with two separate and distinct interior functions each with independent outside access.

The entire two story structure is built on a rectangular plan, approximately 90 feet wide by 100 feet deep, and rests on a concrete wall foundation. The floor is reinforced with poured concrete piers. A water table about 5 feet high, constructed of rusticated concrete blocks capped by a beveled smooth faced concrete block coping, extends around the entire structure.

The main (west) elevation of the music hall is dominated by a two story central pavilion. Extending out several feet beyond the pavilion is a one story entrance structure containing two round-arched entranceways flanking a rectangular recess. In the center of the recess are set two small paned square windows surmounted by a plaque bearing the inscription "Chandler Music Hall." The entrance structure roof is sheathed with slate. The string of electric lights located beneath the soffit are illuminated during performances.

Above the entrance structure, on the pavilion, is a horizontal band of seven recessed square windows with ornamental sash. The pavilion is surmounted by a pediment constructed of flush vertical boards with a central round louvered attic vent window.

A rectangular recess is located at each side of the pavilion. The lower third of each recess is constructed of rusticated concrete blocks with a small rectangular central window. The upper two thirds are constructed of smooth faced concrete blocks with a long rectangular round-arched window set at top center. The remaining elevations of the building are executed in smooth-faced concrete blocks.

The main elevation of the parish house is set back slightly from the main elevation of the music hall. The one story entrance structure of the parish house is located at the north side of the main elevation and has a single round arch entranceway similar to the ones employed in the music hall. A steeply pitched gable canopy has been added to the parish house entrance. The remainder of the elevation has three rectangular windows each capped by an exaggerated concrete block flat arch surrounding a central, long round arch window. Beneath this window is a cast concrete plaque bearing the inscription "Bethany Parish House."

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Section 4

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The Chandler Music Hall is owned by the Town of Randolph.

The Bethany Parish House is owned by the Bethany Church, Main Street, corner of School Street, Randolph, Vermont; code 50.



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Section 7

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Three rows of 9 windows, corresponding to the basement, first and second floors, are located along the south (side) elevation of the parish house. An open wood belfry is located at the southwest corner of the parish house.

The north (side) elevation of the music hall consists of a series of 5 rectangular recesses, 4 of which contain a long round arched window. A stage door and theater exit, capped by exaggerated flat arches, are located towards the rear of this elevation.

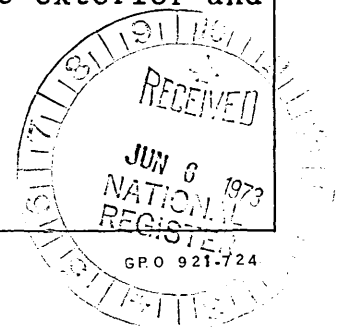
The front section of the entire structure is covered with a hip roof sheathed with slate. The rear sections of the structure have a low profile gable roof covered with metal sheeting.

The most significant interior space of the complex is the music hall. It is entered through a rectangular front vestibule containing a raised paneled box office. Stairs lead to the balcony from each end of the vestibule. A two tiered balcony is located above the vestibule. The balcony overhang, in the main hall, is supported by 6 cast iron doric columns. A wood theater box is located at each side at the front of the balcony. The theater has three aisles, two side and one center. The wood plank floor gradually slopes downward towards the stage.

The raised stage is framed by a moulded rectangular polychromed proscenium opening. The stage has several curtains including its original painted asbestos front fire curtains. An orchestra pit with wood railing is located in front of the stage. The walls of the music hall are covered with plaster. The wall panel above the proscenium opening is painted with a decorative design and the cove between the wall and ceiling is covered with garlanded stenciling. The room has an elaborate pressed metal ceiling suspended from heavy timber roof trusses.

The entire interior is wainscoted and paneled in curly birch. The structure is heated by large cast radiators located along the wainscoting and is illuminated by a series of 5 brass "electroliers" executed in a floral motif with round globes. The seats are made of plywood with cast iron frames and bases.

With the exception of the parish house entrance canopy and interior and some of the stage fixtures in the music hall, the exterior and interior of the structure are in original condition.



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1907

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Brief History

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In 1905, two neighboring Randolph churches, the Christian Church and the Congregational Church, decided to unite to form the Bethany Church. At the same time former Randolph native, Colonel Albert B. Chandler, then chairman of the Board of Directors of the Postal Telegraph Company, offered to finance construction of the music hall section of a combined music hall and parish house to be built on the site of the Christian Church.

Chandler's offer was accepted, Ernest N. Boyden of Boston was selected as architect and W. S. Teachout of Essex Junction was retained as contractor. To minimize costs without sacrificing appearance or durability, pre-cast concrete blocks, a construction medium relatively unknown in early 20th century Vermont, were imaginatively employed in the fabrication of the building. Other innovations included the latest in electric lighting equipment and fixtures. The adjoining parish house even had a bowling alley in the basement.

In the era before World War I the Bethany Church and its young progressive minister, Reverend Fraser Metzger, came under attack for administering "theatricals and a bowling alley." A headline in the Boston Sunday Post read "Should A Pastor Manage Box Office?" Metzger replied that "the church should not cease on Sunday...but that it should be an element of good for the general public." Metzger ran for Governor of Vermont on the Bull Moose ticket in 1912.

Between 1907 and the early 1930's Chandler Music Hall hosted scores of productions of stage and screen from Sousa's Band and the musical comedy "The Yankee Girl" to D. W. Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation." Political rallies, lectures, and school functions and other community activities were also held at the theater. Special trains were often employed to transport people to Chandler events. By the 1930's, due to competition with other forms of entertainment, the Chandler Music Hall went into a period of steady decline. Fortunately, in 1947, the music hall was turned over to the Town of Randolph and continued to be used for occasional productions and the annual town meeting.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boston Sunday Post, 1908 (specific date obliterated on copy).
 Boston Herald, March 21, 1908.
 Burlington Free Press, June 22, 1936.
 Scrap books and theater booking records in custody of Friends
 Of Chandler Music Hall, 1 School Street, Randolph, Vermont.

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 . "		43° 55' 35"	72° 39' 59"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

UTM
 18/687370
 4866050
 CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Chester H. Liebs, Supervisor**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **May 31, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Pavilion Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montpelier** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>William B. Purvey</u></p> <p>Title: Director of Historic Sites State Historic Preservation Officer</p> <p>Date: June 1, 1973</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: 7/16/73</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: 7 9 73</p>
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Section 8

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(Number all entries)

As part of the accelerated revival of the arts in Vermont during the 1960's and early 1970's, a group called "Friends of Chandler Music Hall" has been formed. Use of the hall is now increasing yearly and plans for restoration and stabilization of the structure are under way.

Significance

The Chandler Music Hall is of architectural significance not only as one of the best preserved early 20th century theater interiors in northern New England but as a document of the formative period of concrete architectural building technology. The structure is one of several major architectural landmarks on Randolph's main street.

Sociologically, the parish house and the music hall, which was originally also owned by the church, symbolize the beginnings of a new view of the role of the church in the community. Moreover, the Chandler Music Hall and Bethany Parish House clearly illustrate an important aspect of the social life and recreational activity of early 20th century Vermonters.

The parish house is still used for church functions. The current revitalization of the music hall, as a cooperative effort of the town fathers and the community, points towards a secure and useful future for this irreplaceable public amenity.

