

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 2 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 2 9 1975

## 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  
College Hall  
AND/OR COMMON  
College Hall

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Ridge Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Montpelier  
STATE  
Vermont

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CODE  
50

\_\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Vermont  
COUNTY  
Washington  
CODE  
023

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input 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  
Vermont College, a Division of Norwich University  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Northfield  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Vermont

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Office of the City Clerk of Montpelier

STREET & NUMBER  
City Hall, Main Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Montpelier  
STATE  
Vermont

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey  
DATE  
1975  
\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Vermont Division of Historic Sites Pavilion Building  
CITY, TOWN  
Montpelier  
STATE  
Vermont

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located along the southwestern side of a square, tree-bordered, 4½-acre common, which is bounded by East State, College, Ridge, and West Streets to the northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest respectively, College Hall, a rigidly symmetrical, 4-story, mansard-roofed building with a cruciform plan, is oriented with its long northwest-southeast axis parallel to Ridge Street. The building is of brick, load bearing construction laid in common bond and sits on a rubblestone foundation with chamfered, cut granite blocks above grade. The mansard roof is covered with asphalt shingles on the steep mansard and with a built-up roofing composition on the shallow hip.

The building's short northeast-southwest axis projects approximately 6½ feet above the long northwest-southeast axis and is only 3 stories high, the second and third stories of the long axis being combined into a double-height single story in the short axis to accommodate a chapel which runs the length of the axis. While proportionately scaled 6/6 round-arched windows light the first and mansarded fourth floors and segmental-arched windows light the second and third floors, the double-story height of the chapel is reflected on the end elevations of the short axis by over-scaled 16/12 round-arched windows.

The short axis of the building measures approximately 40 by 74 feet and the long axis approximately 58 by 119 feet, both axes crossing at their centers with the arms of each axis projecting equally. The northwest and southeast elevations and the northeast and southwest elevations are 5 and 11 bays across respectively, the center three bays of the northeast and southwest elevations being the slightly projecting end elevations of the short axis. The end elevations of both the short and the long axes are accentuated by a center entrance pavilion which projects the full height of the elevation including the mansard roof. On the end elevations of the short axis these projecting pavilions are crowned by 2-story, wood frame, mansard-roofed towers with shiplap siding. Even though the building's long axis constitutes the major mass of the building, the short axis' increased height, overscaled round-arched windows, and towered end elevations render it the dominant element in the building's rigidly symmetrical design.

The basic configuration of the building is detailed with brick quoins on all the projecting corners which support, on each axis, a continuous brick entablature with a wood modillion cornice, a double brick belt course between the first and second stories, and keystone brick hoods over the round- and segmental-arched windows. The four entrances are detailed with projecting wood pediments supported by consoles but modern wood frame, gable-roofed entrance porches partially obscure the

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-1)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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entrances on the northwest, northeast, and southeast elevations. The two towers are similarly detailed in wood with quoins, entablatures, belt courses, and low relief round-arched window hoods.

In plan, the first floor is bisected through the center of each axis by a continuous hall. On the second and third floors the hall through the long axis is interrupted by the two-story height of the chapel, which runs the length and width of the short axis. On the mansarded fourth floor the hall, through the long axis, is continuous across the ceiling of the chapel below accommodating the short axis' and, consequently, the chapel's increased height by an ascending and then descending flight of stairs. Across the length of the chapel ceiling the short axis is also bisected by a hall, which gives access to the two towers crowning the projecting entrance pavilions on the short axis' end elevations. The halls are connected vertically on either side of the short axis by a stacked series of single run stairs through a common well with overscaled continuous handrails supported by turned newels and balusters.

Beaded tongue and groove wainscotting and overscaled bolection architraves framing paneled doors with transom lights constitute the interior woodwork in the halls. The interior of the building is of wood frame construction throughout except for several rows of rough cut square granite columns in the basement story, which support the wood frame structure directly above. Two significant interior features of the building are the original wall stenciling in one of the mansard fourth floor classrooms and the 1884 double manual pipe organ with tracker action along the northeast wall of the chapel at the back of the stage. The organ was constructed by George Hutchings of Boston and is an integral component of the chapel.

# 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 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 1868-1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

College Hall is significant as an outstanding example of French Second Empire style architecture. The building is one of the significant architectural landmarks in the architecturally rich City of Montpelier.

Located on the top of the broad expanse of Seminary Hill overlooking the City of Montpelier to the northwest and the Winooski River to the southwest, the building's location affords a spectacular panorama of the Winooski River Valley. When College Hall was completed in 1872 by the Vermont Methodist Conference, the building's towered form, along with numerous church spires and the gold-leafed dome of the State House, was one of the city's prominent visual and architectural landmarks. While the building has since been surrounded by a dense growth of trees and has lost much of its original visual impact when viewed from the city, except in the winter months when the leaves are off the trees, College Hall continues to be the dominant visual and architectural focal point in the center of the Vermont College campus built around it.

The first Methodist seminary in Vermont was located in Newbury in the center of the New Hampshire Methodist Conference. In 1860 the Methodist Conference, because of a change in Conference boundaries, which resulted in the establishment of a separate Vermont Methodist Conference, decided to merge the Newbury Seminary, chartered in 1834, with the Springfield Seminary, chartered in 1846, and to relocate the seminary near the center of the new Conference.

Seminary Hill, a name subsequently adopted because of the seminary, the location of the Sloan United States Military Hospital, which had closed in 1865, and the location of a race track and fairgrounds, was chosen in 1866 by the Conference as the location for the new seminary because of its close proximity to the Capitol and because of its convenient location along a major transportation facility, the Vermont Central Railway. Besides Montpelier, Northfield, Waterbury, and Randolph were also under serious consideration because of their location near the center of the new Conference and their accessibility to the railroad. However, these locations lacked the obvious political advantages

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 8-1)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Davenport, Walter Rice. Montpelier Seminary and its Students.  
Capital City Press; Montpelier, Vermont: 1934.

Martin, Eldon Hubert. Vermont College. The Parthenon Press;  
Nashville, Tennessee: 1962.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

*WTMOK  
CD*

A	1 1 8	6 9 4 1 6 0	4 9 0 2 8 8 0	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

Courtney Fisher, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division of Historic Sites

DATE

March 25, 1975

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*William B. Pinney* William B. Pinney, Director

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/31/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*A R Mearns*

DATE 4/23/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. B. Pinney*

DATE APR 22 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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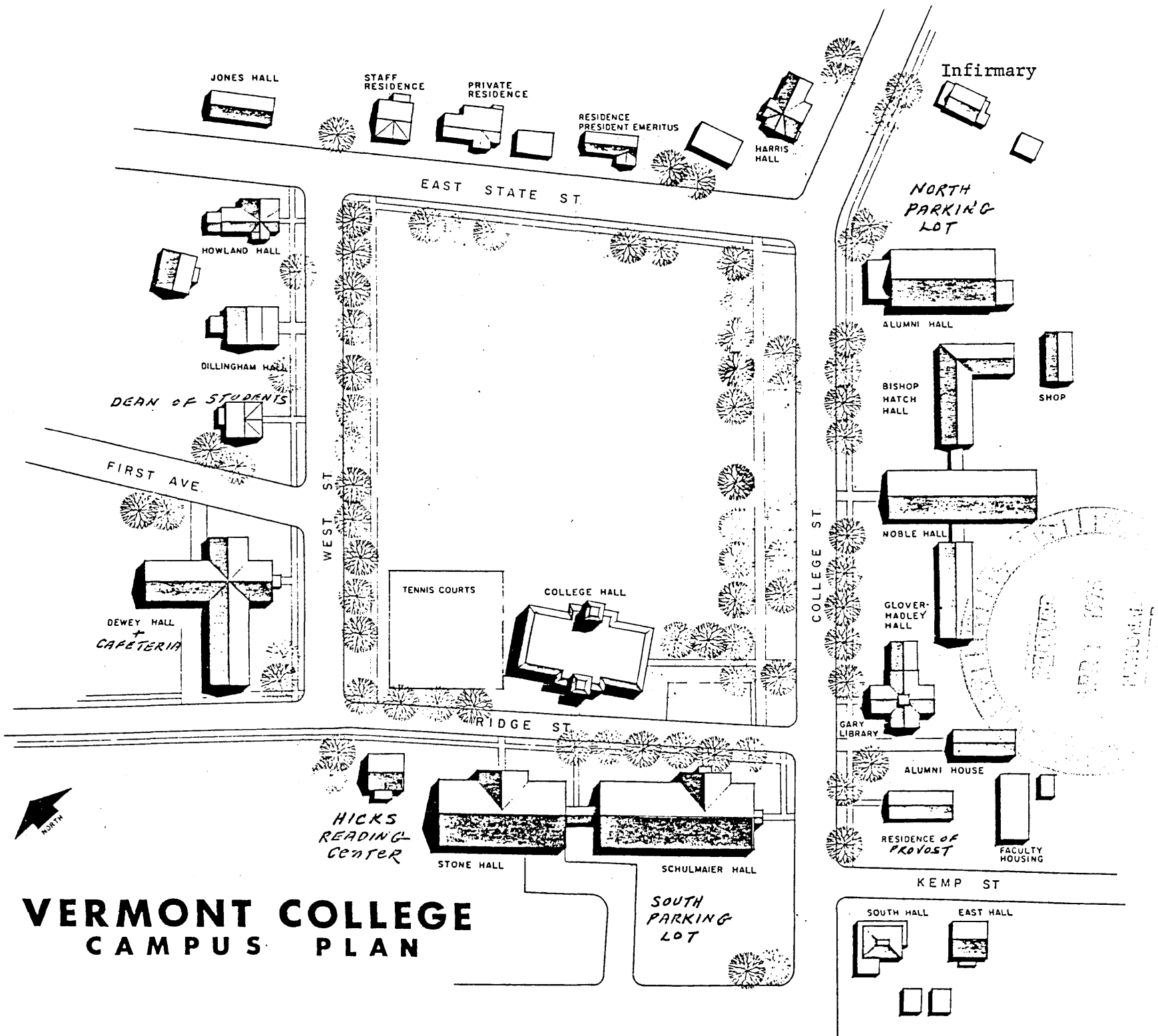
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of being in Montpelier. Construction on Montpelier Seminary's new building was started in 1868 and was completed in 1872 at a cost of approximately \$50,000.00.

The building has been in continuous use as an educational facility since 1872. In 1936 the building was shared by the newly organized Vermont Junior College. In 1947 Montpelier Seminary ceased operations, and in 1958 Vermont Junior College was reorganized as Vermont College. Vermont College merged with Norwich University in 1972.



# VERMONT COLLEGE CAMPUS PLAN