

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont
COUNTY:	Chittenden
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 15 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
"Head of Church Street" Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Unitarian Church, Masonic Temple, Richardson (Abernathy) Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
For boundary description see Section 7

CITY OR TOWN:
Burlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Vt. District
Rep. Richard Mallary

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Chittenden CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Lodge Hall</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

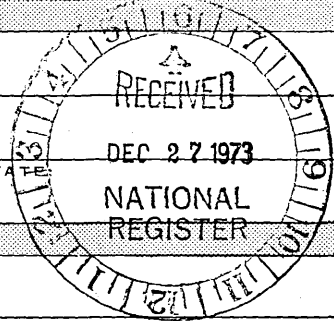
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Burlington

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: 08

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* Public spaces are unrestricted. Religious and commercial buildings are open to the public during specified hours.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Description of Site Plan

The "Head of Church Street" Historic District, comprising the Unitarian Church, Masonic Temple and Richardson Building, are situated on three sides of a "T" intersection formed by the termination of Church Street at right angles with Pearl Street in downtown Burlington. The Church occupies a broad frontage on Pearl Street directly opposite the end of Church Street. The Masonic Temple is situated on the southwest corner and the Richardson Building (Abernathy's Department Store) is on the southeast corner.

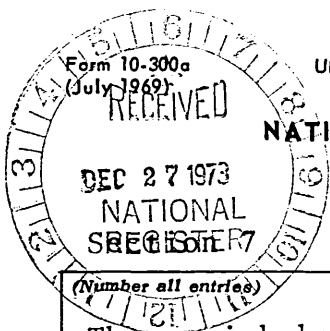
Unitarian Church

The Unitarian Church is a two-story, rectangular plan, brick building set upon a low-cut stone foundation of dressed block. Bricks in all elevations are laid up in common bond. The roof is medium pitch gable, slate sheathed, oriented in temple fashion. The church is constructed in the Federal style.

A square steeple tower, surmounted by a two-tier octagonal spire, is appended to the center of the main (south) elevation and forms the dominant feature of the building. The tower bisects a one-and-one-half story entrance pavilion surmounted by a truncated hip roof. The main elevation is surmounted by a molded wood cornice and frieze. A similar cornice and frieze appears on the entrance pavilions. A molded wood cornice is projected along the gable end toward the roof peak but is intercepted by the tower. Brick decorative pilasters appear at all corners of the structure. Major access to the church is provided in the center of the steeple tower. A palladian window with hood mold of wood is positioned above the doorway. This window is separated from the doorway by a decorated plate of wood. A clock appears near the top of the tower. Two belt courses of wood occur on the tower, corresponding to the levels of the entrance pavilion and gable end cornices. A ballustrade surmounts the tower. Two additional doorways, presently sealed, are located in the entrance pavilion facades, flanking the tower. Each of these doorways is surmounted by a fanlight. A small square window appears between each fanlight and the frieze.

The side elevations (east and west) are identical in design. Both elevations are five bays in width. Fenestration is rectangular, double-hung sash type, twelve-over-twelve light throughout. A cornice and frieze similar to the main facade appears on both side elevations. A brick, square plan, flat roof, two-story parish house is appended to the rear (north) elevation of the church. The parish house, constructed in 1868, is three bays wide, and includes rectangular fenestration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The parish house is shorter and narrower than the church. A cornice and frieze similar to that of the church appears on the parish house. Access is provided in the middle bay of the west elevation of the parish house.

Interior space is occupied by a large meeting room with anteroom to the north. A gallery, supported by a series of Doric columns, is positioned along the east, south and west walls. Access to the gallery is provided by two stairways at either end of the anteroom. The niche behind the pulpit is outlined by a heavy plater molding which once surrounded a tall palladian window. Much of the interior detailing dates from a series of remodelings which occurred in 1845, 1868, 1872 and 1932.

Masonic Temple

The Masonic Temple is a five-story, brick, square plan structure set upon a foundation of low-cut stone. Brickwork is laid up in common bond. The building is surmounted by a slate sheathed, high hip roof. A chimney appears on the northwest corner of the building. The architectural style is Richardsonian Romanesque.

There are four equally spaced commercial fronts on the ground floor of the main (east) facade. The commercial fronts are surmounted by four semicircular-arched, decorative features of brick which occupy the second floor of the east elevation. Each brick arch contains a pair of double-hung sash windows. A denticulated stone belt course appears at the window sill level on the third story. There are eight equally spaced, semicircular-arched windows with cut-stone sills in the third and fourth floors. A stone belt course appears at the still level of the fifth floor. A large pedimented gabled dormer is centered in the flank of the roof. Brick pilasters extend from the base of this dormer to the belt course below the fifth story. The pilasters encompass two rows of four arcaded and pilastered windows in the fifth floor. Four irregular spaced windows occur on the fifth floor at either side of the dormer pilasters. The pedimented dormer is flanked by two smaller hooded dormers. A small ventilating dormer appears near the roof peak.

The ground floor of the north elevation contains windows for the commercial shops in the east end and major access to the upper floors in the west end. A stone belt course separates the first and second floors at the sill level of second story windows. A large, centrally positioned, pedimented gabled dormer, similar to that of the east elevation, appears on the roof flank of the north facade. Brick pilasters extend from the base of the dormer to the belt course below the second story windows. The pilasters encompass four tiers of five semicircular-arched

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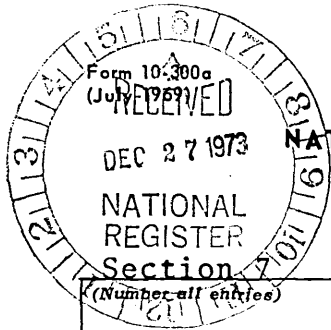
Windows arranged in "stairstep" fashion. Three similar regularly spaced windows occur to both sides of the pilasters in the second, third, and fourth stories. There are four irregularly spaced windows to either side of the pilasters in the fifth floor. Stone belt courses occur outside the pilasters at the sill level of the third and fifth floors. The pedimented dormer is flanked by two smaller hooded gabled dormers, and a small ventilating dormer appears near the roof peak.

The east (rear) elevation contains service doorways and fire escapes. The facade is broken by stone belt courses at the sill levels of windows in the first, second, third, and fourth floors. Fenestration in the basement level occurs only in the east facade and consists of nine rectangular, regularly spaced windows with flat, cut-stone lintels and sills. Ground floor fenestration is identical but does not include doorways. Second, third, and fourth story fenestration includes eight regularly spaced, semi-circular-arched openings. The south end bay and second bay from the north are given to fire escape doorways. The remainder are windows. Fifth floor fenestration and dormer treatment are identical to the main (west) facade. The south facade includes a series of twelve regularly spaced, semicircular-arched windows with stone sills in the third and fourth floors. Fenestration does not occur below the third floor to allow the placement of an adjacent building. A stone belt course breaks the facade at the sill level of the fifth floor. Fifth floor fenestration includes a series of thirteen irregularly spaced semicircular-arched windows. Four hooded gabled dormers are regularly spaced on the roof line, and a small ventilating dormer appears near the peak of the roof.

Richardson Building

The Richardson Building is a Chateausque style, rectangular plan, four-and-one-half story, brick structure set upon a low-cut stone foundation. The building was constructed for retail store occupancy on the ground floor and apartments above. The prolific use of dormers, chimneys and minarets enhances the appearance of the essentially rectangular plan building and reinforces the pervasive quality of massiveness and stability. The roof is sloping but includes a slate sheathed, narrow, high hip, decorative secondary roof along the north and west rooflines. A pinnacle-like projection with spire surmounts the east end and northwest corner of the secondary roof. This secondary roof obscures the main roof from the streetscapes.

The west (main) elevation was intended for major commercial access and street exposure, and therefore is most heavily detailed. The



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west elevation is twelve bays wide with the northwest corner and certain bays above the first floor projected in random order to form towers, producing an asymmetrical facade. The towers are capped by conical roofs with minarets. An iron ballustrade separates the first and second floor. Fenestration in the second, third and fourth floors is rectangular, double-hung sash type throughout. Two windows appear in each bay occupied by a tower. A single window, with iron ballustrade, occupies the remaining flush bays. The second bay from the north is recessed to form balconies for apartments on the second, third and fourth floors.

The north elevation is exposed to the street. There is a tower appended to the east and west corners above the first floor, and a similar tower is projected at the third bay from the northwest corner. All are topped by conical roofs with minarets. The second bay from the northwest is recessed above the first floor to form a balcony for each floor. The ground floor contains storefronts at the west and east ends. Major access to the apartments above is contained on the ground floor in a bay adjacent to the east storefront. The bay containing the doorway is projected from the facade and extended above the level of the secondary roof to form a chimney. Four regularly spaced, small square windows occur on the ground floor between the entrance and the west storefront. Fenestration in the second, third and fourth floors is identical, and includes a series of irregularly spaced, rectangular, double-hung sash windows. Windows in the projected bay over the doorway are elliptical and framed in decorative brickwork. Brick belt courses break the facade and corner towers below the second, third, and fourth floors. The secondary roof on the north elevation is pierced by two rounded, hooded dormers; one is centrally positioned, the other is near the east end of the roof.

The east (rear) facade contains secondary access and fire escapes on each floor. Fenestration occurs in eight regularly spaced openings, the end bays being given to doorways. The remainder are given to windows which occur in pairs, recessed in elliptical-arched brickwork. A dormer, capped by a conical roof, appears above the second bay to the north and is flanked by a chimney to the south. An incenerator chimney is appended to the south end of the facade. The south facade contains no fenestration or detailing, and was built to be abutted by an adjacent building. The end gable of the secondary roof is visible on this facade, and a chimney appears to the east of the gable.

8. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

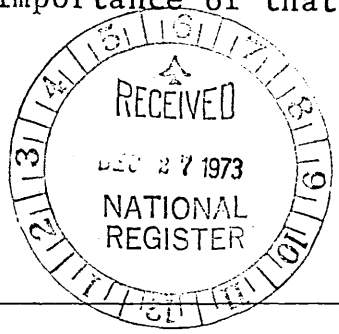
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> 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			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The "Head of Church Street" Historic District comprises the prominent visual environment at the termination of the major business street in downtown Burlington. The view of the church is effectively framed by the Masonic Temple and Richardson Building, two dissimilar but compatible structures, and the quality of weightiness and magnitude of the latter buildings provides a striking contrast to the delicate quality of the church. The Unitarian Church, opposite the end of Church Street, is visible along the length of the street, and provides a focal point for the area. Directions are frequently given in relation to the church.

The significance of the district is enhanced by the architectural quality of the three buildings. The Unitarian Church (1816) is the work of a master architect, Peter Banner. There is evidence that Charles Bulfinch supervised or amended Banner's plan. The Masonic Temple (1898) and the Richardson Building (1895) are among the outstanding late 19th century commercial buildings in downtown Burlington. The Masonic Temple is the design of John McArthur Harris of the firm of Wilson Brothers and Company of Philadelphia and was constructed to be the state headquarters for the Grand Masonic Lodge of Vermont. The Richardson Building was intended to quarter Burlington's largest department store. The scale, quality, and articulation of the buildings reflect the intended importance of their functions, and accordingly, both structures were constructed in the finest and most popular styles of commercial architecture of their day. The existence of the Masonic Temple and Richardson Building furthermore suggests the emergence of Burlington as Vermont's major metropolitan center, and their placement at Church and Pearl Streets emphasizes the historical importance of that business center.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attached)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

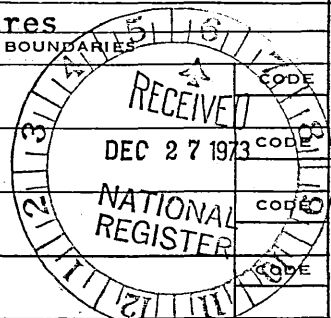
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44°	28'	48"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	73°	12'	46"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

U-7M
18/612090
4926610
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than ten acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Stephen Raiche, Historic Sites Surveyor**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **10/16/73**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Pavilion Building**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name William B. Pinney

Title Director of Historic Sites
State Historic Preservation
Officer

Date 12/11/73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert A. ...
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/15/74

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Greenberg
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/12/74

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STATE Vermont	
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Section 9

(Number all entries)

Allen, Charles E., About Burlington, Vermont, Burlington: Hobart J. Stanley and Co., 1905.

Burlington Daily News (Burlington), March 11, 1910.

Burlington Free Press, April 3, 1937

Centennial Celebration of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, (NP), 1894.

Forbes, Charles S. "Twentieth-Century Burlington" Vermonter, Vol. V., May 1900, supplement.

"Masonic Temple" Vermonter, Vol. IV., January 1899.

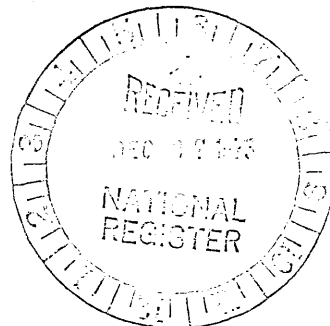
Nelson, Mrs. Henry J., Chronicler of the First Congregational Society (Unitarian), Burlington: Lane Press, 1919.

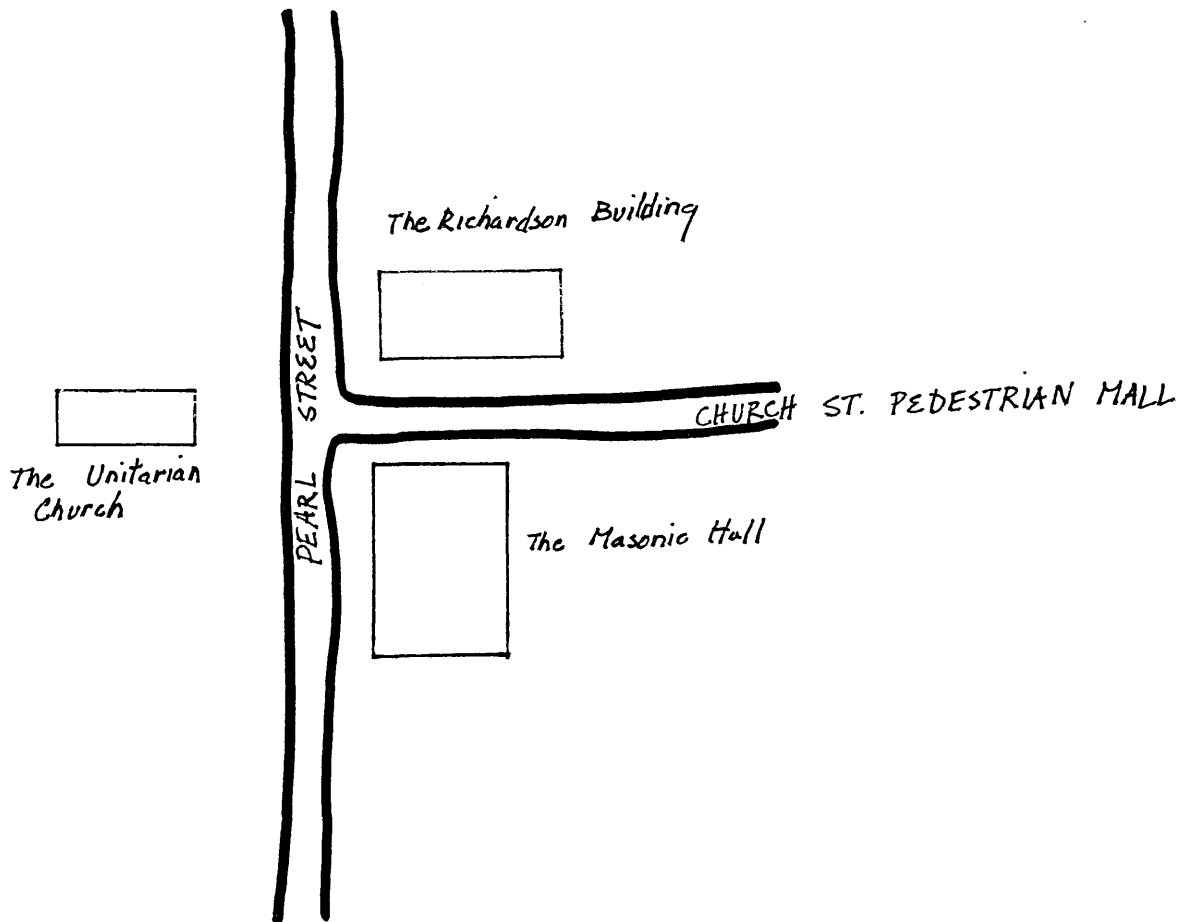
Northern Sentinel (Burlington), January 10, 1817.

The One Hundredth Anniversary of the First Congregational Society Unitarian, Burlington: Free Press Printing Co., 1910.

Records of the First Congregational Society, Deed Book, and Miscellaneous Papers, 1809-1910, Archives of the First Unitarian Church, Burlington, Vermont.

Wilson Brothers and Co., "Specifications for the Masonic Temple..." (ms), January 15, 1897.





Head of Church Street Historic District