

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont	
COUNTY: Chittenden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 21 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center

AND/OR HISTORIC:
U.S. Post Office and Custom House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
S.E. Corner of Main and Church Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Burlington

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

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	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
U.S. Government, First U.S. Army

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Meade

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Meade STATE: Maryland CODE: 19

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Clerk, Burlington City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
N.W. Corner of Church and Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Burlington STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: May 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

STATE: Vermont

COUNTY: Chittenden

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 21 1972

DATE: NOV 21 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

* Open to the public during specified hours.

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 Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center (formally the U.S. Post Office and Custom House) is constructed in Beaux-Arts Classical Style. It was this style that influenced the design of the most important railroad stations, civic buildings and other public structures around the turn of the 20th century.

The building is located diagonally across from the Burlington City Hall and Town Square and is adjacent to the Chittenden County Courthouse. These buildings together form the civic nucleus of Vermont's largest city.

The Reserve Center is a massive three story structure with a rectangular basement and first story, and a "U" shaped second and third story plan. This design allows for the natural lighting of what was the main post office room on the first floor.

The exterior is massed in four distinct horizontal sections (base, main floor, second and third floor, cornice and parapet). The base is constructed of large dressed granite blocks, capped by a beaded stone moulding which separates it from the main floor section.

This latter section is executed in horizontal bands of marble blocks punctuated by large windows surmounted by highly stylized flat arches. The main entrance is located in the center of the north (Main Street) elevation and includes an ornate iron door surmounted by a transom light decorated with iron filigree. The entrance is preceded by an inward curving stone stairway flanked by two round globe lights supported by ornate iron pedestals. The main floor section is terminated by a projecting belt course.

The next section includes both the second and third floors and is executed in smooth-dressed marble blocks. The second floor is lighted by large double hung windows. The window sills and lentils are projecting and bracketed. The third floor windows are square and are about half the size of those of the second floor. The fenestration of the entire exterior is vertically aligned and symmetrical.

The structure is terminated by a narrow frieze surmounted by a bracketed stone cornice. The cornice is capped by a stone parapet made up of alternating solid and balustered sections.

The most prominent exterior detail is the shallow two story portico with double applied columns which extends along the main elevation at the second and third story level. The frieze above the columns reads "U.S. Post Office and Custom House."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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Section 7

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The rear (south) elevation of the structure has limited visual access, and as a result, has been executed in brick. The stone quoins, belt courses and cornice are continued on this elevation to carry over the design and scale of the major facades.

The interior has been substantially altered through subsequent use changes but much of the original carved hardwood paneling, wainscoting and woodwork remains intact.



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) 1906

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			_____

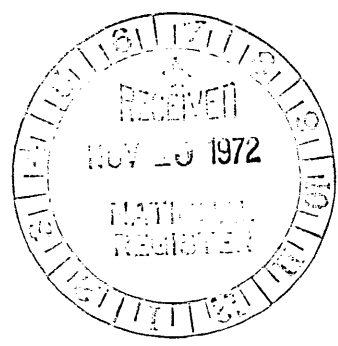
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center, originally built as the U.S. Post Office and Custom House, was the work of U.S. Treasury architect James Knox Taylor. Taylor designed many major eastern federal buildings during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The structure symbolizes the success and prosperity of turn of the century Burlington, and is one of the best examples of "Beaux-Arts Classicism" in the State.

The building has served as a post office and custom house and in recent years as an Army Reserve Center. As an alternative to having county government move to the suburbs, plans are under way to locate expanded county court facilities in the structure when the Army vacates the building. It is hoped that the Reserve Center, along with the Chittenden County Courthouse directly to the south, will continue to serve as a much needed architectural anchor in rapidly changing downtown Burlington.



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Plans and Specifications for U.S. Post Office and Custom House, U.S. Treasury Department and U.S. Post Office Department, 1900-1930.
2. Burlington Free Press, March 3, 1904.
3. Allen, Charles E. About Burlington, Vermont. Burlington: Hobart J. Shanley & Co., 1905, pp 84-85.

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	° ' "	° ' "		44° 28' 03"	73° 12' 44"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Chester H. Liebs, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: 10/31/72

STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Bldg.

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 Liaison Officer

Date 10/31/72

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

Robert M. Wiley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/21/72

ATTEST:

William B. Pinney
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-17-72

18/649/180/400/6050
 UTM Ref: 9-24-72
 NO UTM
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

VERMONT DIVISION OF
D HISTORIC SITES

UNITED
DEPARTMENT
CORPS OF

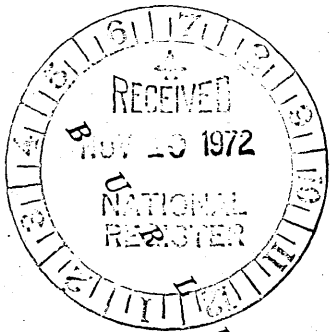
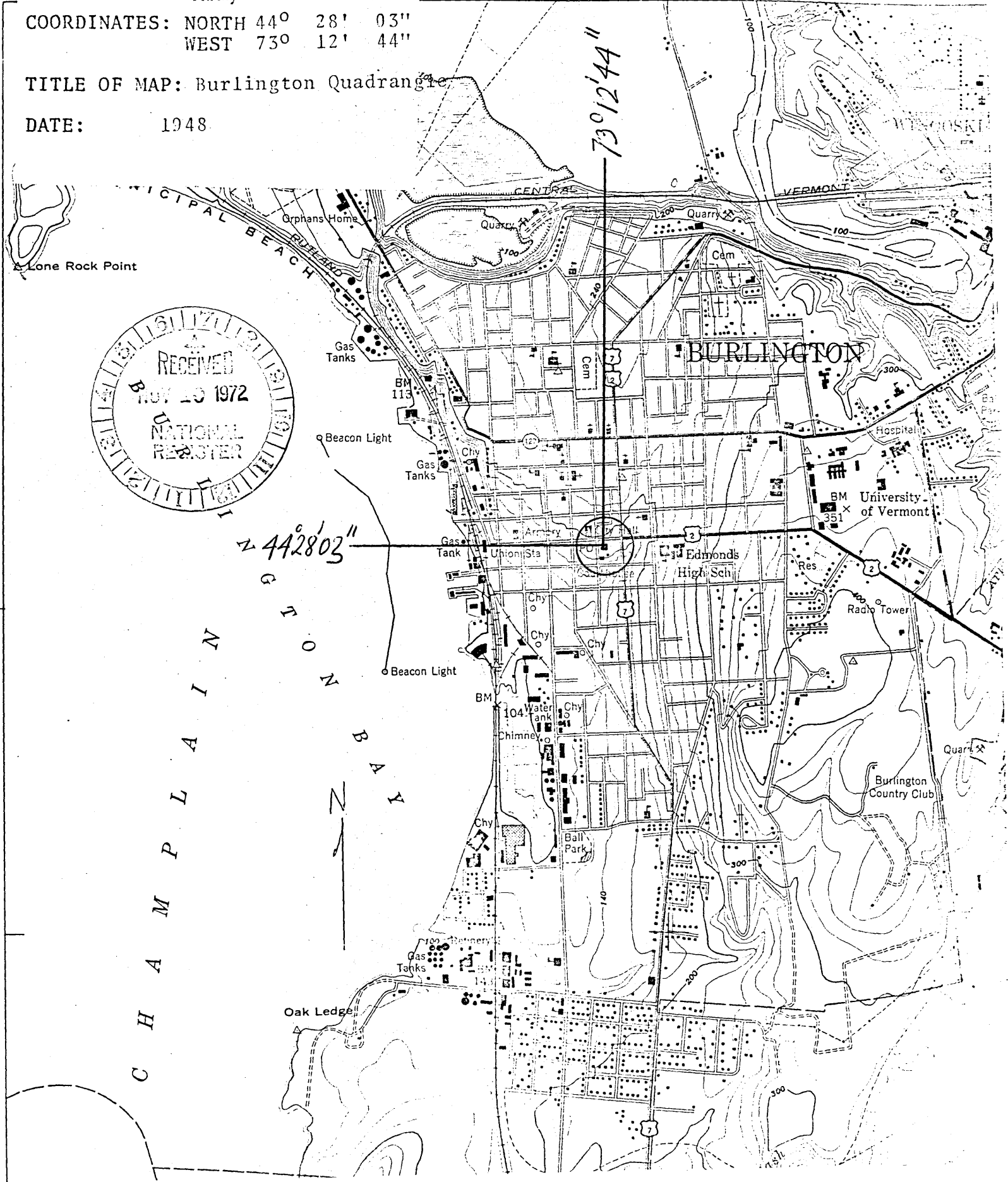
73°11'30" 1230" SAYSIDE 3.4 MI.
SHIPMAN 1.9 MI.

NAME OF SITE: Smith-Goldberg U.S.
Army Reserve Center

COORDINATES: NORTH 44° 28' 03"
WEST 73° 12' 44"

TITLE OF MAP: Burlington Quadrangle

DATE: 1948



44° 28' 03"

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