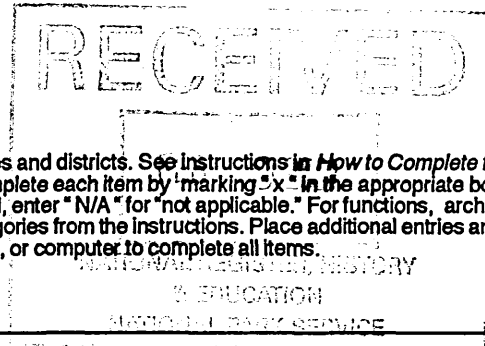


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

259



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Ann's Episcopal Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Corner of Church and Town Streets

a not for publication

city or town Richford

a vicinity

state Vermont

code VT

county Franklin

code 011

zip code 05476

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Elva Millerton National Register Specialist 1/29/2001
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:)

Elva Millerton
Signature of the Keeper
Elva H. Beall

Date of Action

3/12/01

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Contributing

Noncontributing

1 buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Religious Buildings, Sites and Structures in Vermont

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

foundation stone
walls vinyl
wood
roofslate
other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Description

St. Ann's Episcopal Church, built in Richford, Vermont, in 1883 on the southwest corner of Church and Town (formerly High) Streets sits atop a fifty foot bluff overlooking the Downtown Richford National Register Historic District. It is a steeply gabled, clapboarded, 1 _ story slate roofed building with a chapel and attached belltower and steeple set on a fieldstone foundation. The 30' x 70' Queen Anne period building fronts on Church Street from which it is set back 30' and is parallel to Town Street 100' to the east. The interior is highlighted by four Gothic arches, a triple paned Gothic head stained glass window behind the altar, and tongue in groove paneling on all the walls and the ceiling. The church is in a quiet residential area of primarily large late Victorian houses on capacious lots that overlooks the Missisquoi River above what bustle is left in the village. Immediately to its west over 100' is the former parsonage, now a private residence. Although the building was raised and moved (or turned) probably in 1903, it retains the basic integrity of its design and is in the same historic setting it has always occupied. Except that the clapboard is vinyl covered, its workmanship, materials feeling and association remain unchanged from the day it was completed.

Site - Saint Ann's Episcopal Church in Richford, Vermont, is located at the southeast corner of Church and Town (formerly High) Streets on a bluff overlooking the Missisquoi River and the Richford National Historic Register District. It occupies the flat part of a lot that slopes away gradually on the east and more precipitously on the south immediately behind the building. The lot is 100'x 200'. The church is 100' west of Town Street and 40' south of Church Street. All measurements and distances in the description are approximate.

Exterior - Built in 1883 in Vernacular Queen Anne style, the church is a vinyl covered clapboard clad, 1 story, wooden structure, with a basement, a gabled slate roof with a steep slope, and a steeple and a bell tower on the northeast corner of the building. Set on a fieldstone foundation rising about 2' above ground level, it is a long, narrow building, 30'x70', balloon framed, with three irregular extensions-- for the sacristy near the southeast corner, the boiler about half the way down the west side, and the entry on the northeast corner.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Description continued

The 30' wide front, north, facade is divided into two unequal parts. The area from the northwest corner of the building going east about 20' is gabled and is devoted to the chapel, with the remaining 10' given over to the narthex. The chapel is a rectangle 20' wide x 70' long with a steeply front gabled roof that peaks at 22' and a boxed return about half way down that projects out two feet. The upper third of the gable is set off by a pediment, which forms a roughly equilateral triangle. This tympanum encloses a 2x3 foot dark stained glass window with a wooden molded cornice cap and protrudes two feet outward from the roof. Six feet beneath its base is a wooden molded cornice cap atop a 4'x6' stained glass window centered in the facade. This window is divided into three parts by two mullions, with the upper third set off by a thick muntin. The two outer windows are 4'x1' and are divided two feet up from the bottom by thin muntins. The middle pane lacks this feature.

Left of the chapel is the steepled bell tower that houses the front entrance. Wooden stairs with a banister rise four feet over the lattice covered rubble work of the foundation to the single batten door leading into the narthex. This door is topped by a small slate-clad doorhood supported by scrollwork brackets above which is a set of 4'x4' double louvers. The narthex is 7'x7' and is topped by the bellcast hip roof of the bell tower, which has an overhang of one and one-half feet decorated with a continuous row of dentils and is topped by the steeple. The slate-shingled, six-sided steeple shoots up like a stubby finger eight feet from the top of the bell-tower.

At the northeast corner of the building is the bell tower, which on this side has a 1/1 2'x3' sash window three feet beneath a single 2'x4' louver. To the left of the window is a single batten door covered by the overhang from the roof gable and around the corner from this going back toward the chapel is a wall with a set of louvers similar to those on the front facade of the building.

The east side of the chapel is uniform for a distance of thirty feet and has three 4'x6' casement type windows, which are typical to both the east and west facades. Ten feet apart, they are divided by a heavy mullion and further into two parts by a heavy muntin about.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Description continued

Just past the last window is the 8'x15' sacristy extending from the east side of the chapel. It has a roofline perpendicular to that of the chapel and a north facing wooden door, protected by a modest overhang from the gable, reached by wooden steps. On the east facade, the upper part under the gable has a single pane glass window, 1'x2' centered three feet beneath the apex. Three feet beneath this, one foot from either corner of the facade are two stained glass 1/1 sash windows about 2'x3'. The gable of the sacristy has a plain pediment with returns going in one foot. The chapel continues about eight feet past the sacristy and in this plane has a sash window similar to those on the sacristy.

Centered on the fifteen foot wide rear, south, facade is a Gothic arched stained glass window with a four foot base, three panes with the side ones being five feet at the apex and the center six feet.

From the southwest corner the west facade extends north for ten feet and has three 2'x3' single pane stained glass windows equidistant in the wall immediately beneath the roof line. Three feet beyond the northernmost window, the building widens by three feet and continues north for about eight feet where it widens again by another five feet and has a twenty foot tall 2'x2' brick chimney and is unchanged to the northwest corner of the chapel. This entire facade has five typical windows.

Foundation - The fieldstone foundation, possibly constructed in 1903 when the building was moved and raised two feet, is solid and two feet above the ground on the north facade. On the east facade it shows under the bell-tower but is clad in clapboard around the ell to the chapel. From here the foundation shows 2 feet above the ground and has two 3'x2' casement thermopane windows, typical of all foundation windows. There is also a window in the sacristy centered on the east facade. Midway down the foundation, the west facade has a 10'x10' ell which contains the boiler and a typical window.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Description continued

Interior - Through the entrance in the northeast corner of the building, beneath the bell-tower is a 7'x7' narthex. The entrance to the chapel is a wooden single door to the immediate right and stairs to the basement are reached through a wooden paneled door in the right hand corner of the room. The walls and floor of the interior of the church are all tongue in groove boards about four inches wide, varnished, and smoky butter in color. From north to south, front to rear, the chapel is divided in to a nave, forty feet long by twenty three feet wide, and a chancel. The nave has two sets of thirteen wooden, straight backed pews, ten feet long and two feet wide. Each row of pews has a heat register 12"x18" centered in the floor. The 40'x 4' main aisle has a circular heat register 2' in diameter in the center. The chancel is divided into the choir stall and a sanctuary. Additionally, there is a small sacristy, off the choir area to the left. The whole nave has a dark wooden four inch high wainscot about 3 feet above the floor in the rear and down the sides to the chancel. The organ, a *Vocalian* made by Mason & Risch in Worcester, Massachusetts, ca. 1905, is in the right hand corner of the nave, next to the choir stall.

The ceiling is supported by five wooden vaulted Gothic arches, of a darker wood than the paneling, six inches thick, that curve fifteen feet high and are twelve feet apart. From each arch hangs a wrought iron chandelier.

The choir stall is about 15'x8' with a pew on each side, perpendicular to the pews for the worshippers. The arch between the stall and the nave has electric lights built in it on the choir side. An aisle leads to the twelve foot deep sanctuary that contains the altar and a door to the left to the sacristy. Behind the altar is the stained glass window, which decorates the south end of the church. The sacristy is 8'x15' with typical paneling, a door from the chapel and a batten door leading outside.

At the other end of the church, the narthex has a door to stairs leading down to the basement. The basement is paneled with four inch tongue in groove boards and has a floor of the same. It contains three rooms. One, 20'x40' is the Parish Hall constructed in 1912. South of this is a kitchen area, 20'x10' reached by a door on either side of the hall. South of this is a storage area of the same size. This last room

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

is not paneled. The hall has a 10'x10' extension, off the west wall built to house the boiler and lined with brick rather than fieldstone.

Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

Franklin County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .46

UTM references

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>118</u>	<u>683480</u>	<u>4985120</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rogan C. Faith

organization University of Vermont, H.P. Program date April 15, 1996

street & number Wheeler House telephone 802 656-4006

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

street & number 5 Rock Point Road telephone 802-863 3431

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05401

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark " x " in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark " x " in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1883-1950

Significant Dates

1883

1903

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Episcopal Diocese, Burlington Vermont

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Statement of Significance

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Richford, Vermont, built in 1883, reflects the history of a hard working Canadian border town whose fortunes rose between the 1880s and World War I and have been in a slow but steady decline since then. The history of the church mirrors that of the town and of many similar towns in the area and is therefore eligible under Criterion A. The church also possesses significance for embodying distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction and is therefore eligible under Criterion C. Specifically, the interior of the chapel is an excellent example of Gothic architecture on a modest scale. Its outstanding features are four arches that soar Heavenward, the fine triple paned Gothic head window behind the altar and the tongue in groove paneling on all the walls and the ceiling. These features reflect the efforts of a small, not very wealthy, congregation to have an unpretentious but attractive church in a style common to the period. This demonstrates the spirit not only of Vermont but of New England. As the property maintains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association it is nominated under a Multiple Property Documentation Form, and meets the registration requirements for the church property type. It also meets the requirements under Criteria Consideration A as it is a church that is significant under the historical theme of Social History.

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Richford, Vermont, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as its history and fortunes reflect those of the village and of many other hard-working, formerly modestly prosperous towns on the Canadian border, which benefited from the coming of the railroads in the 1880s and declined after World War I.

It also qualifies under Criterion C. as it possesses significance for embodying distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction since its interior is a superb small scale example of Gothic architecture.

First settled in 1796, Richford was an isolated community involved primarily in subsistence farming and lumbering until 1823 when the Champlain Canal was completed.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Significance continued

The canal connected Lake Champlain with the Hudson River and linked the markets of New York state with those of rural Vermont. While Richford is not on either of these waterways, it benefited from the general prosperity brought on by Vermont's access to new markets. The town grew modestly when trade restrictions with nearby Canada were eased by the Free Trade Act of 1854, but it did not boom until the arrival of the Southeastern Railroad from Quebec in 1871. Between 1870 and 1880 the population increased from 1,481 to 1,818.

In 1881 the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, noting that three quarters of the males and one quarter of the females in town were "avowed unbelievers" and that the Congregational and Union Churches seemed unsuccessful in their efforts, decided that the time was ripe to establish a presence. Beginning with meetings in the Town Hall, thought of as being an unsatisfactory location because it was shared with traveling shows, the congregation grew modestly until land was donated to the diocese for a church in its present location on "Town Hall Hill" in late 1882. The current building was designed by an unknown architect, and constructed, beginning with the laying of the cornerstone on June 18, 1883, and the completion of the building on November 18, 1883.

Although the congregation always appeared to be strapped for money it grew along with the town. In Episcopal practice, a church cannot be consecrated until its debts are paid off. St. Ann's was able to pay off the church's debts and thus be consecrated in 1894. In 1903, however, the building was found to be in such a state of disrepair that the members pledged \$1,600 to have it raised two feet, turned on its axis so that it faced Church Street rather than Town Street and make general repairs. It was apparently moved so as to front the level ground on Church Street rather than the steep slope of Town (High) Street. It is possible that

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Significance continued

Church Street became a street at this time rather than just a curve on the top of Town Street.

Richford entered the period of its greatest population and prosperity around the turn of the twentieth century with the invention of refrigerated cars that allowed local dairy

products to transported by rail throughout New England. The town also attracted a furniture and a veneer factory and a Quaker Oats feed factory. From 1900 to 1910 the population of the town increased from 2,241 to 2,907, reflecting the continued prosperity. St. Ann's appears to have had a spurt of prosperity as it paid off the \$1,600 building debt in 1904. In 1912 a Parish Hall was made from the basement of the church and in 1913 the stained glass triple paned Gothic head window was ordered from a firm (Geiss..illegible Brothers) in New York City.

Economic good times continued in Richford until the end of World War I when paved roads and trucking started to become the prevalent means of transportation in Vermont and the railroads began to lose business and reduce the size of their investments and payroll in the small border towns. Richford's population began its slow decline after World War I and neither it nor the church has really prospered since then. In the Post World War II era the church continued to serve the community if on a diminished basis. For several years the congregation has had a visiting priest on a regular schedule with lay readers on other Sundays. For all that, the church does have services every week.

St. Ann's was part of a wave of construction undertaken by the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont beginning after the Civil War and continuing until the end of the nineteenth century. During this time eighteen new churches were constructed in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Significance continued

Vermont, mostly in the Gothic style favored by Reverend John Henry Hopkins (1792-1868) the first.

Episcopal Bishop of Vermont, who was also an influential architect and the author of An Essay on Gothic Architecture, 1836. While the exterior of St. Ann's shows some of the characteristics of the Queen Anne style, the interior is a wonderful example of what can be done with the Gothic Revival style when it fits in to and is not designed to overwhelm the surroundings. This makes the church eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Because of the smoky golden tongue in groove paneling that completely covers the walls and ceiling the church offers a sunny aspect on the gloomiest days. Although the wood's provenance is not known, it may well have been acquired from local sources. The tri-paned Gothic hooded stained glass window overlooks the altar. Located at the south end (ecclesiastical East) of the chapel it allows the altar and the priest to be bathed in sunlight thereby heightening the effect of a call to good works. The real Gothic touch in the interior are the four arches that soar to the Heavens some twenty five or thirty feet above. This may not seem very high but in the context of a chapel 20' x 60' with a steeply gabled roof, they are perfectly proportioned with undersides no more than four inches wide and ogives about three fourths of the way up the arch that break the path of the arch and make it lighter even though it is of darker wood than the rest of the chapel. The pews and organ are of the same yellow brown color as the paneling and impart a similar sense of lightness in what might be a rather glum chamber if the colors were darker. The ends of the choir stalls are ornately carved in the shape of small diamonds (4 inches high) atop larger ones (3 feet high).

This unpretentious but in its own way dramatic chapel demonstrates the desire and ability of a less than wealthy congregation to build and sustain a beautiful church in under less than favorable economic circumstances.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

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Richford, Franklin County, Vermont

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Burlington, The Document Committee. The Cathedral Church of St. Paul. 1973

Salisbury, Jack C. Richford Vermont - Frontier Town. Canaan, NH, Phoenix
Publishing, 1987

Various authors: Notes of Vestry Meetings St. Ann's Church 1902-1996 on file
with Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, Burlington

Newspapers:

Burlington Free Press April, November 1883

Richford Gazette April, November 1883

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

St. Ann's Church, Richford,
Franklin County, Vermont

Boundary Description:

From Point A on the southwest corner of Church and Town Streets proceed south 110 feet along Town Street to the brow of the hill. This is point B. Follow the brow of the hill 175 feet west to Point C. From here go north 110 feet to Church Street. This is Point D. Follow Church Street east 175 feet to Point A.

Boundary Justification:

Justification: This is the lot historically associated with the property
Deed filed in Richford 25 April 1883. Book 14, page 4 15 May 1883. Amended 4 August
1971