

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 10 1978
DATE ENTERED

**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 First Methodist Church of Burlington

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South Winooski Avenue

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Burlington --- VICINITY OF

STATE Vermont CODE COUNTY Chittenden CODE

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 First Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER South Winooski Avenue

CITY, TOWN Burlington --- VICINITY OF STATE Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Burlington City Hall

STREET & NUMBER Church Street

CITY, TOWN Burlington STATE Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE 1977 ---FEDERAL STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Montpelier STATE Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Burlington First Methodist Church is located within the central business district of downtown Burlington. It is one block east of Church Street, the primary commercial center of the city. The church is situated on a level lot measuring 150 feet by 250 feet at the northwest corner of South Winooski Avenue and Buell Street and is traditionally oriented, with the altar at the east end of the nave. Also included on the property are the church office adjoining the east wall of the church and the parsonage at 25 Buell Street at the northeast of the property.

The beautifully appointed Romanesque Revival church consists of a large rectangular block with a steeply pitched gable roof and a square tower at the northwest corner. The building is six bays long with a raised basement level. The gable roof is slated with purple colored slates which match the wall coloring. The dimensions of the church are 64 feet by 106 feet and the tower is 147 feet high. The church is constructed of Willard's Ledge redstone (a locally quarried purplish limestone) with trimmings of Isle La Motte grey sandstone from quarries north of Burlington. The polychrome effect of the purple and grey stone is striking. The tower is a buttressed square and bears a bell deck with clock faces above. It is surmounted by a spire which is relieved by windows with projecting gables and panelings. The entire spire is clad with welded tin plates and is tipped with a gilded cross. Originally the spire was painted brown, rather than its present silver color.

The main body of the church is supported by exterior buttresses at each corner and between each bay on the side elevations. The facings and caps of the buttresses are of the Isle La Motte stone. The facings are of finely cut stone and the caps are carved in an ornamental pattern. Mid way up the buttresses flanking the entrances are intermediate caps which are carved to duplicate the tracery of the luthern windows along the roof slopes. The window surrounds, stringcourses, and belt courses are all of the same grey Isle La Motte stone.

The majority of the fenestration contains its original stained glass. There are six windows on each side facade with leaded stained glass of neutral tints with patterned designs etched in. A bright colored band forms a border on each window and at the top of each is a different icon-rossette. On the roof slope of each side are six luthern windows, directly above the corresponding side windows. These steep-pitched triangular gable-dormers have a simple tracery formed by a circular muntin which fits within the triangular frame and is similar to the lower buttress cap design. They admit light to the nave of the church through secondary windows in the nave, and give the effect of a clerestory. The main (west) facade is dominated by a large rose window, also called a wheel window because of the strongly emphasized radial segments. Beneath the wheel are four tall, narrow windows divided by three columnar mullions. The entire window measures 12 by 28 feet. The rose window is divided into eight leaded, stained glass petals, separated by a heavy wooden tracery. The heads of the four Apostles, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are represented in every other petal segment and in the center of the wheel is an open Bible and cross. The four windows below the rose window represent scenes from the life of Christ, viz: Christ blessing the children, Christ in the garden, the Transfiguration, and the Ascension. All of the windows have arabesque borders and are in rich, brilliant colors producing a striking effect.

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There are two main entrances in the tower, one on the west side and the other on the north. Another entrance is located on the southwest corner of the facade. All entrances have Isle La Motte stone surrounds, with segmentally arched heads. There is a wooden casing within each stone surround with short engaged columns which act as jambs. The capitals of these columns are the same as those on the columns in the interior. The entrance consists of double doors with diagonally set beaded boards which form a chevron pattern when closed.

The nave is 33 feet wide with two high arches, one over the chancel and a corresponding one at the west end. The nave and aisle are separated by a six-arch colonnade supported by iron columns encased by eight-sided wooden columns with capitals of the same design as those at the entrances. There are six small, double windows on each side of the upper part of the nave which receive light from the exterior luthern windows and are finished so as to give the effect of a clerestory. The ceiling of the nave does not rise to the gable ridge but is truncated. This ceiling is supported by brackets and rafters of natural wood. The ceiling is painted a deep blue and the walls are painted a light tan with a darker tan delineating the borders in much the same manner as the grey stone trims the exterior red stone.

Attached to the east end of the church is a 2 by 3 bay, one-and-one-half level, gable roofed structure which utilizes most of the same details as the main body of the church, but in smaller scale. This section is finished in redstone on the north elevation and brick on the south. It was built in the 1930's. A one-story, flat-roofed, addition has been recently built (1957) at the juncture of the church and this back section. The one-story addition is also made of redstone, and joins directly with the parsonage.

At the northeast corner of the property is the parsonage, at 25 Buell Street. This transitional Queen Anne-Colonial Revival residence is two-and-one-half stories and clad with a brick veneer. It is distinguishable by its polygonal tower and irregular plan. There are five polygonal bays which project from the hip roofed, rectangular, central core. Each bay is capped by a pedimented gable, except for the tower which has a polygonal cap and finial. A pedimented porch with doric columns spans the front entrance and continues around the tower to the west elevation. The fenestration consists of one over one sash windows within slightly segmental arches. The window sills and water table are of rock-faced redstone. The entrance consists of a pair of oak doors with beveled glass panels.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burlington Free Press, 4/19/1870, 4/20/1870
 Burlington City Directories, 1865, 1867, 1869, 1900, 1901, 1902.
 Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1885, 1889, 1900, 1942.
 Withey, Henry and E. R. Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), New Age Publishing Co., Los Angeles, California, 1956.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

*642-2805 (center point)
4926-400*

QUADRANGLE NAME Burlington, Vermont

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

1	8	6	4	2	2	4	5	4	9	2	5	3	7	5
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1	8	6	4	2	2	4	5	4	9	2	6	4	2	5
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All property and buildings within the rectangle formed by the northwest corner of Buell and South Winooski Avenue, the northeast corner of Buell and Orchard Terrace and two points 50 meters due south from each of the above points.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Clark Schoettle, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

March, 1978

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Timney

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/5/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *W. M. [Signature]*

DATE 10/5/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Sept 27, 1978

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The master carpenter and contractor was Elmore Johnson. Johnson (1830-1896) was originally from the Reading, Massachusetts area and arrived in Burlington in the early 1860's. He was the master carpenter for the Third Congregational Church in Burlington (1863-1866) and there are many similarities between the two churches. Johnson remained in Burlington until his death and became one of the leading architect-builders in the city with over fifty major buildings to his credit.

The building is constructed of load bearing masonry, with floors and roof supported by cast iron columns from the W. H. Brink Foundry in Burlington. The Brink foundry was the largest in state, with a ten ton pouring capacity. It specialized in machine parts, caldrons, architectural window caps, cornice brackets and column work. The use of cast iron columns, though encased in wood at the nave level, enable a more slender supporting member than would have been otherwise possible.

The completed church cost nearly \$65,000. The breakdown of this cost is as follows: plans, \$1,283; lot, \$8,000; redstone, \$2,600; greystone, \$3,300; mason work, \$16,115; carpentry work, \$24,179; bell, \$915; and furniture and carpets, \$5,928.

At the time of completion a parsonage stood facing South Winooski Avenue where Buell Street enters today. It was part of the original plans to clear away this parsonage, enlarging the grounds and allowing a better view of the side elevation of the church. It was not until 1900 that the parsonage was removed, the delay probably being the result of a lack of funds. When the old parsonage did come down, Buell Street was extended to South Winooski Avenue and the present parsonage was erected at 25 Buell Street. Funds for the parsonage were bequeathed by Prudence Roby, widow of Hilar Roby, a prominent Burlington contractor and a long-time member of the church. The parsonage, though built some thirty years later than the church, is of equal quality and design and contributes to the continuity of this property.

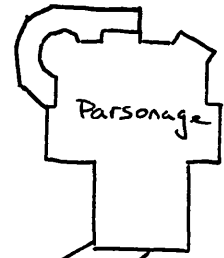
On April 19, 1870, the day the church was dedicated, the Burlington Free Press wrote of the congregation that ". . . today they look upon their completed work, which will remain throughout the generations after they have passed away, a monument of their devotion and a worthy temple of praise . . ." Today the church and property continue as a monument and landmark illustrating both past and present religious dedication through architectural expression.

BUELL ST.

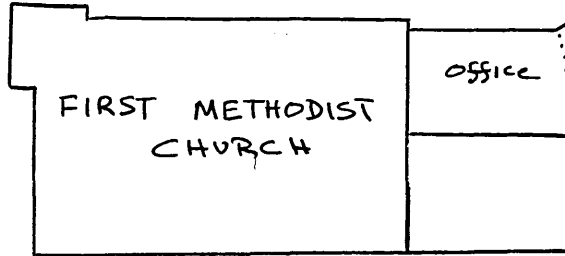
(A)

(B)

PARKING GARAGE



Parsonage



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

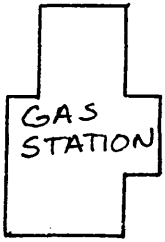
Office

ORCHARD TERRACE

WINDOSKI AVE.

(D)

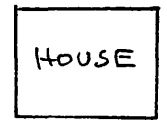
(C)



GAS STATION



POLICE STATION



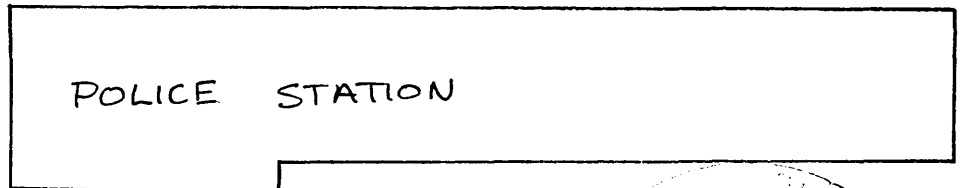
HOUSE

PARKING LOT

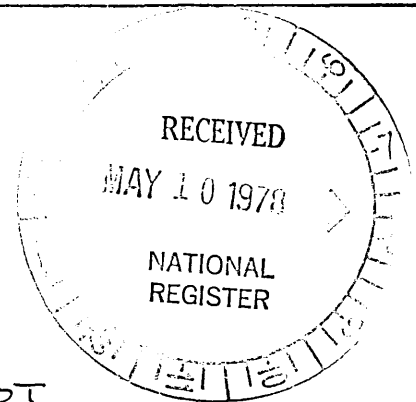


HOUSE

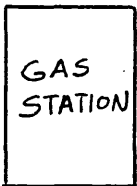
BANK ST.



POLICE STATION



PARKING LOT



GAS STATION

PARKING LOT

