

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
State House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
State Capitol Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Montpelier

STATE: Vermont CODE: COUNTY: Washington CODE:

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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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:
State of Vermont

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION OF THE SURVEY

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Vermont State House (as originally built) is a two-story-over-elevated-basement granite ashlar structure with a central giant Doric portico and a low Roman saucer dome. The external walls, constructed of Barrie granite from Wheaton Quarry on Coble Hill, have an inner leaf of brick. The basement and first story partitions are also of brick and the original (1838) partitions on the second floor were of wood. The building has a cruciform plan, with one long and one short axis. At the intersection of the arms is a vestibule and over this was a shallow dome of wood, sheathed in copper and painted to simulate veined marble. Mounted on a low octagonal drum with four pepper box turrets, the original dome, was an exterior feature and had no interior space-use. The existing dome, about 57 feet high and built in 1857-59, is a tall timber-framed structure mounted on a high drum, sheathed with copper and covered with gold leaf, and like the original, is an exterior feature. The dome is crowned by a 14-foot high wood statue of Ceres, the goddess of agriculture, carved by Larkin Goldsmith Mead in 1859.

As completed in 1838, the State House was about 143 feet long, east-west and 50 1/2 feet wide. In the 1859 rebuilding, this length was increased to about 176 feet by the addition of one 16 1/2 foot bay to each end. The original north-south axis was about 90 feet long and 73 feet wide. The length of this arm was increased to about 110 feet in 1859 by the addition of two bays to the north (rear) arm. The south (front) elevation is dominated by a central pedimented portico, which is about 73 feet wide and projects 20 feet. The pedimented is supported by six giant Doric columns, each six feet in diameter at the base. The gable roofs of the east and west wings and also of the north arm were originally enclosed at the eaves by parapets. In the 1859 rebuilding these parapets were removed and the three gable ends treated as pediments. The original windows were rectangular; in the reconstruction these were increased slightly in scale and dimension and Renaissance detail added to their exterior. First-story windows in the east and west wings have cornices above them and second-floor windows are topped by triangular pediments. The center doors in the ends of these two wings have cornices, sidelights, and are each flanked by a pair of pilasters and engaged columns.

Three doors located in the south portico lead into the central lobby or vestibule. The original interior, done in wood and decorated in the Ionic order, was destroyed in the fire of 1857. The lobby has a handsome black and white tessellated marble floor, of stone quarried from Isle Le Mottee, and six cast-iron Ionic columns. Two fine semielliptical cast-iron stairways, located on the north side of the lobby, lead to the second floor. The ceilings throughout the first floor are 18 feet high and have molded double sunk panels. The Offices of the Secretary of State, Sergeant at Arms, Legislative Council, and Hall of Inscriptions occupy the first floor.

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)

1833-38

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input 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

Designed by Ammi Burnham Young and erected in 1833-38, the Vermont State House is probably the least-altered example of this noted architect's monumentally-scaled public buildings done in the Greek Revival style. The wooden interior of the granite building was destroyed by fire in 1857; however, except for an enlarged dome, the addition of a drum, and increase in scale and dimensions of the windows, and the addition of a bay at either end, the State House was rebuilt to its original exterior design in 1857-59. The existing interior, except for minor alterations, looks much as it did when rebuilt in 1859.

History

On October 21, 1831 a resolution was passed by the Vermont legislature to build a new State House. A committee of four legislators visited the capitols of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire and then accepted a design submitted by Ammi B. Young, a 32-year old architect of Montpelier. His first major commission, Young based the exterior on the Grecian Doric order of the Theseion at Athens and the interior on the Ionic order. Work commenced in 1833 with Lebbens Edgerton as superintendent, a post which Young took over in 1836. The building was occupied in 1836 and completed in 1838. Cost of construction was \$132,007.23.

In January 1857 the timber interior of the State House burned. Thomas William Silloway of Newburyport and Boston was chosen as the architect to supervise the rebuilding. He extended the original ground plan by adding one bay to either end (east-west), deepened the central bulk by adding two bays to the rear (north), and enlarged the scale by replacing Young's low Roman saucer dome with a taller timber-framed dome on a high drum. After completing the exterior and most of the first floor, Silloway, in February 1858, was replaced as architect by Joseph R. Richards of Boston. Richards designed the interior of the second floor and chose all the furniture and fittings, some of which he designed. The State House was completed in 1859 and the cost of reconstruction was \$160,000.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vermont, A Guide to the Green Mountain State (American Guide Series)(Boston, 1937), 117-18

Talbot F. Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America(New York, 1944), 106
107.

Talbot F. Hamlin, The American Spirit in Architecture(New Haven, 1926), 136.

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 ° 15 ' 46 "	72 ° 34 ' 52 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acre

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE 7/1/70

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE D. C. CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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State House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

On the second floor the elliptical Senate Chamber, measuring 30 by 44 feet and 22 feet high with an oval domical ceiling, is situated in the east wing. The gallery is supported by fluted Corinthian columns and the ceiling is decorated with bead and button molding. The 30 block walnut desks and chairs in this room date from 1858. The horseshoe-shaped Hall of Representatives, 57 by 67 feet and 31 feet high, occupies the north (rear) wing. This room also has a gallery and treated in the Corinthian order. The Hall contains 252 seats and desks and an elaborately decorated 14-foot high chandelier. The recently reapportioned House now seats only 150 members and the room is presently undergoing a renovation. The west wing is occupied by two large rooms: the Governor's Office on the south front and behind this, is a reception room.

The State House is in excellent condition and still serves as the seat of the State Government. The building is also open to visitors.

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State House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References for the State House; Montpelier:

Alan Gowans, Images of American Living (Philadelphia & New York, 1964), 322.

Lawrence Wodehouse, "Ammi Burnham Young", Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XXV, No.4 (December 1966), 268-280.

Lawrence Wodehouse, "Architectural Projects in the Greek Revival Style by Ammi B. Young," Old-Time New England, Vol,LX, No.3 (Winter 1970), Serial No. 219, 73-85.

Mary Greene Nye, Vermont's State House (Montpelier, Vt., 931).

Winslow Ames, "The Vermont State House, @/ "Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol.XXIII, No.4 (December, 1964), 193-199.

Christopher Tunnard and Henry H. Reed, American Skyline (Boston, 1955), 144.

Osmund R. Overby, "Ammi B. Young in the Connecticut Valley", Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XIX, No. 3 (October, 1960), 119-123.