

**Chittenden County Courthouse**

Burlington

April 23, 1973

Mr. Robert J. Rousseau  
Clerk of the Court  
Courthouse  
Church Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Mr. Rousseau:

We are pleased to inform you that the Chittenden County Courthouse has been officially entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you desire further information regarding this nomination, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Pinney  
Director

WBP/jp

cc: Ed Cashman, Deputy Clerk, Chittenden County Court  
Gordon H. Paquette, Mayor of Burlington  
William Preston, jr., Burlington Historic Sites Committee



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service

Ronald H. Walker

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P. L. 89-665 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VERMONT

APR 11 1973

Date Entered

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Stone Mill	Middlebury Addison County
Grassemount	Burlington Chittenden County
North Bennington Depot	North Bennington Bennington County
University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm	Weybridge Addison County
Chittenden County Courthouse	Burlington Chittenden County
Strong (General Samuel) House	Vergennes Addison County

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

Also Notified

Hon. George D. Aiken  
Hon. Robert T. Stafford  
Hon. Richard W. Mallory

December 12, 1972

Dr. William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
The National Register  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed please find National Register nomination forms for Grassemount, Chittenden County and the Chittenden County Courthouse, Chittenden County, Vermont. These properties are being submitted under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Pinney  
Director and State Liaison Officer

WBP:md

Enclosure

December 12, 1972

Mr. Robert J. Rousseau  
Clerk of the Court  
Courthouse  
Church Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Mr. Rousseau:

We are pleased to inform you that the Chittenden County Courthouse has been submitted to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation for consideration for entry on the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet describing the National Register program is enclosed for your information. Notification of acceptance or rejection of the property will follow.

Please feel free to contact us if any further information is desired.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Pinney  
Director

WBP:md

Enclosure

cc: Ed Cashman, Deputy Clerk, Chittenden County Court  
Gordon H. Paquette, Mayor of Burlington  
William Preston, Jr., Burlington Historic Sites Comm.

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Chittenden County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
130 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington

STATE Vermont	CODE 50	COUNTY: Chittenden	CODE 007
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**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
County of Chittenden

STREET AND NUMBER:  
130 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington

STATE:  
Vermont

CODE:  
50

**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: 1971  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
DATE

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chittenden County Courthouse, designed by Burlington architect E. C. Ryer, was completed in 1872. The new facility was erected to replace the old courthouse built in 1820.

The building, constructed in Second Empire style, is two and one half stories high and is rectangular in plan. A three story tower is located at the northwest corner of the structure. The walls are constructed of blocks of local redstone in combination with blue-grey Isle La Motte Stone. The stories are divided on the exterior by chisled stone belt courses. The quoins, window arches, cornices and chimney caps are all executed in cut stone. The first floor is lined by double windows divided by a band of stone and capped by stone double arches. The second story contains the large roman arched windows which light the courtroom and chambers. The structure is surmounted by a bracketed cornice and mansard roof. Several recessed, pedimented dormers, alternating with the chimneys on the side elevations, are located along the mansard roof. The roof is sheathed with light and dark bands of rectangular, clipped and scalloped slate shingles.

The courthouse is entered via a round arched entranceway with a paneled hardwood door. The entrance is proceeded by a flight of steps leading to a one story stone porch. Two sets of triple stone columns support the porch roof which has a bracketed cornice surmounted by a balustrade.

The tower roof takes the form of what is referred to in contemporary accounts as a "French Dome", square at the base and octagonal at the top. This "French Dome" has louvered dormers, is also sheathed with colored bands of slates, and is encircled at the top by an ornamental iron railing.

Of particular interest in the interior is the second floor courtroom. It is approached via a carved and polished hardwood main staircase. The courtroom is entered through an elaborately paneled round arched hardwood door surmounted by a semi-circular window of glass etched with an allegorical design.

The room measures 50 feet by 47 feet by 21 feet. This large space is fully wainscoted and paneled. The walnut bench is located in a shallow arched recess in the east wall. The room is lit by six large round arched windows and has an ornate stamped metal ceiling.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**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) 1872

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

The fact that the architect was able to successfully translate a common victorian building type (which was usually executed in brick or clapboard) into a richly polychromed stone building utilizing local materials and labor, makes the Chittenden Courthouse a unique and valuable architectural resource.

The building, along with the Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center just to the north, forms an important architectural nucleus in rapidly changing downtown Burlington.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Burlington Free Press, October 29, 1870; October 28, 1870; September 21, 1872.
2. "The Vermonter" (Vol. V, No. 11) 1900, P. 205.

**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'	02"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		73°	12'	44"
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: 11-2-72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier      STATE: Vermont      CODE: 50

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>William B. Timney</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director of Historic Sites</u> <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>11-2-72</u></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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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

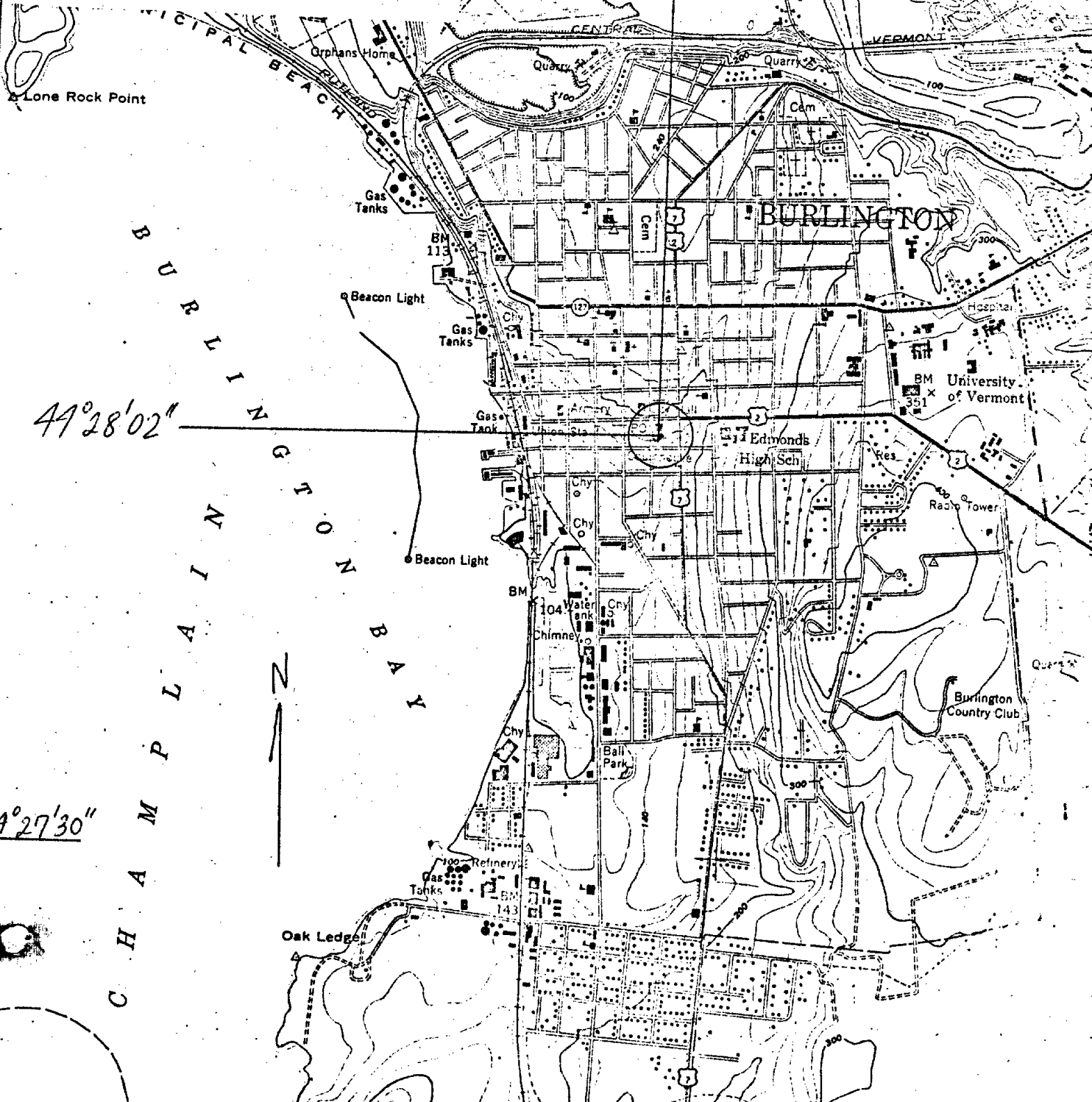
VERMONT DIVISION OF  
HISTORIC SITES

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

NAME OF SITE: Chittenden County  
Courthouse  
COORDINATES: NORTH 44° 28' 02"  
WEST 73° 12' 44"

TITLE OF MAP: Burlington Quadrangle

DATE: 1948



73° 12' 44"

73° 12' 30"

BAYSIDE 3.4 MI.  
SHIPMAN 1.9 MI.

44° 28' 02"

44° 27' 30"

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Form No. 10-301  
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE		Vermont
COUNTY		Chittenden
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Chittenden County Courthouse	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
180 Church Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Burlington			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Chittenden	007
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle 7.5 minute series			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1948			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

INT: 155-72



VERMONT DIVISION OF HISTORIC SITES

COUNTY Chittenden TOWN Burlington  
 SUBJECT Chittenden County Courthouse  
 DATE NOV 1972 FILE # 72-A-25  
 CREDIT CHESTER H. LIEBS  
 VIEW Looking East

FORM 10-301 A  
 (6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Chittenden County Courthouse		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Vermont	Chittenden	Burlington
STREET AND NUMBER		
180 Church Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Chester H. Liebs	November 1972	Vermont Division of Historic Sites
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View of Chittenden County Courthouse looking east.