Head of Church Street Historic District

Burlington



STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS HISTORIC SITES DIVISION MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602 (802) 828-3226

August 26, 1974

Mr. Gordon H. Paquette Mayor of Burlington City Hall Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Mayor Paquette:

We are pleased to inform you that the "Head of Church Street" Historic District has been officially entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Sincerely,

William B. Pinney Director State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP:md



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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 Historic Preservation 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

Date Entered

JUL 1 5 1974

Name

Location

Head of Church Street Historic District

Burlington Chittenden County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

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



STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS HISTORIC SITES DIVISION MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602 (802) 828-3226

December 12, 1973

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
The National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed please find a National Register nomination form for "Head of Church Street" Historic District, Chittenden County, Vermont. This district is being submitted under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

William B. Pinney Director State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP:md

enclosure



STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS HISTORIC SITES DIVISION MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602 (802) 828-3226

December 12, 1973

Mr. Gordon H. Paquette Mayor of Burlington City Hall Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Mayor Paquette:

This is to inform you that the "Head of Church Street" Historic District

has been submitted to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the U.S. Department of the Interior for consideration for entry on the National Register of Historic Places. A description of the historic district and its boundaries can be found on the attached nomination form. In order to notify all affected property owners, will you please post this letter along with the nomination form and the question and answer fact sheet about the National Register in a conspicuous public place for thirty (30) days. Any comments or further questions may be addressed to

William B. Pinney State Historic Preservation Officer Vermont Division of Historic Sites Pavilion Building Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Sincerely,

William E. Pinney Director State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP:md

enclosures

cc: Professor Beal B. Hyde

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE-

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Description of Site Plan

The "Head of Church Street" Historic District, comprising the Unitarian Church, Masonic Temple and Richardson Building, are situated on three sides of a "T" intersection formed by the termination of Church Street at right angles with Pearl Street in downtown Burlington. The Church occupies a broad frontage on Pearl Street directly opposite the end of Church Street. The Masonic Temple is situated on the southwest corner and the Richardson Building (Abernathy's Department Store) is on the southeast corner.

Unitarian Church

The Unitarian Church is a two-story, rectangular plan, brick building set upon a low-cut stone foundation of dressed block. Bricks in all elevations are laid up in common bond. The roof is medium pitch gable, slate sheathed, oriented in temple fashion. The church is constructed in the Federal style.

A square steeple tower, surmounted by a two-tier octagonal spire, is appended to the center of the main (south) elevation and forms the dominant feature of the building. The tower bisects a one-and-one-half story entrance pavilion surmounted by a truncated hip roof. The main elevation is surmounted by a molded wood cornice and frieze. A similar cornice and frieze appears on the entrance pavilions. A molded wood cornice is projected along the gable end toward the roof peak but is intercepted by the tower. Brick decorative pilasters appear at all corners of the structure. Major access to the church is provided in the center of the steeple tower. A palladian window with hood mold of wood is positioned above the This window is separated from the doorway by a decorated plate of wood. A clock appears near the top of the tower. Two belt courses of wood occur on the tower, correspond ing to the levels of the entrance pavilion and gable end cornices. A ballustrade surmounts the tower. Two additional doorways, presently sealed, are located in the entrance pavilion facades, flanking the tower. Each of these doorways is surmounted by a fanlight. A small square window appears between each fanlight and the frieze.

The side elevations (east and west) are identical in design. Both elevations are five bays in width. Fenestration is rectangular, double-hung sash type, twelve-over-twelve light throughout. A cornice and frieze similar to the main facade appears on both side elevations. A brick, square plan, flat roof, two-story parish house is appended to the rear (north) elevation of the church. The parish house, constructed in 1868, is three bays wide, and includes rectangular fenestration.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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FOR NPS U	SE ONLY
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Section 7

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The parish house is shorter and narrower than the church. A cornice and frieze similar to that of the church appears on the parish house. Access is provided in the middle bay of the west elevation of the parish house.

Interior space is occupied by a large meeting room with anteroom to the north. A gallary, supported by a series of Doric columns, is positioned along the east, south and west walls. Access to the gallary is provided by two stairways at either end of the anteroom. The niche behind the pulpit is outlined by a heavy plater molding which once surrounded a tall palladian window. Much of the interior detailing dates from a series of remodelings which occurred in 1845, 1868, 1872 and 1932.

Masonic Temple

The Masonic Temple is a five-story, brick, square plan structure set upon a foundation of low-cut stone. Brickwork is laid up in common bond. The building is surmounted by a slate sheathed, high hip roof. A chimney appears on the northwest corner of the building. The architectural style is Richardsonian Romanesque.

There are four equally spaced commercial fronts on the ground floor of the main (east) facade. The commercial fronts are surmounted by four semicircular-arched, decorative features of brick which occupy the second floor of the east elevation. Each brick arch contains a pair of double-hung sash windows. A denticulated stone belt course appears at the window sill level on the third story. There are eight equally spaced, semicircular-arched windows with cut-stone sills in the third and fourth floors. stone belt course appears at the still level of the fifth floor. A large pedimented gabled dormer is centered in the flank of the roof. Brick pilasters extend from the base of this dormer to the belt course below the fifth story. The pilasters encompass two rows of four arcaded and pilastered windows in the fifth Four irregular spaced windows occur on the fifth floor at either side of the dormer pilasters. The pedimented dormer is flanked by two smaller hooded dormers. A small ventilating dormer appears near the roof peak.

The ground floor of the north elevation contains windows for the commercial shops in the east end and major access to the upper floors in the west end. A stone belt course separates the first and second floors at the sill level of second story windows. A large, centrally positioned, pedimented gabled dormer, similar to that of the east elevation, appears on the roof flank of the north facade. Brick pilasters extend from the base of the dormer to the belt course below the second story windows. The pilasters encompass four tiers of five semicircular-arched

Form 10-300e (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Section 7

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

windows arranged in "stairstep" fashion. Three similar regularly spaced windows occur to both sides of the pilasters in the second, third, and fourth stories. There are four irregularly spaced windows to either side of the pilasters in the fifth floor. Stone belt courses occur outside the pilasters at the sill level of the third and fifth floors. The pedimented dormer is flanked by two smaller hooded gabled dormers, and a small ventilating dormer appears near the roof peak.

The east (rear) elevation contains service doorways and fire escapes. The facade is broken by stone belt courses at the sill levels of windows in the first, second, third, and fourth floors. Fenestration in the basement level occurs only in the east facade and consists of nine rectangular, regularly spaced windows with flat, cut-stone lintels and sills. Ground floor fenestration is identical but does not include doorways. Second, third, and fourth story fenestration includes eight regularly spaced, semicircular-arched openings. The south end bay and second bay from the north are given to fire escape doorways. The remainder are windows. Fifth floor fenestration and dormer treatment are identical to the main (west) facade. The south facade includes a series of twelve regularly spaced, semicircular-arched windows with stone sills in the third and fourth floors. Fenestration does not occur below the third floor to allow the placement of an adjacent building. A stone belt course breaks the facade at the sill level of the fifth floor. Fifth floor fenestration includes a series of thirteen irregularly spaced semicircular-arched windows. Four hooded gabled dormers are regularly spaced on the roofline, and a small ventilating dormer appears near the peak of the roof.

Richardson Building

The Richardson Building is a Chateauesque style, rectangular plan, four-and-one-half story, brick structure set upon a low-cut stone foundation. The building was constructed for retail store occupancy on the ground floor and apartments above. The prolific use of dormers, chimneys and minarets enhances the appearance of the essentially rectangular plan building and reinforces the pervasive quality of massiveness and stability. The roof is sloping but includes a slate sheathed, narrow, high hip, decorative secondary roof along the north and west rooflines. A pinnacle-like projection with spire surmounts the east end and northwest corner of the secondary roof. This secondary roof obscures the main roof from the streetscapes.

The west (main) elevation was intended for major commercial access and street exposure, and therefore is most heavily detailed. The

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west elevation is twelve bays wide with the northwest corner and certain bays above the first floor projected in random order to form towers, producing an asymmetrical facade. The towers are capped by conical roofs with minarets. An iron ballustrade separates the first and second floor. Fenestration in the second, third and fourth floors is rectangular, double-hung sash type throughout. Two windows appear in each bay occupied by a tower. A single window, with iron ballustrade, occupies the remaining flush bays. The second bay from the north is recessed to form balconies for apartments on the second, third and fourth floors.

The north elevation is exposed to the street. There is a tower appended to the east and west corners above the first floor, and a similar tower is projected at the third bay from the northwest corner. All are topped by conical roofs with minarets. second bay from the northwest is recessed above the first floor to form a balcony for each floor. The ground floor contains storefronts at the west and east ends. Major access to the apartments above is contained on the ground floor in a bay adjacent to the east storefront. The bay containing the doorway is projected from the facade and extended above the level of the secondary roof to form a chimney. Four regularly spaced, small square windows occur on the ground floor between the entrance and the west storefront. Fenestration in the second, third and fourth floors is identical, and includes a series of irregularly spaced, rectangular, double-hung sash windows. Windows in the projected bay over the doorway are elliptical and framed in decorative brickwork. Brick belt courses break the facade and corner towers below the second, third, and fourth floors. The secondary roof on the north elevation is pierced by two rounded, hooded dormers; one is centrally positioned, the other is near the east end of the roof.

The east (rear) facade contains secondary access and fire escapes on each floor. Fenestration occurs in eight regularly spaced openings, the end bays being given to doorways. The remainder are given to windows which occur in pairs, recessed in elliptical-arched brickwork. A dormer, capped by a conical roof, appears above the second bay to the north and is flanked by a chimney to the south. An incenerator chimney is appended to the south end of the facade. The south facade contains no fenestration or detailing, and was built to be abutted by an adjacent building. The end gable of the secondary roof is visible on this facade, and a chimney appears to the east of the gable.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Head of Church Street" Historic District comprises the prominent visual environment at the termination of the major business street in downtown Burlington. The view of the church is effectively framed by the Masonic Temple and Richardson Building, two dissimilar but compatible structures, and the quality of weightiness and magnitude of the latter buildings provides a striking contrast to the delicate quality of the church. The Unitarian Church, opposite the end of Church Street, is visible along the length of the street, and provides a focal poirt for the area. Directions are frequently given in relation to the church.

The significance of the district is enhanced by the architectural quality of the three buildings. The Unitarian Church (1816) is the work of a master architect, Peter Banner. There is evidence that Charles Bulfinch supervised or amended Banner's The Masonic Temple (1898) and the Richardson Building (1895) are among the outstanding late 19th century commercial buildings in downtown Burlington. The Masonic Temple is the design of John McArthur Harris of the firm of Wilson Brothers and Company of Philadelphia and was constructed to be the state headquarters for the Grand Masonic Lodge of Vermont. Richardson Building was intended to quarter Burlington's largest department store. The scale, quality, and articulation of the buildings reflect the intended importance of their functions, and accordingly, both structures were constructed in the finest and most popular styles of commercial architecture of their day The existence of the Masonic Temple and Richardson Building furthermore suggests the emergence of Burlington as Vermont's major metropolitan center, and their placement at Church and Pearl Streets emphasizes the historical importance of that business center.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet) Section 9 (Number all entries)

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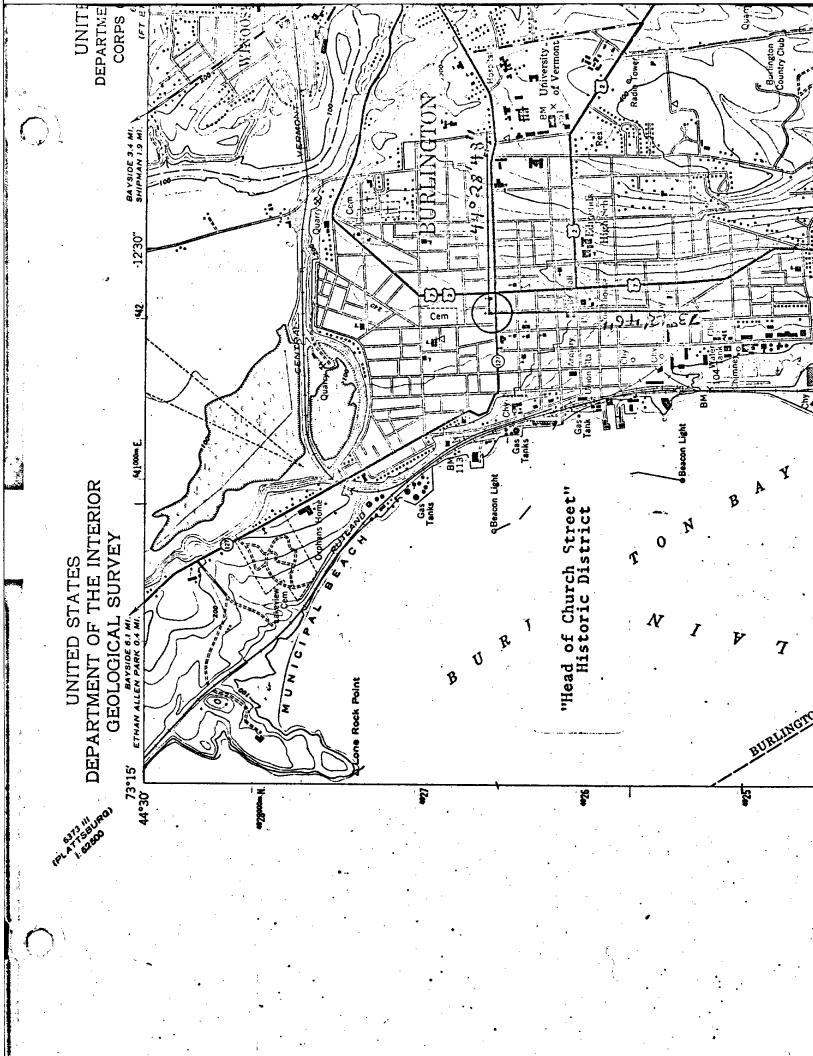
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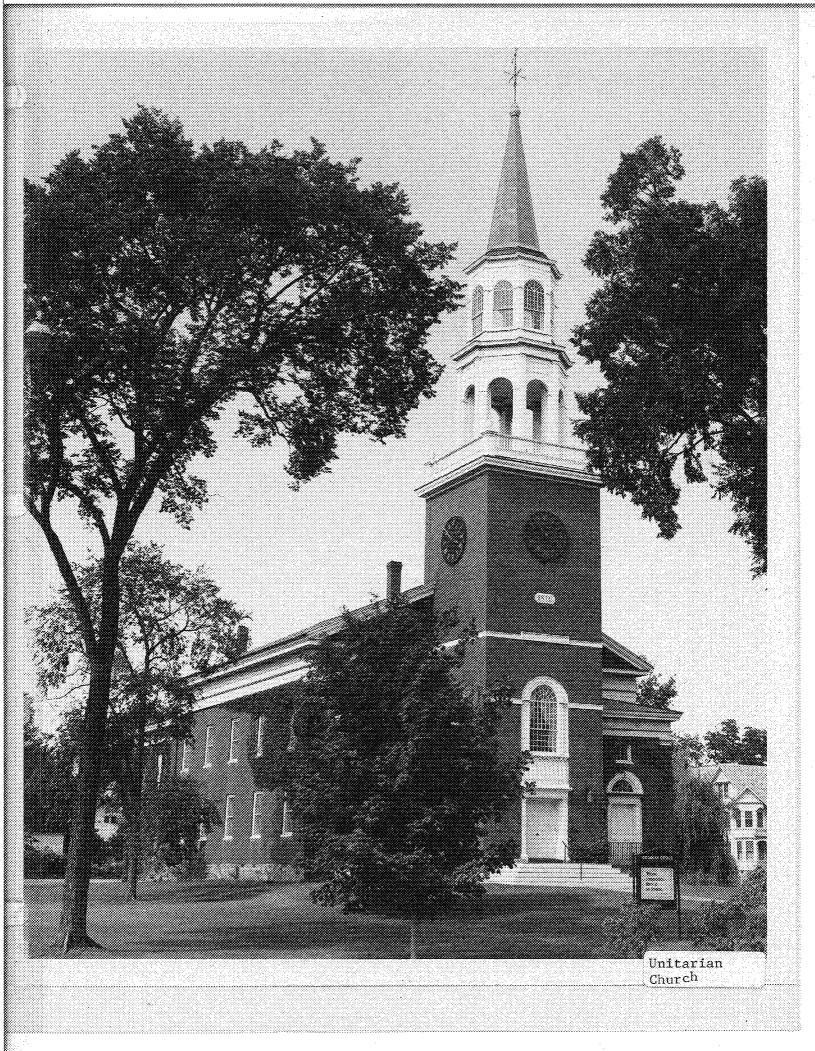
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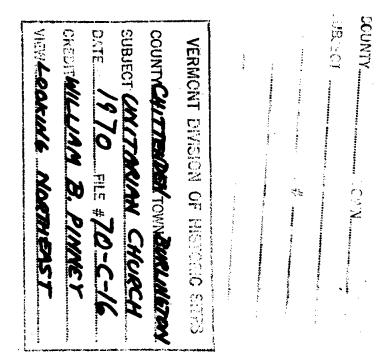
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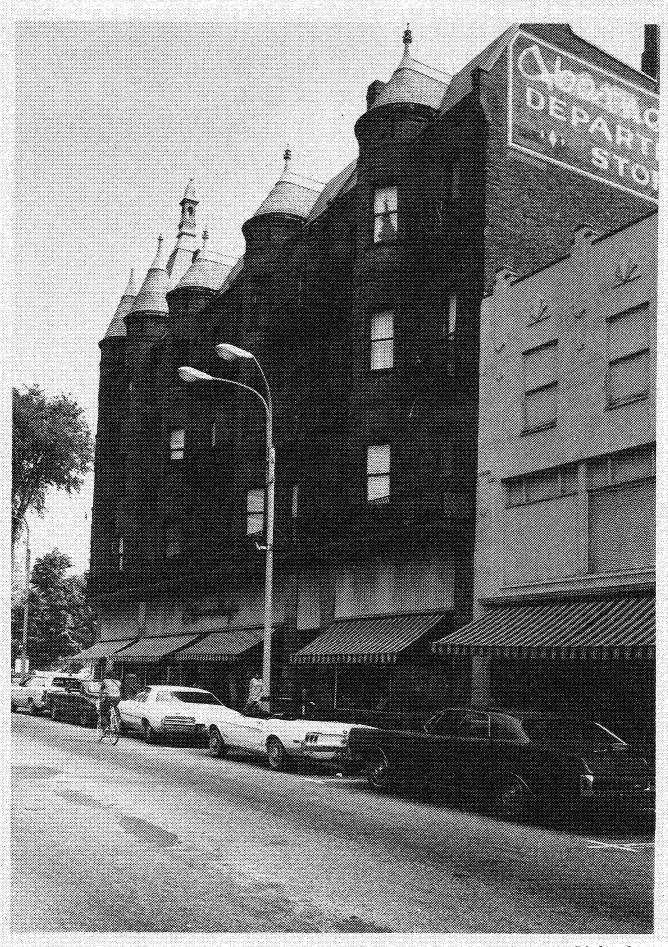


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME		•
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC Unitarian	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
"Head of Church Street"	Church, Masonic Temple,	
Historic District	Richardson (Abernathy)	B1dg
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Vermont	Chittenden	Burlington
for boundary description	see Section 7	
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Wm. B. Pinney	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
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Historic Sites	1970	Historic Sites
4. IDENTIFICATION		

Unitarian Church at head of Church Street; view northeast.



Richardson Bldg.

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FORM 10-301 A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC Unitarian	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
"Head of Church Street"		
Historic District	Richardson (Abernathy)	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Vermont	Chittenden	Burlington
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DESCRIBE VIEW DIRECTION ETC		

Richardson Building, west (main) elevation; view northeast.



73-A-23

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FORM 10-301 A

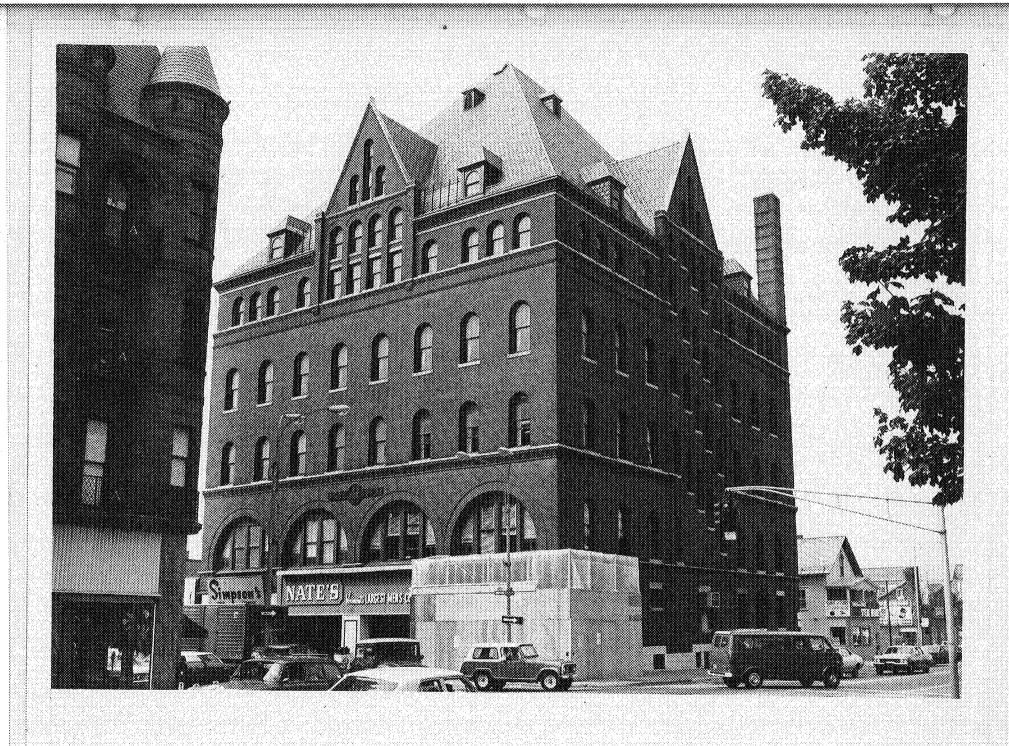
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or en close with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC Unitarian	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
"Head of Church Street"	Church, Masonic Temple	
Historic District	Richardson (Abernathy)	Bldg.
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
_Vermont	Chittenden	Burlington
for boundary description	un son Continu 7	•
3. PHOTO REFERENCE	on see Section /	
PHOTO CREDIT S. J. Raiche	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
for Vt. Division of	·	Vermont Division of
Historic Sites	Aug. 30, 1973	Historic Sites
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View showing placement of Richardson Building and Masonic Temple on Pearl Street; view southwest.



Masonic Temple

VERMONT DIVISION OF HISTORIC SITES
COUNTY CHITTENDEN TOWN BURLINGTON
SUBJECT HERO OF CHURCH ST" DIST
DATE 8/30/73 FILE # 73-A-23
CREDIT SJ RAICHE
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FORM 10-301 A

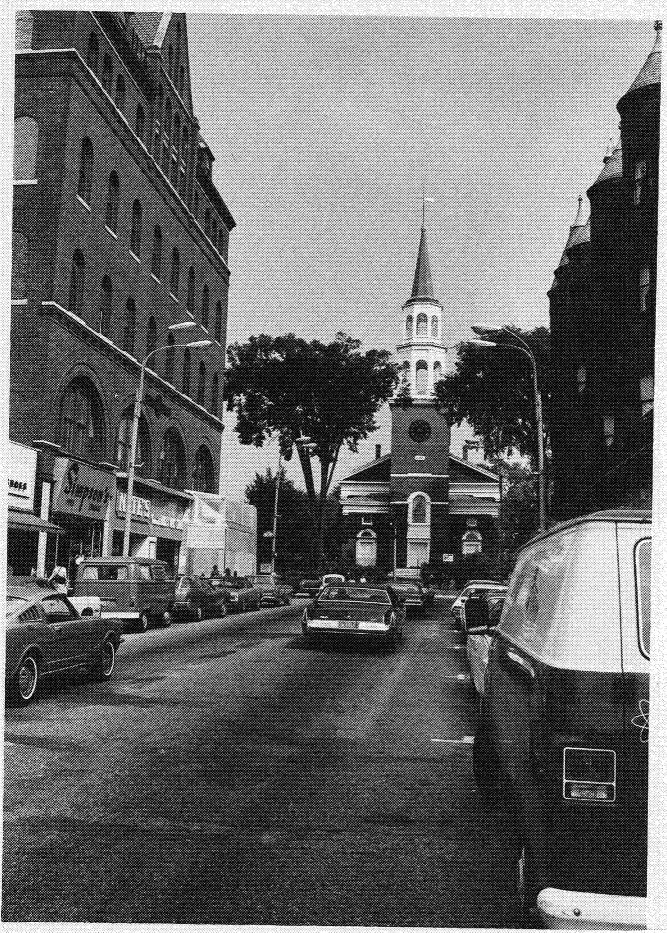
MATERIAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

I. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC Unitarian	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
"Head of Church Street"	Church: Masonic Temple	, .
Historic District	Richardson (Abernathy)	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Vermont	Chittenden	Burlington
for boundary descriptio	n see Section 7	· •
PHOTO CREDIT S. J. Raiche	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
for Vt. Division of		Vermont Division of
Historic Sites	Aug. 30, 1973	Historic Sites
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Masonic Temple, east (main) and north elevations; view southwest.



Head of Church Street

VERWIONT DIVISION OF HISTORIC SITES
COUNTY CHITTENDEN TOWN BURLINGTON
SUBJECT HEAD OF CHURCH ST" DIST
DATE 8/30/73 FILE # 73-A-23
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VIEW

FORM 19-301 A

WHITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or en close with photograph)

1. NAME		NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
"Head of Church Street" Historic District	Church, Masonic Temple, Richardson (Abernathy)	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Vermont	Chittenden	Burlington
for houndary descriptions. PHOTO REFERENCE	n see Section 7	
	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
for Vt. Division of Historic Sites	Aug. 30, 1973	Vermont Division of Historic Sites
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW DIRECTION, ETC.		

General context view of "Head of Church Street" showing relationship of the three major structures; view north.