

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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10. Ethan Allen Engine Company #4 (135 Church Street)

A Nineteenth Century Commercial style fire station, listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 17, 1970.

11. City Hall

Because of its great mass and highly central location, City Hall is perhaps the most visually strategic component in the district. The brick facade with extensive carved marble trim is Neo-classical in style, although the strict symmetry and multi-stage domed cupola impart definite Georgian overtones. This classical/colonial motif was intended by the architect, W.M. Kendall of McKim, Mead, and White, to be "in accordance with the same classical principles which inspired the public buildings of the colonies and the early republic."

Virtually all the finish materials - brick, marble, roofing slate, and granite - were produced in Vermont. When the building was constructed in 1928 at a cost of \$475,000, it was hailed by Mayor Beecher as "the most ambitious building project on which the city of Burlington has ever embarked." When the mayor pushed through a new fire station and civic auditorium the next year, his critics dubbed him "Beecher the Builder" and spread rumors of graft. The previous City Hall, built on this site in 1854, had grown decrepit with age, and was, in the words of the Free Press editor, "a repellent municipal liability."

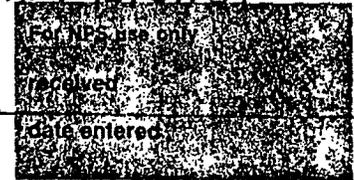
The rectangular plan has virtual dual orientation, displaying identical eleven-bay, two-story facades on both Church Street and the park. Bays are defined by fluted pilasters with Corinthian caps, and twelve-over-twelve sash with gauged brick flat arches. Quoins, a denticulated cornice with carved architrave, and spandrel panels add further surface enrichment. The round-arched central entrances have panelled doors with tracery fanlights and surrounds of fluted Ionic pilasters supporting swan-neck pediments. Cupola enrichment includes clocks, balustrades with urns, columns and arches in a Palladian motif, and a gilded dome embellished with swag.

12. Hotel Vermont (129-133 Main Street)

The old Hotel Vermont, at seven stories the tallest building in the district, is a dominant presence in the streetscape surrounding City Hall Park. The style is Colonial Revival, characterized by a symmetrically organized brick facade with central pavilion, quoins, and neo-classical trim executed mostly in marble. A denticulated pressed metal cornice with brick parapet highlights the roofline. A glazed roof garden and wrought iron seventh story balconies take advantage of the building's height and provide views of the lake and the park.

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Fenestration is three by seven bays, regularly spaced; windows are all paired except on the central pavillion, where they are three-part and flanked by slit windows. Most sills and lintels are marble. The modern central entrance retains original granite Doric columns with marble bases and capitals; overhead is an iron balcony served by French doors with a segmental arch marble cornice. The entire first story is banded between a marble string course and water table. In the rear, fronting on St. Paul Street, is a three-story service wing with stone-capped battlement.

The Hotel Vermont was the last of the great hotels which once dominated life around City Hall Park. It replaced the burned-out main block of the old American House in 1910. For many years it was considered the finest non-resort hotel in the state. Converted to apartments and offices in 1970.

13. East Wing of American House (135-143 Main Street)

This brick block was originally the east wing of the American House, a landmark which burned in 1906, to be replaced four years later by the Hotel Vermont (#12). A Federal style parapetted gable is now the only stylistic clue to its c.1830 origins. In the early twentieth century the roofline was raised to accommodate a full third story; the present windows and corbelled cornice with cyma recta wood molding date from then. Modern storefronts, one faced with carrara glass. Despite alterations to the facade, the block plays an intergral part in the City Hall street-scape by spanning the wide gap between the Hotel Vermont and the Flynn Theater.

14. Flynn Theater (149-153 Main Street)

According to at least one authority, the Flynn is the finest Art Deco moviehouse in the state. As the last remaining theater in downtown Burlington, it testifies to the enduring role which film has played in American culture, particularly in the pre-television years of the depression, when Hollywood enjoyed its "golden age." It was built in 1930 for John J. Flynn, a local lawyer, banker, and real estate developer. The architects were Newell and Rand of Boston. A total restoration, including new facilities for the performing arts, is nearing completion at the time of this writing.

The building consists of two adjoining structures. On Main Street is a two-story, four part block which houses the theater entrance and foyer to the left, two shopfronts and a walk-up entry to the right, and offices upstairs. In the rear is a tall, rectangular structure which houses the 1800-seat theater. A short, one-story passageway links the two.