

First United Methodist Church

Burlington



STATE OF VERMONT

AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (802) 828-3211

MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602

DEPARTMENTS OF:

Economic Development 828-3221
Housing & Community Affairs 828-3217

DIVISIONS OF:

Administration 828-3231
Historic Preservation 828-3226
Vermont Travel Division 828-3236
Vermont Life Magazine 828-3241

October 26, 1978

Miss Florence G. Greene
President
Board of Trustees
First United Methodist Church of Burlington
South Winooski Ave. at Buell St.
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Miss Greene:

We are pleased to inform you that the First Methodist Church of Burlington 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'William B. Pinney'.

William B. Pinney
Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP: rmd

cc: Dr. Stanley Moore, Pastor
Senator Robert V. Daniels
Representative Madeleine M. Kunin
Mr. Randy Kamerbeek, Director, Burlington Planning Comm.
Mayor Gordon Paquette



United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:



The Director of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

Chris Therral Delaporte

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 OCT 1978

Name

Location

First Methodist Church of Burlington

Burlington
Crittenden County

Also Notified

Honorable Robert T. Stafford
Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Honorable James M. Jeffords

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION



STATE OF VERMONT

AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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May 4, 1978

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

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed please find National Register nomination forms
for the following:

Addison Baptist Church, Addison, Addison County, VT

First United Methodist Church of Burlington,
Burlington, Chittenden County, VT

These properties are being submitted under the Historic
Preservation Act of 1966 for inclusion on the National
Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William B. Pinney".

William B. Pinney
Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP/tt

Enclosures



STATE OF VERMONT

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Vermont Life Magazine 828-3241

May 4, 1978

Miss Florence G. Greene
President
Board of Trustees
First United Methodist Church of Burlington
South Winooski Avenue at Buell Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Miss Greene:

We are pleased to inform you that the First Methodist Church of Burlington is being submitted to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation for consideration for entry in the National Register of Historic Places. Notification of acceptance or rejection of the property will follow.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'William B. Pinney'.

William B. Pinney
Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP/tt

cc: Dr. Stanley Moore, Pastor
Senator Robert V. Daniels
Representative Madeleine M. Kunin
Mr. Randy Kamerbeek, Director, Burlington Planning
Commission
Mayor Gordon Paquette

STATE OF VERMONT



AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (802) 828-3211

MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602

DEPARTMENTS OF:

Economic Development 828-3221
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March 31, 1978

Miss Florence G. Greene
President
Board of Trustees
First United Methodist Church of Burlington
South Winooski Avenue at Buell Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Miss Greene:

The Division for Historic Preservation is pleased to inform you that we are considering initiating a study to nominate the First United Methodist Church of Burlington to the National Register of Historic Places.

Nomination to the National Register is a formal and selective process for recognizing and recording at the federal levels those buildings, structures, sites, and districts which have particular value as physical evidences of our local, state, and national history. Entry on the National Register is, therefore, an honor.

Nomination to the National Register also protects the property, through a review process at state and federal levels, from federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects which would adversely affect it. The owner of a property entered on the National Register is eligible to apply for federal Grants-In-Aid for preservation work. In addition, commercial properties on the National Register are eligible for tax incentives for certified rehabilitation as provided by the Tax Reform Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-455, Section 2124). The Tax Reform Act of 1976 also stipulates tax disincentives in the case of demolition of a property on the National Register, when the site is subsequently re-used for any commercial purpose. Listing in the Register does not involve local zoning.

Miss Florence Greene
March 31, 1978
Page 2

The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in accordance with 22 V.S.A. Chapter 14, will review this proposal at its April 21 meeting. The intervening thirty days have been allocated for any written comments you may wish to make concerning the significance of this property.

Included with this letter are folders explaining the purpose and scope of the National Register of Historic Places. Further notification regarding the status of the nomination will follow.

Sincerely,



William B. Pinney
Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

WBP/tt

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Stanley Moore, Pastor
Senator Robert V. Daniels
Representative Madeleine M. Kunin
Mr. Randy Kamerbeek, Director, Burlington Planning
Commission
Mayor Gordon Paquette

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Vermont

CODE

COUNTY

Chittenden

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- 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

8

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED. DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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 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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 —170
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 —190
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1869-1870, 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander R. Esty - Architect
Elmore Johnson - Master Carpenter
Michael McGuinn - Master Mason

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Methodist Church is one of four pre-1880 churches in Burlington. It is the only Romanesque Revival Church in the city, and is a significant landmark within the downtown area. The massing and detail work are unsurpassed. The quality of design and use of local building materials (Willard's Ledge redstone and Isle La Motte sandstone) have produced a unique and indigenous structure which has provided a sense of stability and beauty to this section of South Winooski Avenue which has fallen prey to parking lots and gas stations.

The earliest Methodist church in Burlington was built in 1834 and was located on this site. By 1855 it was too small for the growing congregation and a faction split off and built a second church. In the late 1860's, the two factions reconciled their differences and decided to once again to unify beneath one roof. It was necessary therefore to enlarge the accommodations and it was agreed that a new and larger church be built. In 1868, the congregation chose Alexander R. Esty to design the new edifice.

Alexander R. Esty (1826-1881) was a noted New England architect working during the late nineteenth century. He was trained in Boston and opened his own office in Framingham, Massachusetts. He designed all types of buildings though he tended to specialize in Gothic style churches and university structures. The design of the Burlington Methodist Church was probably typical of his other church plans except for the use of the Byzantine arch which transforms this essentially Gothic Revival structure to Romanesque Revival. The polychrome effect common of Gothic Revival is achieved in this structure by the use of red limestone and grey sandstone. Esty was well known by the time the Methodist Church was designed and he was probably chosen for the job because of his esteem and popularity within the New England community.

Besides choosing an architect from the Boston area, the congregation also looked to Boston for its stained glass decoration. The manufactory of J. M. Cook was chosen for the massive rose window arrangement and the side aisle windows. This stained glass work survives as the oldest and most elaborate in the city today.

All of the other fixtures and building materials were supplied from Burlington businesses, as were the mechanics and workmen who put the building together. The master mason was Michael McGuinn, who had previously constructed the Catholic Cathedral in Burlington (now destroyed), and the Bethany Church in Montpelier. Little is known of McGuinn but it is likely he was associated with Guy Willard who operated the redstone quarry in Burlington.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

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.

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

QUADRANGLE NAME Burlington, Vermont

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	6,4,2	3,2,0	4,9	2,6	4,2,5	B	1,8	6,4,2	3,2,0	4,9	2,6	3,7,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,8	6,4,2	2,4,5	4,9	2,5	3,7,5	D	1,8	6,4,2	2,4,5	4,9	2,6	4,2,5
E							F						
G							H						

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
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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

TEST:

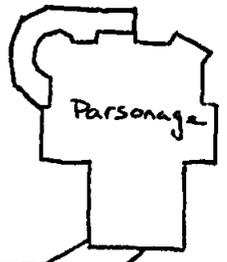
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

BUELL ST.

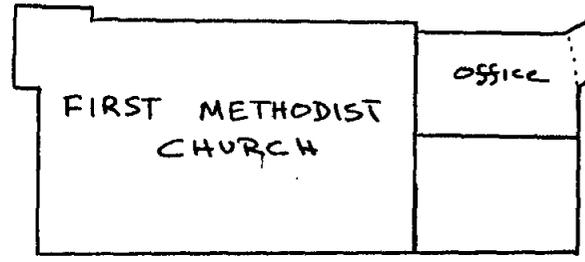
(A)

(B)

PARKING GARAGE



ORCHARD TERRACE



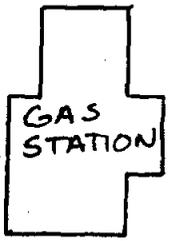
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

office

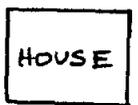
WINDOSKI AVE.

(D)

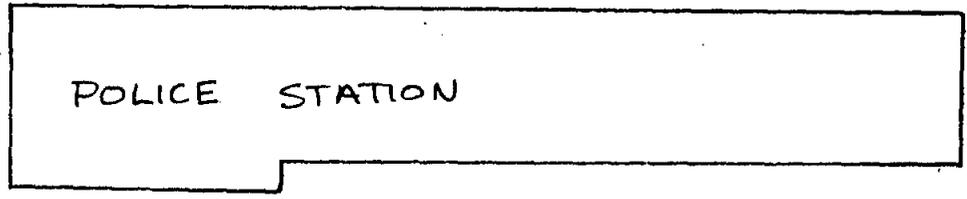
(C)



PARKING LOT

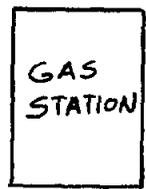


BANK ST.

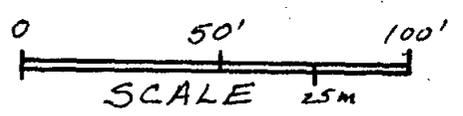


POLICE STATION

PARKING LOT

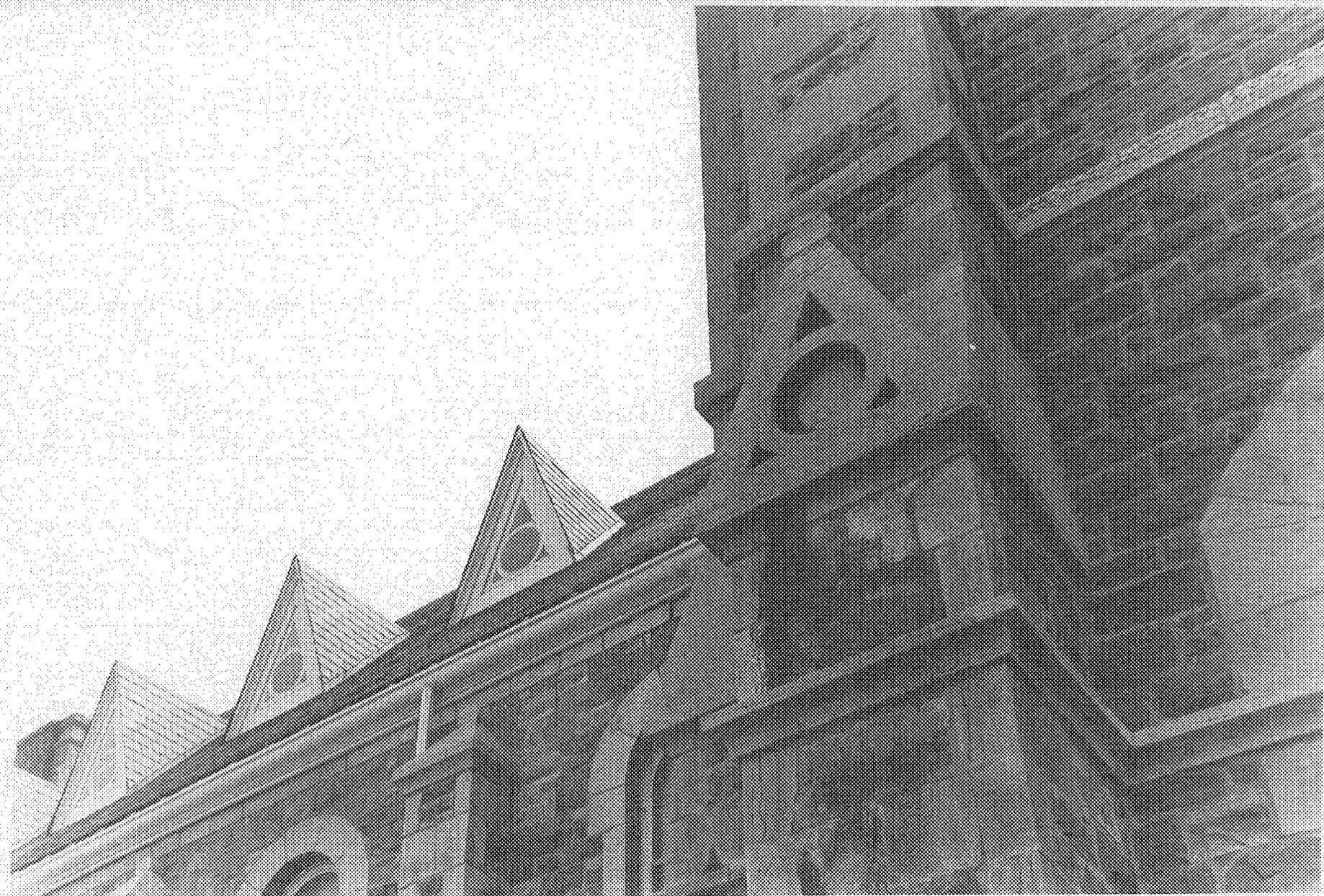


PARKING LOT

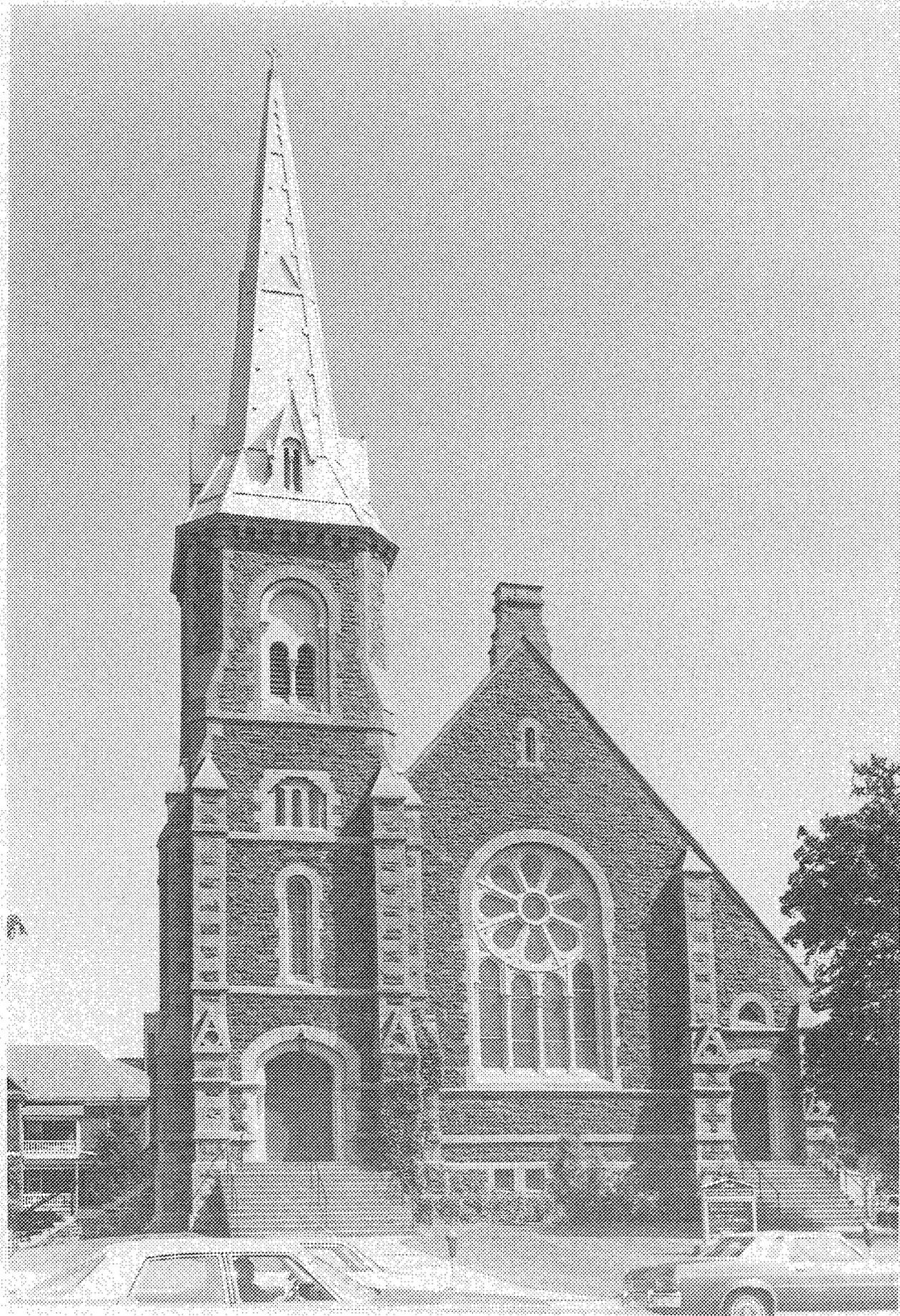




Vt. Div. for Historic Preservation
Chittenden County Burlington 3/78
First United Methodist Church
78-A-73 Clark Schoettle



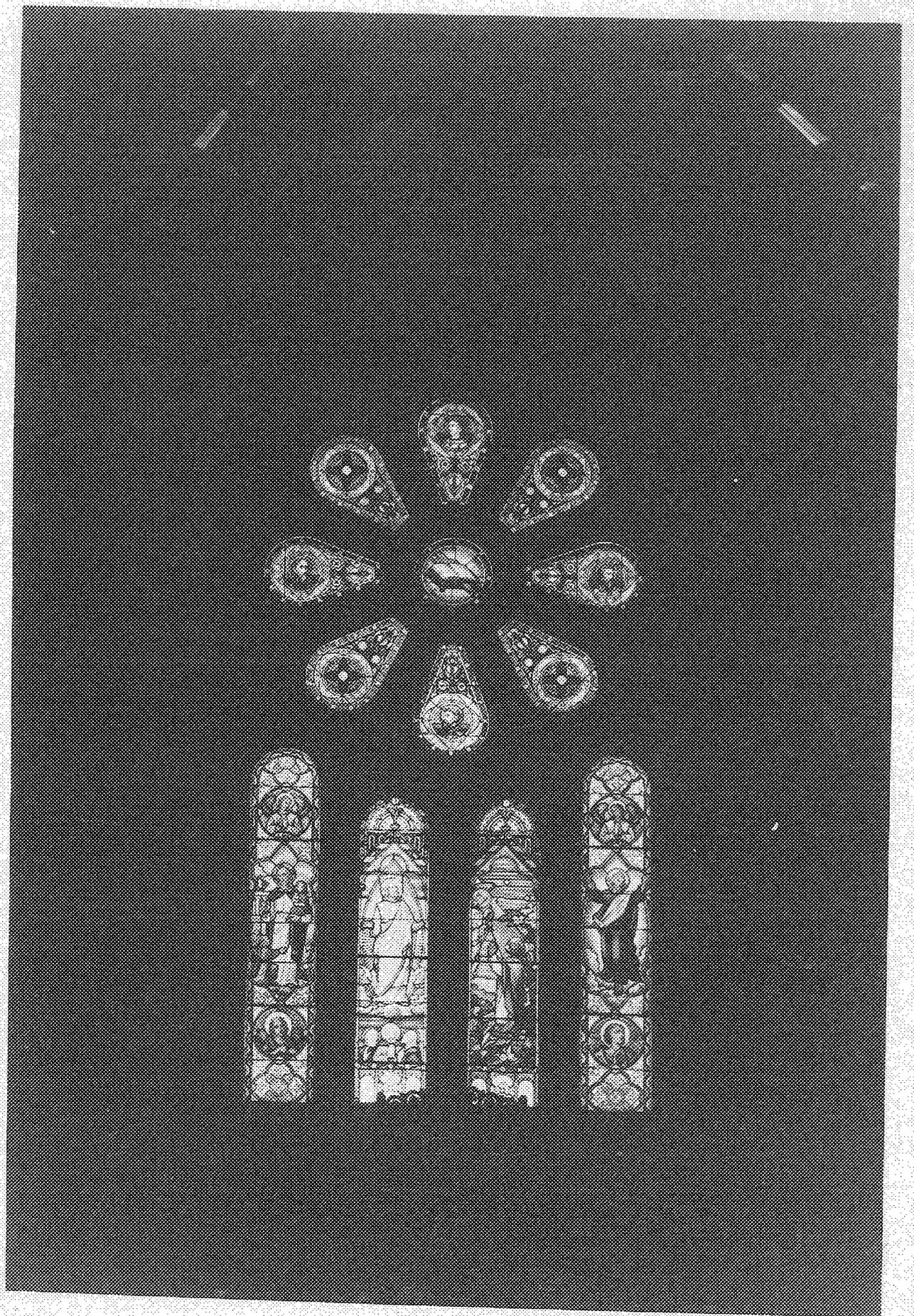
Vt. Div. for Historic Preservation
Chittenden County Burlington 3/78
1st United Methodist Church, detail
78-A-73 Clark Schoettle



Vt. Div. for Historic Preservation
Chittenden County Burlington 9/77
First United Methodist Church E
77-A-214 Clark Schoettle



Vt. Div. for Historic Preservation
Chittenden County Burlington 3/78
First Methodist Church, interior
78-A-73 Clark Schoettle



Vt. Div. for Historic Preservation
Chittenden County Burlington 3/78
First Methodist Church, Rose window
78-A-73
Clark Schoettle



Vt. Div. for Historic Preservation
Chittenden County Burlington 6/77
25 Buell Street SW
77-A-61 Adele Cramer