

**Smith-Goldberg, U.S. Army Reserve Center**

Burlington

November 29, 1972

Commanding General  
First U.S. Army  
Fort Meade  
Fort Meade, Maryland

Dear Sir:

We are pleased to inform you that the Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center, formerly the U.S. Post Office and Custom House, in Burlington, Vermont 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 yours,

William B. Pinney  
Director

WBP:md

cc: Gordon H. Paquette, Mayor of Burlington  
Ed Cashman, Chittenden County Court  
William Preston, Jr., Burlington Historic Sites Comm.  
Harry Behney, Agency of Development & Community Affairs  
Stephen Ruttenbaum, General Services Admin, Preservation  
Officer  
Frank Gerred, Burlington City Planning Commission



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service

George B. Hartzog, Jr.

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

Date Entered NOV 21 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Equinox House	Manchester Bennington County
Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center	Burlington Chittenden County

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

Also Notified

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

November 6, 1972

Mr. Jerry Rogers  
Registration Division  
The National Register  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Jerry:

I am enclosing herewith National Register nomination for the Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center which was formerly the U.S. Post Office and Custom House in Burlington, Vermont. This building is immediately adjacent to the Chittenden County Courthouse which will be submitted shortly.

The County Court has completely outgrown the original courthouse building and until recently it was planned to tear down both the courthouse and the post office buildings and build a new county courthouse on the site. At that point a proposal was made by this Division suggesting that a study be made of the alternative of combining the two buildings and refurbishing them for a new courthouse complex. The State Senate appropriated \$25,000 for the study which has progressed to the point where it has been decided to proceed with the plan. The Department of the Army is declaring the post office building surplus and application is being submitted to the General Services Administration to make the building available to the County under Public Law No. 92-362.

I have discussed this with Steve Ruttenbaum who handles historic properties for GSA in Washington, and he has assured me they will expedite the processing of this case. Steve has indicated that transfer of the property from GSA to the County will be greatly facilitated by prompt inclusion of the building in the

National Register. This project involves the preservation of two very important public buildings as a result of a plan which we instigated. We are naturally anxious to contribute in every way possible to its success. We would certainly appreciate all the help you can give us in hastening the entry of this site onto the National Register.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

William B. Pinney  
Director  
Historic Sites Division  
State Liaison Officer

WBP:md

November 6, 1972

Commanding General  
First U.S. Army  
Fort Meade  
Fort Meade, Maryland

Dear Sir:

We are pleased to inform you that the Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center, formerly the U.S. Post Office and Custom House, in Burlington, Vermont has been submitted to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation for consideration for entry on 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 yours,

William B. Pinney  
Director  
Historic Sites Division

WBP:md

cc: Gordon H. Paquette, Mayor of Burlington  
Ed Cashman, Chittenden County Court  
William Preston, Jr., Burlington Historic Sites Comm.  
Harry Behney, Agency of Development & Community Affairs  
Stephen Ruttenbaum, General Services Admin. Preservation  
Officer

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:  
Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
U.S. Post Office and Custom House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
S.E. Corner of Main and Church Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Chittenden CODE: 007

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:  
U.S. Government, First U.S. Army

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Fort Meade

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fort Meade

STATE: Maryland CODE: 19

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: May 1972  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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

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 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

The Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center (formally the U.S. Post Office and Custom House) is constructed in Beaux-Arts Classical Style. It was this style that influenced the design of the most important railroad stations, civic buildings and other public structures around the turn of the 20th century.

The building is located diagonally across from the Burlington City Hall and Town Square and is adjacent to the Chittenden County Courthouse. These buildings together form the civic nucleus of Vermont's largest city.

The Reserve Center is a massive three story structure with a rectangular basement and first story, and a "U" shaped second and third story plan. This design allows for the natural lighting of what was the main post office room on the first floor.

The exterior is massed in four distinct horizontal sections (base, main floor; second and third floor, cornice and parapet). The base is constructed of large dressed granite blocks, capped by a beaded stone moulding which separates it from the main floor section.

This latter section is executed in horizontal bands of marble blocks punctuated by large windows surmounted by highly stylized flat arches. The main entrance is located in the center of the north (Main Street) elevation and includes an ornate iron door surmounted by a transom light decorated with iron filigree. The entrance is proceeded by an inward curving stone stairway flanked by two round globe lights supported by ornate iron pedestals. The main floor section is terminated by a projecting belt course.

The next section includes both the second and third floors and is executed in smooth-dressed marble blocks. The second floor is lighted by large double hung windows. The window sills and lentils are projecting and bracketed. The third floor windows are square and are about half the size of those of the second floor. The fenestration of the entire exterior is vertically aligned and symmetrical.

The structure is terminated by a narrow frieze surmounted by a bracketed stone cornice. The cornice is capped by a stone parapet made up of alternating solid and balustered sections.

The most prominent exterior detail is the shallow two story portico with double applied columns which extends along the main elevation at the second and third story level. The frieze above the columns reads "U.S. Post Office and Custom House."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Vermont	
COUNTY	
Chittenden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Section 7

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The rear (south) elevation of the structure has limited visual access, and as a result, has been executed in brick. The stone quoins, belt courses and cornice are continued on this elevation to carry over the design and scale of the major facades.

The interior has been substantially altered through subsequent use changes but much of the original carved hardwood paneling, wainscoting and woodwork remains intact.

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input 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 Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center, originally built as the U.S. Post Office and Custom House, was the work of U.S. Treasury architect James Knox Taylor. Taylor designed many major eastern federal buildings during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The structure symbolizes the success and prosperity of turn of the century Burlington, and is one of the best examples of "Beaux-Arts Classicism" in the State.

The building has served as a post office and custom house and in recent years as an Army Reserve Center. As an alternative to having county government move to the suburbs, plans are under way to locate expanded county court facilities in the structure when the Army vacates the building. It is hoped that the Reserve Center, along with the Chittenden County Courthouse directly to the south, will continue to serve as a much needed architectural anchor in rapidly changing downtown Burlington.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Plans and Specifications for U.S. Post Office and Custom House, U.S. Treasury Department and U.S. Post Office Department, 1900-1930.
2. Burlington Free Press, March 3, 1904.
3. Allen, Charles E. About Burlington, Vermont. Burlington: Hobart J. Shanley & Co., 1905, pp 84-85.

**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° 28' 03"	73° 12' 44"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
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: 10/31/72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Bldg.

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 type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>William B. Priney</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director of Historic Sites</u> <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>10/31/72</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

VERMONT DIVISION OF  
D HISTORIC SITES

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

73°12' NAME OF SITE: Smith-Goldberg U.S.  
30" Army Reserve Center

12'30"

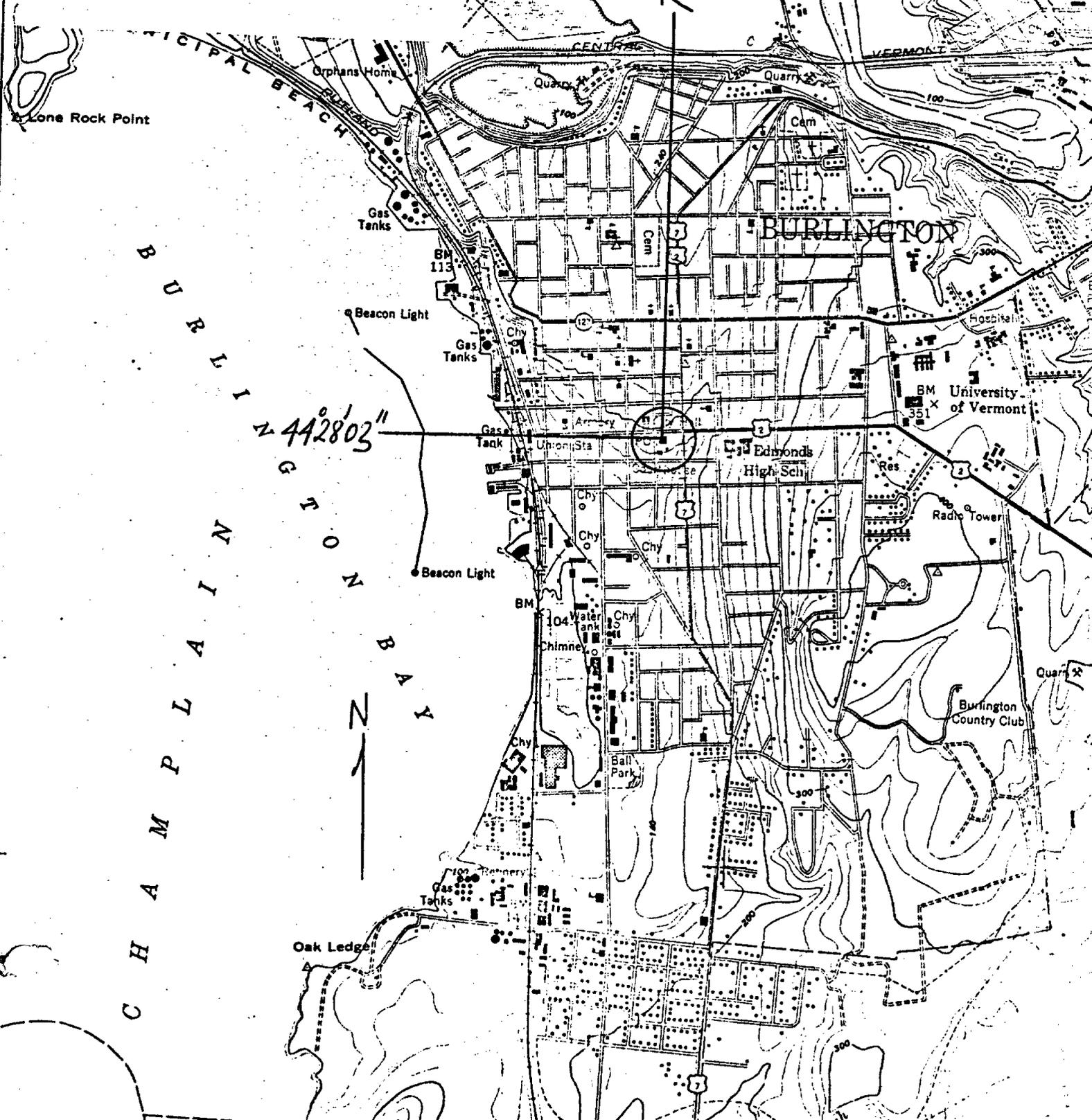
BAYSIDE 3.4 MI.  
SHIPMAN 1.9 MI.

1 FT 6 IN

COORDINATES: NORTH 44° 28' 03"  
WEST 73° 12' 44"

TITLE OF MAP: Burlington Quadrangle

DATE: 1948



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

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

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center			
AND/OR HISTORIC: U.S. Post Office and Custom House			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
S.E. Corner of Main and Church Streets			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Burlington			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Chittenden	007
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle 7.5 minute series			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1948			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



VERMONT DIVISION OF HISTORIC SITES

COUNTY Chittenden TOWN Burlington

SUBJECT U.S. Army Reserve Center

DATE MAY - 1972 FILE # 92-A-7

CREDIT CHESTER H. LIEBS

VIEW Looking Southwest

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)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Chittenden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: <u>Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>U.S. Post Office and Custom House</u>			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>S.E. Corner of Main and Church Streets</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Burlington</u>			
STATE: <u>Vermont</u>	CODE <u>50</u>	COUNTY: <u>Chittenden</u>	CODE <u>007</u>
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: <u>Chester H. Liebs for Vt. Division of Historic Sites</u>			
DATE OF PHOTO: <u>May 1972</u>			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: <u>Vt. Division of Historic Sites, Pavilion Bldg., Montpelier, Vt.</u>			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  <u>View of Smith-Goldberg U.S. Army Reserve Center looking south.</u>			