

5. The Burlington Jail Site

Crime, perpetrated by soldiers and civilians alike, increased sharply in Burlington during the War of 1812. Infractions included everything from selling government property, breaking windows, assault, burglary, and horse theft. Those apprehended could find themselves either in the Cantonment's guard-house or in Burlington's jail. The jail, built ca. 1803-1807, was located on the east side of Church Street, between Bank Street and Cherry Street.

During the war, debate occasionally arose over who had the authority to hold soldiers who committed crimes against civilians. On one occasion late in 1813, a group of armed soldiers "liberated" several of their comrades accused of theft from this jail. Although the jail burned in 1821, it was replaced and the site served as the jail's location until 1887-1888. The Montgomery Ward Company built the present structure in 1929.

TEN DOLLARS REWARD.
BROKE Gaol, on the night of the 26th of April, from the Common Goal in Burlington, Chittenden County, a prisoner by the name of JOHN McCORMACK, he is an Irishman by birth, and is thirty two years of age, of a dark sworthy complexion, is about 5 feet 6 inches high, had on when he went away a soldiers dress, deep blew coat with white buttons, formerly belonging to the 10th Regt. who ever will apprehend and deliver, to me the subscriber in Burlington, the above named John McCormack, shall be entitled to the above reward.
 H. DURKEE, D. GOALER:
 Burlington, April, 27, 1815. 18



6. The White Church Site

On September 27, 1814, a large portion of Burlington's population turned out to celebrate the American victory at Plattsburgh with Com. Thomas Macdonough and Gen. Alexander Macomb. The day long event began with a service of thanksgiving at Burlington's then only church, built ca. 1812, which was located just south of the southeast corner of Pearl Street and South Winooski Avenue. The festivities ended with a dinner and a ball. The church burned in 1839 and the site is now occupied by the First Congregational Church.



7. Elmwood Avenue Cemetery

In the waning moments of the naval engagement at the Battle of Plattsburgh, on September 11, 1814, the twenty-seven year old pilot of the American flagship, *USS Saratoga*, Joseph Barron Jr., of Ferrisburg, VT, received a fatal wound as he checked his watch to mark the time of the end of the fight. He reportedly died on Crab Island leaving behind his wife, Ida, two children, and a father who owned some property in Burlington at the southwest corner of St. Paul and Pearl streets, near where the Catholic Cathedral stands today.



By several accounts, Joseph Barron's body was taken to Burlington and interred in the Elmwood Avenue Cemetery on September 22, 1814 with services preformed by Rev. Clark and Rev. Sanger. However, a marker was also placed for him in the Riverside Cemetery in Plattsburgh, NY, near the graves of several other officers killed in the battle.

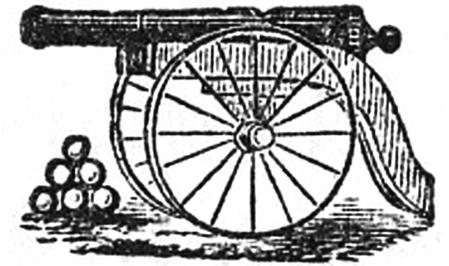
In later years, it became unclear which location was the true burial site. To settle the question, members of the Daughters of the War of 1812, Gen. T.S. Peck, the City's Heath Officer, and the cemetery superintendant had Barron's grave in Burlington reopened in 1906. Within the grave, they found a skeleton in a decayed coffin wrapped in blankets, along with pieces of a uniform and some buttons. The skeleton, they noted, had a hole in its parietal bone, which they believed to be consistent with Barron's fatal wound.

(Note: Elmwood Avenue Cemetery is open by appointment only.)



Gates of the Elmwood Avenue Cemetery

Burlington, Vermont War of 1812 Sites: Downtown Area



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Introduction

Burlington, Vermont, located just 40 miles (64 km) south of the Canadian border, served as a major military base throughout the three-year long conflict between Great Britain and the United States known as the War of 1812. During this time, the number of American troops stationed in Burlington fluctuated from a few hundred to over 4,000. This military presence had a profound effect on the town, especially the emerging downtown area. Prior to the war, the area around City Hall Park and Church Street had developed into a center of business, for a number of merchants, lawyers, inn keepers, craftsmen, and journalists. This area was also the site of several important institutions during the war including the courthouse, post office, jail, and a church.

1. Col. Isaac Clark's H.Q. Site



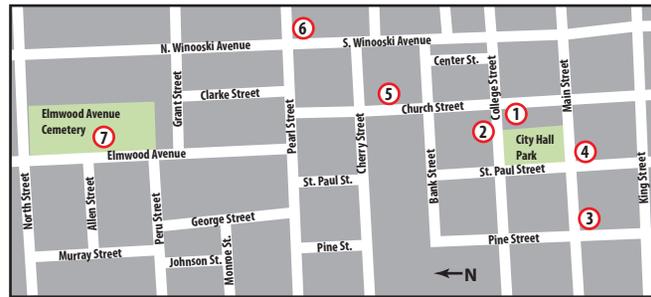
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Early in 1812, the army appointed Col. Isaac Clark (1749-1822), an old Revolutionary War veteran from Castleton, VT, to command at Burlington and to organize the 11th U.S. Infantry, a regiment raised in VT and NH. In June of 1812, Col. Clark purchased the cantonment ground on the lake shore, which includes today's

Battery Park. At the time, Col. Clark rented rooms in the tavern at the northwest corner of the Lyman King House. This inn, built in 1798 was located at the northeast corner of City Hall Park. It was destroyed by fire in 1887 and replaced by the 'Strong Block' in 1889. The Strong Block was, in turn, replaced by the brick firehouse built in 1889 and the white marble bank built in 1931, which presently occupy the site. Early in 1813, Col. Clark bought a house on King Street. Although Clark was later relieved as the commander of Burlington and of the 11th Infantry, he continued to serve as a commander of a small rifle regiment on the northern frontier until 1815.

The Downtown Sites



2. Nathan Haswell's Store Site



At the beginning of the war, the U.S. government had to rely on local merchants in Burlington to help store their supplies. In July of 1813, an American quartermaster found "every vacant store, cellar, and shed" in town "filled with provisions," including 3,124 barrels of pork, 6,885 barrels of beef, 591 casks of whiskey, and hundreds of pounds of flour, as well as supplies of vinegar, soap, candles, salt, shovels, axes, and other tools in the town. One of these stores belonged to Nathan B. Haswell (1786-1855). His store was located on the north side of City Hall Park. Haswell later stated that as acting commissary for the army in 1812, he built a large vat designed to hold 300 barrels of salted beef in the basement for the use of the army.

3. Nathan Haswells' House Site

Nathan Haswell's house stood at the southeast corner of Main and Pine streets, where the brick armory, which was built in 1905, is today. In 1814, just before the Battle of Plattsburgh, militiamen gathered in Burlington waiting for transportation across the lake. Some of them camped near Haswell's house and he gave them "free access" to his grounds, including his garden. After the war, Haswell became a chief proponent for the preservation of Battery Park to commemorate the town's role in the conflict.



4. Gen. Wade Hampton's H.Q. Site



View of the Jewett house ca. 1870s as part of the 'American House' (above). This hotel burned down and was replaced by the Hotel Vermont (below).



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of Main Street and St. Paul Street.

By many accounts, Gen. Hampton had a difficult personality, which one Burlingtonian described as "stern, passionate and arbitrary." This combination did not always sit well with either his men or the locals. After his disastrous campaign into southern Quebec in the fall of 1813, which ended in a U.S. defeat at the Battle of Chateaugay, he returned to the area only long enough to collect his things. Anxious to avoid a court marshal, Hampton resigned his commission and left the army.



Maj. Gen. Wade Hampton (1752-1835)

Following the War of 1812, Moses Jewett's house was converted into the 'American House.' In 1817, President James Monroe stayed in this hotel during his tour of the region and its military sites (including Vergennes, Rouse's Point, and Plattsburgh). The third floor and east wing were added to the hotel ca. 1824 and the south wing was added in 1844. Fire severely damaged the building in 1871 and again in 1906. An entirely new hotel, the 'Hotel Vermont,' was built on the site in 1910-1911.