

STATE OF VERMONT Division for Historic Preservation Montpelier, VT 05602 <b>HISTORIC SITES &amp; STRUCTURES SURVEY</b> Historic District Survey Form	SURVEY NUMBER: LISTED ON THE STATE REGISTER: Y CRITERIA: A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER: Y
DISTRICT NAME: Head of Church Street Historic District	NEGATIVE FILE NUMBERS:
COUNTY: Chittenden	SIGNIFICANCE:
TOWN: Burlington	Architectural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>
VILLAGE:	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
LOCATION:	Local <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/>
TYPE OF DISTRICT: Downtown District	HISTORIC CONTEXTS: Religious Trends; Good Example-Architectural Style; Good Example-Architectural Type; Good Example-Architectural Plan; Notable Architect/Builder
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: <p>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 point 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 plan. The Masonic Temple (1898) and the Richardson Building (1895) are among the outstanding late 19th century commercial W 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. The 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.</p>	

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

**COORDINATES:**

UTM (Zone 18)

State Plane Coordinates:

E911 Identifiers:

**REFERENCES:**

Allen, Charles H., About Burlington, Vermont, Burlington: Hobart J. Stanley and Co., 1905.

Burlington Daily News (Burlington)) March 11, 1910.

Burlington Free Press, April 3, 1937

Centennial Celebration of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, (NP), 1894.

Forbes, Charles S. "Twentieth-Century Burlington" Vermonter, Vol. V., May 1900, supplement

"Masonic Temple" Vermonter, Vol. IV., January 1899

Nelson, Mrs. Henry J., Chronicler of the First Congregational Society (Unitarian), Burlington: Lane Press, 1919.

Northern Sentinel (Burlington), January 10, 1817.

The One Hundredth Anniversary of the First Congregational Society Unitarian Burlington: Free Press Printing Co., 1910.

Records of the First Congregational Society, Deed Book and Miscellaneous Papers, 1809-1910, Archives of the First Unitarian Church, Burlington, VT

Wilson Brothers and Co., "Specifications for the Masonic Temple..."(ms), January 15, 1897.

**RECORDED BY:**

Stephen Raiche

**ORGANIZATION:**

VT Division for Historic Preservation

**DATE RECORDED:**

October 16, 1973

**LAST UPDATED:**

March 10, 2010

