February 22, 1973

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

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed please find National Register Nomination form for the Williston Congregational Church, Chittenden County, Vermont. This property is being submitted under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Pinney
Director
Historic Preservation Officer

WBP:jp

Enclosure

February 22, 1973

John C. Heins, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Williston, Vermont 05495

Dear Mr. Heins:

We are pleased to inform you that the Williston Congregational Church is being submitted to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation for consideration for entry on the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet describing the National Register Program is enclosed for your information. 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

WBP:jp

cc: Cathy Yandell

May 29, 1973

Mrs. David Yandell
Williston
Vermont 05495

Dear Mrs. Yandell:

We are pleased to inform you that the Williston Congregational Church 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,

William B. Pinney
Director

WBP:md

May 29, 1973

John C. Heins, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Williston, Vermont 05495

Dear Mr. Heins:

We are pleased to inform you that the Williston Congregational Church 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,

William B. Pinney
Director

WBP:md

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service

Ronald H. Walker

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 MAY 17 1973

Name	Location
Munro-Hawkins House	Shaftsbury Center vicinity Bennington County
Williston Congregational Church	Williston Chittenden County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

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

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Williston Congregational Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: North side of Route 2 in the center of Williston Village

CITY OR TOWN: Williston

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Chittenden	007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☐ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☒ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☒ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
				☒ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	Unoccupied	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Town of Williston

STREET AND NUMBER: (No street number)

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Williston	Vermont	50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Williston Town Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 2, Williston Village

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Williston	Vermont	50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Vermont Division of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Montpelier	Vermont	50

STATE: Vermont

COUNTY: Chittenden

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Williston Church is a small one story rectangular building with walls constructed of brick resting on a foundation of dressed blocks of locally quarried "red stone." The bricks on the side elevations are laid up in common bond while the front (south) elevation is laid up in running bond. The best bricks were used on the front and the burned and distorted bricks on the rear (north) elevation. The general style of the building might be best described as gothicized Greek Revival.

The large gothic arched windows located along the front and sides of the building are an outstanding exterior feature of the structure. Three of these windows are set on each side elevation and are constructed of eight over eight window casings with a louvered wood shutter filling the triangle formed at the top of the arch.

This gothic arched motif is accentuated on the front elevation. Here two large multi-paned windows with gothic sash flank a double raised panel entrance door surmounted by a gothic sash transom light. The arcaded treatment is enhanced by corresponding brick recesses which outline the door and windows. A triangular light with gothic sash is located above the doorway near the apex of the front gable end.

The structure is surmounted by a wood cornice with a partial cornice return. The gable roof is sheathed with slate and a small brick interior chimney with a corbeled cap is located along the roof peak to the rear of the structure. The steeple is built in three tiers the first being rectangular and the second and third octagonal in plan. The corners of each tier are pilastered and the third tier is capped by a dome and finial. The present bell was manufactured by the Jones & Co., Troy Foundry Bell Works, in 1878.

The walls of the large one story meeting room are adorned by applied plaster pilasters which alternate with the windows. The room has an elaborate cove moulding. The remaining paint fragments indicate that the entire interior detailing was polychromed in the mid 19th Century. The niche behind the alter is outlined by a heavy ordered treatment. An organ and choir loft is located at the rear (south side) of the meeting room. Much of the interior detailing and pews probably date from 1860 when the church was substantially remodeled.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1832

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Aboriginal
- ☐ Prehistoric
- ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☒ Political
- ☒ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitorian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)* _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The construction of the Williston Congregational Church in 1832 marked the culmination of 32 years of steady growth and influence of the Williston Congregational Society which was established in 1800.

The structure has been recognized as being architecturally outstanding from the time of its construction as evidenced in The Burlington Free Press of February 1, 1832:

> The church edifice is well suited to its use, and is highly creditable both to the society and those who superintended its erection. It is built with brick and is of the Gothic order. It is sufficiently large to accomodate six or eight hundred people. In the plan and execution, it combines convenience with simple elegance and good taste. The interior is in modern style. The pulpit is very low; the seats are slips; and there is only one gallery or 'orchestra' for the choir. In all respects the edifice is such that the "blue-eyed goddess" of architecture may look down upon it, if not with pride at least with complacency.

Today the church is one of the outstanding elements of the visual environment of the Burlington-Montpelier transportation corridor. The building can be viewed by all motorists traveling on both U.S. Route 2 and Interstate 89.

In addition to its visual significance, the church has historical associations with Governor Martin Chittenden (1763-1840), son of Thomas Chittenden, Vermont's first Governor, and in his own right one of the major political figures in the formation of the State of Vermont.

The building has been used very little since 1899 when Williston's various church sects amalgamated. Ownership of the structure has recently been deeded to the Town of Williston. A citizens' group is planning to restore the building for use as a community center.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. The Burlington Free Press, February 1, 1832.

2. Moody, F. Kennon; Putnam, Floyd D. The Williston Story. Essex Jct., VT: The Roscoe Printing House, 1961. P.28.

3. Rann, W. S. ed. History of Chittenden County Vermont. Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., 1886.

4. Wright, Odella Fay (and others). A History of the Town of Williston

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY							OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"							
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		44	26	20	73	04	22
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Chester H. Liebs, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION
Vermont Division of Historic Sites

DATE
2/23/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Montpelier

STATE
Vermont

CODE
50

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name William B. Pinney

Title Director of Historic Sites
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 2/23/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

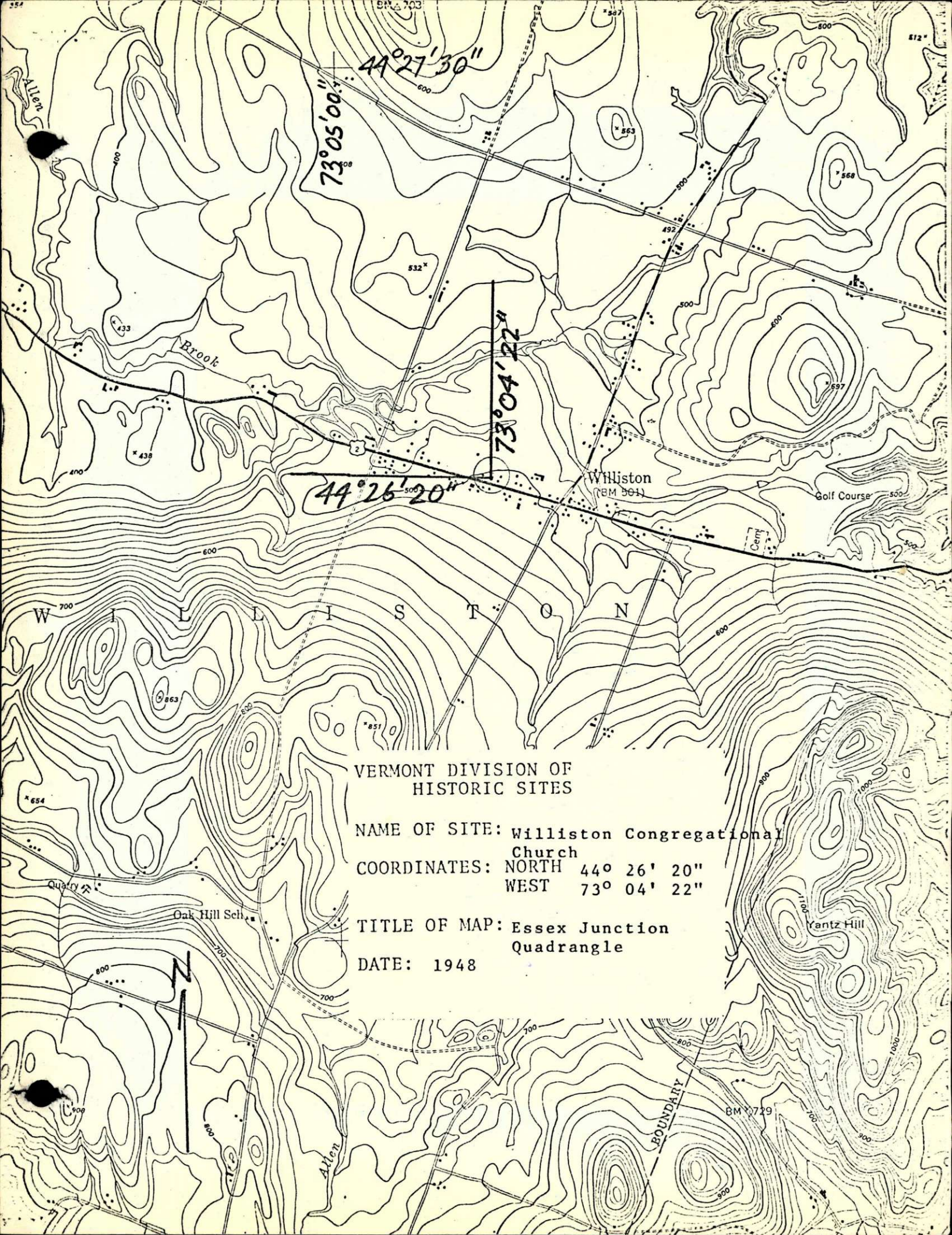
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
~~Vermont~~	
COUNTY	
Chittenden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Section 9.

4. Williston. Williston, VT: The Historical Committee, 1913. P.50.



VERMONT DIVISION OF
HISTORIC SITES

NAME OF SITE: Williston Congregational Church

COORDINATES: NORTH 44° 26' 20"
WEST 73° 04' 22"

TITLE OF MAP: Essex Junction Quadrangle

DATE: 1948

Form No. 10-301
Rev. 7-72

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Williston Congregational Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

North side of Route 2 in the center of Williston Village

CITY OR TOWN:

Williston

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Chittenden	007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series

SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1948

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

INT: 155-72

VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

CO. Chit TOWN Williston DATE 11/72

SUBJECT Williston Cong. Church VIEW NE

FILE # 72-A-25 CREDIT Chester H. Liebs