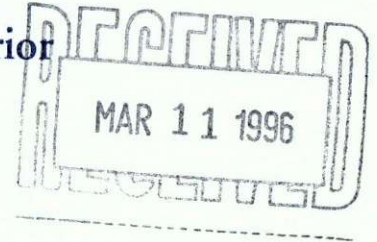




United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34(2280)

MAR 4 1996

Mr. Townsend Anderson, SHPO
Agency of Development & Community Affairs
135 State Street, 4th Floor, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-1201

Dear Mr. Anderson:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of the **Round Church, Richmond**, for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark. We enclose a copy of the study report. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on an enclosure. This enclosure also specifies how you may comment on the proposed nomination if you so choose. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the National Park System Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee, which will then inform the full Advisory Board of the Committee's recommendations at the Board's meeting. The Secretary of the Interior will then be informed of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations governing the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4) and include other information on the Program. We are also enclosing a fact sheet that outlines the effects of designation.

Sincerely,

for
Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

Enclosures

AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT
and
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
*Preserving Vermont's historic, architectural,
and archeological resources*

STATE OF VERMONT

March 15, 1996

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
US Department of the Interior
National Park Service
PO Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

RE: Round Church, Richmond

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation is pleased to support the designation of the Round Church in Richmond as a National Historic Landmark. The Round Church was one of the early properties in Vermont to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a well-known architectural landmark in the state. The Division feels it is also of national significance, being an early and rare building type.

We also would like to thank Carolyn Pitts for her encouragement in getting this designation underway. When Ms. Pitts was preparing to visit Vermont several years ago to visit the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, she contacted this office to see if there were any other properties in Vermont with National Historic Landmark potential that she should visit while she was here. The Round Church was one of the sites. She actively encouraged the local group to pursue the designation and was most helpful in helping them develop their report.

Again, we are pleased to support the National Historic Landmark designation of the Round Church.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elsa Gilbertson".

Elsa Gilbertson
National Register Specialist

cc: Gary Bressor



STATE OF VERMONT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE
TELEPHONE: (802) 828-2231

Lowry Anderson
Asst Pres.
3-20

MAILING ADDRESS:
115 STATE ST
MONTPELIER VT 05633-5201

March 14, 1996

The Honorable Howard Dean
Governor of the State of Vermont
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101

RECEIVED
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
MAR 19 1996
MONTPELIER, VT 05609

Dear Governor Dean:

The Round Church in Richmond has been nominated for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark. This is the highest honor a privately owned building can attain. The Richmond Historical Society is very excited about this possibility as only 14 or 15 buildings in Vermont have received this designation.

A letter of support from you would be a great help in this effort. I have enclosed a copy of the nomination form and the letter from the United States Department of Interior for background information. The letter, if you are willing to send it, should go to:

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief
National Historic Landmarks Survey
National Park Service, National Register
P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Could you send me a copy of the letter?

On a different topic, I have decided to not run for reelection to the Richmond seat in the Vermont House of Representatives. I have included a copy of my latest Statehouse Report which explains my reasoning. I want to thank you for all the help and support you have given me while in the legislature, on this designation project and on the Richmond Town Center project from a few years ago. Best of luck to you in the future.

Sincerely,

Gary

Rep. Gary Bressor
Chittenden-4

GB:mlc

Enclosures

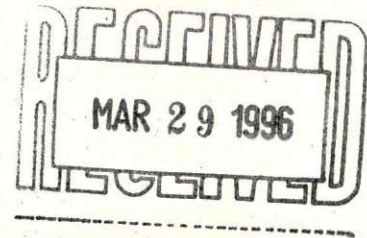
LIAISON	<i>Rich</i>
RESPONSE DUE	<i>4/2</i>
NRN	_____
CODE #	<i>2300</i>

HOWARD DEAN, M.D.
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Montpelier 05609

Tel.: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339
TDD: (802) 828-3345



MEMORANDUM

TO: TOMMY ANDERSON
HIST. PRES. (DCA)

FROM: Rich Smith
Policy Analyst

DATE: MARCH 25, 1996

RE: RICHMOND HOWARD CHURCH

- Please complete the following action by: _____
- Prepare reply for Governor's signature
 - Reply directly over your signature
 - Send copy for Governor's reading file
 - Your comments please and return
 - Please review and call me
 - Please review and see me
 - Information only - no action necessary
 - Please represent the Governor on this
 - Returned for your file
 - Take action you think necessary

Remarks: PLEASE DRAFT A LETTER OF SUPPORT
TOMMY.

HOWARD DEAN, M.D.
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Montpelier 05609

Tel.: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339
TDD: (802) 828-3345
April 10, 1996

Honorable Gary Bressor
House of Representatives
State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5201

Dear Gary,

Thank you for writing.

I fully support your application to register the Round Church in Richmond as a National Historic Landmark and have asked the Division of Historic Preservation to prepare a letter of support from me. You will receive a copy shortly. If you have any questions, please call Elsa Gilbertson at the Division at 828-3046.

On another note, I was saddened to hear of your decision not to run for reelection to the legislature. I perfectly understand your decision to spend more time with your family. You have been a real asset to your community and to the State, and will be sorely missed.

Good luck with your future plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "HD", written in a cursive style.

Howard Dean, M.D.
Governor

HD/jb

cc: Elsa Gilbertson,
Division of Historic Preservation

**PROPERTY STUDIED FOR
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

ROUND CHURCH

RICHMOND, CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate this property at a meeting to be held on Monday, May 6, 1996 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 7000A, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Landmarks Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 1996, in Room 5160, Main Interior Building and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Owners of private properties nominated for NHL designation have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 65. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to designation may submit to Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127 a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the designation. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that the party owns. If a majority of private property owners object, a property will not be designated.

Should you wish to obtain information about these meetings, or about the National Historic Landmarks Program, please contact Historian Patty Henry at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education (2280), P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20013-7127; or by telephone at (202)-343-8163.

If you have questions concerning the study, which was prepared by Mr. Gary Bressor, you may contact Mr. Bressor, AIA, at P.O. Box 10, Richmond, Vermont 05477; or by telephone at (802)-434-2800.

SIMILAR LETTERS SENT TO:

**OWN: Ms. Ingrid Brown, President
Richmond Historical Society
P.O. Box 10
Richmond, Vermont 05477**

**HEO: Honorable Fran Thomas
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Town Center Building
Richmond, Vermont 05477**

**SHPO: Mr. Townsend Anderson, SHPO
Agency of Development & Community Affairs
135 State Street, 4th Floor, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-1201**

**cc: Mr. Gary Bressor, AIA
P.O. Box 10
Richmond, Vermont 05477**

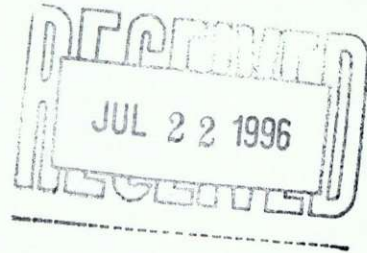


United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H3417(2280)

JUL 12 1996



Mr. Townsend Anderson, SHPO
Director
Agency of Development &
Community Affairs
135 State Street, 4th Floor, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-1201

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am pleased to inform you that the Round Church in Richfield, Vermont, has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior designated it a National Historic Landmark on June 19, 1996.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark automatically places a property in the National Register of Historic Places, if it is not already so listed, and extends to it the safeguards and benefits provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other Federal laws protecting historic properties.

Each Landmark is eligible to receive a bronze plaque to commemorate the designation of the property. Copies of the plaque application have been sent to Ms. Ingrid Brown. Unless the owner specifies otherwise, the plaque will bear the name of the property as it appears above. The plaque has a standard text, except for the name of the property (a maximum of two lines) and the year of designation.

The National Park Service will be pleased to assist you if you wish to arrange a ceremony for the presentation of the plaque. Such a ceremony should be scheduled a minimum of several months after notice of designation to provide time to cast the plaque and to arrange the participation of appropriate officials in the ceremony.

We are pleased to include the Round Church on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as a significant representative of our Nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

VERMONT

Church, Athenaeum named landmarks

Two Vermont sites — the Old Round Church in Richmond and the Athenaeum in St. Johnsbury — were among 26 places around the country designated National Historic Landmarks on Friday.

The honor was bestowed as a recognition of their historical value to the nation. Each site will receive a certificate signed by

Bruce Babbitt, U.S. Interior secretary.

"This is the highest standard that the U.S. Park Service gives," said Gary Bressor, past president of the Richmond Historical Society.

The Old Round Church has been on the National Register of Historic Places for 20 years.

U.S. Rep. Bernard San-

ders, I-Vt., was crucial in shepherding the designations through.

The Old Round Church, built in 1812-1813, is an example of a 16-sided meetinghouse, rare for that period. The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, built between 1868 and 1873, is considered the nation's oldest art gallery in original condition.

ROUND CHURCH
Richmond
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

1812-1823	Built by William Rhodes, builder from Richmond
June 20, 1974	Listed in National Register of Historic Places
1973	Town meetings held here until this year (stopped because of structural problems)
1976	Building deeded to Richmond Historical Society for 40 years
June 19, 1996	Designated a National Historic Landmark

NHL nomination initiated by: Elsa in the summer of 1994 when Carolyn Pitts of NPS was making an NHL visit to Vermont. She asked if there were properties other than the Athenaeum she should look at. Elsa asked Paul Bruhn if he had any suggestions; he suggested the Round Church. Elsa contacted Gary Bressor to arrange a visit by Ms. Pitts.

Nomination prepared by: Gary Bressor, Ann Cousins, Harriet Riggs (town historian) — an all volunteer effort

NHL Significance: Round Church cited for its significance as a rare and perhaps sole surviving example of an early 19th century 16-sided meeting house. Builder Rhodes probably inspired by "round" additions to two churches in New Hampshire. Five congregations and the Town shared use of the building.

Other DHP involvement in bldg.: awarded Round Church three matching grants in the mid to late 1970s to pay for SPNEA historic structures report, planning work (Martin Tierney, architect), repair and reframing of attic/roof/belfry, and repainting. Had a 15 year covenant on bldg. that expired 1995.

Relevant quote: Motto painted above altar in Old West Church, Calais
"Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set." (From Book of Proverbs, chapter 22)

***Could get firsthand info. by talking to Jane and Paul Bruhn.

DHP grant administrator--Jane Lendway
Richmond Historical Society President--John T. Peterson (early stages),
later Emily Gyllensward

Building deeded in 1976 for 40 years to Richmond Historical Society after structural problems forced it closed for public events. Lots of community support.

1979--major interpretive panels installed outside building to show people what was going on.
(Paid for by whom?)
Graphic for building is Preservation Trust of Vt's logo
E.F. Hutton sponsored nearly full page ad in *Free Press* asking for donations for project.

Grant received from Robert Sincerbeaux, and probably others.

Paul Bruhn got involved in this project at some stage...
Martin Tierney architect for belfry phase of project.

1975--Phase 1:	historic structures report, planning, drawings, DHP grant \$7,000 (50/50 grant)
1979--Phase 2:	reframing of roof, attic, removal of belfry for repairs DHP grant \$16,500
1981--Phase 3:	more stabilization work DHP grant \$10,200

(Eligible properties: buildings, sites, historic districts, structures, & objects of national signif.)

Colonial exploration & settlement sites: Spanish missions, French forts, Lewis & Clark expedition sites

French & Indian War sites: Old Deerfield Village, MA; Fort Ticonderoga

Revolutionary War period sites/forts: Williamsburg, VA; Mount Independence

All state capitol buildings

Sites of important political figures, presidents: Mount Vernon; Monticello; John Adams Birthplace; Calvin Coolidge Birthplace Historic District, Plymouth

Civil War related sites: Cedar Creek Battlefield, VA (where many VT soldiers fought & died)

Mining sites: California Gold Rush sites: Cripple Creek Historic District, Colorado

Science sites: homes of inventors; science labs; Stellafane Observatory, Springfield

Transportation sites: ships, inc. Ticonderoga, Shelburne Museum; railroad sites

Architecturally significant properties: Round Church; Charleston, SC, Historic District; Beacon Hill, MA, Historic District.

Literature Related sites: Mark Twain boyhood home; Harriett Beecher Stowe House; Ernest Hemingway House; Edgar Allan Poe House

Art Related sites: St. Johnsbury Athenaeum; homes of famous painters.

Reform related sites: Shaker villages; homes of Abolitionists and Suffragettes

on and on...

RICHMOND ROUND CHURCH
HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY

On the occasion of the 79th Annual Pilgrimage
and its Designation as a National Historic Landmark

July 27, 1997

I am honored to be invited, I am honored to be here. I have been here many times, not to worship as one traditionally worships in a church structure; but as I think back, I was worshipping each time I was here. This building I am sure has touched many others as it has touched me -- folks who have come for services, folks who married here, and folks who witnessed marriages, births, baptisms, and deaths, and folks who did the community's business here. What I know from direct experience is that there are numerous people who were touched, even changed, by this remarkable building because they came to help save it. I was one of those who contributed in a small way -- at Gary Bressor's urging, and his inimitable way of ensuring "no" was not an option! I was, at the time, a reasonably accomplished housejoiner -- working with Gary. I have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to restore and often duplicate sophisticated house frames, intricate cornices, formal, high style staircases, panel walls and cabinetry -- sticking complex mouldings with 18th and 19th century hand planes, cutting and fitting complex joints and details, and producing architectural drawings for all of this.

I tell you this because I wasn't asked to do any of this at the Round Church. No, Gary and I were asked to stage the entire interior, to repair the ceiling framing and straighten it at least enough to prepare it for plastering [*Note the ceiling -- note how much it undulates*], to coordinate the plasterer, who, by the way, came from Portland, Maine and is a most remarkable story in himself, and to remove the staging upon completion. What is called in the trade "Grunt Work."

It was summer, it was excessively hot as I remember, but I can remember with fondness every detail, and oddly enough, most fondly I remember Gary and I carrying countless buckets of mixed plaster -- brown coat, scratch coat, and finish coat -- from the outside mixing area to the staging platform several feet above the balcony. Hard, grueling work, but it had to be done, somebody had to do it, and the results were magnificent. And so I remember this story for you because I remember it as well as I remember the very best restorations I did over a twenty year period -- that we contributed in whatever small way to this most remarkable, most glorious edifice, and, as significant, this most remarkable, most glorious community effort.

When I was appointed SHPO by Governor Dean, I had already been involved in the business of community development. I understood the linkage between our historic built environment and community economic well-being. I had developed historic properties, had consulted with several Vermont communities on downtown revitalization.

What I have come to appreciate, and today I come to congratulate all of you for your part in nurturing our understanding of -- what I have come to appreciate is the linkage between our historic built environment and community health. These landmarks are more than architectural treasures. They are icons to the spirit, the identity, of Vermont communities, no better illustrated

than here in Richmond with this Round Church. They are icons to who we are as a people, as communities, as a state. And our church related icons clearly transcend ecclesiastical interests and embrace our secular interests as well. When we lose one of these landmarks -- and all of us here know that, on occasion, we have -- our spiritual health, our community health is diminished.

As SHPO, I have made it a priority to integrate the business of historic preservation with the business of community development -- on the premise that if what we do is not made meaningful to what others do -- whether they be in the business of housing, economic development, downtown revitalization, land and agricultural use preservation, or transportation -- then we will never be more than marginally considered.

Which brings me back to Richmond and this Church. I dare say that your effort, started in the mid- 1970's, gave birth to a new era of preservation -- one that was community centered, and one that saw the community as larger than just Richmond, but one that recognized that the base interest has to be strong and it had to embrace diverse interests. The benefits of this were best captured by the words of Emily Gyllensward: *{Page 3, Historic Preservation in Vermont}*

The biggest benefit we've had, as a result of the interest generated in the Old Round Church project, has been that the whole town has taken much more interest in how it looks. Houses in the village are being freshened up and look much more attractive. It's given the town a sense of pride. It also gave us a sense of unity. Diverse groups within the town have been brought together to work on other projects.

I can reasonably tell you that this Church in many ways symbolizes the coming of age of preservation in Vermont. That we no longer talk about individual structures and sites; we talk about places and communities -- the sense of place, the integrity of community. Our present initiative as manifested in the so-called Downtown Legislation -- House Bill # 278, the Highways and Bridges legislation passed in 1996, the Governor's creation of the Vermont Downtown Program and his outspoken commitment to Vermont's Downtowns, my Agency's emphasis on Downtowns as expressed in the Community Development Block Grant Program, and Secretary Shouldice's published defense of the importance of small towns -- all of these manifestations can trace their roots to what you did here with this building (Indeed, it is this building that is the logo on the letterhead of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, Vermont's statewide non-profit historic preservation organization, directed by Paul Bruhn who has been noted here today for his key role).

Today, in 1997, there is a growing understanding in Vermont that its communities are its number one asset and that the historic resources that define each and every community's physical integrity are an essential element of that asset. And that if Vermont allows that asset to be compromised, to be diminished in any way, it loses the very thing that distinguishes it from everywhere else. It

will have lost its *integrity*.

And so when we think of the designation of this building as a National Historic Landmark (and its company is quite distinguished -- [note the highlighted examples from the NHP list] -- know that it is for more than its architectural significance -- it is for what it did for all historic resources and all communities in Vermont; for what it did for more than just preservationists, it is for what it did for community leaders, business leaders, and government leaders.

Someone recently suggested to me that this building could accomplish all that because there were no corners to hide in!

Several years back, I was asked by a woman in this audience to help with a video she was producing on the impact of Wal-Mart on small towns and their historic downtowns. I was asked to raise money, and one of the folks I approached was a developer here in Vermont. He asked that his contribution (which was sizable) be kept anonymous -- he could not afford to offend the development community, but he wanted me to know that he was pleased to make the contribution because, as he explained, "Towny, I know God is on your side."

It is in this light that I am fond of paraphrasing John Kenneth Galbraith on occasions such as this. He once said that historic preservationists were a truly odd lot. They are the only people he has ever knew who never regretted the results of their actions. I can now respond to Mr. Galbraith that it should be no surprise, for we are doing God's work -- it says so in the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 22:

Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set.

Thank-you for allowing me to address all of you on this wonderful occasion.

Townsend H. Anderson
Turner Hill, Duxbury
July 27, 1997



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34 (2280)

October 20, 1998

Ms. Elsa Gilbertson
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
National Life Building
Drawer 20
Montpelier, Vermont 05620

OCT 20 1998

Dear Ms. Gilbertson:

We are assisting in the preparation of a manuscript to be published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., tentatively entitled *National Landmarks, National Treasures: The Complete Guide to National Historic Landmarks*. This comprehensive guide to the country's National Historic Landmarks covers more than 2,200 properties and places that have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior as having exceptional value in the history of the United States. This book will be organized alphabetically by state and property, and will feature approximately 300 black and white photographs and architectural drawings. It will offer the general reader and traveler the complete guidebook to America's most important historic places, and will serve as a reference book for libraries, and state and local offices. The estimated publication date is January, 2000 and the tentative page count for the book is 600 pages.

We request your permission to include your photograph of the Round Church in this and all subsequent editions of the book, including versions made by nonprofit organizations for use by the blind or physically handicapped persons, and in all foreign-language translations and other derivative works published or prepared by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., for its licensees, for distribution throughout the world. Description of material to be used with permission, shall include the copyright date, name of photographer, title and other information indicated on the image.

Please signify agreement by signing and returning the enclosed copy of this letter. In signing, you warrant that you are the sole owner of the rights granted and that your material does not infringe upon the copyright or other rights of anyone. If you do not control the rights, I would appreciate your letting me know to whom I should apply.

Please note below exactly how your name/organization should appear in the book's credit page; please verify the address listed above and provide your phone number in case we have any questions:

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Thank you.

Andrea Harris
Andrea Harris
National Historic Landmarks Survey
(202) 343-8166
Fax (202) 343-1244

Agreed to and Accepted by:

Elsa Gilbertson

802-828-3046

Name

10/25-1998

Date

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USD/INPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

ROUND CHURCH

Page 1

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: ROUND CHURCH

Other Name/Site Number: Old Round Church

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Bridge Street

Not for publication: N/A

City/Town: Richmond

Vicinity: N/A

State: VT County: Chittenden Code: 007

Zip Code: 05477

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X

Public-Local: X

Public-State: ___

Public-Federal: ___

Category of Property

Building(s): X

District: ___

Site: ___

Structure: ___

Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

___ buildings

___ sites

1 structures (road)

2 objects

3 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

ROUND CHURCH

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ Entered in the National Register _____
- ___ Determined eligible for the National Register _____
- ___ Determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- ___ Removed from the National Register _____
- ___ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

ROUND CHURCH

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 3

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	RELIGION SOCIAL	Sub:	Religious Facility Meeting Hall
Current:	SOCIAL RECREATION & CULTURE	Sub:	Meeting Hall Museum

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Early Republic: Federal

MATERIALS:

Foundation:	Stone
Walls:	Weatherboard
Roof:	Shingle
Other:	Copper (Belfry roof)

ROUND CHURCH

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Round Church, situated on a small common south of the Winooski River in Richmond village, is a rare, unaltered, sixteen-sided meetinghouse. Built in 1812-1814, the two-story clapboard church has modest Federal style detailing inside and out. Each side of the symmetrical building, except the wall behind the pulpit, has windows with twelve-over-twelve sash with simple surrounds. Paneled doorways on three sides are flanked by pilasters supporting an unadorned entablature. The roof is sixteen-sloped, crowned by a two-tiered bell tower. The interior is noteworthy in that it is relatively unchanged and retains the original enclosed pews and pulpit. Restored in 1981 and retaining its historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, the church is an excellent example of a rare, early nineteenth century, sixteen-sided meetinghouse.

The Round Church is set well back on Bridge Street, one block south of the Winooski River, in what was originally the commercial and social center of Richmond village. Because the commercial district shifted three blocks north of the river following the arrival of the railroad, the common and buildings surrounding the Round Church were left relatively unchanged, and today the setting appears much as it did in 1812. Approximately fifty feet in diameter, the Round Church, is a sixteen-sided, two-story wooden building with a sixteen-sloped roof that approaches a shallow cone in form. The walls are covered with clapboards and the roof has cedar shingles. The roof is capped by a short octagonal tower topped by an open, eight-columned belfry and cupola. The foundation projects approximately two feet above grade and is constructed of rubble stone with mortar joints. Narrow vertical cornerboards separate the sides. The windows are simple doublehung rectangular windows with twelve-over-twelve sash that are in vertical and horizontal alignment. Each of the sixteen bays contains a window on each floor except for the north, west and south sides which have a door on the first floor level, and for the east side which has no windows on either level. (The east side has the pulpit on the interior.)

In all but its shape, and the adaptations that requires, the Round Church is a traditional meetinghouse. The doorway on the west side is the main entrance to the building and consists of two raised panel doors supported by wrought iron strap hinges and framed by pilasters surmounted by an unadorned entablature. The north and south doorways are similar except each has a single door. The north and south doorways are each separated from the main doorway by three sides.

The two-tiered octagonal cupola is situated at the roof apex. The first tier is sheathed in clapboards and has small six-over-six windows covered by louvered shutters on three sides, so that one window is above each of the three doorways. The second tier consists of an open belfry encircled by an arcade of wood columns surmounted by a copper-clad, bell-shaped roof capped by a weathervane.

The interior is a round adaptation of the standard meetinghouse plan. A small vestibule, with stairs climbing at either side, leads into the round meeting room, which occupies the remainder of the structure. A broad aisle leads from the west door to the pulpit on the east wall. The design for the pulpit appears to have been patterned after one appearing in Asher Benjamin's 1797 *County Builder's Assistant*. Supported by four Tuscan order piers and a

ROUND CHURCH

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full-entablature base, the elevated pulpit serves as the focus of the room and is reached by a narrow stairway with square balusters. The entablature base is finely detailed, featuring an intricate denticular bed molding. The pulpit is five-sided with paneled half-walls, one panel with bead molding surround per side. The north side (perpendicular to the back wall) is open to the stairs, and the diagonal walls are convex. A recent paint analysis suggests that the pulpit was originally painted blue with wood graining painted later, possibly by an itinerant artist. The left panel is signed by the artisan: "[R. or S.] Marten." Evidence suggests that the pulpit was lowered several feet after 1850. It may be then that the sounding board [typically suspended above the pulpit] was removed.

The wall surface of the room is plaster. Enclosed box pews line the walls and stand in four rows, two rows on each side of the main aisle. Each box pew has a paneled door supported by iron "H" hinges. The balcony, a horseshoe facing the pulpit, and ceiling are supported by six wooden columns on bases with simplified doric capital order.

The balcony consists of enclosed wallpews and two rows of open slips. The outside of the balcony rail is painted to simulate wood grain, but the pattern is broader than the pulpit, suggesting a different hand.

The attic was originally framed with a series of heavy timber trusses carrying the roof, the ceiling, and the eight columns of the belfry. In 1927, new trusses, beams, columns, steel hanger rods, and bracing were added, apparently to correct a tilting tower and sagging ceiling. This construction was redundant and possibly unsafe.

The church sits back from Bridge Street, set off from the main artery by a triangular-shaped common or green. A narrow drive angles from Bridge Street to pass between the church and the green, giving the common a park-like ambiance. Native granite monuments mark either end of the treed common. The northern monument is rough cut granite, 52' tall x 20' wide x 42, deep, and was dedicated c. 1925 to the veterans of World War I. The southern monument, designed by Robert P. Young and Victor Rosselis of Barre, Vermont, depicts a skier navigating through a slalom course. The monument was dedicated July 4, 1972 as a tribute to the Cochran family, a local family of alpine skiers, in commemoration of Barbara Cochran's gold medal performance at the 1972 Olympics. The road and two statues are considered non-contributing as they were added to the site after the period of significance.

The Round Church was used for church services until c. 1885 and for Town Meetings until 1973, when state officials closed the building for public gatherings due to structural deterioration. In 1976 town residents voted to deed the church to the Richmond Historical Society for the purpose of restoration. After several years of grant applications, architectural and engineering studies, and raising money, the restoration was started. All work followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards using an historic structures report prepared by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Throughout the restoration, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation was regularly consulted.

Due to the severe deterioration which existed in the structural members of the belfry, the entire belfry was rebuilt. Nearly all the vertical members had rotted at some time and been replaced or strengthened with new members scabbed onto them. In some cases, the repairs themselves were decayed. The belfry was removed in one piece by a large crane and placed

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in a protective building while careful drawings were made of it. The bell, as well as the railing and the arched pieces between the columns, were removed for reuse. The belfry was removed from the temporary building and a new belfry was constructed from pressure-treated southern yellow pine, spruce framing members, and fir plywood. The original belfry had been constructed of the same material as the rest of the church: spruce framing timbers, pine sheathing, and spruce clapboards.

The foundation was reinforced and new foundation piers were built under the church to support the six interior columns.

The attic required substantial remedial work. The root cause of the problem lay in the inherent design weakness of the original structure. The attic above the ceiling was reframed and supplemental trusses added to provide the strength necessary to support the twelve ton bell and belfry. An enclosed stairway from the balcony to the attic, not part of the original building, was removed, and pews, floor boards, window sash and clapboards were repaired. By 1981, and at a cost of \$180,000, the church was again open to the public. In its restored state, the Round Church is an excellent example of a rare early nineteenth century, sixteen-sided meetinghouse.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C X D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A X B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: 4

NHL Exception: 1

NHL Theme(s): XVI. Architecture
 C. Federal (1780-1820)

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1812-1813

Significant Dates: 1812-1813

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: William Rhodes

ROUND CHURCH

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Page 8**State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**

The Round Church, built in 1812-1813, is a rare, well-preserved example of a sixteen-sided meetinghouse. Digressing from the traditional rectangular form, Richmond, Vermont architect and builder, William Rhodes, displayed a level of skill and imagination that is normally reserved for "high style" architects. Traditionally, eighteenth and nineteenth century meetinghouses were rectangular or occasionally square in form. Popular builders' pattern books published by Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever further standardized the rectangular Wren-Gibbs architectural type. Experimentation was generally limited to decorative detail, steeples, porches or the orientation of the entrance. Rhodes chose a sixteen-sided plan, rare, if not unique. Nevertheless, in all but its shape, the Round Church is a traditional meetinghouse with restrained Federal style detailing. Inside, the church remains as it was built with box pews and a horseshoe gallery. Recently restored, the Round Church is significant as a singular, and possibly sole, surviving example of an early nineteenth century sixteen-sided meetinghouse.

Richmond is a typical, small Vermont community, set in a northern valley near Burlington. The town provides dramatic views of the Green Mountain range and is crisscrossed by both the Winooski and Huntington Rivers. Its situation, ideal for farming, must have been a powerful attraction to the earliest settlers, who began to arrive about 1775. In 1794, the town was organized, and as early as 1796, residents voted to have a committee of five "look in the different places in the Town and report to the town the most convenient [sic] place to set a meetinghouse."¹ But as often happened in New England towns, the location of the meetinghouse became a controversial issue as different sections of town vied for the building. The issue was not settled until 1812, when tavern-keeper Thomas Whitcomb and his neighbor, shop-keeper Isaac Gleason, donated sixty rods each for the meetinghouse. William Rhoads, Esq. (usually spelled Rhodes), Isaac Gleason and James Butler were elected to draw up plans and advertise pews for sale, with no preference being given to anyone because of his religious tenets or creed. "Each of the denominations who become builders and proprietors should peaceably enjoy their share of said house."²

William Rhodes, blacksmith, builder, and holder of many town offices, served as head carpenter for the meetinghouse. His handwritten journal provides a detailed record of construction.³

¹ Richmond Town Record. Town Meeting, December 6, 1796. On file at the Richmond Town Center, Richmond, Vermont.

² Richmond Town Record. Town Meeting, February 7, 1812. On file at the Richmond Town Center, Richmond, Vermont.

³ Copies of Rhodes' records are available at the Vermont Historical Society Library, Montpelier, Vermont; and University of Vermont Bailey-Howe Library Special Collections, Burlington, Vermont.

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Worksheets indicate that the frame was raised, boarded and shingled before November 12, 1812, taking fifty-one days to raise the frame. By the time the building was completed, Rhodes and seventeen men had worked 922 days. His ledger indicates that the cost for materials and labor amounted to \$2,305.42. In a letter to his parents, Rhodes wrote that he had contracted to build the Richmond meetinghouse for \$3,000.

Money to pay for the building was raised in advance by the sale or "Public vendull of pews. A record of the amount each proprietor paid was recorded under his particular church denomination: five Baptists paid \$214.00; two Methodists, \$60.00; six Christians, \$201.58; twenty-three Universalists, \$1,072.44; and twenty-nine Congregationalists, \$1,531.84. Total subscriptions equaled \$3,079.86. (Two surviving promissory notes for pews indicate that each buyer promised to pay William Rhodes, James Butler and Isaac Gleason \$37.50 in salable meat cattle on the first day of October, 1813, or marketable pork or grain on the first day of July next to be delivered at the premises to be built.) By early 1814, the Richmond Round Church was in use for religious services and town meetings.

The Round Church is one of the few early nineteenth century churches built in a circular genre. It was erected at a time when only the most sophisticated American architects were employing anything but the rectangular plan. Charles Bulfinch, for example, limited himself to an occasional oval or octagonal room. His only major use of another shape was the octagonal New South Church, built in 1814. Beginning in 1804, Robert Mills built a series of four round or octagonal churches: the circular, neoclassical "White Meetinghouse" in Charleston, South Carolina, which burned in 1861 and was replaced in 1891 with a round Richardsonian structure; the Sansom Street Baptist Church in Philadelphia that was generally a concentric design; an octagon church in Philadelphia built for the Unitarians; and the famous Monumental Church in Richmond, Virginia, built in 1812. Unlike the Richmond [Vermont] Round Church, Mills placed his altar or lectern in the center, possibly in reference to early Huguenot Christian churches. Early on in Christianity, the round form was generally found to be ill-suited for religious ritual. As Christian tradition evolved, positioning the clergy conspicuously away from the congregation, a rectangular or cruciform form with a longitudinal axis became the norm. Nevertheless, examples of round churches persist throughout England and Britain.

There is no indication that Rhodes was aware of Mills' work. Scholars agree that Rhodes' inspiration likely came from two churches in New Hampshire; in Concord and Claremont. In 1802, the population of Concord had grown to the point that an addition to their traditional rectangular meetinghouse was essential. The form of the 1803 addition (burned in 1870) was an eight-sided, semi-circular addition to the church's south side. A similar addition was made to the rectangular Claremont meeting house in 1807 (demolished in 1895). In both cases, the clapboard additions adopted restrained Federal style detailing and fenestration patterns similar to that found on the Round Church. Rhodes' parents lived in Claremont, and because he took frequent trips to New Hampshire, he would have been aware of both the Concord and Claremont designs.

In 1815, two years after the Richmond Round Church was completed, a sixteen-sided, brick church was built, again in Claremont. In 1843, the Claremont parish split, and within a few years the new congregation felt prosperous enough to replace "the old inconvenient chapel." The Claremont Round Brick Church was demolished in 1852, replaced with a Stick-Style

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church. A ca. 1852 painting by Miss Marion Richard of Claremont provides the only representation of the building. Aside from material, the Claremont Brick Church is strikingly similar to the Richmond Round Church: two-story, sixteen-sided with two windows per side and a sixteen-sloped roof crowned with a three-stage, octagonal belfry with cupola. The Claremont Brick Church is clearly a copy of the Richmond Round Church, though in the absence of documentary evidence, it is impossible to determine Rhodes' role in the design. The Richmond meetinghouse may have simply served as a model, or Rhodes may have actually provided plans, drawings, and instruction for the Claremont church. Directly or indirectly, however, the design must be attributed to William Rhodes.⁴

For many years, the Richmond Round Church served as a place for worship and for town meetings. As their membership dwindled, the Baptist Church of Christ ceased to exist in Richmond in 1843. In 1845 the Congregationalists talked about building their own church, and did so in 1850. In 1879 the Universalists withdrew to build their own church. The Methodists are said to have continued in the Round Church until c. 1885. Town meetings were held each March in the Round Church until 1973, when structural problems closed the building for public gatherings. At the 1976 Town Meeting, residents voted to deed the church to the Richmond Historical Society, thereby enabling them to secure grants for a major restoration. Through the generosity of many individuals, public agencies, and private foundations, the church was again opened in 1981 following a \$180,000 restoration. Today, the Round Church is one of Vermont's best known and most unusual historic buildings. The church is open daily throughout the summer and fall, and, staffed by volunteers, welcomes visitors without charge. Field trips by school children, bus tours, concerts, weddings, public gatherings and special events are regularly held in this historic building.

⁴ David Ruell, "The 'Round' Meetinghouses of New Hampshire and Vermont," *Historical New Hampshire*, Summer/Fall 1981, pp. 171-194.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hart, David McLaren, & Associates. *Round Church, Richmond, Vermont. Construction Documents for Structural Stabilization, Repairs and Improvements.* Boston, Massachusetts, 1979.

Hecker, John. *Round Church, Richmond, Vermont. Survey of the Building Fabric and Proposed Work Items and Preliminary Cost Estimate.* Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Boston, Massachusetts, 1977.

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Mallary, Peter T. *New England Churches and Meetinghouses 1680-1830.* New York: The Vendome Press, 1985, pp. 152-155.

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Riggs, Harriet. "Early Richmond and its Old Round Church." *Rural Vermonter* 2 (Winter 1964), p. 13.

_____. Lillian Baker Carlisle, ed. *Look Around Richmond, Bolton and Huntington, Vermont.* Burlington, Vermont: Chittenden County Historical Society, 1974, pp. 10-11.

Ruell, David. "The 'Round' Meetinghouses of New Hampshire and Vermont." *Historical New Hampshire* Summer/Fall 1981, pp. 171-194.

Shivell, Kirk. North Fort Myers, Florida. Interview with author, September 9, 1994.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ____ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 Previously Listed in the National Register.
 ____ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
 ____ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
 ____ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
 ____ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

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Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local Government
 University
 Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 1.0 acre

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting
A 18 659320 4917910

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the solid line on the accompanying map entitled "Plat of Survey Showing Town of Richmond Meeting House Property."

The nominated property includes the Round Church and common, deeded January 3, 1814, from Isaac Gleason to the Proprietors of the Richmond Meeting House Property as recorded in Volume 3, Page 130 of the Richmond Land Records.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the building and surrounding grounds which have historically been a part of the Richmond Round Church and which maintain historic integrity.

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1. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Mr. Gary Bressor, Ms. Ann Cousins, and Ms. Harriet Riggs
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Telephone: 802/434-2800

Date: September 14, 1994

Edited by: Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian
National Park Service/Washington Office
History Division (418)
P.O. Box 37127, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20013-7127

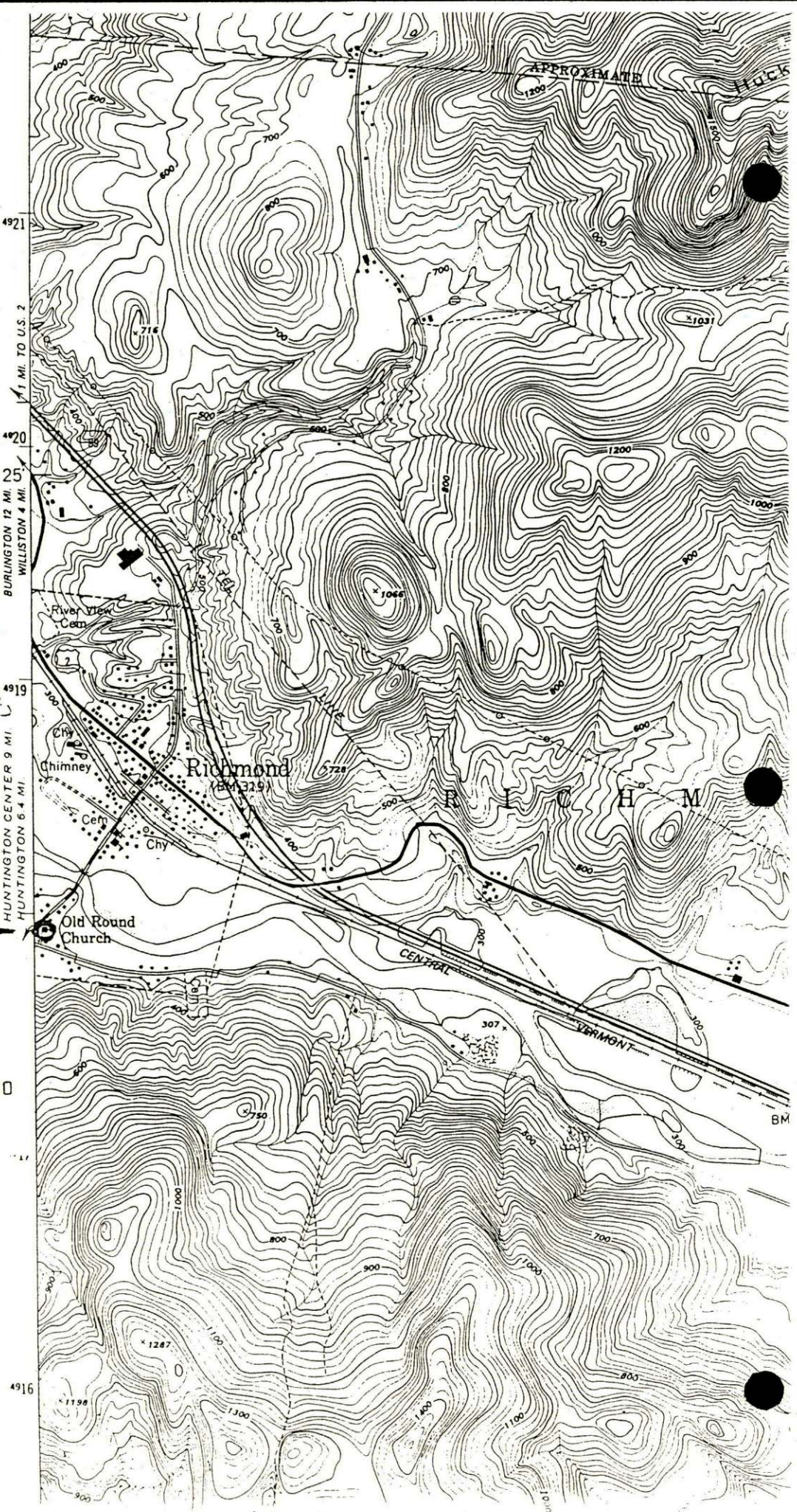
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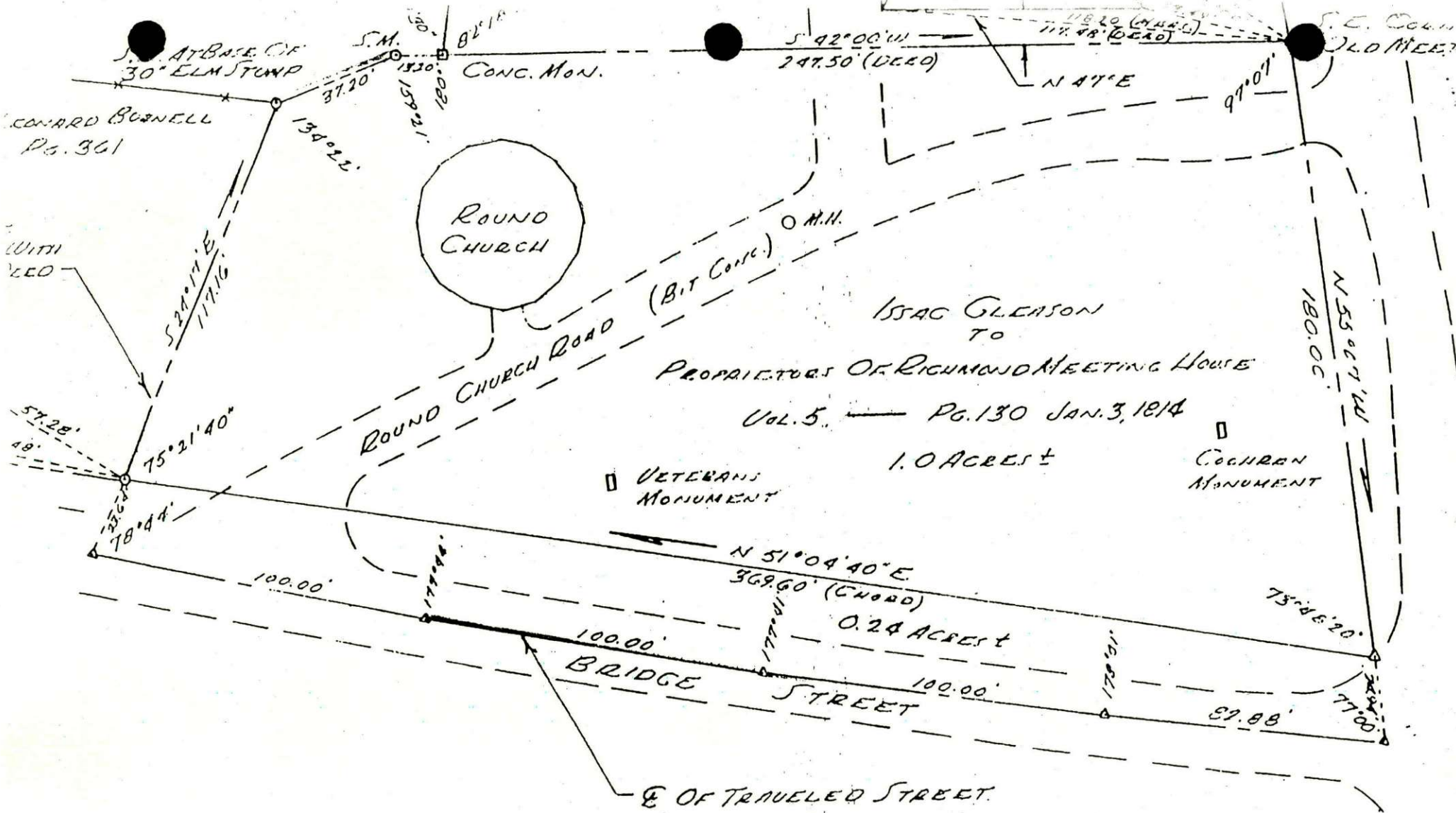
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Round Church
Richmond, Chittenden Co.
VT
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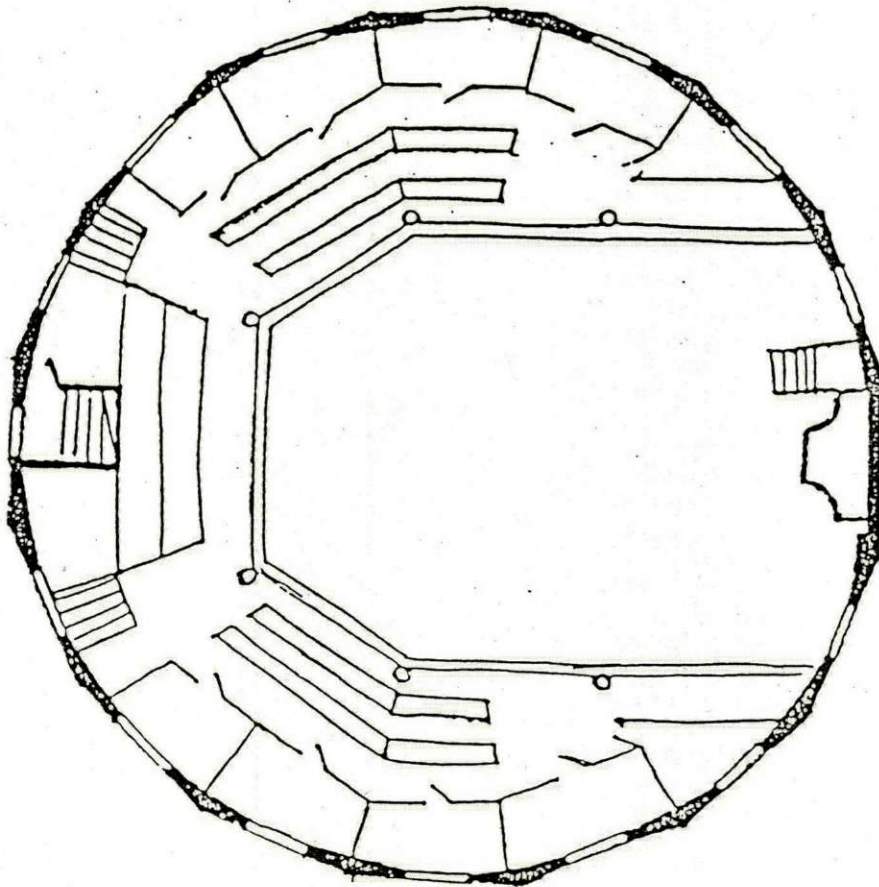
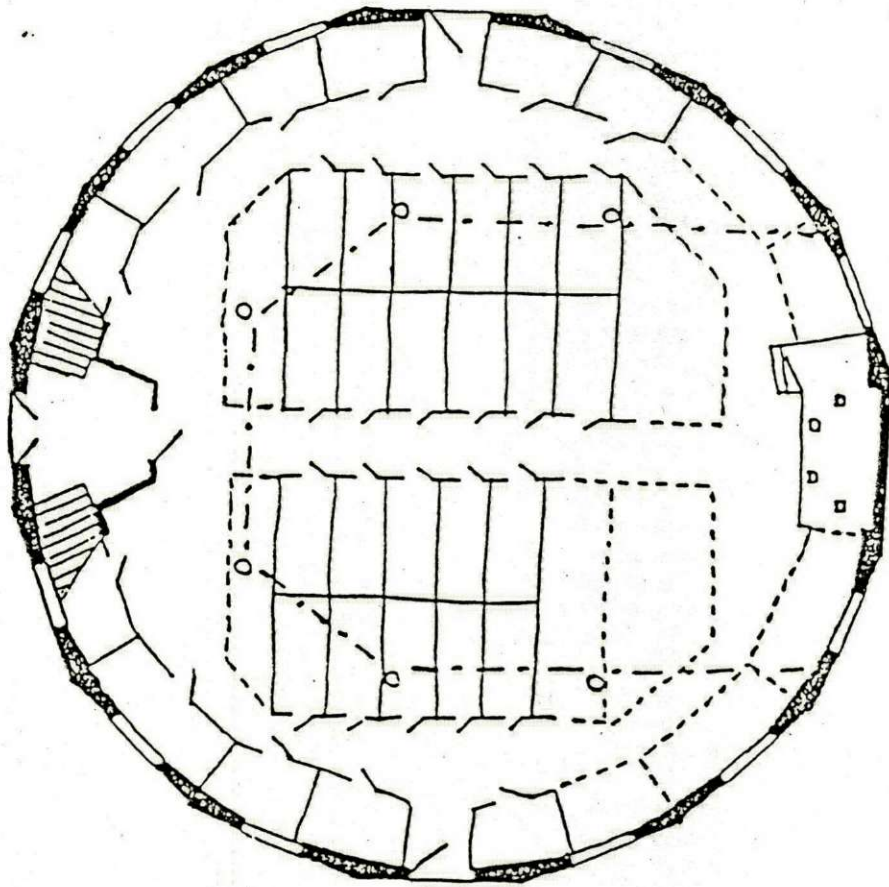


ROUND CHURCH
Richmond, Vermont
UTM Coordinate
Zone 18
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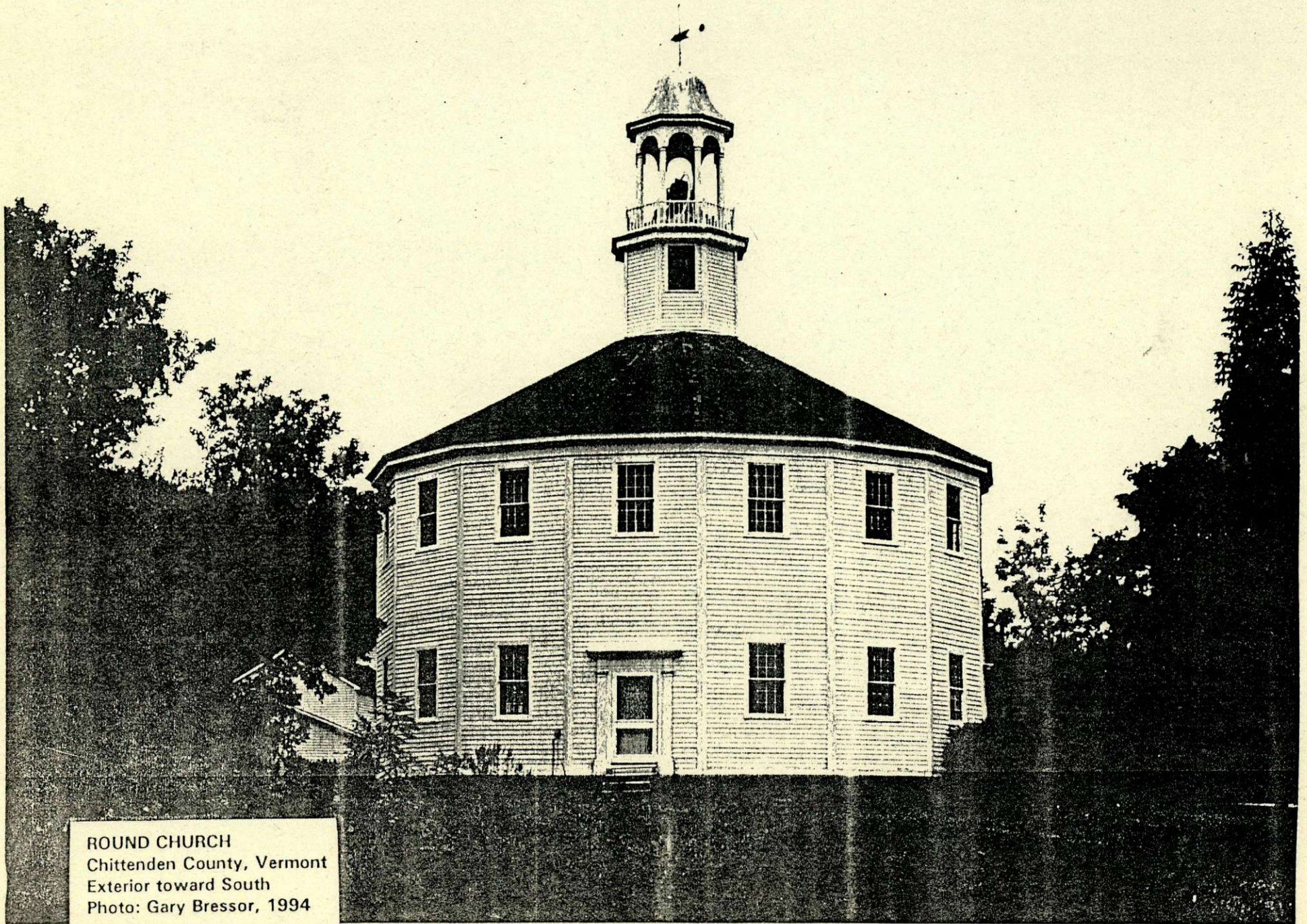




PLAT OF SURVEY SHOWING TOWN OF RICHMOND MEETING HOUSE PROPERTY ROUND CHURCH RD. (OLD ROUND CHURCH) RICHMOND, VT.		
SCALE: 1" = 40'	APPROVED BY	DRAWN BY
DATE: AUG. '76		
WARREN ROSENSTIEN, L.S. VT. REG. # 48		DRAWING NUMBER



Ground (top) and Gallery level (bottom) floor plans of the Richmond Round Church (copied from plans produced by the office of Martin S. Tierney, Burlington, Vermont).



ROUND CHURCH
Chittenden County, Vermont
Exterior toward South
Photo: Gary Bressor, 1994

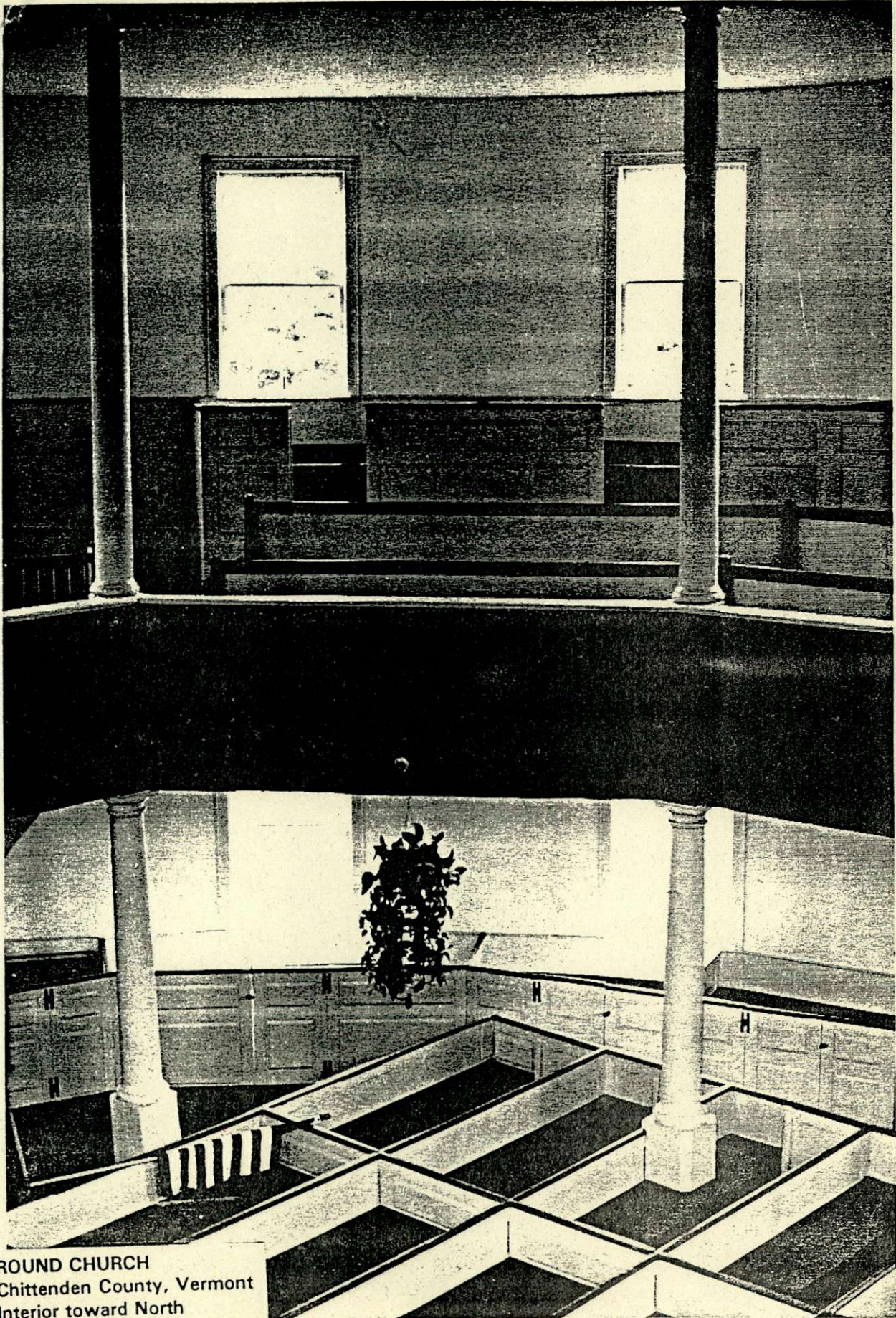


ROUND CHURCH
Chittenden County, Vermont
Exterior toward Northeast
Photo: Gary Bressor, 1994

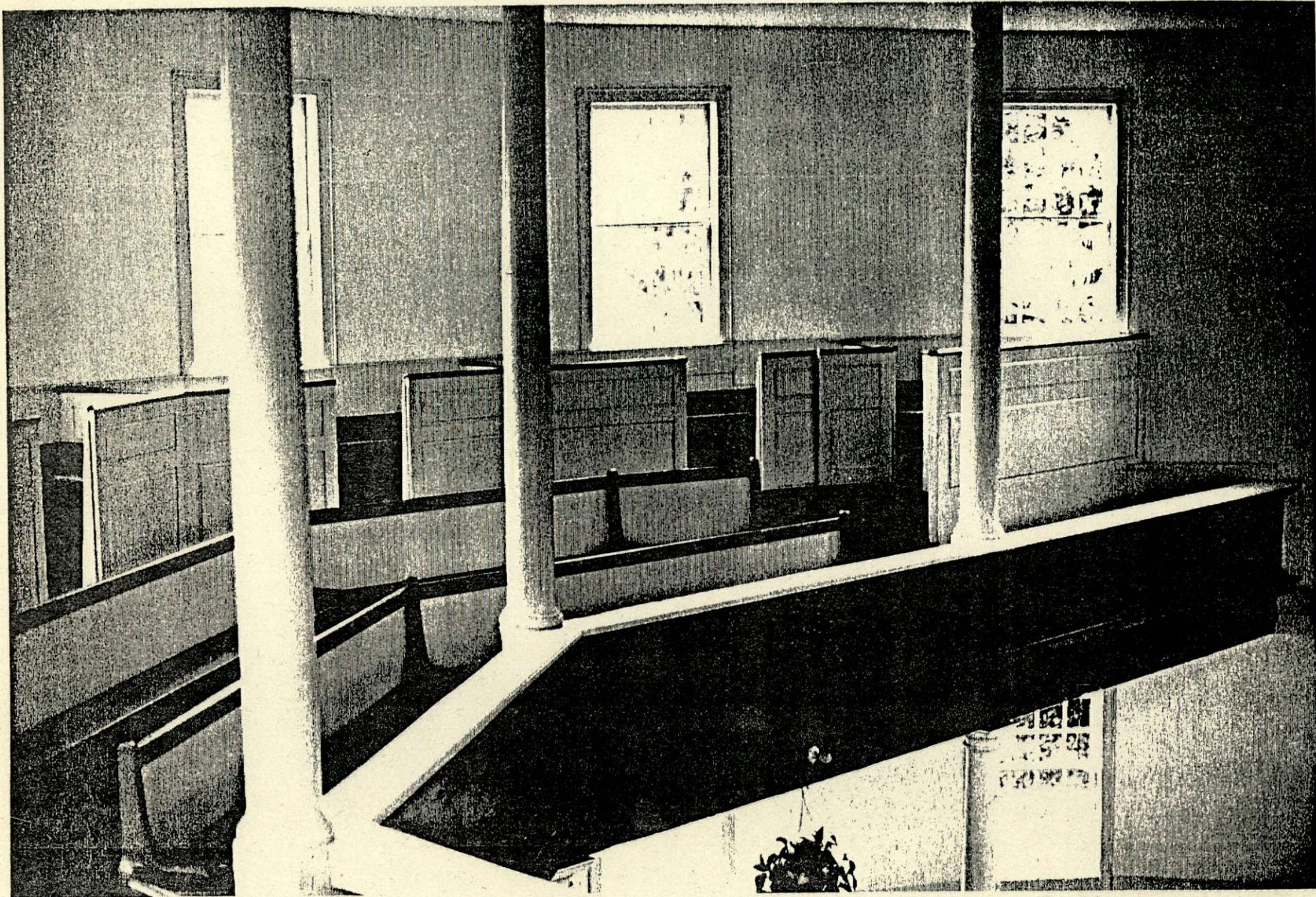


The OLD ROUND CHURCH
Built in 1813

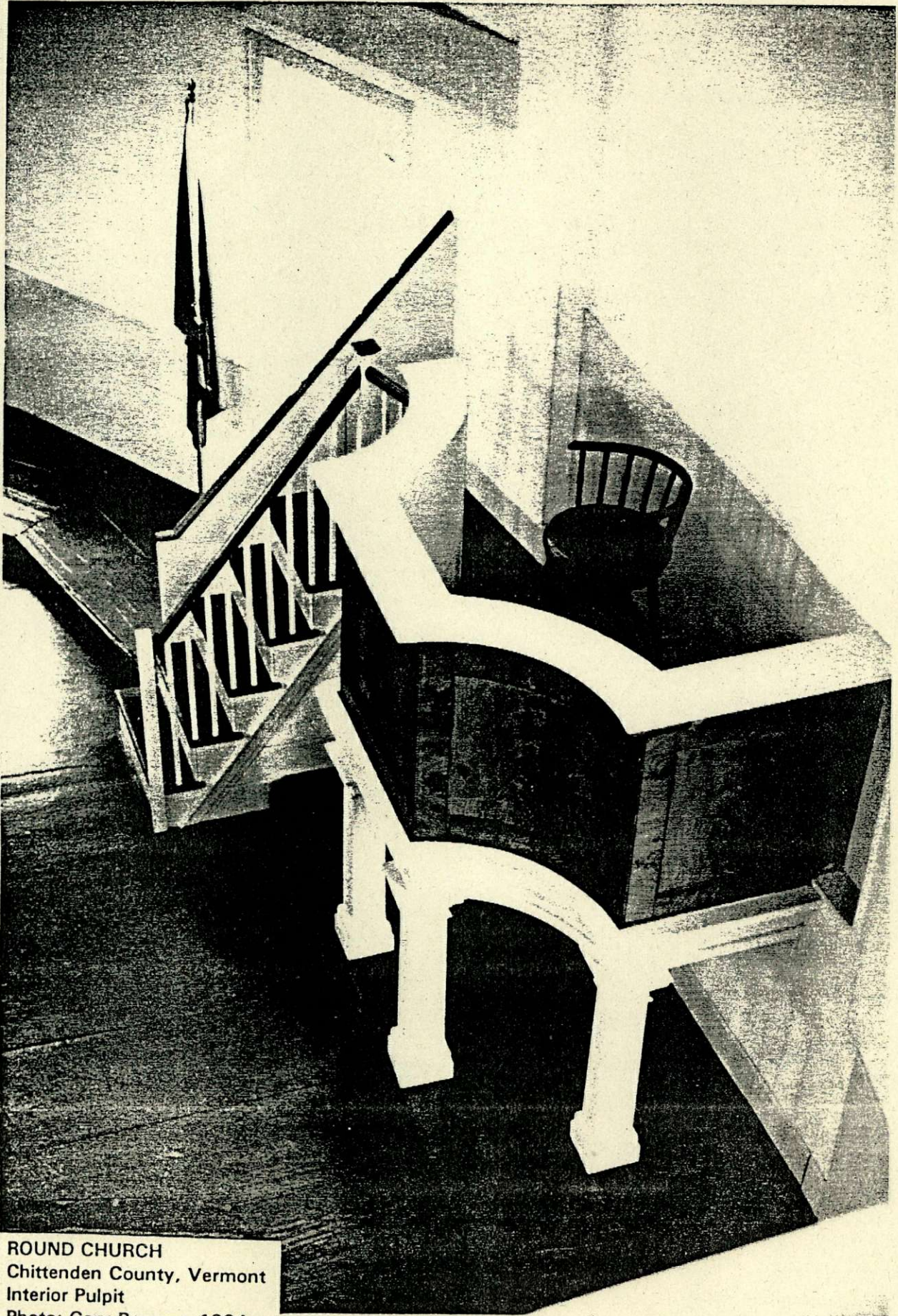
ROUND CHURCH
Chittenden County, Vermont
Exterior toward West
Photo: Gary Bressor, 1994



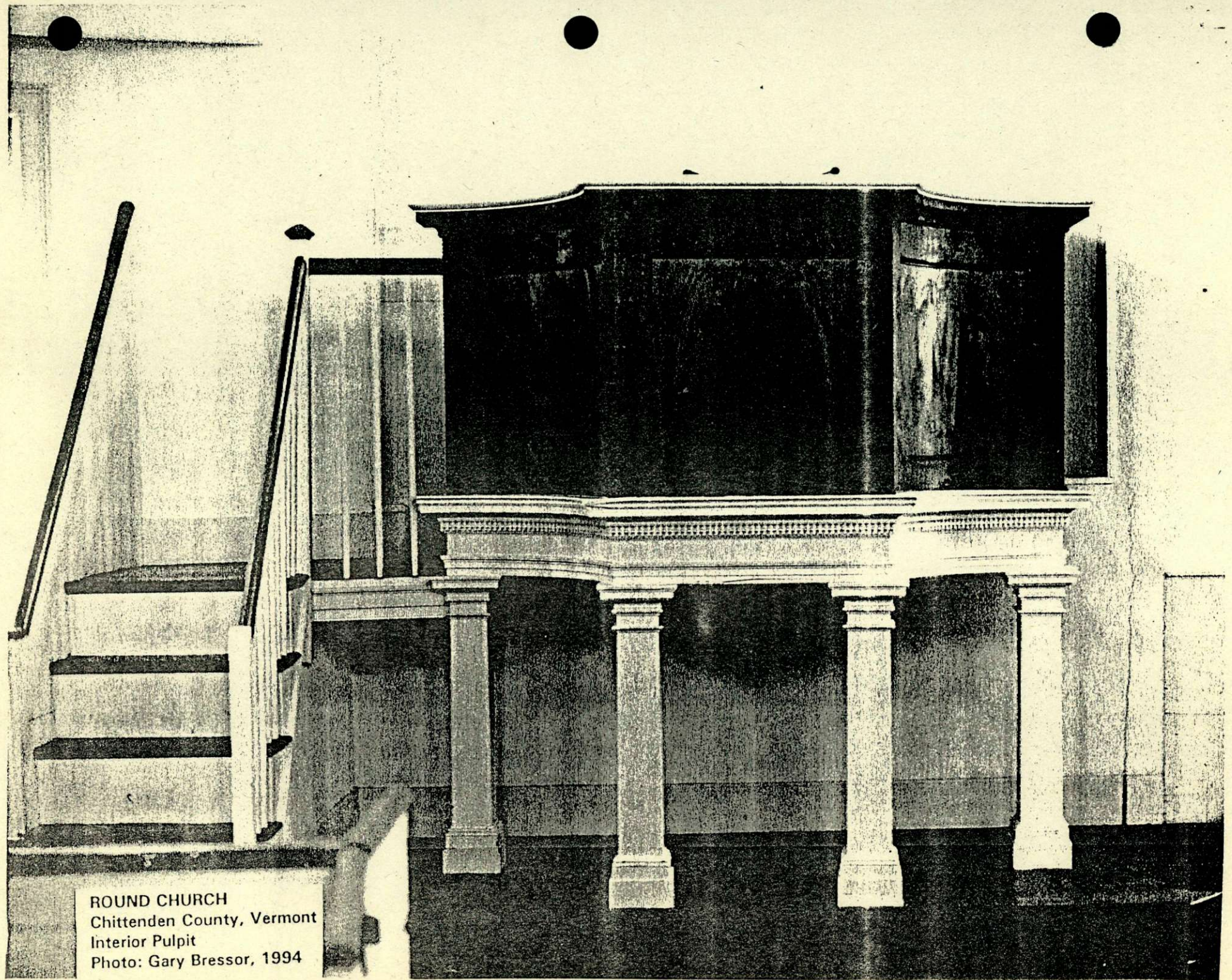
ROUND CHURCH
Chittenden County, Vermont
Interior toward North
Photo: Gary Bressor, 1994



ROUND CHURCH
Chittenden County, Vermont
Interior toward East
Photo: Gary Bressor, 1994



ROUND CHURCH
Chittenden County, Vermont
Interior Pulpit
Photo: Gary Bressor, 1994



ROUND CHURCH
Chittenden County, Vermont
Interior Pulpit
Photo: Gary Bressor, 1994

2422

DATE: _____ ASSIGNMENT: _____ FILE NO: _____

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Round Church

Richmond, Vermont 05477

Chittenden County

Photos used for National Historic Landmark Application

September 1994

Gary Bressor, photographer

NON- SCANNABLE MATERIAL

Negatives