

National Historic Landmark
Documentation for:
THE TICONDEROGA
(Side-Paddlewheel Lakeboat)

Date of NHL Designation:
1/28/1964

NRIS:
66000797

Lakeboat, the Ticonderoga

JAN 28 1964

Dear Senator Aiken:

It is a pleasure to inform you that in your State the historic site listed on the enclosure has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

This site has been evaluated in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, and by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, and approved by me pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

As explained in the enclosures this historic property is eligible to receive, from the Department of the Interior, a certificate and bronze plaque designating it as a Registered National Historic Landmark. The Director of the National Park Service will notify the owner and provide him with the proper application forms.

In recognizing the historical importance of this site, we wish to commend the owner for the care and preservation of this property.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

Hon. George David Aiken
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

ccc:
LM (2)
Secretary's Reading File
Regional Director, Northeast
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg 12-6-63

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Vermont

COUNTY:

Chittenden

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

The Ticonderoga

AND/OR HISTORIC:

The Sidewheeler Ticonderoga

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Shelburne Museum - U.S. Route 7

CITY OR TOWN:

Shelburne

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

at large

STATE

Vermont

CODE

050

COUNTY:

Chittenden

CODE

007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☐ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☒ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
 in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☒ Museum ☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify) _____

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Shelburne Museum, Inc. (Mr. Sterling D. Emerson, Director)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Shelburne

05482

STATE:

Vermont

CODE

050

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Town Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Shelburne

STATE

Vermont

CODE

050

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

none

DATE OF SURVEY:

- ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
VermontCOUNTY:
Chittenden

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sidewheeler Ticonderoga is the only unmodified steamboat of its type remaining in the United States. The boat is 220 feet long, has a beam of 57½ feet with a depth of 11½ feet, and displaces 892 tons. At full capacity, the Ticonderoga carried 28 officers and crew and accommodated 1,200 passengers on its main, saloon or stateroom, and hurricane decks. The most significant physical features of the Ticonderoga are its Morgan-type (feathering) paddlewheels, its walking-beam engine, and the elaborate design of its passenger facilities.

Morgan-type paddlewheels were employed on nearly all sidewheelers constructed after 1885. On paddlewheels prior to that date, the blades or "buckets" were bolted rigidly at right angles to the rim of the wheel so that they entered and left the water in a horizontal position. Each blade scooped gallons of water with it as it came up, creating a drag which reduced the speed of the boat. In contrast, the blades on the Morgan-type wheel are mounted in an off-center arrangement so that they are nearly vertical when entering and leaving the water, thus reducing drag on the wheel and allowing the boat to operate at maximum efficiency. The Ticonderoga's paddlewheels, located amidships on either side of the hull, are 25 feet in diameter and covered by wooden paddleboxes. Each wheel carries 10 blades, each of which is 30 inches wide and 9 feet long.

Powered by a one-cylinder walking-beam engine, which burned 2 tons of coal an hour, the Ticonderoga cruised at a speed of 17 miles per hour. The original engine, Number 193 manufactured by the W. and A. Fletcher Company of Hoboken, New Jersey, is still in place and in excellent condition. Set amidships between the paddlewheels, the engine rises in an elliptical housing from the hull through the Ticonderoga's main and saloon decks; the top of its massive vertical A-frame and its horizontal walking-beam project above the hurricane deck and are unenclosed. Forward of the engine on the hurricane deck are the pilot house and the smokestack, the latter six feet in diameter and 38 feet in height above the deck. Forward and aft of the engine below the main deck are steering, boiler, blower and dynamo rooms, a coal bunker with a capacity of 24 tons, quarters for the crew and the galley.

Though the Ticonderoga was designed for day trips only, the facilities provided for passengers were complete (including a fully-equipped barber shop) and elaborately appointed. The major public areas of the boat's interior--the dining room, the grand staircase, and the stateroom hall--are panelled throughout in butternut and cherry woods and originally featured mahogany furniture and Brussels carpets.

The dining room, located aft on the main deck, is surrounded by windows set above a panelled dado and divided by Ionic pilasters. Cherry stanchions in the style of Ionic columns, set at regular intervals throughout the room, carry the beams supporting the deck above. Outside the dining room is a carved and panelled grand staircase leading to the

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Chittenden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

The Ticonderoga

saloon deck. Set into the panelling at the head of the stairs is the traditional plate-glass mirror, here flanked by pilasters carrying an ornate pediment above which is a gilded eagle carved with wings spread.

On the saloon deck, the stateroom hall, a broad companionway and sitting area encircling the engine housing, gives access to the 10 staterooms located on the outboard sides of the boat. Like the dining room, the stateroom hall is panelled and decorated with Ionic pilasters; again, cherry stanchions support the deck above. Toward the center of the hall, the ceiling rises in an oval clerestory or trunk deck, which is surrounded by windows of hand-cut glass.

Since its removal from Lake Champlain, the Ticonderoga has undergone a program of restoration including scraping and red-leading the hull and necessary repair and repainting of the superstructure. The interior of the boat has been refurbished and the carpeting replaced (the original carpet was removed by order of government inspectors as a fire hazard during the last years of the boat's active use).

The Ticonderoga is now permanently located on the grounds of the Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont. The boat is mounted on a steel and concrete foundation in a grass-lined basin specially excavated to resemble a dry-dock. To add to that impression, horse-powered winches, blocks and falls that were used to haul the Ticonderoga into dry-dock at Shelburne Harbor have been installed in the basin forward of the boat's bow.

Boundaries of the National Historic Landmark: the Landmark designation for the Sidewheeler Ticonderoga is limited to the steamboat itself.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the only unmodified steamboat of its type remaining in the United States, the Sidewheeler Ticonderoga symbolizes an era of travel that has all but vanished from American waters. From its completion in 1906 until 1953, the sturdily-built vessel plied the waters of Lake Champlain carrying day passengers, freight, and excursion groups. At the time of its retirement, the Ticonderoga was the last coal-powered vessel in service on the Lake and perhaps the last in the United States.

The Ticonderoga has been owned by the Shelburne Museum, Inc. since 1953 and exhibited at the Museum complex in Shelburne, Vermont, since 1955. Though its exterior has been thoroughly restored and, where necessary, its interior refurbished, the Ticonderoga remains essentially as it was when launched. The steamboat and the Shelburne Museum are open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, May 15th through October 15th; an admission fee is charged.

History

Built by the Champlain Transportation Company and launched in 1906, the Ticonderoga was the twenty-ninth and last steamboat to be completed in the Company's yards at Shelburne Harbor, Vermont. The Champlain Transportation Company had its beginning in a number of separate concerns, dating as far back as 1809, which were consolidated under single ownership in 1826. When the Company finally closed its office in 1948, it was the oldest operating steamboat company in the world. During its nearly half century of active service, the Ticonderoga carried thousands of passengers, among them Presidents and ambassadors as well as tourists and residents of the summer colonies along Lake Champlain, but eventually the boat and its parent company fell victim to competition from both diesel-powered vessels and the automobile.

Through the efforts of the boat's subsequent owners, Captain Alanson A. Fisher and his son, Martin Fisher, and a campaign for funds and public support mounted by the citizens of Burlington, Vermont, its home port, the Ticonderoga was kept in service during 1949 and 1950. In December, 1951, the Ticonderoga was purchased by the Shelburne Museum, Inc.; the Shelburne Steamboat Company, organized by the Museum, was able to keep the boat in operation for another two seasons. However, the Ticonderoga

(Continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hill, Ralph N., Sidewheeler Saga (New York, 1953).
 . The Story of the Ticonderoga (Burlington, Vermont, 1957).

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	° ' "	° ' "		UTM 18.640890.4915040	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "			° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "			° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: object: 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: Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original
from prepared by S. S. Bradford, Historian, 5/21/63

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service</u>	<u>12/2/74</u>
STREET AND NUMBER:	
<u>1100 L Street NW.</u>	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
<u>Washington</u>	<u>D.C.</u>
	CODE
	<u>11</u>

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 N/A
National Historic Landmark

Title _____

Date _____
 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Designated Jan 1964...
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Boundary Certified:
 Date _____
 Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys date

ATTEST:

Boundary Affirmed:

Keeper of the National Register 6-30-75
 Director, OAHF date

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Chittenden	
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(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance: (1)

The Ticonderoga

continued to run at a deficit and in 1953 it was decided that it should be retired from the Lake and set in a permanent location on the Museum grounds. The tremendous task of raising the boat 16 feet from the level of the lake to that of the surrounding terrain and then moving it nearly two miles to the Museum in a specially-built steel cradle mounted on 16 freight car trucks (eight on each of two parallel tracks laid for the purpose) was accomplished in 66 days during the winter of 1954-1955. Now carefully restored, the Ticonderoga houses an extensive collection of prints, paintings and photographs illustrating the history of steamboating on Lake Champlain.



Ticonderoga
Courtsey Shelburne Museum

Ut.

NHL photo

REGISTERED NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARKS



Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

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	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: The Ticonderoga

AND/OR HISTORIC: The Sidewheeler Ticonderoga

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Shelburne Museum - U.S. Route 7

CITY OR TOWN:

Shelburne

STATE:

Vermont

CODE

050

COUNTY:

Chittenden

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Shelburne Museum

DATE OF PHOTO: not known

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Shelburne Museum

Shelburne, Vermont 05482

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

interior view showing staircase leading from main deck to stateroom hall



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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COUNTY <u>Chittenden</u>	
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AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>The Sidewheeler Ticonderoga</u>			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
<u>Shelburne Museum - U.S. Route 7</u>			
CITY OR TOWN:			
<u>Shelburne</u>			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<u>Vermont</u>	<u>050</u>	<u>Chittenden</u>	<u>007</u>
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: <u>Polly M. Rettig, Landmark Review Project</u>			
DATE OF PHOTO: <u>September, 1974</u>			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: <u>Historic Sites Survey</u>			
<u>1100 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240</u>			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
<u>general view of steamboat in simulated drydock - taken from southeast</u>			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

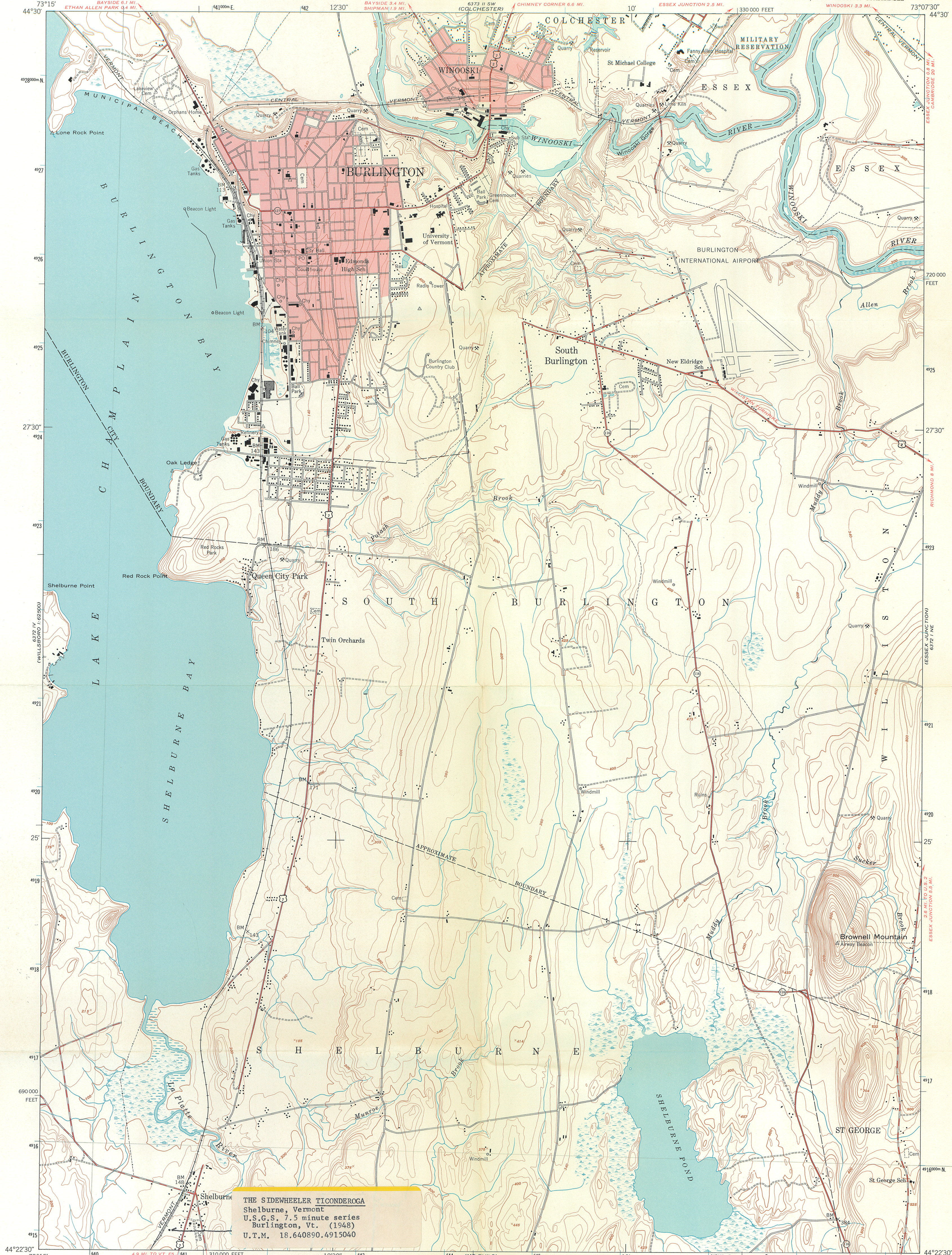
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Chittenden	
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2. LOCATION			
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CITY OR TOWN: <u>Shelburne</u>			
STATE: <u>Vermont</u>	CODE <u>050</u>	COUNTY: <u>Chittenden</u>	CODE <u>007</u>
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NEGATIVE FILED AT: <u>Historic Sites Survey</u> <u>1100 L Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20240</u>			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. <u>general view of steamboat in simulated drydock - taken from the west</u>			



THE SIDEWHEELER TICONDEROGA
Shelburne, Vermont
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series
Burlington, Vt. (1948)
U.T.M. 18.640890.4915040

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

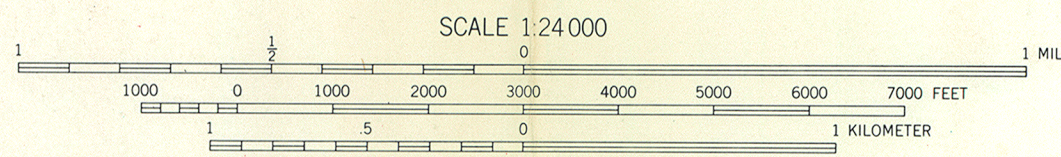
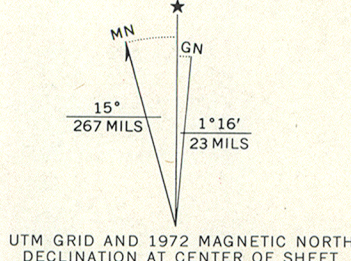
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1948
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Vermont coordinate system

Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown

No distinction is made between barns, dwellings,
commercial and industrial buildings

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty 2 LANE 16 LANE Light-duty
Medium-duty 2 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

BURLINGTON, VT.
NW/4 BURLINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N4422.5-W7307.5/7.5

1948

AMS 6372 I NW-SERIES V813

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Vermont	
COUNTY Chittenden	
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CODE

050

COUNTY:

Chittenden

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Burlington, Vt.

SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1948

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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