

The Vermont Church: A Cultural Centerpiece Then and Now

David Dyke

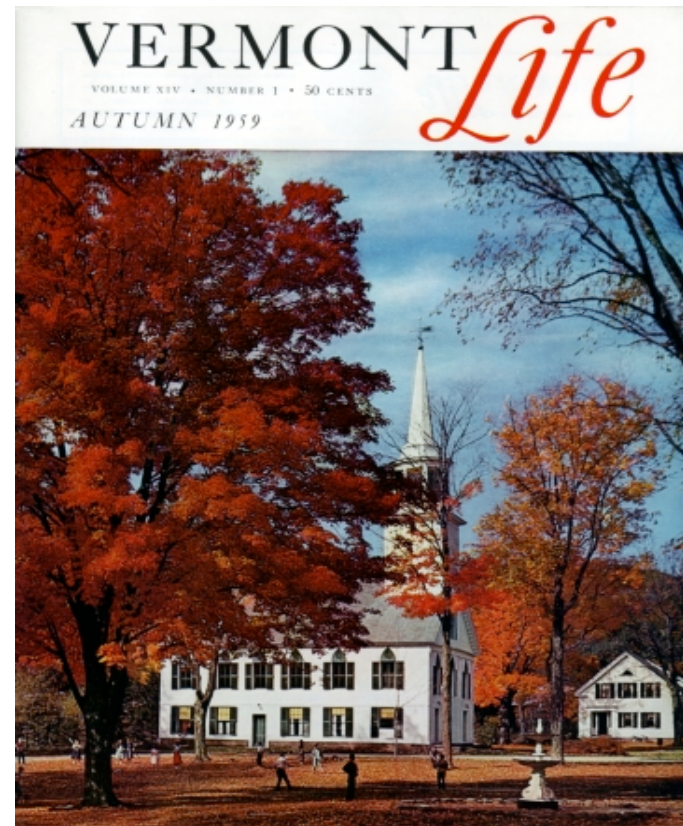
Congregational Church on Elm Street,
1860-1881. Woodstock, Vermont
(LS01295)



The Vermont Church

Churches play a very special role in the identity of the Vermont landscape. Their regal, quaint, and sometimes rustic designs appear throughout Vermont's scenery. This scrapbook is intended to showcase the beautiful architecture of these buildings, talk a little about their past, and create an atmosphere that appreciates their contribution to the landscape that surrounds them.

Baseball on Townshend Common, 1959. Townshend, Vermont (LS12416).



Churches have always been prevalent in the Vermont landscape.

Biking on the Town Green, 1885–1900.
Bristol, Vermont (LS07549).



Bethany Church, 2007. Montpelier,
Vermont (LS04706).



By Law, early Vermont towns had to set aside land for the purpose of a church building.

Church and Park in Perkinsville, 1860–1890. Weathersfield, Vermont (LS04916).



Church with River in Background, 1870–1889. Brattleboro, Vermont (LS03302).

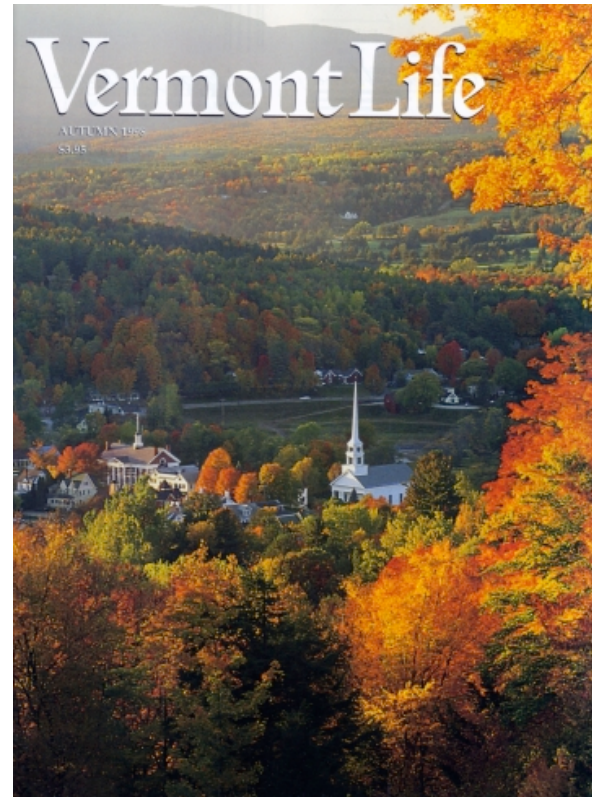


Churches can be found in large towns, and rural communities.

Church Street Marketplace, 1970–1980.
Burlington, Vermont (LS07953).



Aerial View of Stowe in Autumn, 1998.
Stowe, Vermont (LS12570).



Their unique, sometimes quirky architecture makes them fascinating landmarks.

Church and Store, Village Center, 1870–1900. Tinmouth, Vermont (LS01948).



The Old Round Church, 2004. Richmond, Vermont (LS00988).



Regardless of size, style, or location, each building has its own unique story to tell, and its own unique relationship with its community.

Methodist Episcopal Church, 1860–1890. Bristol, Vermont (LS05587).



Bio: Williston Congregational Church

- Built in 1832
- Construction cost \$2,300
- Exercised great political influence in the community
- Abandoned in 1899 as a result of the Methodist–Congregationalist merger

Congregational Church and Corn, 1907–1915. Williston, Vermont (LS09870).



Bio: Immanuel Episcopal Church

Church and Graves, 2007. Rockingham, Vermont (LS03077).

- Built in 1863–67
- Designed by Richard Upjohn
- Modeled after a rural English parish
- All interior furnishings came from England



Bio: Ira Allen Chapel

Ira Allen Chapel, 2005. Burlington, Vermont (LS10565).

- Constructed in 1926
- Designed by the firm McKim, Mead and White
- Designed in the Georgian Revival Style
- Built in honor of Ira Allen, founder of the University of Vermont



Bio: First Congregational Church

- Building Completed in 1869
- Built as wood structure
- Construction cost \$7,826.06
- Church's land deeded by Byron Stevens and Enoch Howe

Essex Junction from Brownell Block, 1890–1920. Essex Junction, Vermont (LS01520).



Bio: The Old Round Church

Old Round Church in Richmond, 1991.
Richmond, Vermont (LS12544).

- Built in 1813
- Considered to be one of the first community churches in the country
- 16 sides
- Local lore says that the round shape is beneficial “so the devil can’t hide in the corner”



Conclusions

- Both their unique designs, and their historical significance have earned Vermont churches the right to be called important landmarks. They are deeply woven into the cultural fabric of Vermont's past. Without them, the Vermont landscape would not look the same.

150th Anniversary, 1913. Federated Church, Williston, Vermont (LS09869).



Sources

- All images come from the Landscape Change Program Website, at <http://www.uvm.edu/landscape/menu.php>
- Information comes from the following texts and websites:
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