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## **22 VSA 14 PROJECT REVIEW MEMORANDUM**

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To: Lee Goldstein, VTrans Environmental Specialist

Date: December 1, 2021

Subject: NO ADVERSE EFFECT

Project Name: Hardwick (Church and Maple Streets Sidewalk Improvement Project)

Project Number: ST BP21(3) (TH-3 21P344)

Location: Hardwick, Vermont

Distribution: Scott Gurley, Project Manager

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The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has reviewed this project according to the standards and procedures detailed in Appendix B of the 2000 Programmatic Agreement (PA) Regarding Implementation of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Federal-Aid Highway Program in Vermont and the corresponding Manual of Standards and Guidelines. Appendix B details the standards and procedures VTrans will follow for projects requiring review under Vermont State Law.

The following information substantiates the VTrans Officers' findings and their determination of NO ADVERSE EFFECT for the above project. Completion of this document demonstrates that VTrans has satisfied its obligations for 22 VSA 14 for this project as specified in the PA and Manual.

### Project Description:

This project involves the replacement of a deteriorated four-foot-wide sidewalk with a new five-foot-wide concrete sidewalk. All work will take place within the right of way. There is an approximately 75' section of sidewalk along the south side of Church Street that was previously replaced and because it is still in good condition it will not be affected during this project.

In defining the project Area of Potential Effect (APE) and determining appropriate identification efforts, VTrans considered the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the project, including the possible effects to known or potential historic and/or archaeologically sensitive properties and their aspects of integrity both within and beyond the project limits based on the scope, scale, nature, setting, topography, and other environmental factors associated with the project, such as views from and towards the project area and the potential for long-term effects.

The project APE includes the project areas that will be directly impacted by construction activities to install the new concrete sidewalk. In addition, due to the nature and scale of the project and proximity of known historic properties to the areas that will be directly impacted, there is potential for additional, reasonably foreseeable impacts to historic resources associated with this project that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance, or be cumulative, such as visual impacts. Consequently, VTrans has determined that the APE includes properties that have a view of or can be viewed from the sidewalk on Church and Maple Streets. Please see below for the APE map.

#### Above-Ground Historic Resources

This sidewalk replacement and widening project occurs entirely within the boundary of the original Downtown Hardwick Village Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. While many of the properties within the district boundaries have been altered since the time of listing, the area retains sufficient integrity overall to still be considered historic.

#### Archaeological Resources:

The project area is located along the northern side of the Lamoille River in Hardwick on a level terrace that is residentially developed. The closest known archaeological site VT-CA-0123 is located approximately .5 miles to the west across the river and consists of an historic industrial complex. No other known sites are located in the vicinity of the project although the overall area can be considered archaeologically sensitive given its proximity to the Lamoille River which has several known sites along its corridor.

The immediate project area consists of residential development and existing sidewalk. In addition to the existing sidewalk and curb, the area also has landscaping and underground drainage including a fire hydrant located along the street adjacent to the sidewalk. This project consists of replacement of an existing 4 foot sidewalk with a 5 foot sidewalk. Since there is an existing sidewalk and the new footprint will not be significantly larger and will be contained within previously disturbed areas along the roadway edge, this project will not affect any archaeologically sensitive areas or known sites.

#### Analysis:

This project occurs within the boundaries of a National Register historic district and calls for widening the existing sidewalk into the front yards of the historic properties along Church and Maple Streets, which has the potential to affect the setting for the individual properties within the district and the overall district. As noted above, there is already a four-foot sidewalk on both sides of the street. The project proposes to widen the existing sidewalk by one foot only. After walking the project area, the VTrans Historic Preservation Officer determined that this minimal widening of the existing sidewalk will not adversely affect the individual historic properties or the overall district since none of the properties will be directly impacted and the overall look and

feel of the district will be minimally altered. However, there are two landscape features that will need to be protected during construction to ensure they are not affected by the project.

Therefore, VTrans has determined that the proposed sidewalk widening project in Hardwick will have No Adverse Effect to historic resources provided the following conditions are met:

1. The stone steps at Memorial Park on the north side of Church Street will be protected from damage during construction. The bottom step, which is made of concrete, may be altered during construction, but this will not affect the integrity of the stone steps feature.
2. The stone wall at 39 Church Street, which is both a retaining wall and a decorative feature, shall be protected from damage during construction. If needed, loose areas of stone may need to be shored up to ensure the wall is protected.
3. VTrans recommends taking detailed photographs of both the stone steps at Memorial Park and the stone wall at 39 Church Street prior to the start of the project so the town has documentation of the features' pre-construction conditions.

*Jeannine Russell*

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Jeannine Russell, Archaeology Officer

*Judith W. Ehrlich*

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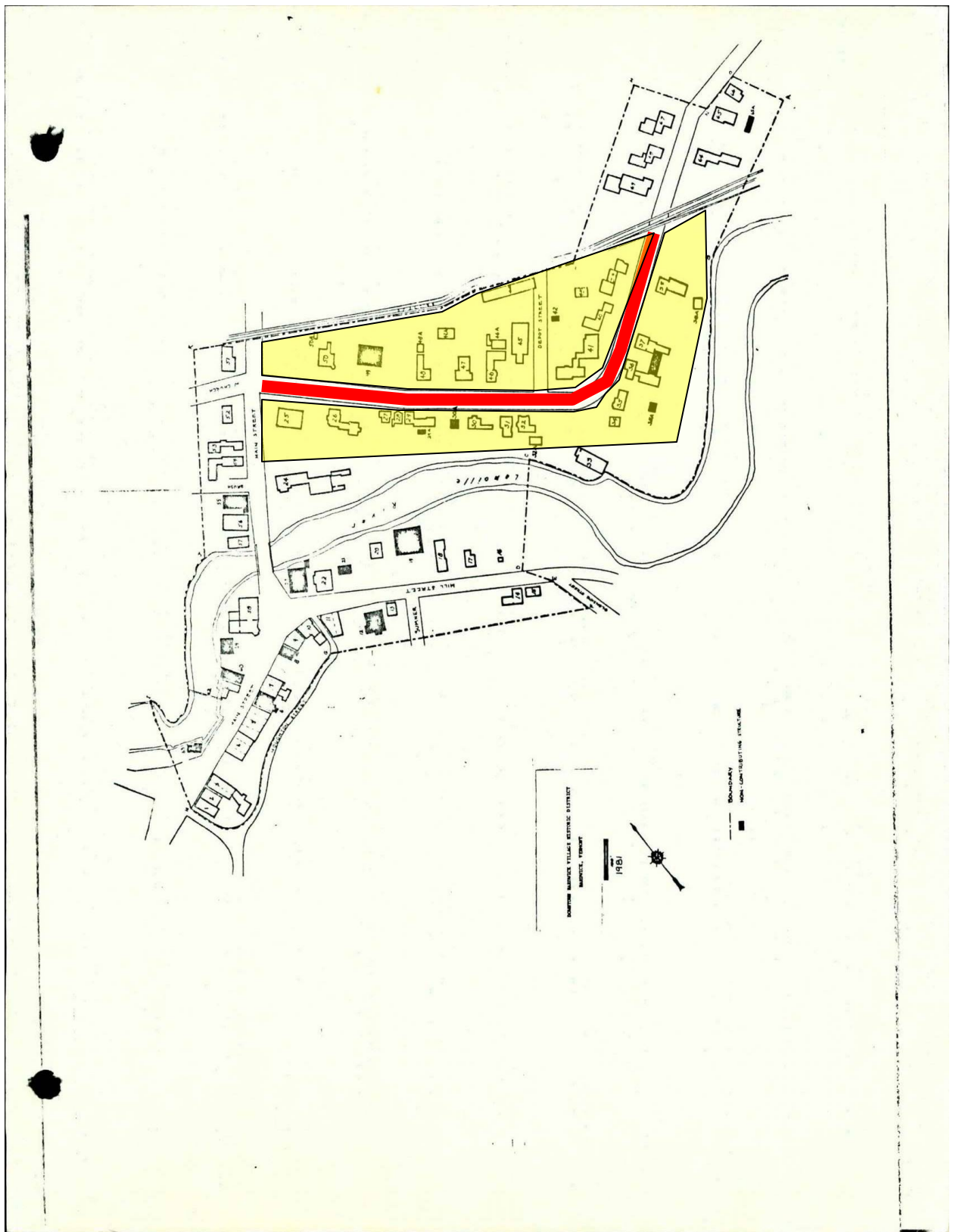
Judith W. Ehrlich, Historic Preservation Officer

**Attachments:**

- Survey Form(s)
- Photos
- Map
- Report(s)
- Other:



Map of project location as indicated by red line.



Map of the Downtown Hardwick Village Historic District from 1982. The red line indicates where the sidewalk will be installed on both sides of the street (except for a small section on the south side of Church Street). The yellow represents properties that could be indirectly or cumulatively affected by the sidewalk widening project.



View of existing sidewalk at east end of Church Street, Hardwick.



View of existing sidewalk at west end of Church Street, Hardwick.



Image of stone steps at Memorial Park.



Image of stone retaining wall at 39 Church Street. Measuring tape indicates the width of the proposed new sidewalk in front of the wall.





Stone wall at 39 Church Street (second view).



ORC image showing project area – red line. Note historic arch site at far left of image.