

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

06

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington (preferred)

other names/site number First Congregational Church of Great Barrington

2. Location

street & number 241 and 251 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Great Barrington N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Berkshire code 003 zip code 01230

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough 6/30/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Beth L. Savage

8/20/92

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
		structures
2		objects
5	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related residence

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romansque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls STONE: limestone

roof STONE: slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The Congregational Church of Great Barrington (1883) and its attached manse/parsonage and free-standing carriage house of 1884 (MHC #s 169-171) occupy a square 1.25 acre site on the east side of Main Street (Routes 7 and 23) in the heart of downtown Great Barrington at the corner of Pleasant Street. Main Street is the primary north-south thoroughfare for the downtown area, and is lined with retail establishments and several municipal buildings. Just north of the property, across Pleasant Street, is the 1916 brick Georgian Revival Mason Library. On the opposite side of Main Street from the church, flanking the foot of Elm Street, are a ca. 1850 Greco-Italianate wood-frame house and another Georgian Revival brick structure, the Great Barrington Savings Bank, built in 1950.

In spite of the intrusion of a few modern commercial structures, the area around the church has an unusually intact assemblage of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century civic and commercial architecture, including many two- and three-story brick commercial blocks of the 1870s through 1890s. One block south of the church is the Great Barrington Downtown Historic District (a local historic district), which includes the 1874 Town Hall, 1900 fire station, and 1904-1905 Mahaiwe Theatre. Across Main Street from the theater is the Chateaufesque 1885-1887 Hopkins/Searles Castle (NR: 1982). The downtown center is bounded on the east by the Housatonic River and on the west by the Boston & Maine Railroad. Between them, especially on the side streets, are numerous mid- to late-nineteenth-century wood-frame houses, boarding houses, and two hotels in various states of alteration. Most of the houses are of the gable-front type with Gothic, Greek Revival or Italianate embellishment. Four other pre-1920 churches are located nearby, representing a variety of types and styles, from the small 1883 wood-shingle Clinton AME Zion Church to the majestic High Gothic marble St. Peter's of 1911.

Set back approximately 100 feet from Main Street, the church faces west over a front lawn, as do its north wing (a former chapel, now used for parish rooms) and attached manse. Next to the street, at the foot of the front walk to the manse, is a low stone mounting block of 1884. Behind the manse at the northeast corner of the property is a free-standing carriage house, its drive opening north onto Pleasant Street. A narrow church parking area stretches along the south edge of the property. The entire complex of buildings is built of locally quarried limestone, with slate roofs. In spite of the fact that the church and manse were designed by two different architects, (W.C. Brocklesby for the church, Peabody & Stearns for the manse and carriage

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetThe Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 2

house,) the assemblage is a remarkably cohesive illustration of the late nineteenth-century Romanesque style at its height, with the influence of the English Revival taste evident in the manse and carriage house.

Church and Parish Hall

The First Congregational Church, as it is known locally, is a long two-story gable-roofed masonry structure, its longitudinal nave flanked by shallow-buttressed aisles extending along both sides. The ridge of the steeply-pitched roof rises fifty-three feet from the ground. Situated at the church's southwest facade corner is a five-story, 116-foot-high square tower with flared pyramidal roof and entrances in its south and west sides. A third front entrance is located on the east end of the church facade. At the rear of the nave is a shallow eastward projection which houses the altar/chancel area. A one-story shed-roofed kitchen, its 18-foot southern section added in 1907, abuts the rear of the building. Extending north from the sanctuary is a high one-story gabled wing which was originally built for a chapel, and now functions as the parish hall. It has two cross-gabled entrances on the facade, which project forward from the main plane of the front wall, and are joined by a double window wall. Its main roof ridge is crowned by an octagonal cupola.

The walls of the 1883 structure are of rock-faced blue-gray dolomite of local origin. Part of the wall material, primarily in the lower sections, remains from a prior church of 1859, which burned in 1882. Matching stone for the present church was cut from the same quarry as the material for the former building. The entire 1883 structure stands on a stone foundation and basement of limestone and blue dolomite remaining from the 1859 church. The roof of the church and parish hall is a green Vermont slate; the south-facing slopes were reslated in 1989. The church building has one exterior limestone chimney, which abuts the north end of the chancel at the rear of the sanctuary.

In addition to its traditional massing of nave, aisles, and heavily-proportioned corner tower, much of the church's Romanesque character comes from its fenestration and detailing. A fourteen-foot rose window of blue cathedral glass forms the focal point of the west facade; below it is a line of four double round-arched windows. All the major openings in the church, in fact, employ the round Romanesque arch, echoed throughout by heavy moldings and trimmings, some in brownstone, some in a contrasting dolomite.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 3

Both brownstone and dolomite band courses add a horizontal emphasis to the tower and the main facade. Portland brownstone is also used for the coping at the front and rear roofline, in the surround of the rose window, at the sills of the facade windows, and in the weatherings of the buttresses. Its color contrast is most emphatic in fields of checkered imbrication at the main gable peak and in the surround of the clock faces in the fifth story of the bell tower. The fourth story of the tower, where the bell is located, has a large round-arched louvered opening in each side.

Rectangular multi-light sash windows illuminate the basement story along the side elevations of the church. At the main story along each of the side aisles are nine window bays (five on the south, four on the north,) containing double round-arched, tracery windows of multi-colored cathedral glass, two of them pictorial. Above the roofs of the aisles, below the eaves of the main roof, each side elevation of the nave has a band of ten double clerestory windows of pale blue and yellow cathedral glass. All the glasswork was executed by W. J. McPherson of Boston, and is in excellent condition. The facade entries of both the church and north wing are fitted with paneled, double-leaf doors. Those in the main church have wood-paneled tympani above; the two in the wing are topped with quarter-circle glass lights.

Except for some repainting over the years and the enlargement of the organ/choir loft, the interior of the sanctuary is in completely original, well-preserved condition. The church itself is divided into a narthex across the west front with choir and organ loft above, the long nave and aisles with a seating capacity of 600, and at the east end, an altar and shallow chancel area. Colonnades of round arches on foliate-capitaled columns support the clerestory. The roof support structure consists of a series of complex round-arched trusses of oiled southern pine, which spring from the clerestory level above each set of columns. Four rows of purlins contribute a longitudinal emphasis along the plastered ceiling. The wall and ceiling surfaces of the church were originally covered with elaborate decorative frescoing and stencilwork, much of it in geometric border designs. The large recessed arch of the chancel, which today is painted a solid color, was once elaborately embellished with gold geometric motifs and bronze lettering. The jambs of the windows are plastered up to the window frames, and are finished with chamfers and stops. Wood paneling, carved rails and stiles, and turned balustrades form both the curved front of the organ loft (its center section was extended in 1936), and the screen that separates the nave from the narthex at the west end of the church. The black walnut pews are copies of those from the 1859 church; the head of each seat is punctuated with an ornamented

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 4

post and fine panel work, above which are balusters supporting a fluted arm. At the east end of the sanctuary is a solid mahogany pulpit designed by the church's pastor of 1867-1886, the Rev. Evarts Scudder. It is embellished with panels and carvings, and a carved inscription in Greek, meaning "the truth shall make you free." The lower section of the east wall behind the pulpit is wainscoted in panels of solid mahogany. A marble baptismal font in front of the chancel was salvaged from the 1882 fire, and dates to ca. 1813.

The west end of the church interior above the first story is dominated by one of the most important organs in New England, and the largest in western Massachusetts. It was built in 1883, simultaneous with the erection of the church, by Hilborne L. Roosevelt of New York, the most influential American organ-builder of his time. It encompasses three stories of pipes, pneumatic chests and air reservoirs. The case, of solid paneled and carved mahogany and ebony, was designed by London architect, G.A. Audsley. The front pipes are now, as they were originally, painted in gold.

The main interior space of the parish hall is illuminated by a hip-roofed dormer on both the west and east roof slopes. On the rear is a full-width, shed-roofed section which houses a kitchen. In spite of its conversion early in this century from a chapel, the parish hall retains virtually all its original interior architectural features, including arched, decorative rafters, tongue-and-groove wainscoting, pictorial stained glass, paneled doors, and interior shutters on the smaller windows.

Manse/parsonage

Designed by the firm of Peabody and Stearns of Boston, the manse was completed in 1884, a year after the church. It is connected to the north vestibule of the parish hall by a thirty-foot gable-roofed stone "cloister," or walkway, with wide, flat arches supported on square posts. The building is two-and-a-half and three stories, and blends Romanesque massing with elements of the English Revival style. Its stone wall fabric is a local blue dolomite, slightly darker in color than the church, with small portions of the rear elevations clad in clapboard and patterned wood shingle. Like the rest of the complex, this building has a rough-faced ashlar stone foundation, and a full basement. In contrast to the green church roof, the roof of the manse is a Vermont red slate. Typical of much of the work done in the 1880s by Peabody & Stearns, the manse is a building of heavy, complex massing, displaying a careful attention to detail. The main roof ridge runs parallel to Main

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 5

Street, with a tall exterior stone chimney at either end. The facade is an asymmetrical composition, the planes of its two-story north section broken by a large polygonal bay window at the first floor and board-and-batten dormer on the front roof slope. The east half of the facade is three stories high, with the main entry recessed under a deep fifteen-foot-wide stone archway, its curve emphasized by stepped buttressing at the southwest corner of the wall. A corresponding archway is cut in the front corner of the south wall. Above the main archway at the second story of the facade is a polygonal wooden oriel bay window; the third story has a high wall gable trimmed with stone coping and a finial at its apex. On the south elevation of the building, in front of a short two-story bay that connects with the cloister, is a shallow second-story wooden balcony. The west elevation of the main part of the manse is spanned by an open wooden "piazza" supported on unfluted Tuscan columns, with a simple wooden rail and balustrade and stone foundation. Behind it is a one-and-a-half-story assemblage of shed-roofed and cross-gabled sections, including a second porch recessed under the roof of a one-story kitchen/laundry ell. The porch retains a balustrade composed of straight balusters and a heavy rail curved upward at the ends. This is the same type of railing that formerly adorned the main piazza, and was used in two balconies (now gone)--one on the piazza roof and another over the facade bay window. The high north foundation wall of the ell slopes several feet beyond the rear of the building to form the west half of a stone gateway, ending in a square post behind the kitchen entrance. The rear of the manse is a composition of many projections and a variety of surface materials. A large cross-gabled section, two-and-a-half-stories high, projects east from the main roof; it has a patterned-shingle gable, and a diagonal stone chimney at the ridge. Abutting its rear wall is a wide polygonal two-story bay with patterned shingle at the second story. Between the bay and the northeast ell, under a shed roof, is a low one-story stone and clapboard conservatory, with pitch-roofed, board-and-batten dormer above.

The Peabody & Stearns touch is nowhere more evident than in the architectural detailing of this building. All sills, jambs, thresholds and soffits of the openings are finely hammered stone. Copper cresting and flashing remain at the roof. The taste for the English Revival is evident in the fenestration, most of it consisting of multi-light over single sash, with some windows paired or tripled. The main entry door of heavy, multi-paneled oak is four-feet wide and is divided, "Dutch door" fashion, across the center.

The manse interior consists of entrance hall, parlor, library (minister's

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 6

study,) dining-room, kitchen, pantry, and lavatory on the first floor, six bedrooms with one-and-a-half baths on the second, and on the third, a bedroom, billiard- or playroom, former bathroom, and open attic. The floors of the entrance hall and dining room are oak; the others are of spruce, which was originally mortared and papered. Heavy beams of quartered oak adorn the ceilings of both the entrance hall and library. The large irregular hexagon-shaped entrance hall has a profusion of oak paneling in its high wainscoting, interior doors and door jambs. At the broad stairway are turned balusters and square, tapered newel posts with carved roping ending in a graceful pointed top. An oak and marble fireplace is diagonally positioned beside a broad archway that opens into a reception alcove at the southwest corner of the building. Behind the alcove is the dining room, which has a broad bay window connecting to the small rear conservatory, and the small, oak-finished library or minister's study, which opens out onto the cloister/walkway. The parlor, located at the front of the house north of the entrance hall, is both finished and furnished in rosewood; much of its trim is now painted.

At second story level, the woodwork of the main stairway, which turns and continues to the third floor, dominates the center space. The interior finish of the bedrooms is as finely detailed as that of the first story, and includes a variety of carved and molded mantel designs (now painted,) two of them fitted with Delft tiles.

Carriage house

Behind the manse at the northeast corner of the property is a one-and-a-half-story, hip-roofed carriage house, also designed by Peabody & Stearns in 1883-1884, of the same materials and style as the manse. Its roof slopes are pierced on three sides by dormers. The facade dormer is the most elaborate, with a through-cornice hay door sheltered by a conical roof embellished with exposed rafter ends. The main entrance of the carriage house, facing west toward the manse, has a massive stone lintel. A heavy stone wall extends west toward the house to form the east half of the gateway to the property. The inside finish of the building, including the broad planks of the floor, is of Georgia pine.

Mounting block

On the lawn in front of the manse, close to the road, is a low cut-stone block that was placed in position in 1884 when the manse was built. For decades it

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 7

was used by ladies mounting and dismounting from their carriages.

Alterations.

There are extremely few significant alterations anywhere in this complex of buildings. The church interior has been repainted, a stairway added in the narthex, and the organ compass enlarged and console replaced--hence the ensuing extension of the front of the loft. The church kitchen was extended by eighteen feet across the rear of the chancel in 1907, using identical stone to that of the church. At about the same time the chapel was converted to a parish hall; later a small ladies' room was inserted in the southernmost gabled entryway. At the manse, roof balconies were removed from the bay window and piazza and the piazza railing replaced. On the interior, the kitchen has been modernized, and some woodwork originally left unpainted has been painted over. In the early 1920's the upper floors of the carriage house were converted to clubrooms for the congregation's young people.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property it is possible that sites are present. Locational characteristics of the parcel including well drained soils on a terrace within 1000' of the Housatonic River indicate the favorable criteria for prehistoric settlement and subsistence activities. In addition, nine prehistoric sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). In general, however, the potential for significant prehistoric survivals is low because of the impacts of church, manse and carriage house construction which cover much of the property. There is a low to moderate potential for significant historic period survivals on the property. Construction features and trash areas may survive from the 1859 church or later 1883 structure reportedly built on the footprint of the 1859 structure. Historic period resources which pre-date these structures have not been identified for the property.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

RELIGION

INVENTION

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PERFORMING ARTS: music

Period of Significance

1883-1942

Significant Dates

1883

1884

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brocklesby, William C.

Peabody, Robert S.

Stearns, John G.

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Society of the Congregational
Church of Great Barrington

Berkshire County, MA
County and State

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 635300 4672530
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Barbara Syer, First Congregational Church of Great Barrington, Anne McCarthy Forbes:NR
name/title Edit. Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 1992

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington

street & number 251 Main Street telephone (413) 528-2740

city or town Great Barrington state MA zip code 02130

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Congregational Church of Great Barrington, one of the town's most prominent local landmarks, represents nearly 250 years of continuous religious guidance by the Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington for both the town and the surrounding area along the Housatonic River. Integrally tied to the first settlement of the community, it is still the only Congregational church in Great Barrington. The Society has had a church on this site in the heart of the town center since the construction of its second church building here in 1812-1813. The present church, built in 1883, is the fourth and last sanctuary of the 249-year-old society, and by far the grandest it built. It is an extremely well preserved example of the mature work of architect William C. Brocklesby, who became distinguished over the last quarter of the nineteenth century as a designer of solid, stylish masonry structures. Most noted for his college buildings, residences, and civic buildings, this is one of only a handful of churches Brocklesby designed. His work here is complemented by the almost completely intact parsonage/manse and carriage house. Built a year after the church, both of the latter buildings were designed by Peabody & Stearns of Boston, an architectural firm that greatly influenced the course of American architecture in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Their work here also forms a stylistic juxtaposition and a chronological link with the nearby work of another notable firm, McKim, Mead and White, who in 1885 designed for the major benefactress of the church, Mrs. Mary Sherwood Hopkins, the Chateausque "Hopkins/Searles Castle," (NR: 1982) two blocks to the south. The central role of Mrs. Hopkins and her family in the construction of the church buildings is a prime example of the type of philanthropy that shaped the faces of many towns in western Massachusetts in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The entire church complex, including the 1883 Roosevelt organ, the largest of its type in western Massachusetts, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington meets Criteria A and C of the National Register, as well as Criteria consideration A at the local level.

Great Barrington, a town of 45 square miles, with a population of 7,000, is located in the southwest corner of Massachusetts on the Housatonic River in the hilly region of the Berkshires. The Boston & Maine Railroad passes through the town center, and the scenic Appalachian Trail winds through the southeast portion. Much of the town's land is wooded, and development is concentrated mainly at the downtown center, the villages of Van Deusenville

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 2

and Risingdale, and linearly along the main throughroads. Great Barrington was politically significant in the region early in its history. It was the shire town of Berkshire County from 1761 to 1784, and many of its inhabitants took part in Shays' Rebellion in 1786-1787. In the eighteenth century the water power of the Housatonic and its tributary, the Green River, was harnessed for some small mills, and in the nineteenth century for several larger facilities, including an ironworks, woolen, cotton and paper mills. The town had a spurt of growth in the middle of the 1800s, when many of the houses of its town center were built.

Now bordered on the north by Housatonic, on the east by Monterey, southeast by New Marlborough, south by Sheffield, and on the west by Egremont and Alford, most of the town's area was originally a territory of the burgeoning western border of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Between 1722 and 1742 most of today's Great Barrington was encompassed by the territory of Upper Housatonic, between Sheffield, (incorporated 1733,) and Stockbridge, (incorporated 1739.) In 1742, the proprietors of Upper Housatonic, along with those in a strip of territory called Lower Housatonic in the northern part of Sheffield, were empowered to build a church and to engage an orthodox minister. The next year the two territories became the North Parish of Sheffield, which in 1761 was incorporated as the town of Great Barrington.

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington was gathered in 1743. The history of the Society, recently renamed the First Congregational Church of Great Barrington, is closely intertwined with the development of the community from its inception as an eighteenth-century pioneer outpost to a bustling modern town. In keeping with what was then a frontier community, the first meetinghouse of 1743, a two-story wood-frame building on State Road in what is now the Water Street Cemetery, was small and humble, but served as both the spiritual and community center for the struggling settlement on the Housatonic. Town meetings were held in both the first meetinghouse and its successor until 1837, and the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace met in the first meetinghouse until 1765.

The Society's first settled pastor and most notable minister was Samuel Hopkins, who served from 1743 until his dismissal over his abilities as a preacher and his views on church membership and baptism in 1769. A true frontiersman himself, he participated with parties of scouts during the French and Indian Wars. With Joseph Bellamy, he was one of the two most influential disciples of Jonathan Edwards, and became nationally known in later years. He has been proclaimed the first Congregational minister in New England to

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

denounce slavery. His System of Doctrines, published in 1793, became the basis of a school of ecclesiastical thought known as "Hopkinsianism". His substantial success in fostering philanthropic social attitudes found an ironic fulfillment long after his death, when the generous gifts of the family of one of his descendants made possible the building of the present church complex.

In 1764 members of an Episcopal parish in Great Barrington were no longer required to support the Congregational minister, and in 1791 fifty families separated from the Congregational church to form a religious society of equal legal status to the Congregationalists. As a result of the removal of the Episcopalians, coupled with long periods between settled ministers and quarreling within the Society, toward the end of the eighteenth century the Congregational church declined and its meetinghouse was abandoned, to be ravaged by the elements and a resident flock of sheep. In the beginning of the nineteenth century, however, the church was rejuvenated under the Rev. Elijah Wheeler. The civic and commercial core of the town was then expanding along Main Street, where several stores had opened up, and in 1812-1813 the Congregational Society erected a new wood-frame church there too, on the present site. The builder was local carpenter Capt. John Ford.

As was the case with the moving of the meetinghouse site, developments at the church in the nineteenth century continued to reflect changes in the town and society at large. From 1830 to 1861, for instance, the question of slavery was denounced from the pulpit, though only quietly debated among the congregation. Temperance was a more hotly disputed issue by the 1840s. Great Barrington saw considerable industrial expansion in the early decades of the industrial revolution. By 1844 there were two tanneries, nine factories, at least ten sawmills, a marble quarry, and a distillery operating in the town. A major textile mill was incorporated in 1850, an existing ironworks greatly enlarged in 1856, and a paper mill incorporated in 1862. The town center also expanded rapidly, with much residential construction at mid-century. Great Barrington was also visited by vacationers who flocked to the Berkshires even before the Civil War, lured both by the beauty of "the American Lake District," as it was then called, and by the society that had formed around its illustrious group of resident poets and authors.

By the 1850s the church's congregation had also grown significantly. While representing a cross-section of the town's population, it numbered among its

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 4

members some of the town's more successful merchants and benefactors, such as woolen manufacturer Parley J. Russell, and later the family of William Stanley, inventor of the transformer for alternating current. In 1859 the 1813 church was replaced with a 60 by 108-foot stone Romanesque Revival sanctuary large enough to seat 800, to which a side chapel and "ladies' parlor" were added in 1879. The Society was active in town affairs during the Civil War, and its minister, the Rev. Horace Winslow, served as Chaplain of the Fifth Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers. The growing demands of women were felt in the church, and in 1874 the society voted that there should be women's suffrage at all church elections, effectively ending the exclusive power of a deacons and elders.

After the war the Society and the community both entered a period of prosperity. By 1880 Great Barrington was fourth in population, at 4658, in Berkshire County. The church was now a well-established institution that had the full support of the business and intellectual leaders of the community. Industry again expanded, while farming declined, and by the turn of the century Great Barrington had become the commercial center of south Berkshire County. Contributing by the 1870s to the area's economy was also an important breed of newcomers--wealthy "summer cottagers," most from the New York area, who began to build lavish summer residences in the surrounding hills. Attracted by the natural beauty of the area, the easy access from New York by train, and the presence of a sophisticated society that had been gathering in the Berkshires since the pre-war literary period, this group of new inhabitants dramatically changed the character of Lenox and Stockbridge, and to a lesser degree Great Barrington as well. Fortunately for the local communities, many of the new residents were generous philanthropists, who utilized their fortunes to fund schools, libraries, and other civic improvements.

In March of 1882 the third church of the Society was destroyed by fire. Several pieces of its furnishings were salvaged, and remain in use today in the present church and manse. In spite of the complete devastation of the building, due to the fact that the foundation and much of the lower walls were still usable, along with insurance coverage and generous donations from parishioners and outside friends, plans for a new church were accepted a mere three months later, and the present church, with a chapel wing on the north side, was dedicated on September 1, 1883. The building's architect was William C. Brocklesby (1841-1910). He had studied architecture under Richard Upjohn, and began his practice in Hartford, Connecticut in 1878. He is best known for his public and institutional architecture. He designed many

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetThe Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 5

buildings in the Hartford area, in particular. Among his few religious buildings are the Church of the Redeemer in Hartford, the early St. James Church in New Bedford, MA (1879), and St. Mark's Church in Adams, MA. He designed numerous buildings in western Massachusetts, including Lilly Hall (1886) at Smith College and the Forbes Library, both in Northampton, the Gymnasium and Rockefeller Hall for Mount Holyoke College, and the Kneeland Memorial Chancel in Lenox. Builders of the new church were Bartlett Brothers of East Whately, Mass. under mason John Mullaly of Springfield and carpenter D.C. Mather of Northampton; the stained glass was made in Boston by W.J. McPherson. The stone work was by A. Budde & Co. of Hartford, with limestone cut from the same quarry on Mt. Peter on South Main Street, Great Barrington that furnished the material for the 1859 church, thus affording an identical match to the re-used stone from the walls of that building. The brownstone trim came from Portland, Connecticut.

The building of both the 1883 church in its present form, and a year later the addition of its manse and carriage house, were made possible by the generosity of a woman who has been called the "fairy godmother" of Great Barrington. As wealthy, or wealthier, than many of the summer "cottagers", Mrs. Mary Frances (Sherwood) Hopkins had been born here, the daughter of William Sherwood, head of a select school for girls. She was the widow of railroad magnate Mark Hopkins, her cousin and a great-grandson of the Rev. Samuel Hopkins. Mark Hopkins, with Colis P. Huntington, Leland Stanford, and Charles Crocker, had been one of the "big four" railroad barons who developed the Central Pacific Railroad and accomplished the 1869 linking of the east and west coasts by rail. On his death in 1878, Mrs. Hopkins, already wealthy in her own right, received three-quarters of his estate, estimated at between fifteen and fifty million dollars. Although Mrs. Hopkins made her home in San Francisco and was apparently only a summer resident of Great Barrington for many years, her management of her considerable real estate holdings, (cf. the 1885-1888 Hopkins/Searles Castle, NR: 1982), and the broad extent of her philanthropy, along with that of other Hopkins family members, had a profound influence on the town.

Mrs. Hopkins donated \$5,000 to the rebuilding of the church, as did her brother-in-law, Moses Hopkins. Together the two contributions were largely responsible for the high quality of the building's materials and the lavishness of its decoration. In addition, Mrs. Hopkins' adopted son Timothy Hopkins made a \$40,000 contribution, to build what was called at the time "the finest and most perfect" organ in America. Designed by prominent

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 6

organ-builder Hilborne Roosevelt of New York, it was the third largest instrument of its type in the United States, with 60 stops and 3,954 pipes.

Hilborne Roosevelt, the most influential American organ-builder of his day, was known for his numerous technical innovations, many of which show the influence of European organ construction. He died in 1886 at the age of 37, and in his life built 358 organs. Of the 34 remaining today, the Great Barrington organ is the largest and the fifth oldest. He built into this instrument several of his important innovations, including ventil stop action wind chests, a pneumatic on each pipe, and adjustable combination action. Although the entire organ was converted in 1907 to electricity instead of the original water motors, it was one of the first four instruments in which Roosevelt introduced electric action in the echo section, a technical advancement which had made the Roosevelt Organ Co. display one of the showstoppers of the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. No expense was spared in either the technical workings or the finishing of the organ. Its elaborately carved cherry wood case was designed by the well-known London designer, George A. Audsley, and executed in Roosevelt's factory. In 1936 the organ console was replaced by a larger one of modern design built by William W. Laws, Sr. of Beverly, Mass., which is tonally the same as the original console. In the late 1930s, with the employment of a full-time director of music, the church's musical program developed to a position of pre-eminence in western Massachusetts. Today the organ is still the largest pipe organ in western Massachusetts, and accompanies the largest church choir in South Berkshire County. Ever since its construction, concerts, and later recordings, by prominent musicians have taken place here, augmenting the church's religious function with an important role in the field of music and the arts. For one of its first concerts, for instance, a special train was run by the New Haven Railroad to bring people to hear the foremost organist of the day, Frederic Archer. Recent concerts have included a joint 1977 performance by soprano Phyllis Curtin and organist Donald Paterson, and a 100th anniversary concert series by eminent organists in 1983.

The Hopkins family gifts of 1883 were far exceeded by Mrs. Hopkins' donation of the next year, of \$100,000 for the manse and carriage house, which she dedicated to the Rev. Samuel Hopkins. She acquired the house lot just north of the church to expand the property to its present dimensions, completely financed the buildings, and decorated and furnished the manse. Much of the furniture she purchased remains in use and in excellent condition. Newspapers of the time called the manse "the finest ecclesiastical residence in New England, grander even than the residences in Boston of the Episcopal Bishop of

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetThe Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 7

Massachusetts and the Roman Catholic Archbishop." A controversial building, the manse was also highly criticized for its lavishness and expense. Architects for the manse and carriage house were the prolific Peabody and Stearns, among the most sought-after designers of fashionable residences. Their work included several of the neighboring "Berkshire cottages." Extant buildings in the Great Barrington/Lenox/Stockbridge area by Robert Stearns and John Peabody include nearly a dozen houses, of which Charles Lanier's "Allen Winden" of 1881 predates the church, and several other well-known mansions such as "Elm Court" and "Wyndhurst" were built several years later.

The builders of the manse and carriage house were McNeil Brothers of Boston. Stone for their construction was taken from Mrs. Hopkins' own quarry east of the river on East Mountain, which was also to furnish the material for her "Hopkins/Searles Castle" of 1885-1888. The interior "decorators, painters, and furnishers" for the manse were Herter Brothers of New York, for whom Edward P. Searles, Mrs. Hopkins' future husband, was sales representative and designer. Through Mr. Searles' interior design of both the Congregational manse and the Searles Castle, as well as his later renovation of one of the town's earliest houses and his gift of the Searles High School, he too, had a profound influence on late-nineteenth-century Great Barrington.

By the turn of the twentieth century, the Congregational Church began to expand into other community roles, joining on occasion for services and projects with other churches, and functioning as a community center. The chapel was converted to a parish hall, and in the 1920s club rooms for boys' clubs, girls' "Willing Workers," and a room and kitchenette for the Young Married People's Club, which performed many church maintenance projects, were built in the upper floors of the carriage house.

The First Congregational Church will celebrate its 250th anniversary in 1993. Its designation to the National Register will help with future fundraising for the buildings, and crown recent preservation efforts, such as those in the 1970s by the Music Committee and the Organ Task Force which conducted a "Save the Roosevelt" campaign that saved the great Roosevelt organ from replacement by an electronic instrument.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Great Barrington are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area can

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Society of the Congregationa Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 8

contribute to a greater understanding of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in Western Massachusetts in general and inland portions of the Housatonic drainage.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing more detailed informations in the 1859 church which burned in 1882. Construction features and trash areas resulting from demolition of the burned church may identify changes which occurred from the earlier church and it's rebuilding as well as specific architectural features of the 1859 church.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 1

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Audsley, George A. The Art of Organ Building. NY: Dover Publications, 1965.

Barnes, William H. The Contemporary American Organ. NY: J. Fischer & Bro., 1956.

The Berkshire Courier, September 12, 1883.

The Boston Organ Club Newsletter. April, 1973. Pp. 3-7.

The Builder, Holyoke, MA, Vol. III, Number 1, January, 1884.

Conn, Howard J. The Congregational Church of Great Barrington, a History, 1743-1943.

Great Barrington, MA: 1943.

The Diapason, Official Journal of the American Institute of Organbuilders, April 1976.

Floyd, Margaret Henderson. "Peabody & Stearns Projects in Massachusetts." Unpublished catalog, 1990.

Hilborne L. Roosevelt Organs, Catalog of the Roosevelt Organ Co. 1883. Pp. 96-99.

Holden, Wheaton A. "The Peabody Touch." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XXXII, Number 2, May 1973, p. 128.

Taylor, Charles J. History of Great Barrington. 1882. Annotated by Ralph W. Pope and George E. Maclean 1922; Revised by George E. Maclean, 1928. Great Barrington, MA: Town of Great Barrington, 1928.

The Tracker, Journal of the Organ Historical Society. Vol. XXXII, Number 4, 1989.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

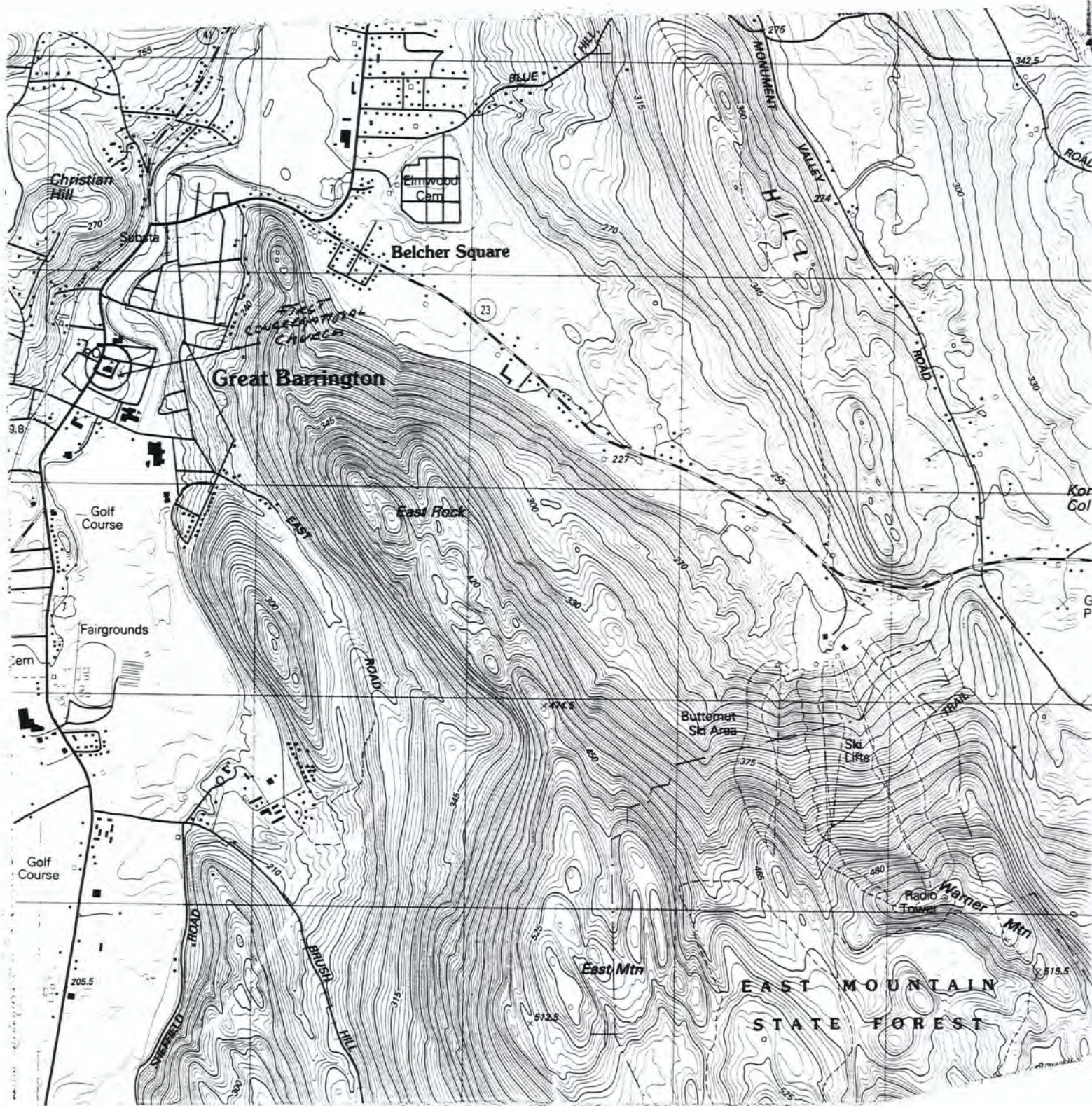
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, cont.

Verbal Boundary Description

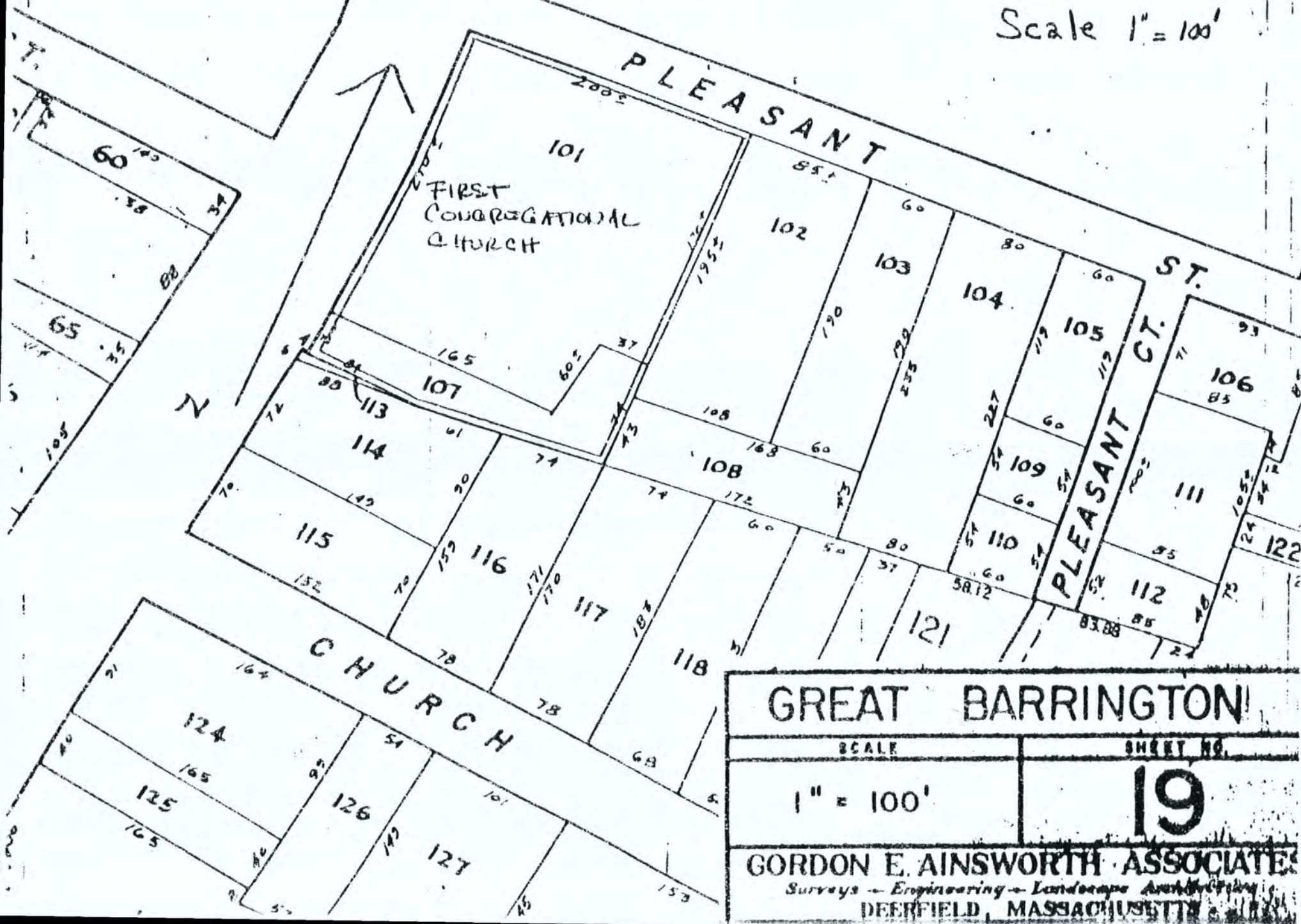
The boundary of the nominated property is shown as Lots 101 and 107 on the accompanying detail of the Great Barrington Assessor's map, Sheet #19. This is the property described in deeds filed with the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds, Book 51, page 57, and Book 153, pages 641-642. The total lot area is 1.25 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire two parcels of land belonging to the Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington. It includes the church, manse, carriage house, 1884 mounting block, and land historically associated with the property since 1812, when the second Congregational Church was built here, and since 1883 when Mrs. Mary F.S. Hopkins donated the northerly portion for the building of the manse and carriage house.



Scale $1'' = 100'$





FOURTH and PRESENT BUILDINGS of the Great Barrington First Congregational Church

Rebuilt on foundation and considerable amount
of the standing walls of third building

Blue/gray limestone and trim of Portland, Conn.
brown stone, spire lowered to 110'

William Claiborne Brockelsby of Hartford, Conn.
was the architect of this building

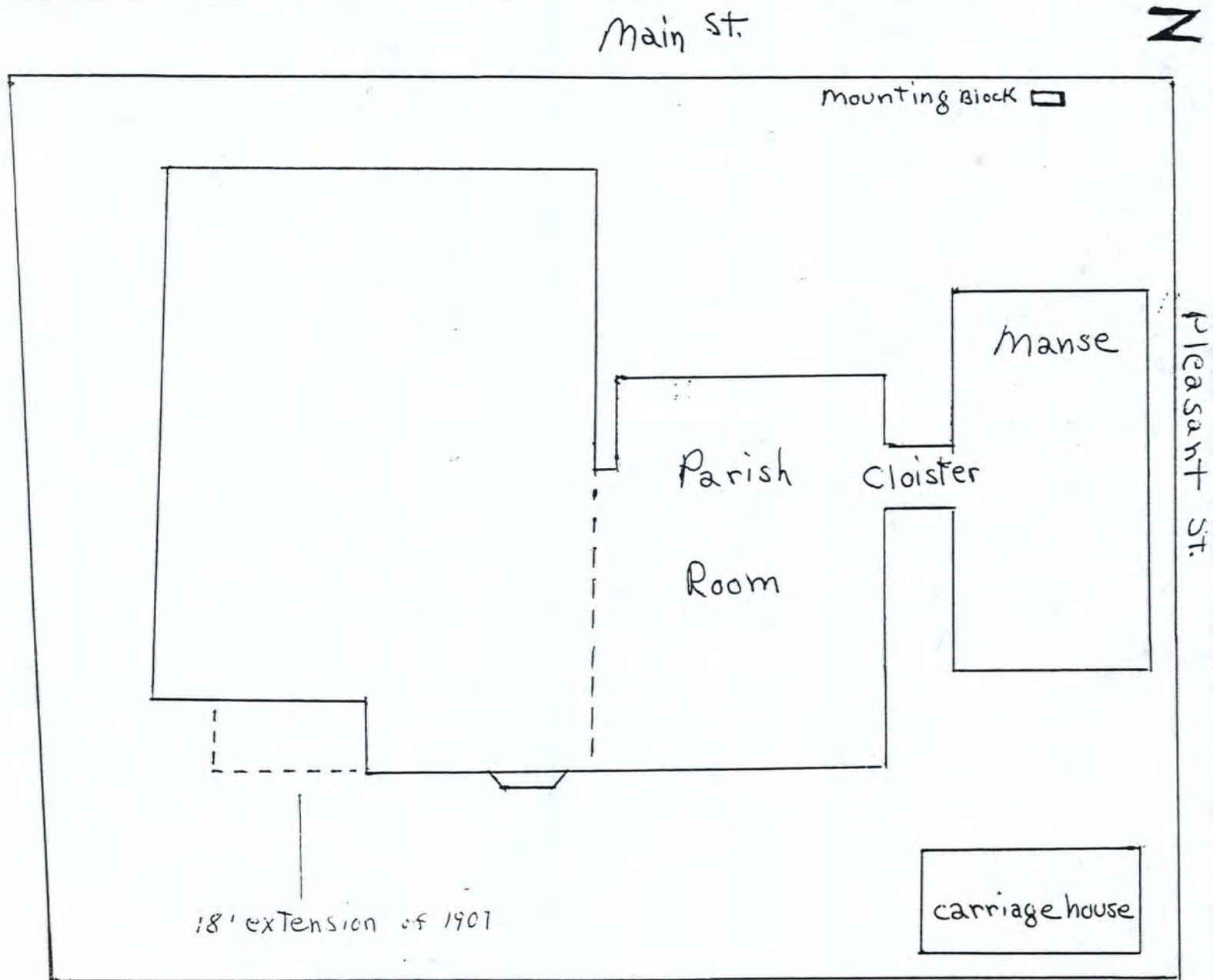
Dedicated September 21, 1883

Lot of 1812 now joined by land
given by Mary Frances Sherwood
Hopkins

Building of Manse gift of
Mrs. Hopkins, also
Hilborne L. Roosevelt Organ
gift of Timothy Hopkins

Building Committee - John L. Dodge, president of
Mahawaiwe Bank, Parley A. Russell, president
of Berkshire Woolen Co., Rev. Evarts Scudder,
pastor, Charles J. Taylor, treasurer Great
Barrington Savings and Dr. Samuel Camp

W. J. McPherson, Boston, Mass. executed stained
glass and interior fresco work



The Society of Congregational Church of Great Barrington
Great Barrington, Massachusetts

RESOURCE COUNT

<u>RESOURCE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTRIBUTING/ NON-CONTRIBUTING</u>
First Congregational Church	building	1883	contributing
Manse	building	1884	contributing
Carriage house	building	1884	contributing
Roosevelt organ	object	1883	contributing
Mounting block	object	1884	contributing

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION SHEET

State Name MA

County Name Berkshire

Resource Name Society of the Congreg. Church of Great Barrington

Data Collector's Surname Mackie

Today's Date 7/14/92

Federal Register List / /

Cert. Date / /

Reference No. 92000999

Describe Problem:

Added secondary structure & street furniture/object to historic
and current functions (from text).

Entered "Brocklesby, William C. Et al." for arch./blks
(from text).

Team Leader Date / / N R Staff Date / /

Problem Team Date / /

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000999

Date Listed: 08/20/92

Society of the Congregational
Church of Great Barrington
Property Name

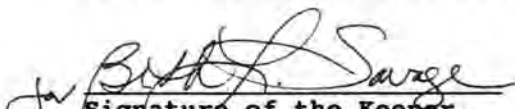
Berkshire
County

MA
State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

8/20/92
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Area(s) and Period(s)

Social history is the most applicable area of significance under criterion A, not community planning and development.

This information was discussed with Doug Kelleher, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

DATE RECEIVED: 7/06/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/21/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/06/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/20/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000999

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8/20/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 8/20/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification

☐ materials

☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph

☐ completeness

☐ clarity

☐ applicable criteria

☐ justification of areas checked

☐ relating significance to the resource

☐ context

☐ relationship of integrity to significance

☐ justification of exception

☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description

☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



A. M. Costello.  Great Barrington, Mass.

First Congregational Church
251 Main Street
Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

Church Record, copy of photo circa. 1890

View of Congregational Manse and church from
Main Street. Note Mounting Block, corner of
Pleasant Street.

5 of 55.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

Berkshire Co.

Ca. 1890 view of manse and church

Photo of ca 1890



First Congregational Church
251 Main Street
Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

Photographer, Roy Lindstrom

Feb. 1970

Hilborne L. Roosevelt Organ, Opus #113, 1883
as it appears today (1990) in sanctuary (Main St.
side). The instrument is divided into five
sections: Great, Swell, Choir, Pedal & Echo. At
time of construction, it was one of largest three
manuel organs ever built in this country or abroad.
Roosevelt recorded this as one of first four organs
he experimented with electrical pneumatic action
to the Echo section.

10
of
55

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

BURKSHIRE CO.

- organ

1970

Photo by Roy Lindstrom



First Congregational Church
251 Main Street
Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

Photographer, Alfred Lenardson Dec. 1989

View Northeast of First Congregational Church,
251 Main Street.

15 of 55.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREAT BARRINGTON
BURKSHIRE CO., MA

1989

- view N.E.

Photo by Alfred Lenardson



First Congregational Church
251 Main Street
Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

Photographer, Alfred Lenardson Dec. 1989

Front elevation and Spire from Main Street.

16 05 55.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREAT BARRINGTON

BERKSHIRE CO, MA

1989

- west facade

Photo by Alfred Lenardson



First Congregational Church
251 Main Street
Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

Photographer, Alfred Lenardson Dec. 1989

View East of Manse, front elevation.

18 of 55.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREAT BARRINGTON

Berkshire Co., MA

- view E. of manse, front

1989

Photo by Alfred Lenardson



First Congregational Church
251 Main Street
Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

Photographer, Alfred Lenardson Dec. 1989

View Southeast from Pleasant Street, of
Manse built in 1884. Designed by Peabody &
Stearns of Boston.

19 05 55.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREAT BARRINGTON

Berkshire Co., MA.

- view SE, toward manse

1989

Photo by Alfred Lenardson



First Congregational Church
251 Main Street
Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

Photographer, Alfred Lenardson Dec. 1989

View Southeast of Manse, showing Carriage
House from Pleasant Street.

23 of 55.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
BERKSHIRE CO.

1989

View SE, to Carriage house

Photo by Alfred Lenardson



First Congregational Church
251 Main Street
Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

Photographer, James Parrish Feb. 1990

Congregational Church, interior of Sanctuary,
view East toward Altar.

30 05 55.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

B GRESHAM CO.

1990

- interior of Sanctuary

Photo by James Parrish

Missing Core Documentation

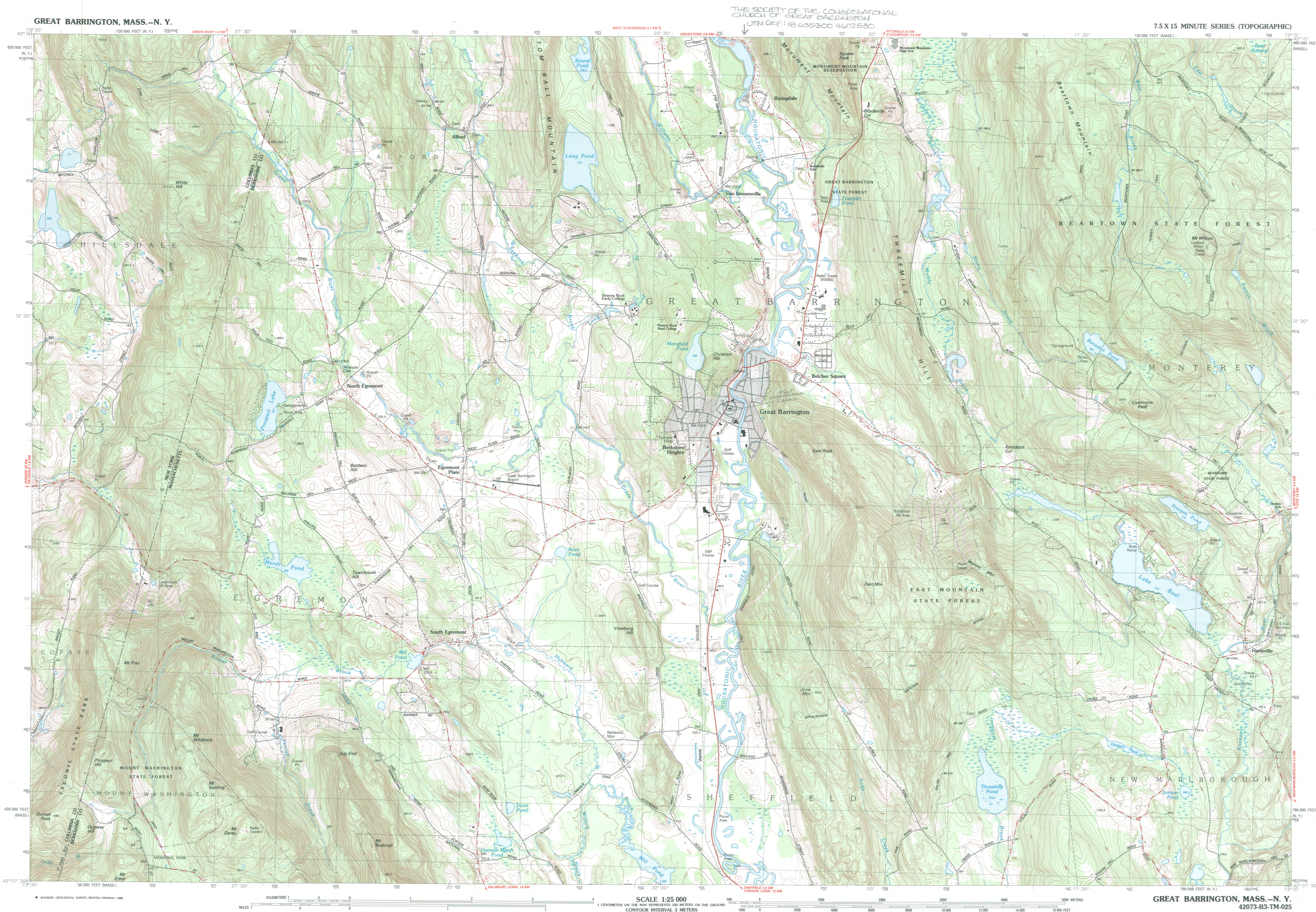
Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington	Berkshire, Massachusetts	92000999

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☒ Photographs (#s: 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 17, 20-22, 24-29, 31-55)

☐ USGS Map



110022
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
42° 07' 30" N
73° 15' 00" W

Great Barrington MASS.-N. Y.

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1984. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1987
Superimposed Egremont and Great Barrington 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1973
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18
Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, and New York coordinate system, east zone 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 36 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	Magnetic Declination		1	2	3
1	3.2808	Magnetic Declination		4	5	6
2	6.5617	Magnetic Declination		7	8	9
3	9.8425	Magnetic Declination		10	11	12
4	13.1234	Magnetic Declination		13	14	15
5	16.4042	Magnetic Declination		16	17	18
6	19.6850	Magnetic Declination		19	20	21
7	22.9659	Magnetic Declination		22	23	24
8	26.2467	Magnetic Declination		25	26	27
9	29.5276	Magnetic Declination		28	29	30
10	32.8084	Magnetic Declination		31	32	33

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1987 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

1 Chatham (7.5')
2 Stockbridge
3 East Lee
4 Hildesdale (7.5')
5 Oke
6 Copake (7.5')
7 Ashby Falls
8 Tolland Center

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road; trail
Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State
Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
Bridge: drawbridge
Footbridge; overpass; underpass
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
House; barn; church; school; large structure
Boundary
National, with monument
State
County, parish
Civil township, precinct, district
Incorporated city, village, town
National or State reservation; small park
Land grant with monument; found section corner
U. S. public lands survey: range, township; section
Range, township; section line; location approximate
Fence or field line
Power transmission line, located tower
Dam; dam with lock
Canal; grass
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
Well; water well; spring
Mine shaft; prospect; edit or cave
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
Distorted surface: strip mine; lava; sand
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
Rapid, large and small; falls, large and small
Swamp; marsh
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation
Woodland; scattered trees
Sod; meadow
Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



06

NATIONAL
REGISTER

June 29, 1992

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

The Society of the Congregational Church of Great Barrington, 241 & 251 Main Street, Great Barrington (Berkshire County), Massachusetts 01230.

The nomination was voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Barbara Syer, First Congregation Church of Great Barrington
James & Lila Parrish, Co-Chairs, Great Barrington Historical Commission
Richard J. Louison, Chairman, Great Barrington Board of Selectmen
Anne McCarthy Forbes, Preservation Consultant