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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 any 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 Fitch-Hoose House

other names/site number Hoose House

2. Location

street & number 6 Gulf Road not for publication

city or town Dalton vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Berkshire code 003 zip code 01226

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Brona Simon May 4, 2010
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

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 this 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

Edson H. Beall 6-24-10

Fitch-Hoose House
Name of Property

Berkshire, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(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	
1	0	building
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls vinyl

roof asphalt

other brick

Narrative Description

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

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Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

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7. Narrative Description

The Fitch-Hoose House is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of High Street, Park Avenue, and Bridle Road in the Berkshire County town of Dalton in Western Massachusetts. High Street, west of Park, is also known as Gulf Road, the property being at the eastern end of The Gulf, a rugged and picturesque wooded area where African-Americans are known to have settled in the 19th century. There are other houses of similar scale and form farther east on High Street, where other black families are known to have lived. The area is locally known as having originated as an African-American enclave.

The main section of the 1½-story house measures roughly 20 feet by 12 feet, with a one-story extension measuring 28 feet by 12 feet on the rear (photos 1-3). The rear edge of the gable roof of the main section terminates slightly above the flatter shed roof on the extension. A historic photograph (ca.1900) suggests that the eastern portion of this extension was added to the house at an early date (Fig.1). Its roof had a steeper pitch than the existing roof and was contiguous with the main roof. It was originally about 14 feet in length. This section has been enlarged with a recent addition doubling its size and extending it about eight feet past the west wall of the main section; the pitch and connection of the roof was evidently altered at this time (photo 2). The walls of the entire house have been covered with a green vinyl clapboard siding, and the roofing material is now light gray asphalt shingles on the main section, and asphalt sheets on the extension. There is a full stone basement under the main section with brick courses at the top for a more finished exterior appearance. The extension was constructed over a crawl space, with a stone foundation visible under the older section and a concrete block foundation under the addition.

The main section of the house is framed with timber principal members and sawn joists, studs and rafters in a manner typical for the mid 19th century. Corner posts are exposed on the interior in the traditional New England fashion, but are boxed rather than planed, again reflecting 19th-century methods. There are timber cross beams near the center of the main and attic floors that carry the partitions dividing both levels into two rooms (Figs.2 & 3, photo 5). Sawn floor joists (three-to-six inches) are notched into the tops of these beams, as well as sills and girts at the outside ends. They are spaced 21 inches apart on centers on the main floor and 26 inches on centers on the attic floor. Rafters measure three by four inches and are spaced 30 inches apart on centers. The framing method employed in the older part of the extension has not been determined; the extension addition is framed with current materials and practices.

The front (south) façade contains an off-center entrance flanked by windows (Figs. 2 & 3 and photos 1 & 3). Two attic-story windows that appear in the historic photograph and are still visible on the interior have been covered by the current wall siding (Fig.1). The original door and frame are intact (glazing has been added to the upper section of the door), and a metal storm door has been added to the exterior. Window openings and frames are intact, but the historic sash have been removed and replaced with metal framed sash with insulated glass. In the historic photograph, the windows contained 2/2 wood sash.

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The east facade of the house contains windows centered in the ground and attic stories (photo 1). The original openings and frames are intact, but the sashes have been replaced. A square brick chimney is attached to the exterior wall near the northeast corner where the main section joins the extension. Its height has been increased by the addition of three concrete chimney blocks on top of the brick. The east end of the extension contains a door and a window, which are later additions, as the historic view shows only a door centrally placed in the wall (Fig. 1). The wood door has a plate-glass window in its upper half, and a metal storm door has been added to the exterior. The window sash has been replaced more recently. A louvered vent is located in the upper south corner.

The west end has an irregular façade due to the presence of the projecting addition of the rear extension (photo 3). The wall of the main section has but a single window centered in the attic. There is no window on the main level, and there is no particular evidence that one located there originally would have been walled over. The west wall of the shed-roof extension is also blank except for a louvered vent in the uppermost location. A window is centered in the north wall of the part of the extension protruding beyond the main section. All windows contain replacement sash. Electric and telephone service are attached to the front edge of the main section.

Only the rear wall of the extension is visible on the north side of the house (photo 2). It contains four windows, with a brick chimney located on the eastern side of the façade. The division between the two sections is clearly evident in the differing size of windows east and west, the contrasting foundation materials, and the failing connection between the two parts of the roof. The chimney was built on a concrete base, and it also was elongated vertically with the addition of flue tile. The present chimneys date to the 20th century. It appears there was no heat in the house originally, or at least no masonry chimney; possibly, a cook stove and earlier chimney or pipe existed in the rear section of the house that is not visible in the historic photo (Fig. 1).

The interior of the main section of the house is divided into two rooms (Figs. 2 & 3). The principal living room is located on the east side and measures about 11 feet square with a door and a window on the south wall and a window centered in the east wall (photo 4). The corner posts in the northeast and southeast corners protrude into the room, with the casing of the lower half stepped out from that on the upper half. There is a doorway in the east end of the north wall, which connects with the kitchen in the rear; there are two doorways on the west wall, one leading to the bed chamber and one opening on the enclosure containing the attic stairs (photo 5). Walls and ceiling retain their original lath and plaster under a later application of gypsum board. Window and door openings are framed with four-inch board surrounds. Original doors remain in the doorways to the exterior and the attic; the other two doors have been removed. Historic 6/6 (east) and 2/2 (south) wood window sash have been replaced with metal 1/1 sash containing insulated glass. (The 2/2 sash were late 19th-century upgrades.) A narrow-gauge (2½ inch wide) hardwood floor has been applied over the original wide pine boards. A smaller bed chamber measuring roughly 8½ feet across the front (south) and eight feet deep occupies the southwest corner of the main section (IMAGE 6). The enclosure containing the stair to the attic is located behind the smaller chamber, filling out the northwest corner of the plan. A window is centered in the south wall of the bed chamber, and a doorway to the living room is centered in the east wall. There does not appear to have been a window in the blank west wall. The historic 2/2 wood sash have been replaced with 1/1 metal sash containing insulated glass. Original lath and plaster walls are covered with gypsum board, and hardwood flooring has been added. The stairs to the attic are steep, with seven-inch treads and nine-inch risers. Original plaster finish is exposed on the walls.

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Dalton (Berkshire), MA

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The two attic rooms are roughly the same dimension as those below them, except there is no partition dividing the stairs from the west room. A recent wood-stud partition divides the space about one foot east of the girt at the east end of the stair hole. It probably replaces a board wall in the same general location. Any evidence of an earlier wall is concealed under later cellulose boards covering the walls and ceiling. Whitewash visible on rafters and the underside of the roof, as well as on wall studs and sheathing, indicates that the interior surfaces of the wall and roof framing were not covered until the early 20th century (photo 7). There are single windows centered in the gable ends, now containing replacement sash. Two window openings in the kneewall on the front (south) side of the house are still in place, even though they have been sided over on the exterior. No window sashes remain in the openings, however.

The basement is unfinished, with stone walls and floor framing exposed. Fiberglass insulation has been added between the ceiling joists; the floor is dirt. There are a number of brick courses at the top of the wall with two window openings that have been filled in. Access to the basement is made through a door located in the west side of the north wall of the main level at the top of crude wood stairs in the northwest corner of the basement. This would have been an exterior entrance before the rear section was recently lengthened. The stairs leading from this entrance are relatively new. No evidence of another entrance has been found.

The kitchen occupies the east side of the two-stage section added to the rear of the house. (This first addition probably was built around the time Charles A. Hoose moved into the house in 1874.) The room measures roughly 14½ feet long and 11½ feet deep (Fig.2). It has an exterior entrance and window on the west end and two windows on the north side (photo 8). A doorway to the living room is located at the west end of the south wall, and a doorway to a passage in the next addition is located in the south end of the west wall. The level of the floor in the addition is a few inches higher, and a ramp was constructed within the doorway to compensate for the difference. The exterior door is original, although a plate-glass window has been added to the top; replacement sash has been installed within existing window openings. Lath and plaster walls and ceiling have been covered with later materials, and the floor has been covered with asphalt tiles. The addition on the west side of the kitchen doubled the size of the rear section. A bathroom abuts the kitchen, and a passageway traverses across its south side to provide access to a bed chamber on the extreme west end of the section. Two windows are located on the north wall, one for the bathroom and one for the bed chamber. A second window for the bed chamber is located in the south wall in a section that extends beyond the west wall of the main section of the house. These windows have also been replaced. The walls and ceiling have their original gypsum board finish.

The exterior and interior surfaces of the house have been updated with modern materials applied over the historic original wood clapboard (exterior) and lath and plaster (interior) finishes. Window sash were replaced in 1991 in an effort to conserve energy and better insulate the house in winter. (It is possible, but not known for certain, that insulation was blown into wall cavities at this time.) However, original room plans and materials survive and could be restored. The recent addition extending the rear section westward has not altered the historic fabric of the house.

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Fitch-Hoose House
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Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded on the Fitch-Hoose House property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native American sites. The house occupies an excessively drained, level to moderately sloping, glacial outwash terrace in close proximity to wetlands. Natural soils in the area are generally sandy, formed in glacial outwash material derived mainly from sand and gravel deposits. Urban land deposits, consisting of areas of soil that have been altered or obscured by urban works and structures are also located in the area. Some areas classified as urban land deposits would adversely effect the site potential in those locales. A small, unnamed, pond is located less than 1,000 feet northeast of the house. The East Branch of the Housatonic River is located approximately one-half mile south and southeast of the property. The Hoose House and most of the town of Dalton is located in the Housatonic River drainage. Given the above information, the small size of the nominated property (approximately 0.32 acres), and the extent of historic-period land use, a low to moderate potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the Fitch-Hoose House property.

A moderate to high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Fitch-Hoose House property. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate structural evidence of barns, stables, and outbuildings that may have existed on the property. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also exist. Careful systematic historic, architectural, and archaeological study should be made of the Fitch-Hoose House and its surroundings to identify potential architectural and archaeological characteristics unique to dwellings built for and resided in by 19th-century African Americans in western Massachusetts. Many of these African Americans were freed or fugitive slaves. Potential architectural and archaeological resources may exist for this property type that have previously not been identified.

(end)

Fitch-Hoose House

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA

County and State

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 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

(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

Community Planning & Development

Ethnic Heritage - Black

Period of Significance

1846-1960

Significant Dates

1846 (construction of house)

1868 (year Hoose family bought house)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Dalton Historical Commission

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Fitch-Hoose House is significant as a distinctive example of a dwelling built for and occupied by African Americans in the town of Dalton, MA. It is located at the edge "The Gulf," a rugged waste area known to have been settled by African Americans in the early 1800s as they either were freed or fled from slavery following the Revolutionary War. Philip Hoose was one of a number of men arriving in Berkshire County who were either freed or fugitive slaves from the Hudson Valley of New York and who retained the Dutch names of their masters. (Hoose is derived from Hoes, Goes, or Van Hoesen.) Philip Hoose first appears in the 1820 census for neighboring Cheshire, but he moved to Dalton, and most likely The Gulf, by 1830, where he and his wife, Hannah, raised a large family.

Philip Hoose's grandson Charles Hoose bought the Hoose House from farmer John Curtis in 1868. The house had been occupied by different black families since it was built in 1846 by William H. Bogart, a Dalton cotton manufacturer, and sold to Henry Fitch, an African American born in Connecticut. The Hoose family occupied the house for three generations, and represents an important African-American presence in the town. The 1½-story wood-frame house has changed little, except superficially, in its more-than-160-year history. Its transitional wood frame, with principal timbers and secondary sawn components, is intact and typical of its mid 19th-century construction period. The two-room floor plan is a common size and arrangement for a laborer's dwelling. The shed-roof rear extension was probably built after Charles Hoose purchased the property to add kitchen space. Such small dwellings are rare, especially without transformative additions and alterations.

The property meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level. Under Criterion A, it has historical significance for its association with the origin and development of the African-American community in Dalton and its neighboring towns. It also is a landmark of community planning in the era when blacks were physically as well as socially marginalized on poorer quality lands on the fringe of white settlements. In terms of Criterion C the house is a rare, distinctive, and well-documented example of a 19th-century African-American dwelling with continued use through the entire 20th century.

Background

Charles Hoose purchased the original one-acre Dalton parcel that contains the "Fitch-Hoose House" from John Curtis on December 9, 1868.¹ Curtis was a farmer living in Dalton at the time. Charles Hoose was an African American of about 20 years of age, with a new wife and child. Yet, it appears that Charles did not immediately move into the house. In the 1870 U.S. Census he was recorded as a farmer in Hancock, with a household containing his wife, Deanna, son Charles (age 2 years), infant daughter Grace, and father Algernon (all mulattos), as well as two white French-Canadian male farm laborers. (The presence of French-Canadians in an African American household is unusual, perhaps indicating their lowered status in the period.) Charles was credited as owning \$1,500 of real estate, which possibly included the Dalton property. The 1874 *Berkshire County Directory* locates Charles Hoose in Dalton, and, on August 30, 1880, he filed a Declaration of Homestead in the Pittsfield Registry for the land he purchased from John Curtis in 1868.² The 1880 U.S. Census records him as a resident of Dalton. He was listed as a widower with three children, Charles, Grace, and Henry J. Hoose. Charles A. Hoose was the first of three generations who would inhabit the little house on High Street in Dalton for the next century and more.

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¹ Berkshire County Deeds, Adams Registry, 114:417.

² 240:449

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Charles A. Hoose was the grandson of Philip Hoose, whose name first appears in the 1820 census in Cheshire, a town bordering on Dalton. Although it is impossible to document, he likely came to Berkshire County from New York, where he had been a slave. It has long been known that this area of Western Massachusetts attracted a number of slaves fleeing bondage in neighboring sections of New York. As early as 1903, *The Berkshire Hills* monthly reported that "many of these slaves came to the western mountain fortresses of this county from New York state, as well as farther beyond, and pressed on to Vermont and north, [but] quite a number fled no farther, and were immune from capture by pursuing masters through the friendship of the early settlers and through hiding away in primitive cabins on the Greylock, Hoosac, or Taconic mountains and among their foothills."³ The name Hoose was likely derived from a Dutch master's surname, such as Hoes, Goes, or Van Hoesen, which were prominent farming families in Albany County on the west side of the New York border.⁴ Other black families in Berkshire County had more obvious Dutch names, such as Van Alstyne and Van Duzer.

Philip Hoose was under 45 years of age in 1820, which placed his birth around the time of the American Revolution. No Hoose is listed in any census prior to 1820 for any of the western Berkshire towns. According to New York State law, he would not have been legally manumitted until 1827 unless freed by certificate or will.⁵ Philip Hoose was either freed by a sympathetic master or fled across the border into Massachusetts. The fact that he kept his master's name and provided it to a census taker raises the question of to what extent he was hiding.

Eight African Americans were enumerated in Dalton in the 1790 census. Three of them were living in white households: one in Benjamin Chamberlain's, and two in Jared Foot's. The other five comprised the household of John Johnson, the only independent black listed in the town. In neighboring Lanesborough, fifteen African Americans were counted. There were four independent heads of households: Benager Hill, William Johnson, Cud John and Joseph Robinson. Each of the entries totaled two persons, suggesting that these were young married couples establishing themselves and their families. All of those enumerated in Dalton and in Lanesborough could have been residing in The Gulf, which was located along the boundary between the two towns. Notably, none of the surnames recorded can be construed as being Dutch in origin, raising doubts as to these individuals' origins in New York. No blacks were recorded in Cheshire, the town in which Philip Hoose would later settle. Pittsfield contained five independent African-American families in 1790, which amounted to 23 of the 45 blacks enumerated in the town. It is possible that Philip Hoose had arrived in Berkshire County and was an unnamed "other free person" in a white household in 1790; however, it is impossible to determine this from the available vital records.

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³ A transcription of this article is contained in "The Story of the Hoose House," a booklet of documentation prepared by the Dalton Historical Commission.

⁴ Present day Columbia and Greene counties were then part of Albany County.

⁵ David M. Ellis, et al., *A History of New York State* (Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 1967), 186. New York had the largest slave population among all the northern states. In 1790 over 11,000 African Americans lived in the state, mostly in rural areas in the Hudson Valley where Dutch and English farmers relied on them for their labor. Legislation was passed in 1785 that prohibited the importation of slaves for sale and permitted their release by certificate or will. Under pressure from abolitionists, the state established a complicated process for ending slavery. The children of slaves born after July 4, 1799 would have the status of bond servants and obtain full freedom when they reached age 28 years for males and age 25 for females. This law was expanded in 1817 so that all African Americans born before 4 July 1799 also would be declared free on July 4, 1827.

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John Johnson was still the only black head of household in Dalton when the 1800 census was taken, and his family of seven represented most of the nine "people of Colour" counted in the town. (Theodore Hinsdale and Calvin Walds each had one African American in their household.) The town of Cheshire also had one independent African-American family in 1800, which was headed by Adonijah Webster. David Camp and Phebe Prime were the only heads of black households in Lanesborough, which registered a total of 29 African Americans in the town. Pittsfield counted fifteen African-American households in 1800, with one head, Jacob Van Duzer, having a Dutch name. There were 80 people of color living in Pittsfield in 1800; by 1810, that number had increased to 128 (including one individual recorded as a slave). In 1810 there were 45 blacks in Lanesborough and 18 in Cheshire, but only one in Hinsdale. Dalton counted 37 African Americans, with 20 of them spread among four independent households headed by Stephen Thompson, John Tucker, Augustus Deming and Prince Danforth.

Philip Hoose was the head of one of three black households living in Cheshire in 1820. (Aaron Williams and Henry Vancycles [Van Syckles?] were the heads of the others). Only at this time do Dutch surnames begin to be associated with African Americans in Berkshire County. Philip was 26 to 45 years of age, and his wife (whose name was Hannah based on later vital records) was aged 14 to 26 years. They had four sons under 14 years of age. In addition, there were an older male and female over 45 years of age who were probably Hannah's parents. The final member of the household was a white male aged 14 to 26, perhaps a farm laborer. Based on Hannah's and the children's ages, the Hooses were not married for more than ten years, which would explain why Philip did not appear as a head of household prior to 1820 in Massachusetts. However, he and Hannah were likely married after he obtained his freedom, as slave families were routinely broken up in New York. It would be unusual if Philip escaped slavery together with a wife and small children, or, for that matter, his parents. This suggests that Hannah was a member of one of the black families already living in the Cheshire area and that she married Philip and bore their children in Massachusetts. This scenario also supports the contention that Philip Hoose was a fugitive when he arrived in Berkshire County from New York. There were also four black households in Lanesborough in 1820, one headed by Peter Kip, another African American using a Dutch surname. Hinsdale reported no African Americans, but Dalton enumerated 36 blacks, with five independent households headed by Prince Huntington, John Tucker, Benjamin Spires, John Handler, and Frank Arnum (perhaps from the Dutch name Van Arnum).

In the 1830 census, Philip Hoose (spelled Hoos) and his household are recorded as living in Dalton, where the family remained, in one form or another, thereafter. Philip was still the head of a three-generation family. The Hooses were one of three African-American families, and thirteen of the 29 blacks living in Dalton that year. (Philip and Hannah had nine children.) John Tucker and Squire Gardner were the other two heads of households. Thomas Hoose and his family were enumerated in the town of Lenox, and, based on their comparative ages, Thomas could have been Philip's older brother, but their actual relationship is unknown. In 1840, Philip Hoose and family still resided in Dalton and Thomas Hoose and family in Lenox, while Sally Hoose, a free colored female 55 to 100 years of age, lived alone in Pittsfield. By this time, the grandfather in Philip's household was deceased and half of the eight children living at home had been born since the last census, indicating that five others had moved out. Since none of them are listed as heads of household, the sons were probably unmarried and boarding with other white or black families, and the daughters were either boarding or married.

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Dalton (Berkshire), MA

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One of those sons, Amos, appears in the 1850 Dalton census. He was 26 years of age and living with his mother, Hannah, age 52 years, and brothers, Richard, Stanley, and Edwin. Philip Hoose evidently had died. Another son, John A. [Algernon] Hoose (age 35 years), his wife, Sylva, and their children, John W., Caroline S., and Charles A., (ages six, four and two years, respectively,) lived in Hinsdale. John is listed just before Squires P. Hoose (27 years), yet another of Philip's sons, and his family. Alonzo Hoose (30 years) was a fourth son. He lived in Lanesborough with his household in the midst of other African-American families named Van Alstyne, Roberts, Arnum, Tucker, Jackson, and Moore. This remarkable grouping surely represents the informal black community that had developed in The Gulf. The location of Philip Hoose's dwelling is not known, but it was probably on the portion of The Gulf within the bounds of the town of Dalton.

Amos Hoose was credited with owning real estate in Dalton valued at \$500 in 1850. His entry followed that of William Van Alstein (Alstyne), a 60 year-old African American born in New York and bearing a Dutch name. Both men were farmers, as was Henry Fitch, who was listed two entries previous to them. Although not identified as black in the 1850 schedule, Henry Fitch was an African American. (He was identified as free colored male in the 1840 census for Stockbridge.) On September 15, 1846, Fitch bought a 1½-acre parcel from William H. Bogart, a Dalton cotton manufacturer.⁶ It was bounded on the south by the "county road leading to Lanesborough," on the north by the lands of O.P. Dickenson and Henry Chamberlain, and on the east by "Abby Road, so called." Bogart had purchased the parcel but one month earlier for \$15 from Henry Chamberlain. Fitch was identified as a resident of Pittsfield, and he paid \$75 for the property, for which he gave a mortgage to Bogart.⁷ The increase in value suggests that in the intervening month a dwelling was built. Three years later, before moving to Cummington, Bogart conveyed Fitch's mortgage to paper manufacturer Zenas M. Crane.⁸ Henry Fitch died soon after the 1850 census was taken (there is no document indicating that the mortgage was paid), and Crane held onto the property until 1856 when he sold it for \$125 to Celestine Barnard of Dalton.⁹ The deed noted that it had been "recently occupied by Charles Hambleton," likely another African American. Within months Barnard sold the property to his wife, Margaret, "to her sole and separate use free from the interference or control of her husband."¹⁰

Details about the Barnards or their use and eventual disposition of the property are not known. A twelve-year gap exists in the records between the Barnard transfer in 1856 and the deed by which John Curtis conveyed the dwelling to Philip Hoose's grandson, Charles A. Hoose, in 1868.¹¹ John Curtis was a white farmer from Dalton; his name appeared just before Henry Fitch's in the 1850 Dalton census schedule. Hoose paid \$150 for the property, giving Curtis a \$100 mortgage to be paid in two equal payments of \$50 plus 7% interest on November 9, 1869, and November 9, 1870.¹² From this point on, the Hoose family was the occupant of the house on Gulf Road in Dalton (now High Street). Charles A. Hoose (1848-ca. 1940) lost his first wife, Diana, shortly after the time their son, Henry, was born in 1874. Charles's name first appeared in the Dalton directory in 1874, and the 1880 census lists him as a widower. In that same year he placed his 11-year-old son, Charles, in service on a farm in Pittsfield, and his 10-year-old daughter, Grace, boarded in the household of Cordelius Todd, an African

(continued)

⁶ Berkshire County Deeds, Adams Registry, 64:83.

⁷ Ibid., 91:499.

⁸ Ibid., 61:500.

⁹ Ibid., 83:297.

¹⁰ Ibid., 83:299.

¹¹ Ibid., 114:147.

¹² Ibid., 114:419.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

Section number 8 Page 5

American living in Pittsfield. Perhaps this was in anticipation of his impending second marriage to Ellen Hamilton, who was born in 1861 in New Jersey. Charles and Ellen Hoose went on to produce 13 children in the small house at 475 High Street (formerly Gulf Road). Charles Hoose died in the 1930s, and his wife, Ellen, lived until 1945, at which time various of their children and grandchildren occupied the house. Their granddaughter, Charlayne Hoose, the daughter of their son Charles A. Hoose, resided there until her death. The last family members to occupy the house were Charlayne's cousins Florence and Hannah Richards, who both lived until 1998, and Helen M. Madison, who died in 2001.

A 1903 article stated that "many of these slaves remained in their wilderness homes especially in the Saddleback range and in Lanesboro Gulf."¹³ A 1926 item stated: "From 1800 to 1820 or later, the Lanesboro Gulf was full of Negro cabins... Some of these cabins had their patches of gardens where they cultivated corn, potatoes, berries, roots and fish. On these folks lived comfortably but humbly, but in the enjoyment of the freedom which they had thus isolated themselves to procure."¹⁴ In reality, the settlements of these African Americans had been restricted to this and other marginalized areas by the white community, rather than them choosing these mountainous waste areas as hiding places. They evidently were permitted to squat in The Gulf because it was separate and had no better use. A 1905 account in *Berkshire Hills Monthly* described the scene in a highly romanticized and racially stereotyped manner. "At this time Sambo [no such name appears in the census] and Dinah, a colored couple well along in years, had a little shanty of their own construction in the Gulf, to which was attached an ell which was made of white birch poles and thatched with weeds and ferns which they had gathered from the woods. Here they lived in contentment, supporting themselves by selling berries in their season as well as herbs and roots to the white women of the town for medicinal purposes and for making homemade beer, while for their own use and comfort they raised potatoes and vegetables and were very successful in the growing of watermelons, in which they took especial pride."¹⁵

While no physical or photographic evidence of these rude dwellings seems to survive, it is indeed likely that the first homes built by African Americans were constructed of logs cut to clear garden spaces in the woods, and/or scrap lumber scavenged or bartered from their white neighbors. By the 1840s, as their numbers increased and their work and income became steadier, living conditions improved and permanent dwellings became possible. Their work had earned them the ability to borrow money to pay for their own property and build legitimate houses. However, they were still generally impoverished, and only the most basic of houses were available to them. The Fitch-Hoose House is a distinctive example of this house type, surviving largely intact from 1846, when it was constructed for another African American, Henry Fitch. The simple wood frame building is built in an economical method with principal posts, sills, girts, and plates hewn from timber and joined, with the rest of the frame (joists, studs, and rafters) having been sawn. There is a full stone basement under the front section, with two rooms finished on the main floor and attic. These rooms were unheated, although a rough shed appended to the rear of the building may have contained a cook stove of some sort. These five rooms were home to Charles and Ellen Hoose and most of their 13 children for many years. The house is an authentic illustration of the living conditions of poorer people during the mid to late 19th century, as well as representing the improved domestic standards of African Americans in the same period.

(continued)

¹³ "The Story of the Hoose House."

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

The Fitch-Hoose House was abandoned and derelict when the Town of Dalton acquired the property through tax foreclosure proceedings, which were initiated in 2004. When members of the town's historical commission learned of the acquisition, they proposed to preserve the building as a landmark to African American history in the town, and, in particular, the Gulf Road area where freed or fugitive slaves were known to have settled. The dwindling number of historic African-American dwellings in the neighborhood enhanced the significance of the property. Gulf Road has been included in an African-American Heritage Trail within the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. The historical commission intends to restore the house and interpret it as an historic property.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Dalton are poorly understood and few sites are recorded, any Native sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area could be important, contributing information related to Native American settlement and subsistence in the Berkshire uplands of western Massachusetts and interior tributary streams and ponds at the headwaters of the Housatonic River drainage. Ancient sites in this area can also be important by contributing information related to the extent of Native American socio/political relationships and socio/economic relationships with other Native peoples to the west in the New York area, to the south in Connecticut, or more eastern locales in Massachusetts, including the Connecticut River Valley. The Fitch-Hoose House lies within the Housatonic River drainage, which flows southerly through Connecticut. The district is also close to New York, which lies two towns to the west. The Hudson River drainage is present in the northern portion of Dalton. Major Native American core areas are also present along the Connecticut River to the east. Native American sites in this area can help test the importance of drainage system boundaries versus geographic proximity, and their influence on Native American subsistence and settlement systems.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the origins and evolution of the African-American community in Dalton and African-American history in Massachusetts. Important information may also exist related to the social, cultural, and economic lives of the Hoose family who occupied the house for three generations during the 19th century. Comparative study of architectural features of the house, combined with archaeological evidence of construction features, renovations to the house, structural evidence of barns, stables, and outbuildings, and the location and contents of occupational-related features, may identify spatial and structural characteristics similar to those in other areas of Massachusetts or the American South. The evidence described above might be used to characterize dwellings built for and occupied by freed and fugitive slaves in Massachusetts and possibly the northeastern region. The Fitch-Hoose House is a rare, distinctive, and well-documented example of a 19th century African American dwelling with continued use through the entire 20th century.

Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important social, cultural, and economic information related to the Hoose occupancy of the house, and the occupancy of residential buildings by freed and fugitive slaves in general. Cultural artifacts and macro-fossil evidence may exist that documents associations between the African-American community in Dalton and in Massachusetts with West African culture or the American South. In addition to material culture artifacts, evidence of dietary habits and pathologies may also exist. The information described above may help identify characteristics of freed and fugitive slave-occupied dwellings independent of documentary sources. Archaeological research at the Fitch-Hoose House may contribute significant new information about the living patterns of African Americans in the marginal sections of western Massachusetts communities.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

U.S. Census. Population schedules, 1790 to 1930. Digital versions obtained on www.ancestry.com.

Pittsfield MA, Berkshire Athenaeum. Local History Collection.

Dalton directories, 1874-1960.

Historic atlases and maps, 1876, 1904.

Pittsfield Birth & Marriage Records.

Pittsfield & Adams MA. Berkshire County Registry, Deeds and Mortgages.

Smith, J.E.A. *History of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts From the Year 1800 to 1876*. Springfield MA: C.W. Bryan & Co., 1876.

"The Story of the Hoose House," a booklet of documentation prepared by the Dalton Historical Commission, ca. 2005.

(end)

Fitch-Hoose House
Name of Property

Berkshire, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18 649920 4704560
Zone Easting Northing

2.
Zone Easting Northing

3.
Zone Easting Northing

4.
Zone Easting Northing

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

name/title Neil Larson, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May, 2010

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Dalton

street & number Town Hall, Main Street telephone 413-684-6111

city or town Dalton state MA zip code 01226

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 the 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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The 100 x 150 foot property is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of High Street/Gulf Road and Bridle Road, which extends north from Park Street and leads to the town landfill. See attached assessors map for a more detailed description.

Boundary Justification

The parcel containing the house was created by the Town of Dalton, which owns the property and intends to restore the building as a historical museum. In so doing it has reduced the size of the original 1.1-acre parcel. The remainder of the parcel contains two houses that are also associated with the Hoose family; a one-story cottage located east of the intersection constructed ca. 1910 where Charles and Ellen Hoose's son George resided, and a one-story ranch-type house north of the intersection built ca. 1960, the residents of which are not known. Neither of these are included in the present nomination.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

Section number photos Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

Digital photographs by Neil Larson, 2008

PHOTO 1: View from southeast

PHOTO 2: View from northeast

PHOTO 3: View from southwest

PHOTO 4: View of parlor from north; front entrance on right

PHOTO 5: View of partition between parlor and chamber from east; doorway to stairs on right

PHOTO 6: View of chamber from east; note corner post.

PHOTO 7: View of east attic room from west; roof

PHOTO 8: View of kitchen from west

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

Section number images, plans Page 1



Fig.1: View of Fitch-Hoose House from southeast, c. 1900. Source: Ashfield Historical Society Photograph Collection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton (Berkshire), MA

Section number images, plans Page 2

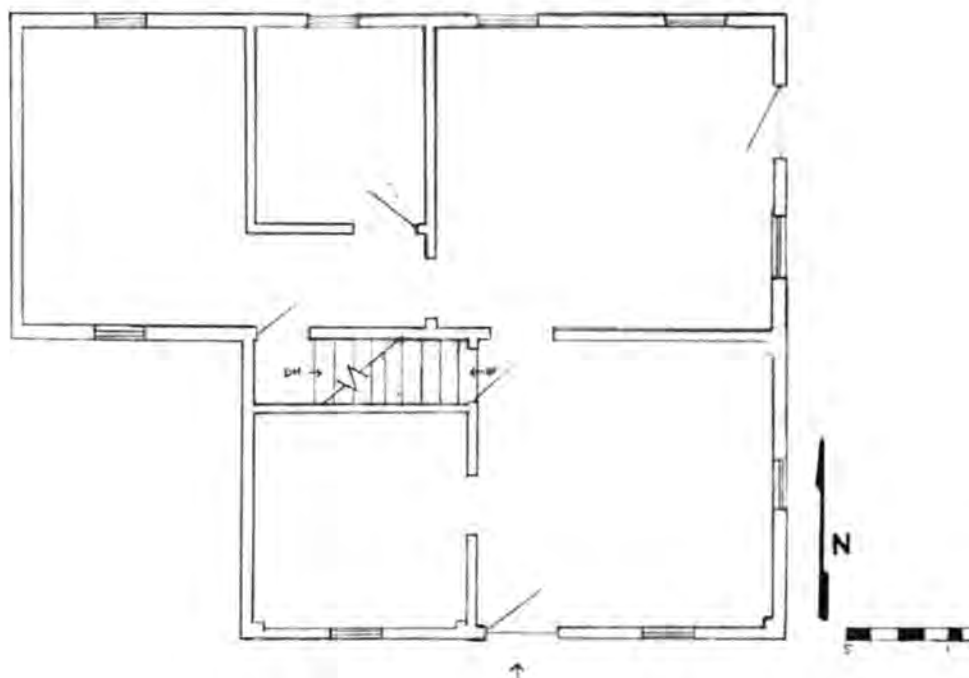


Fig.2: Floor Plan, first floor. Drawing by Larson Fisher Associates, 2007.

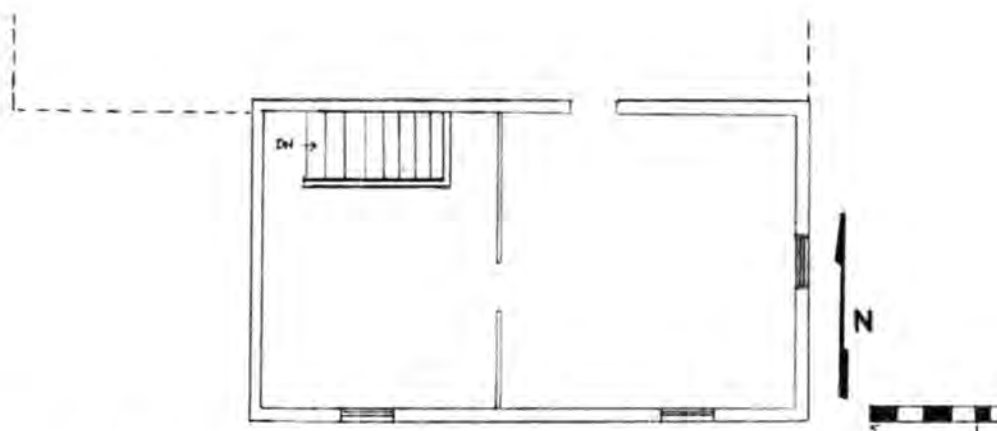
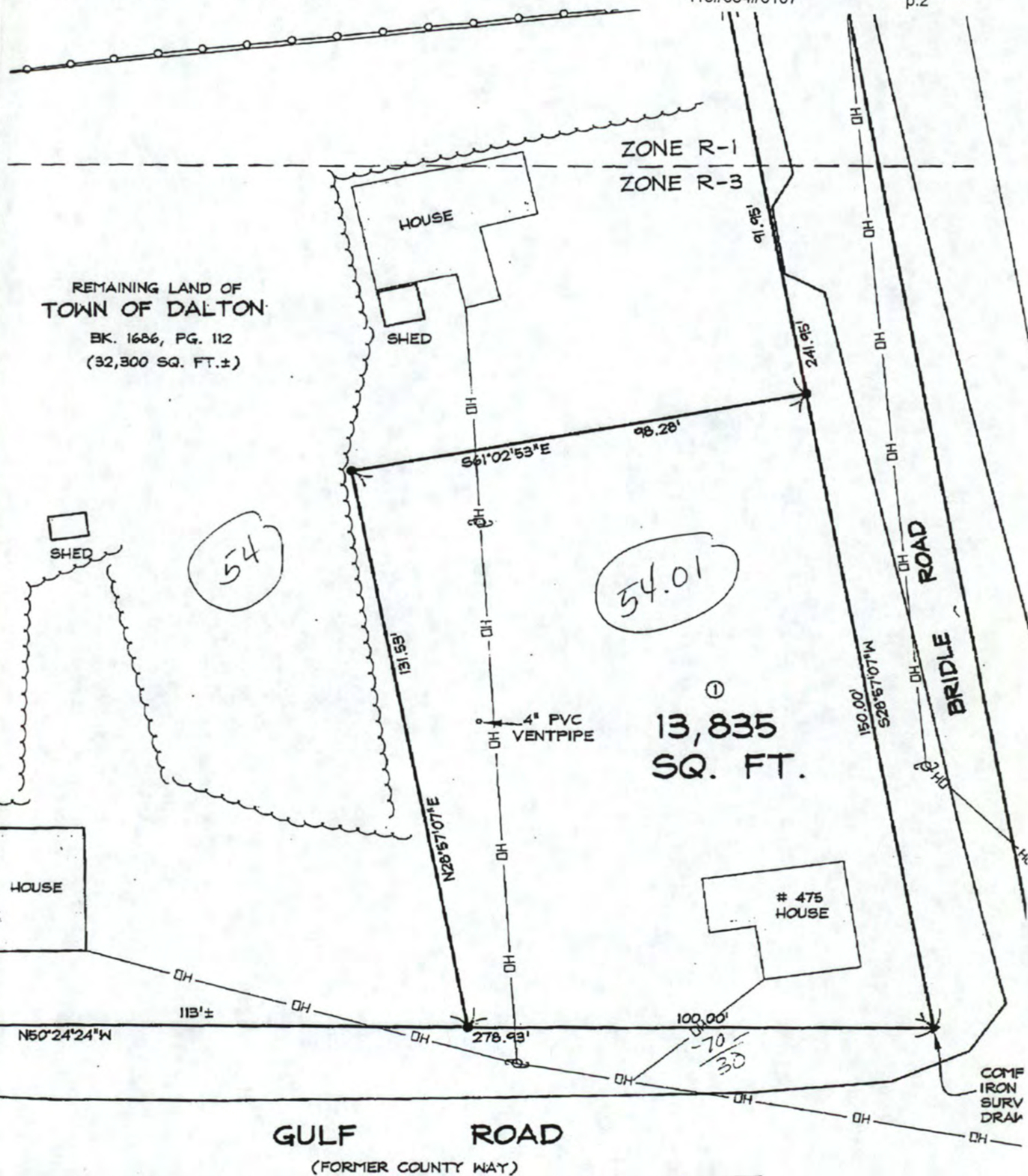


Fig.3: Floor Plan, second floor. Drawing by Larson Fisher Associates, 2007.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fitch-Hoose House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

DATE RECEIVED: 5/11/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/08/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/23/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/25/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000390

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6.24.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



MA-DALTON-(BERKSHIRECO)-FITCH-HOOSE 1. tif

NEIL LARSON PHOTO

2008

Fitch-Hoose House

Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA

PHOTO 1: View from southeast



MA - DALTON - (BERKSHIRE CO) - FITCH-HOOSE 2. *tyf*

NEIL CARSON PHOTO

2008

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA

PHOTO 2: View from northeast



MA-DALTON-(BERKSHIRECO)-FITCH-HOOSE 3. tif

NEIL LARSON PHOTO

2008

Fitch-Hoose House

Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA

PHOTO 3: View from southwest



MA-DALTON-(BERKSHIRE CO)-FITCH-HOOSE 4..tif
NEIL LARSON PHOTO 2008

Fitch-Hoose House

Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA

PHOTO 4: View of parlor from north, front entrance
on right.



MA - DALTON - (BERKSHIRE CO) - FITCH-HOOSE 5..tif

NEIL LARSON PHOTO

2008

Fitch-Hoose House

Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA

PHOTO 5: View of partition between parlor & chamber
from east, doorway to stairs on right



MA - DALTON - (BERKSHIRE CO) - FITCH-HOOSE 6. tif
NEIL LARSON PHOTO 2008

Fitch-Hoose House
Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA.

PHOTO 6: View of chamber from east



MA-DALTON-(BERKSHIRE CO) - FITCH-HOOSE 7..tif

NEIL LARSON PHOTO

2008

Fitch-Hoose House

Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA

PHOTO 7: View of east attic room from west.



MA - DALTON - (BERKSHIRE CO) - FITCH-HOOSE 8..tif

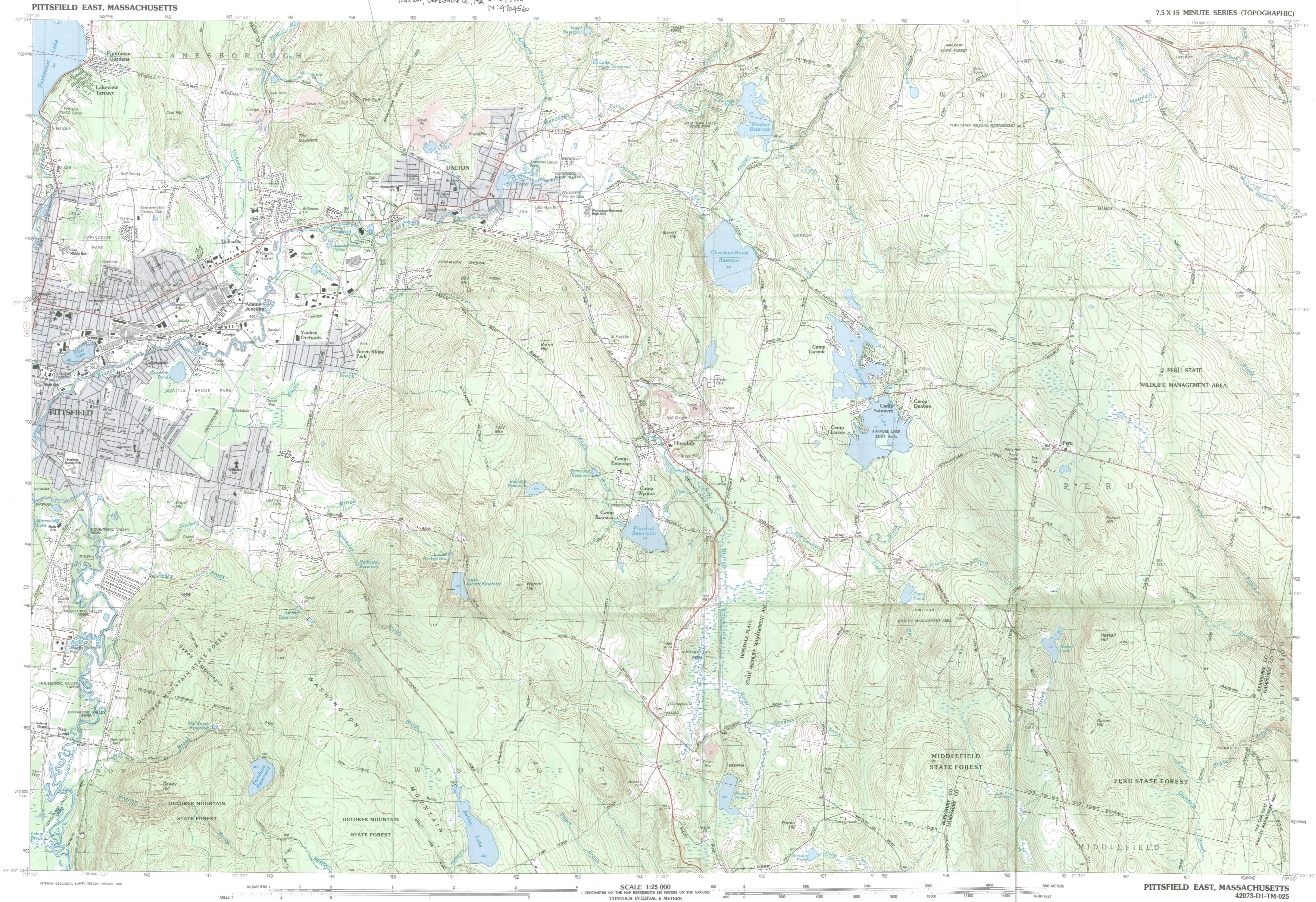
NEIL LARSON PHOTO

2008

Fitch-Hoose House

Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA

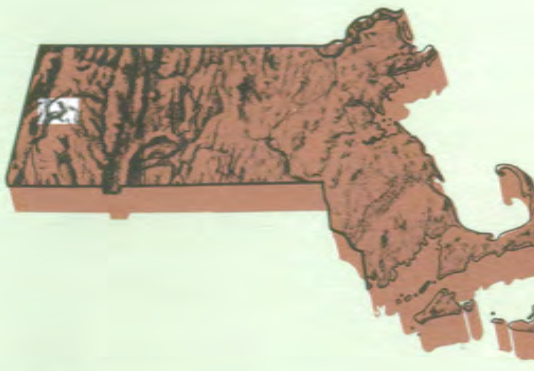
PHOTO 8: View of kitchen from west



USGS
United States Geological Survey

Pittsfield East

MASSACHUSETTS
1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



**7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING**

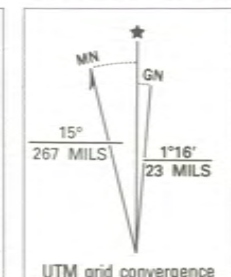
- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

1997

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Derived from imagery taken 1981 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1984. Boundaries revised 1999.
Supersedes Pittsfield East and Peru 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1973.
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18. 10 000-foot ticks. Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone.
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 6 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet		1	2	3
1	3.2808		4	5	
2	6.5617		6	7	8
3	9.8425				
4	13.1234				
5	16.4043				
6	19.6852				
7	22.9661				
8	26.2469				
9	29.5278				
10	32.8084				
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (EN) and 1983 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map Diagram is approximate			
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048					

1 Stoughton Center
2 Cheshire
3 Ashfield
4 Pittsfield West
5 Goshen
6 Stockbridge
7 East Lee
8 Chester

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 gage; narrow gage	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Build-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; land 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	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument	.....
Wellhead; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit 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	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Swamp; marsh	.....
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	.....
Woodland; scattered trees	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

1997

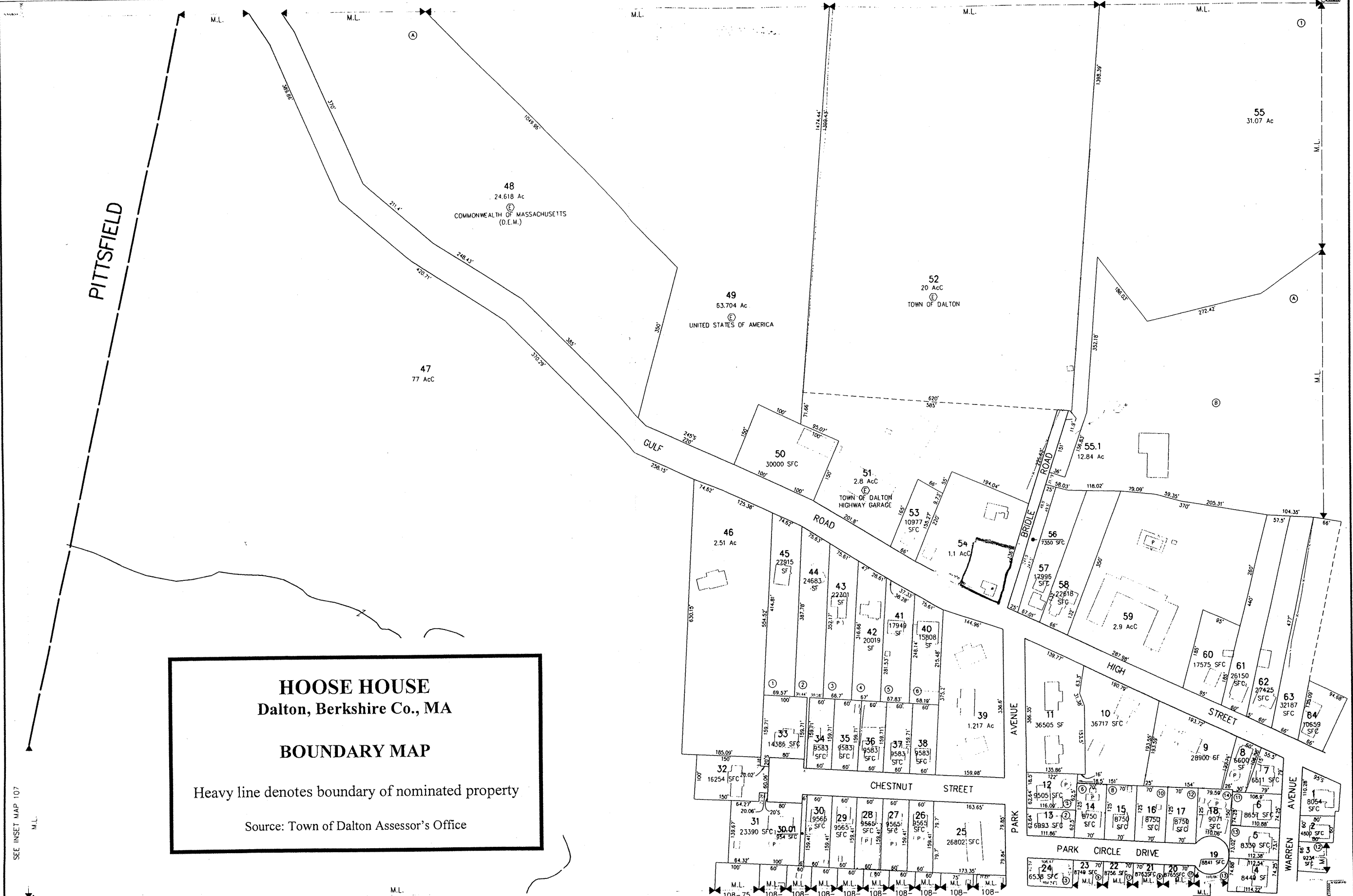
PITTSFIELD

HOOSE HOUSE
Dalton, Berkshire Co., MA

BOUNDARY MAP

Heavy line denotes boundary of nominated property

Source: Town of Dalton Assessor's Office



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD 83.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: APRIL 4, 2000

COMPLETION DATE: JUNE 30, 2002

PRODUCED IN 2002 BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOC. INC.

PROFESSIONAL GIS CONSULTANTS

MUNICIPAL MAPPING - GIS - PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
11 PLEASANT STREET, LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03561
(603)444-8768 - 1(800)322-4540 - FAX (603)444-1368 - WWW.CAI-INFO.COM

LEGEND

Ac or SF
Ac or SFC
100'
100'S
M.L.
W

POOL
EXEMPT PROPERTY
SUBDIVISION LOT NO.
BUILDING
RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS
COMMON OWNERSHIP
WETLANDS

SCALE 1" = 100'

FEET
0 100 200 300
25 50 75
METERS

REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2008

PROPERTY MAPS
DALTON
MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM

217
218
105
107 108 109

MAP NO.
106

RECEIVED *BF*

APR 22 2008

MASS. HIST. COMM

UPPER HOUSATONIC VALLEY
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL*A project of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area*www.AfricanAmericanTrail.org

April 16, 2008

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

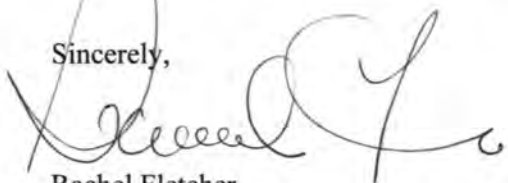
Dear Ms. Friedberg;

On behalf of the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail, I support the Hoose House at 6 Gulf Road in Dalton MA for inclusion for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In the Hoose House lies a tangible connection to the lives of working class African Americans prior to the 1850s when manufacturing began to replace farming as the dominant industry in the region, and when several Blacks owned substantial farms, among them the Hall and Hoose families in Lanesboro. The home of the late Ellen M. Hoose, at the edge of the Glen at 471 Gulf Road, is believed by members of the Dalton Historical Commission to be one of the last surviving of the old Black community. Hoose acquired her home in 1909, but the building dates to Charles Hoose's purchase in 1868.

The Dalton Historical Commission has worked vigorously to preserve this important part of our African American culture and acquaint the public with its history through heritage walks and other programs. It is efforts like these that make the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail a testament not only to the lives of luminaries such as W. E. B. Du Bois and Rev. Samuel Harrison, but to the perseverance of ordinary African Americans as well. The Hoose House provides a rare opportunity to learn about the rich African American heritage that resides in New England. It deserves this recognition.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fletcher
Co-Director, Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail

Cc: Gail Pinna, Dalton Historical Commission

Partners • Arrowhead/Berkshire Historical Society • Berkshire Athenaeum • Berkshire Community College
Berkshire Publishing Group • Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church • The Du Bois Center of American History & Culture
Friends of the Du Bois Homesite • Great Barrington Historical Society • Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
National Evaluation Systems • Pittsfield Historical Commission • Pittsfield Office of Cultural Development • Pittsfield
Second Congregational Church • Samuel Harrison Society • Sheffield Historical Society • Simon's Rock College
Stockbridge Library Association Historical Collection • The Trustees of Reservations • University of
Massachusetts at Amherst • W. E. B. Du Bois Foundation, Inc. • Williams College



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

May 4, 2010

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Fitch-Hoose House, 6 Gulf Road, Dalton (Berkshire), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: John F. Boyle, Chair, Dalton Selectboard
Mary Jane Caliento, Dalton Historical Commission
Neil Larson, Larson Fisher Associates, Consultant
Richard Ladd, Dalton Planning Board
Rachel Fletcher, Upper Housatonic Valley African-American Heritage Trail