

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

AUG 31 1987

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Thomas C. Page House other names/site number Belcher Lodge - Masonic Temple

2. Location

street & number 105 East Street city, town Chicopee state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampden code 013 zip code 01021

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Valerie A. Talmage, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer. Date: 8/24/87

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

<b>6. Function or Use</b> Thomas C. Page House, Chicopee, Massachusetts	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
domestic; single dwelling	vacant/not in use
social; meeting hall	

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Queen Anne	foundation brick
	walls wood, terra cotta
	roof asphalt shingles
	other N/A

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Page House is located on the north side of East Street, just southeast of a steep hill extending from the Chicopee River's southern bank at Chicopee Falls, in Chicopee, Massachusetts. The section of East Street on which the Page House sits is fairly level. The property itself is situated on a flat lot. The landscaping has been neglected for some time. There appear to have once been flower beds on the western lawn. Some foundation plantings of pachysandra and a large white spirea bush remain from an earlier landscaping scheme. The most dominant elements of the lot are three huge trees which shade the building.

The Page House sits nearly in the center of its lot at 105 East Street. It is bounded on three sides by streets: East Street to the south, Fuller Street to the east, and Linden Street to the west; its southern boundary is the lot line of the neighboring property. The building is set back nearly 30 feet from Fuller Street and over 50 feet from the lot's three other boundaries. The broad setbacks and large size of the lot add to the imposing appearance of the Page House.

The Page House is the largest and most imposing structure in a neighborhood of one and two family houses. The other homes on the street are predominantly modest Greek and Colonial Revival houses, and are set closer to the street than the Page House. The Page House is the most unaltered in its neighborhood; many of its neighbors have had siding or new windows added.

There are no out buildings.

The Page House's plan is rather irregular, largely because two wings were added to the rear of the house during its history. The main block is nearly square, with an off-center pavilion projecting from the front facade and two rectangular bay windows on the east and west sides. The first addition, which was built shortly after the Masons acquired the property in 1909, projects to the east from the rear of the building, with a small vestibule where the main block and east wing join. A later addition also extends from the rear of the building, this time to the west. This wing is much smaller than the eastern one, and is linked to the main block and east wing by small enclosed porches.

The main house is three stories high; it appears to be two-and-a-half stories, but has a full attic above the third floor. The eastern rear wing, which the Masons used for meetings, has two stories, as does the smaller western rear wing. The building has a full basement.  See continuation sheet

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Continuation SheetThomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1The Main Block

(See Photograph 1) The Page House's most dominant decorative feature is the entrance pavilion, which projects from the front of the building. The front or south facade is four bays wide. A projecting pavilion forms the center two bays, and is surmounted by an off-center gable and a square tower with pyramidal roof. A wooden, four-bay, first-floor porch runs across the length of the front facade. The porch sits on a lattice work skirt and is ornamented with a stick work balustrade, while chamfered posts and fan-shaped brackets support the shed roof. A gable extranceway with fishscale shingled pediment projects from the main porch which is reached by a set of well-worn sandstone steps. Small modillions appear under the porch roof eaves. The elaborately paneled wooden double doors in the entrance pavilion have a brownstone lintel and granite sills while the windows are 1/1 flanked by long narrow windows to each side, have brownstone sills and lintels. Ornamented panels flank these doors on both sides. To the left is a sandstone panel with the Masonic symbol, while to the right is a red floral terra cotta panel bordered with white terra cotta squares. The brick sheathed first floor is decorated with terra cotta and ornamental brick work. A course of square white terra cotta panels, bordered above and below by black brick stretchers, extends along the first floor just below the level of the door and window lintels. A course of corbelled brick work, also bordered with black stretchers, runs along the building at the level of the porch. The foundation is made of brick, with a brownstone water table.

The upper floors of the main block and pavillion are sheathed in wood clapboards, with stickwork and ornamental fishscale shingles. Small modillions form a narrow overhand just above the gable windows and between the tower's second and third stories. The gable windows are small paired 2/2 windows with stained glass transom. The tower's third-floor windows are like those on the first and second floor. A row of square stained-glass windows sits over the tower windows. Brick work and windows on the remainder of the main block are similar to those on the front facade. Rows of shingles separate the first and second floors, while clapboards ornamented with stickwork sheath the second-story.

The building's east side is five-bays wide, including the two-story rear addition (see Photograph 2). The first-floor east elevation of the main block is distinguished by a rectangular bay window lit by narrow 1/1 windows with brownstone lintels and sills. A second floor porch with woodwork like that on the front porch sits on top of the bay window.

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From the front the main roof of the house appears to be hipped, with gable-roofed dormers on the southern, eastern, and western sides. However, at the rear, the roof of the main block takes on a gambrel shape. The roof is presently sheathed with asphalt shingles. The original roofing material was probably slate. Two interior chimneys project from the western slope of the main roof, and one interior chimney breaks through the roof's eastern slope. The roof is supported on alternating large and small brackets. Small brackets also appear in the gable eaves and at the cornice of the tower's roof.

The Additions

At the angle where the main block and the eastern rear wing meet, a one story brick vestibule with shed roof and matchboard door allows entry to both the old and new sections of the building. The newer wing complements the older section of the house, but its ornamentation is simpler. The wing still has a brick first floor and wooden Stick Style second story, but where the main block had rows of terra cotta and corbelled brick, the wing has courses of white brick and plain stretchers. A molded brick water table replaces the brownstone one, and segmental arches of double rowlock courses of brick surmount the windows, rather than brownstone lintels.

The roof of the eastern wing is hipped, with a gable dormer in the center of the eastern slope. Stained glass windows light the second story. Narrow rectangular windows appear in the second-floor walls, and the 8/1 paired windows in the dormer are decorated with the Masonic symbol.

The Page House's west side is quite similar to the east. The main block has a similar bay window and the same brick, terra cotta, and wooden ornamentation to the eastern side. A small enclosed porch connects the main block with the western rear wing. This newest addition to the house is a simple two-story, three-bay clapboarded structure with a flat roof and 1/1 windows. The second story projects slightly over the first, and a small one-story windowless shed is attached to the north side of the wing. The roof on the western addition is flat.

At its northern side, the Page House is eight bays wide, and includes another addition at the northwest corner. The main block appears to have a gambrel roof from this side, with a round attic window. The east wing has the same features on this side as on its eastern facade.

The Interior

Overall, the most notable feature of the interior is that it has been relatively unchanged over the years. Original or early windows, woodwork, fireplaces, and fixtures are intact throughout the building.

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Chicopee, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 3

The basement, which is partially finished, is now used for storage. The finished section has a pressed-metal ceiling and the remnants of an old bowling alley. The unfinished sections have brick walls and floors.

On the first floor, elaborate woodwork and built-in cabinets characterize the rooms in the main block. Elaborate paneled doors with original hardware and heavily molded surrounds allow access to four front rooms. The plan of the main block consists of a central foyer leading to the main staircase. Four rooms are symmetrically arranged on either side of the foyer. Elaborate woodwork, including heavily paneled doors, molded baseboards, door and window surrounds with exaggerated patera cornerblocks, massive wooden fireplaces, and built-in cupboards distinguish these four rooms. The southeastern billiard room is reached through pairs of sliding doors which connect it to the foyer and to the library. The bay window in the eastern wall forms a sunny alcove framed by a molded surround with decorative brackets. In the room's northwest corner is the fireplace with its heavy wooden mantel and brick blue-and-gold tile surrounding the opening. Even the metal fireplace cover is still intact, as are those in several of the rooms. Across the hall, the southwestern parlor (See Photograph 3) is similarly ornamented, but with darker woodwork and an even more ornate fireplace in the northern wall. Underneath the windows in the bay are gilded panels depicting birds, flowers, and sunbursts.

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North of the billiard room is the library, with built-in shelves and cabinets. The living room, which is north of the parlor, also has built-in cabinets. They are located in the large wooden mantel, and are etched with figures of animals and birds.

A huge banquet room (See Photograph 4) with pressed-metal ceiling and patterned wood floor occupies most of the first floor east wing. The molded door and window surrounds in this section are much simpler than those in the front of the house.

The western wing is cut up into kitchens and bathrooms, with very little ornamentation. Moldings and door and window surrounds are plain, and in some rooms suspended ceilings and new walls have been added.

Three stairways provide access to the second floor. The main stairway in the foyer is separated from the front section of the foyer by a spindle screen supported on chamfered posts and brackets. In an alcove on the landing is an unusual light fixture, which consists of a statue of Venus holding a lamp. In addition to the main staircase, there are two narrow stairways at the rear of the building.

The room arrangement on the second floor is similar to that of the first (See Figure 3). The two front rooms have heavily molded door and window surrounds with patera cornerblocks which are simpler than those on the first floor. A marble fireplace and a marble sink set in a little alcove distinguish the southeast room (See Photograph 5). (Marble is also used for radiator caps in many rooms.) As in all the other rooms, the original shutters are also still in place.

The Masonic Lodge office leads from the southeast room to the Lodge room (See Photograph 6), a huge meeting hall once furnished with massive wooden chairs and benches upholstered in royal blue velvet. The room itself is shaped somewhat like a truncated pyramid. The bottom sections of the walls are covered with matchboard wainscoting, while pressed metal covers the upper sections and the ceiling. Stained glass windows high in the walls cast a subdued and eerie light on the room. At one time, high-backed chairs sat on platforms at either end of the room, while rows of benches provided seating along the sidewalls. Two preparation rooms located off the western side of the Lodge room provided space for the Masons to change.

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Chicopee, Massachusetts

Like the back rooms on the first and second floors, those on the second are small and simple. The bedrooms on the third floor (See Figure 4) are also simple, though larger than those in the western wing. Windows are set high into the walls, but several rooms have small platforms or stages below the windows so that one can reach them. At the front of the house is an irregularly shaped room formed by the front pavilion with its tower; this space contains the stairway which is by stained glass windows.

On the whole, the interior, as well as the exterior has been changed very little over the years. Room configurations and decorative features have been retained and are in fairly good condition.

Besides the c. 1909 east wing and c. 1925 west wing, which have already been mentioned, there have been a few changes to the Page House. When he sold the house to the Masons, Thomas Page reserved the right to remove the mantels in the parlor, living room, and dining room and replace them with others that would harmonize with the rooms' finishes. Although the present mantels are not original to the building, they date from a significant period in the house's history, and complement the original woodwork and finishes.

Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, several have been recorded that are in close proximity (within 1 mile). The physical characteristics of the property, a large flat terrace originally near a stream and the Chicopee River would have made this an attractive location for native settlement and subsistence activities. East Street which abuts the property may have also been a connecting trail between Springfield and the Chicopee River over at Squisnaqunick (Chicopee Falls) area. While it is likely that sites were present, the intense level of development and relatively small size of the lot suggests that the likelihood of significant prehistoric survivals is low. These factors also suggest that the potential for significant historic sites is low. Early historic settlement was present in this area with East Street probably used as a Plantation Period trail or roadway. A structure predated the Masonic Temple on the property, though archaeological remains of it may have been destroyed during construction of the present structure. Occupations-related features (privies, trash pits, wells) may exist from the existing structure which could add significantly to the understanding of the towns social, cultural and economic development during the late 19th century. In particular, an opportunity could exist to study the role of early fraternal organizations in Chicopee as they contribute towards the development.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Thomas C. Page House, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally  statewide  locallyApplicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureIndustrySocial History

Period of Significance

1875-1937

Significant Dates

19091925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Thomas C. Page

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Thomas C. Page House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building is historically significant both for its associations with Thomas C. Page, an important industrialist in Chicopee in the late nineteenth century, and for its later associations with the Belcher Lodge of Masons. The structure is also architecturally significant. The Page House is a remarkably intact example of the Queen Anne/Stick Style in a city that has only a handful of Stick Style buildings. Its imposing tower, lavish variety of materials and ornament, and the high quality of its interior finishes make it one of the most, if not the most, outstanding houses of its period and style in the city. The Thomas C. Page House meets criteria A, and C of the National Register of Historic Places on a local level.

The Page House has a number of significant historical associations which make the building an important reminder of Chicopee's development as a community. The Page House was built in the 1870s for one of Chicopee's leading industrialists, Thomas C. Page. Page played an important role in the development and success of the textile, machine tool, and bicycle industries in Chicopee in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Page was also a charter member of the Belcher Maurice Lodge in Chicopee. In 1909, Page sold his home to the Masons.

Thomas C. Page came to Chicopee in 1867. Born to a farming family in Maine, Page was among the thousands of Americans who turned from farming to manufacturing in the post-Civil War decade. In 1865, Page bought a share of the patent rights to the Lamb Knitting machine. The Lamb knitting machine was an important innovation that, according to one nineteenth century source, "revolutionized the art of knitting." This knitting machine could produce a variety of stitches and would also combine several complicated stitch patterns with tremendous speed, where previously such complicated patterns were only possible in hand knitting.

 See continuation sheet

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The first factory where Page and the other owners of the Lamb patent began manufacturing the Lamb knitting machine was located in New York State. However, in 1867, Page gained control of the patent rights and moved operations to Chicopee, Massachusetts, where he purchased some of the Massachusetts Arms Company buildings in Chicopee Falls and organized the Lamb Knitting Machine Company. Page served as the firm's treasurer and managing agent for much of the company's history. His importance in the industrial and commercial life of Chicopee Falls is indicated by the prominent positions held in the Chicopee Falls Savings Bank, where he was a vice president for many years, and the Chicopee Falls Building Association, of which Page was director for a time.

The Lamb Knitting Machine Company succeeded for many years on the strength of the Chicopee textile industry. Textiles, especially cotton products, were the dominant industry in Chicopee in the early decades of the Late Industrial Period (1870-1915). In 1875, cotton goods accounted for 75% of the town's total manufactured product. However, as the period advanced, the machine tool industry took on a life of its own in Chicopee, and several subsidiary products began to be manufactured. Foremost among these products were bicycles.

In the late 1880s, during the bicycle craze, local machine tool companies began producing bicycles. Thomas Page's Lamb Knitting Machine Company began producing low-priced bicycles for a Hartford bicycle maker, Albert Overman. In 1890, Overman opened a factory of his own in Chicopee, and three years later the Lamb Company began manufacturing low-priced bicycles for Overman's competition, A. G. Spaulding. Before long, Spaulding took control of the Lamb Company and turned the firm exclusively to bicycle production. Following the collapse of the bicycle craze in 1901, Lamb Company was converted by Spaulding to the production of other athletic and sporting goods. Thomas Page was instrumental in attracting new industry to Chicopee, and thus had a lasting impact on the community long after production of the Lamb Knitting machine ceased.

The rich detailing of the Page House, both inside and out, reflects the wealth and prestige that one of Chicopee's leading manufacturers enjoyed. Page built himself the most fashionable and elaborate houses he could afford, using a style that had only recently come into fashion.

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Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

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The Belcher Lodge of Masons was founded in 1870, and Page was one of the founding members of the lodge. The Belcher Lodge is probably named after another important Chicopee industrialist, Bildad B. Belcher, owner of the Belcher Company, an agricultural implement manufacturer. The Belcher Lodge was most likely an association of wealthy industrialists and businessmen in Chicopee, and like other Masonic lodges was a society in which secret rituals played an important part in the members' activities.

In 1909, Page sold the house to the Belcher Lodge of Masons; though, by agreement, he continued to live in the front part of the house. The same year, the Masons added the eastern rear wing, which they used for meetings and social events.

The Page House is a very early example of the Queen Anne and Stick Styles of architecture. The house was built around 1875, just when the two styles were beginning to become popular. The stickwork on the upper floors reflects the interest in expressing the structure of the building on its exterior which John Ruskin advocated, and which was carried to its extreme in the Stick Style. The use of a variety of materials - wood, brick, terra cotta, and stone - is another element popularized by Ruskin's writings. Although the exterior was fairly modern for its day, however, the plan was still basically a central hall, four-room plan. The builders did not make use of the innovations possible for creating a more open or complex plan.

The lavish ornamentation inside the building certainly kept up with the latest trends in architectural fashion. Except for the west wing, the rooms display the best materials and craftsmanship available. The opulent detailing in the banquet hall and the meeting hall reflect the wealth of the Belcher Lodge.

As was mentioned above, most of the building's original fabric is intact. Page did remove some of the original mantelpieces around 1909, but replaced them with the heavy wooden ones present today. The new fireplaces complement the rooms' woodwork, and date from a significant period in the building's history - the time when the Masons purchased it. Other changes to the house are relatively minor, and tend to involve the covering, rather than the removal of features. These alterations are, for the most part, reversible. Except for the 1875 fireplaces, there are no key features which have been adversely affected by alterations.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

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There are few other Queen Anne/Stick Style houses in Chicopee of comparable scale or quality to the Page House. Out of only eleven examples of Stick Style architecture identified in the 1984 inventory, the Page House shows the most exuberant use of stickwork and variety of materials. The only comparable house is the brick Saint John's Lodge on Center Street, which, although not strictly in the Stick Style, is reminiscent of the earlier Page House in its enthusiastic use of brick, stone, shingling, and stained glass.

At present, there is no information available on the architects, builders, and craftsmen who constructed the Page House.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:  
MHC Survey #178

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property less than one acre

QUAD: Springfield North SCALE 1:25000

UTM References

A 

1	8	7	0	0	1	4	0
Zone				Easting			

4	6	6	9	7	4	0
Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting		

Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting		

Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting		

Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the property to be nominated is the same as the lot lines of the parcel of land on which the building is located.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David Zarowin/MHC with Michele Plourde-Barker/Community Development Administrator  
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date 4/24/87  
street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 727-8470  
city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

8/3/87

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Continuation Sheet

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Thomas C. Page House,  
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Thomas C. Page House,  
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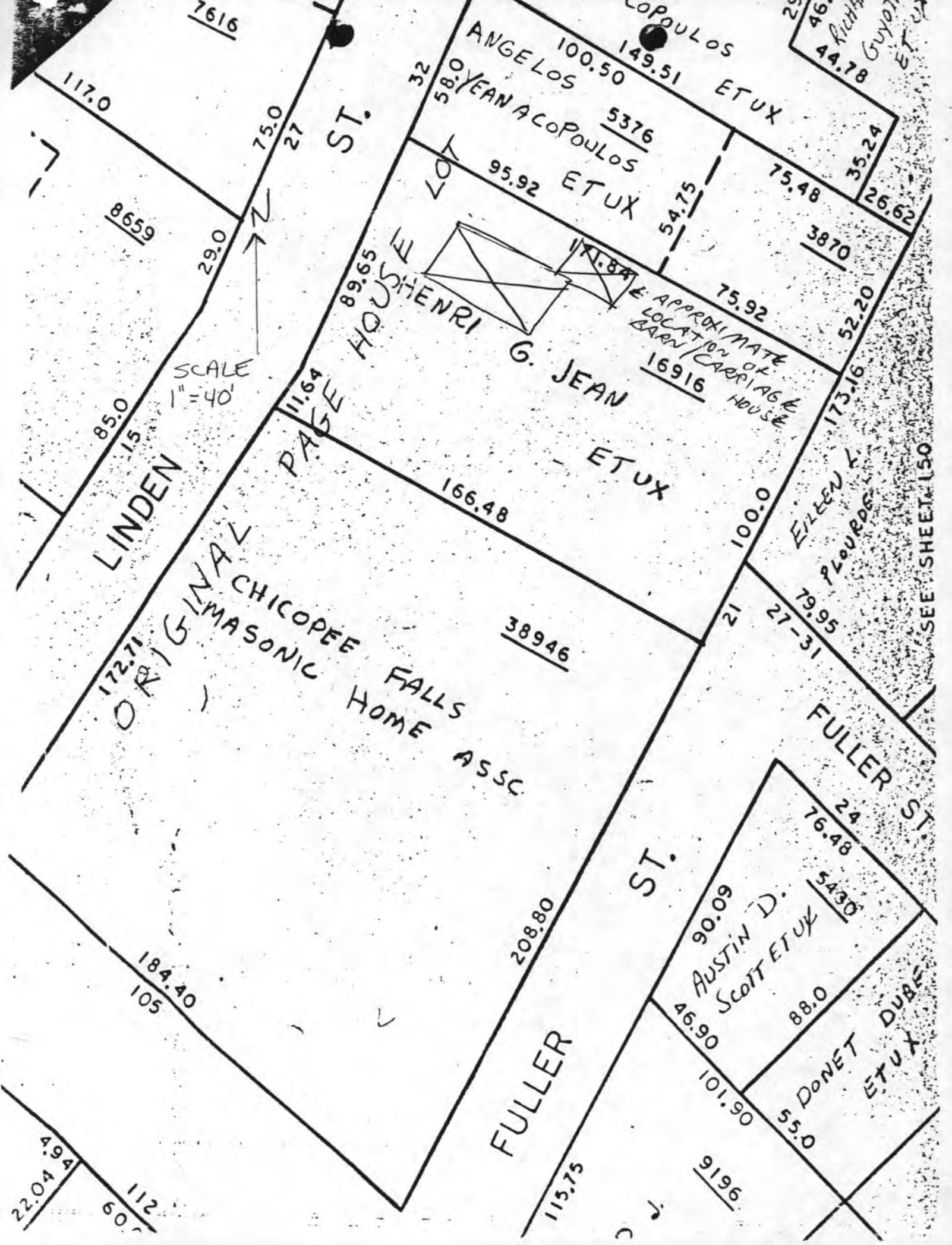
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The boundary of the property to be nominated is the same as the lot lines of the parcel of land on which the building is located, described in a mortgage deed recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 2662, Page 214, as follows:

Bounded southwesterly by East Street, one hundred and eighty-four and forty one-hundredths (184.40) feet; northwesterly by Linden Street, one hundred and seventy-two and seventy-one one-hundredths (172.71) feet; northeasterly by land conveyed by the Chicopee Falls Masonic Home Association to Robert Therrien by deed dated October 4, 1955, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 2425, Page 170, one hundred and sixty-six and forty-eight one-hundredths (166.48) feet; and southeasterly by Fuller Street, two hundred and eight and eighty one-hundredths (208.80) feet.

The boundary lines are shown on the attached assessor's map.



SCALE  
1" = 40'

LINDEN

ST.

PAGE

HENRI  
G. JEAN  
HOUSE

ST.

FULLER

FULLER ST.

ANGELOS  
100.50

LOPOULOS  
149.51

ETUX

32

58.0

JEAN A COPOULOS  
95.92

5376

54.75

75.48

35.24

26.62

3870

75.92

APPROXIMATE  
LOCATION OF  
BARN/CARRIAGE  
HOUSE

G. JEAN

16916

ETUX

166.48

FILLEN  
PLOUERG

52.20

173.16

100.0

21

79.95

27-31

ORIGINAL CHICOPEE FALLS  
MASONIC HOME ASSC

38946

AUSTIN D.  
SCOTT

5430

46.90

88.0

101.90

55.0

DONET  
DUBES

ETUX

9616

184.40

105

208.80

115.75

117.0

8659

29.0

75.0

111.64

89.65

7616

46  
44.78

25

SEE SHEET 150

Crit. B  
8700 1782

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Page, Thomas D., House  
Hampden County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

AUG 31 1987

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 10/1/87 - 10/15/87

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 10-15-87

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal

NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Savage

Discipline Architectural History

Date 10/15/87

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

- |                                    |                                       |   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |   |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. 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

*Social history very weak for the lodge association, the statement of significance is presumptuous for this.*

*Crit. B is not checked, but Page listed under sig. person and industry as an applicable area appears linked to him. Sig. person should only be entered if B is applicable. B appears applicable for Page w/ industry.*

9. Major Bibliographical References

*Please revise accordingly.*

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Both Savage (202) 343-9540

Signed Patrick Andrus Date 10/15/87 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

JUN 13 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Thomas C. Page House  
other names/site number Belcher Lodge - Masonic Temple

2. Location

street & number 105 East Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Chicopee N/A vicinity  
state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampden code 013 zip code 01021

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>    </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

William A. Talavage June 3, 1988  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission;  
State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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

**6. Function or Use** Thomas C. Page House, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Social/meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
vacant/not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls wood, terra cotta

roof asphalt shingles

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Page House is located on the north side of East Street, just southeast of a steep hill extending from the Chicopee River's southern bank at Chicopee Falls, in Chicopee, Massachusetts. The section of East Street on which the Page House sits is fairly level. The property itself is situated on a flat lot. The landscaping has been neglected for some time. There appear to have once been flower beds on the western lawn. Some foundation plantings of pachysandra and a large white spirea bush remain from an earlier landscaping scheme. The most dominant elements of the lot are three huge trees which shade the building.

The Page House sits nearly in the center of its lot at 105 East Street. It is bounded on three sides by streets: East Street to the south, Fuller Street to the east, and Linden Street to the west; its southern boundary is the lot line of the neighboring property. The building is set back nearly 30 feet from Fuller Street and over 50 feet from the lot's three other boundaries. The broad setbacks and large size of the lot add to the imposing appearance of the Page House (see attached site plan).

The Page House is the largest and most imposing structure in a neighborhood of one and two family houses. The other homes on the street are predominantly modest Greek and Colonial Revival houses, and are set closer to the street than the Page House. The Page House is the most unaltered in its neighborhood; many of its neighbors have had siding or new windows added.

There are no out buildings.

The Page House's plan is rather irregular, largely because two wings were added to the rear of the house during its history. The main block is nearly square, with an off-center pavilion projecting from the front facade and two rectangular bay windows on the east and west sides. The first addition, which was built shortly after the Masons acquired the property in 1909, projects to the east from the rear of the building, with a small vestibule where the main block and east wing join. A later addition also extends from the rear of the building, this time to the west. This wing is much smaller than the eastern one, and is linked to the main block and east wing by small enclosed porches (see attached site plan - Figure 1).

The main house is three stories high; it appears to be two-and-a-half stories, but has a full attic above the third floor. The eastern rear wing, which the Masons used for meetings, has two stories, as does the smaller western rear wing. The building has a full basement.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

The Main Block

(See Photograph 1) The Page House's most dominant decorative feature is the entrance pavilion, which projects from the front of the building. The front or south facade is four bays wide. A projecting pavilion forms the center two bays, and is surmounted by an off-center gable and a square tower with pyramidal roof. A wooden, four-bay, first-floor porch runs across the length of the front facade. The porch sits on a lattice work skirt and is ornamented with a stick work balustrade, while chamfered posts and fan-shaped brackets support the shed roof. A gable extranceway with fishscale shingled pediment projects from the main porch which is reached by a set of well-worn sandstone steps. Small modillions appear under the porch roof eaves. The elaborately paneled wooden double doors in the entrance pavilion have a brownstone lintel and granite sills while the windows are 1/1 flanked by long narrow windows to each side, have brownstone sills and lintels. Ornamented panels flank these doors on both sides. To the left is a sandstone panel with the Masonic symbol, while to the right is a red floral terra cotta panel bordered with white terra cotta squares. The brick sheathed first floor is decorated with terra cotta and ornamental brick work. A course of square white terra cotta panels, bordered above and below by black brick stretchers, extends along the first floor just below the level of the door and window lintels. A course of corbelled brick work, also bordered with black stretchers, runs along the building at the level of the porch. The foundation is made of brick, with a brownstone water table.

The upper floors of the main block and pavillion are sheathed in wood clapboards, with stickwork and ornamental fishscale shingles. Small modillions form a narrow overhand just above the gable windows and between the tower's second and third stories. The gable windows are small paired 2/2 windows with stained glass transom. The tower's third-floor windows are like those on the first and second floor. A row of square stained-glass windows sits over the tower windows. Brick work and windows on the remainder of the main block are similar to those on the front facade. Rows of shingles separate the first and second floors, while clapboards ornamented with stickwork sheath the second-story.

The building's east side is five-bays wide, including the two-story rear addition (see Photograph 2). The first-floor east elevation of the main block is distinguished by a rectangular bay window lit by narrow 1/1 windows with brownstone lintels and sills. A second floor porch with woodwork like that on the front porch sits on top of the bay window.

continued

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 2

From the front the main roof of the house appears to be hipped, with gable-roofed dormers on the southern, eastern, and western sides. However, at the rear, the roof of the main block takes on a gambrel shape. The roof is presently sheathed with asphalt shingles. The original roofing material was probably slate. Two interior chimneys project from the western slope of the main roof, and one interior chimney breaks through the roof's eastern slope. The roof is supported on alternating large and small brackets. Small brackets also appear in the gable eaves and at the cornice of the tower's roof.

The Additions

At the angle where the main block and the eastern rear wing meet, a one story brick vestibule with shed roof and matchboard door allows entry to both the old and new sections of the building. The newer wing complements the older section of the house, but its ornamentation is simpler. The wing still has a brick first floor and wooden Stick Style second story, but where the main block had rows of terra cotta and corbelled brick, the wing has courses of white brick and plain stretchers. A molded brick water table replaces the brownstone one, and segmental arches of double rowlock courses of brick surmount the windows, rather than brownstone lintels.

The roof of the eastern wing is hipped, with a gable dormer in the center of the eastern slope. Stained glass windows light the second story. Narrow rectangular windows appear in the second-floor walls, and the 8/1 paired windows in the dormer are decorated with the Masonic symbol.

The Page House's west side is quite similar to the east. The main block has a similar bay window and the same brick, terra cotta, and wooden ornamentation to the eastern side. A small enclosed porch connects the main block with the western rear wing. This newest addition to the house is a simple two-story, three-bay clapboarded structure with a flat roof and 1/1 windows. The second story projects slightly over the first, and a small one-story windowless shed is attached to the north side of the wing. The roof on the western addition is flat.

At its northern side, the Page House is eight bays wide, and includes another addition at the northwest corner. The main block appears to have a gambrel roof from this side, with a round attic window. The east wing has the same features on this side as on its eastern facade.

The Interior

Overall, the most notable feature of the interior is that it has been relatively unchanged over the years. Original or early windows, woodwork, fireplaces, and fixtures are intact throughout the building.

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 3

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The basement, which is partially finished, is now used for storage. The finished section has a pressed-metal ceiling and the remnants of an old bowling alley. The unfinished sections have brick walls and floors.

On the first floor, elaborate woodwork and built-in cabinets characterize the rooms in the main block. Elaborate paneled doors with original hardware and heavily molded surrounds allow access to four front rooms. The plan of the main block consists of a central foyer leading to the main staircase. Four rooms are symmetrically arranged on either side of the foyer. Elaborate woodwork, including heavily paneled doors, molded baseboards, door and window surrounds with exaggerated patera cornerblocks, massive wooden fireplaces, and built-in cupboards distinguish these four rooms. The southeastern billiard room is reached through pairs of sliding doors which connect it to the foyer and to the library. The bay window in the eastern wall forms a sunny alcove framed by a molded surround with decorative brackets. In the room's northwest corner is the fireplace with its heavy wooden mantel and brick blue-and-gold tile surrounding the opening. Even the metal fireplace cover is still intact, as are those in several of the rooms. Across the hall, the southwestern parlor (See Photograph 3) is similarly ornamented, but with darker woodwork and an even more ornate fireplace in the northern wall. Underneath the windows in the bay are gilded panels depicting birds, flowers, and sunbursts.

continued

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

North of the billiard room is the library, with built-in shelves and cabinets. The living room, which is north of the parlor, also has built-in cabinets. They are located in the large wooden mantel, and are etched with figures of animals and birds.

A huge banquet room (See Photograph 4) with pressed-metal ceiling and patterned wood floor occupies most of the first floor east wing. The molded door and window surrounds in this section are much simpler than those in the front of the house.

The western wing is cut up into kitchens and bathrooms, with very little ornamentation. Moldings and door and window surrounds are plain, and in some rooms suspended ceilings and new walls have been added.

Three stairways provide access to the second floor. The main stairway in the foyer is separated from the front section of the foyer by a spindle screen supported on chamfered posts and brackets. In an alcove on the landing is an unusual light fixture, which consists of a statue of Venus holding a lamp. In addition to the main staircase, there are two narrow stairways at the rear of the building.

The room arrangement on the second floor is similar to that of the first (See Figure 3). The two front rooms have heavily molded door and window surrounds with patera cornerblocks which are simpler than those on the first floor. A marble fireplace and a marble sink set in a little alcove distinguish the southeast room (See Photograph 5). (Marble is also used for radiator caps in many rooms.) As in all the other rooms, the original shutters are also still in place.

The Masonic Lodge office leads from the southeast room to the Lodge room (See Photograph 6), a huge meeting hall once furnished with massive wooden chairs and benches upholstered in royal blue velvet. The room itself is shaped somewhat like a truncated pyramid. The bottom sections of the walls are covered with matchboard wainscoting, while pressed metal covers the upper sections and the ceiling. Stained glass windows high in the walls cast a subdued and eerie light on the room. At one time, high-backed chairs sat on platforms at either end of the room, while rows of benches provided seating along the sidewalls. Two preparation rooms located off the western side of the Lodge room provided space for the Masons to change.

continued

8/31/07

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5Thomas C. Page House  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Like the back rooms on the first and second floors, those on the second are small and simple. The bedrooms on the third floor (See Figure 4) are also simple, though larger than those in the western wing. Windows are set high into the walls, but several rooms have small platforms or stages below the windows so that one can reach them. At the front of the house is an irregularly shaped room formed by the front pavilion with its tower; this space contains the stairway which is by stained glass windows.

On the whole, the interior, as well as the exterior has been changed very little over the years. Room configurations and decorative features have been retained and are in fairly good condition.

Besides the c. 1909 east wing and c. 1925 west wing, which have already been mentioned, there have been a few changes to the Page House. When he sold the house to the Masons, Thomas Page reserved the right to remove the mantels in the parlor, living room, and dining room and replace them with others that would harmonize with the rooms' finishes. Although the present mantels are not original to the building, they date from a significant period in the house's history, and complement the original woodwork and finishes.

Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, several have been recorded that are in close proximity (within 1 mile). The physical characteristics of the property, a large flat terrace originally near a stream and the Chicopee River would have made this an attractive location for native settlement and subsistence activities. East Street which abuts the property may have also been a connecting trail between Springfield and the Chicopee River over at Squisnaqunick (Chicopee Falls) area. While it is likely that sites were present, the intense level of development and relatively small size of the lot suggests that the likelihood of significant prehistoric survivals is low. These factors also suggest that the potential for significant historic sites is low. Early historic settlement was present in this area with East Street probably used as a Plantation Period trail or roadway. A structure predated the Masonic Temple on the property, though archaeological remains of it may have been destroyed during construction of the present structure. Occupations-related features (privies, trash pits, wells) may exist from the existing structure which could add significantly to the understanding of the towns social, cultural and economic development during the late 19th century. In particular, an opportunity could exist to study the role of early fraternal organizations in Chicopee as they contribute towards the development.

**8. Statement of Significance** Thomas C. Page House, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

1875-1937

Significant Dates

1909

1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Thomas C. Page

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Thomas C. Page House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building is historically significant both for its associations with Thomas C. Page, an important industrialist in Chicopee in the late nineteenth century, and for its later associations with the Belcher Lodge of Masons. The structure is also architecturally significant. The Page House is a remarkably intact example of the Queen Anne/Stick Style in a city that has only a handful of Stick Style buildings. Its imposing tower, lavish variety of materials and ornament, and the high quality of its interior finishes make it one of the most, if not the most, outstanding houses of its period and style in the city. The Thomas C. Page House meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places on a local level.

The Page House has a number of significant historical associations which make the building an important reminder of Chicopee's development as a community. The Page House was built in the 1870s for one of Chicopee's leading industrialists, Thomas C. Page. Page played an important role in the development and success of the textile, machine tool, and bicycle industries in Chicopee in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Page was also a charter member of the Belcher Maurice Lodge in Chicopee. In 1909, Page sold his home to the Masons.

Thomas C. Page came to Chicopee in 1867. Born to a farming family in Maine, Page was among the thousands of Americans who turned from farming to manufacturing in the post-Civil War decade. In 1865, Page bought a share of the patent rights to the Lamb Knitting machine. The Lamb knitting machine was an important innovation that, according to one nineteenth century source, "revolutionized the art of knitting." This knitting machine could produce a variety of stitches and would also combine several complicated stitch patterns with tremendous speed, where previously such complicated patterns were only possible in hand knitting.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 1

The first factory where Page and the other owners of the Lamb patent began manufacturing the Lamb knitting machine was located in New York State. However, in 1867, Page gained control of the patent rights and moved operations to Chicopee, Massachusetts, where he purchased some of the Massachusetts Arms Company buildings in Chicopee Falls and organized the Lamb Knitting Machine Company. Page served as the firm's treasurer and managing agent for much of the company's history. His importance in the industrial and commercial life of Chicopee Falls is indicated by the prominent positions held in the Chicopee Falls Savings Bank, where he was a vice president for many years, and the Chicopee Falls Building Association, of which Page was director for a time.

The Lamb Knitting Machine Company succeeded for many years on the strength of the Chicopee textile industry. Textiles, especially cotton products, were the dominant industry in Chicopee in the early decades of the Late Industrial Period (1870-1915). In 1875, cotton goods accounted for 75% of the town's total manufactured product. However, as the period advanced, the machine tool industry took on a life of its own in Chicopee, and several subsidiary products began to be manufactured. Foremost among these products were bicycles.

In the late 1880s, during the bicycle craze, local machine tool companies began producing bicycles. Thomas Page's Lamb Knitting Machine Company began producing low-priced bicycles for a Hartford bicycle maker, Albert Overman. In 1890, Overman opened a factory of his own in Chicopee, and three years later the Lamb Company began manufacturing low-priced bicycles for Overman's competition, A. G. Spaulding. Before long, Spaulding took control of the Lamb Company and turned the firm exclusively to bicycle production. Following the collapse of the bicycle craze in 1901, Lamb Company was converted by Spaulding to the production of other athletic and sporting goods. Thomas Page was instrumental in attracting new industry to Chicopee, and thus had a lasting impact on the community long after production of the Lamb Knitting machine ceased.

The rich detailing of the Page House, both inside and out, reflects the wealth and prestige that one of Chicopee's leading manufacturers enjoyed. Page built himself the most fashionable and elaborate houses he could afford, using a style that had only recently come into fashion.

continued

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 2

The Belcher Lodge of Masons was founded in 1870, and Page was one of the founding members of the lodge. The Belcher Lodge is probably named after another important Chicopee industrialist, Bildad B. Belcher, owner of the Belcher Company, an agricultural implement manufacturer. The Belcher Lodge was most likely an association of wealthy industrialists and businessmen in Chicopee, and like other Masonic lodges was a society in which secret rituals played an important part in the members' activities.

In 1909, Page sold the house to the Belcher Lodge of Masons; though, by agreement, he continued to live in the front part of the house. The same year, the Masons added the eastern rear wing, which they used for meetings and social events.

The Page House is a very early example of the Queen Anne and Stick Styles of architecture. The house was built around 1875, just when the two styles were beginning to become popular. The stickwork on the upper floors reflects the interest in expressing the structure of the building on its exterior which John Ruskin advocated, and which was carried to its extreme in the Stick Style. The use of a variety of materials - wood, brick, terra cotta, and stone - is another element popularized by Ruskin's writings. Although the exterior was fairly modern for its day, however, the plan was still basically a central hall, four-room plan. The builders did not make use of the innovations possible for creating a more open or complex plan.

The lavish ornamentation inside the building certainly kept up with the latest trends in architectural fashion. Except for the west wing, the rooms display the best materials and craftsmanship available. The opulent detailing in the banquet hall and the meeting hall reflect the wealth of the Belcher Lodge.

As was mentioned above, most of the building's original fabric is intact. Page did remove some of the original mantelpieces around 1909, but replaced them with the heavy wooden ones present today. The new fireplaces complement the rooms' woodwork, and date from a significant period in the building's history - the time when the Masons purchased it. Other changes to the house are relatively minor, and tend to involve the covering, rather than the removal of features. These alterations are, for the most part, reversible. Except for the 1875 fireplaces, there are no key features which have been adversely affected by alterations.

continued

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

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There are few other Queen Anne/Stick Style houses in Chicopee of comparable scale or quality to the Page House. Out of only eleven examples of Stick Style architecture identified in the 1984 inventory, the Page House shows the most exuberant use of stickwork and variety of materials. The only comparable house is the brick Saint John's Lodge on Center Street, which, although not strictly in the Stick Style, is reminiscent of the earlier Page House in its enthusiastic use of brick, stone, shingling, and stained glass.

At present, there is no information available on the architects, builders, and craftsmen who constructed the Page House.

**9. Major Bibliographical References** Thomas C. Page House, Chicopee, Massachusetts

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

MHC Survey #178

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

Quad: Springfield North Scale: 1:25000

UTM References

A 

1	8	7	0	0	1	4	0	4	6	6	9	7	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the property to be nominated is the same as the lot lines of the parcel of land on which the building is located.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David Zarowin/MHC with Michele Plourde-Barker/Community Development Administrator  
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470  
city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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8/31/87

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

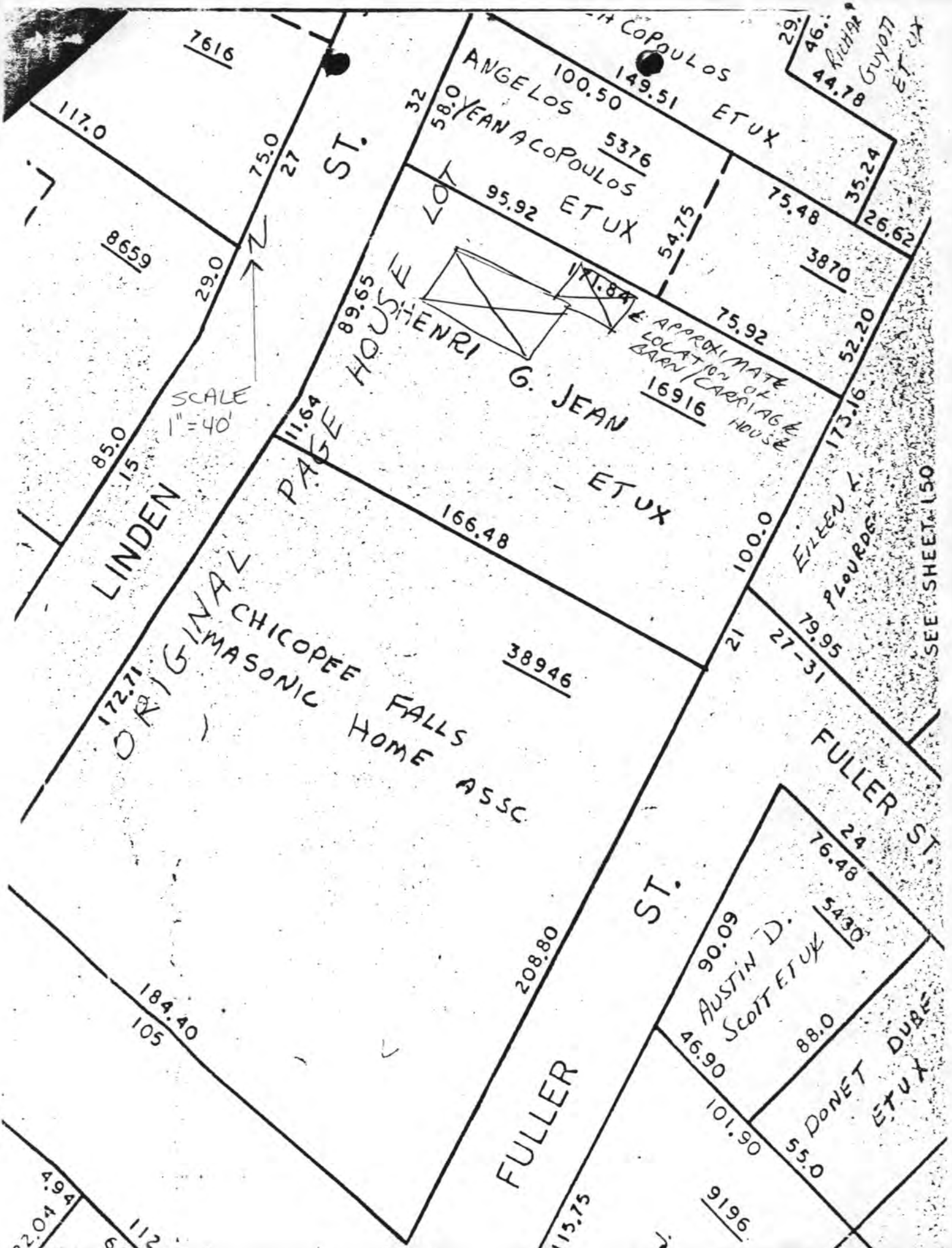
Section number 10 Page 1

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The boundary of the property to be nominated is the same as the lot lines of the parcel of land on which the building is located, described in a mortgage deed recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 2662, Page 214, as follows:

Bounded southwesterly by East Street, one hundred and eighty-four and forty one-hundredths (184.40) feet; northwesterly by Linden Street, one hundred and seventy-two and seventy-one one-hundredths (172.71) feet; northeasterly by land conveyed by the Chicopee Falls Masonic Home Association to Robert Therrien by deed dated October 4, 1955, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 2425, Page 170, one hundred and sixty-six and forty-eight one-hundredths (166.48) feet; and southeasterly by Fuller Street, two hundred and eight and eighty one-hundredths (208.80) feet.

The boundary lines are shown on the attached assessor's map.



7616

117.0

8659

29.0

75.0  
27

ST.

32

58.0

ANGELOS  
JEAN A COPOULOS

100.50  
149.51

ETUX

5376

95.92  
ETUX

54.75

75.48

35.24

26.62

3870

75.92

52.20

APPROXIMATE  
LOCATION OF  
BARN / CARRIAGE  
HOUSE

G. JEAN

16916

ETUX

166.48

100.0

EILEEN K.  
PLOURDE

79.95

27-31

38946

LINDEN

ORIGINAL  
MASONIC

CHICOPEE FALLS  
HOME ASSC

HOME ASSC

208.80

ST.

FULLER ST.

24  
76.48

AUSTIN D.  
SCOTT ETUX

5430

46.90

88.0

DONET  
DUBÉ

ETUX

101.90

55.0

9196

184.40  
105

4.94  
22.04

112

SCALE  
1" = 40'

29.46  
44.78  
RICHARD  
GUYOT  
ET UX

SEE SHEET 150

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Page, Thomas D., House  
Hampden County  
MASSACHUSETTS

*Substantive Review*

Working No. 8-31-87  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 7/28/88  
Action:  ACCEPT  
 RETURN 7-21-88  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*on resubmission "social history" has been dropped as an area of significance & Crit. B. has been checked for association with Page. The period of significance however, has not been redefined to reflect the changed*

Recom./Criteria Return  
Reviewer Patrick Andrus  
Discipline Historian  
Date 7/21/88  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below *areas of significance*  
 substantive reasons discussed below *(see comment on reverse)*

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification	Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
		Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  
Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. 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

The period of significance is still defined to 1937. The areas of significance now are for architectural importance and for historic association with Page. The form does not establish the ending period for Page's association with the building - there is no indication of when he died. Please clearly define the period of significance to reflect the areas chosen.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Patrick Andrus

Date 7/21/88

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

SEP 12 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Thomas C. Page House

other names/site number Belcher Lodge, Masonic Temple

2. Location

street & number 105 East Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Chicopee

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code 025

county Hampden

code 013

zip code 01020

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Valerie H. Talmage  
Signature of certifying official  
**Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission**

Sept. 7, 1988  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Beth Savage

10/25/88

ja Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use** Thomas C. Page House, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Social/meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

vacant/not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls wood, terra cotta

roof asphalt shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Page House is located on the north side of East Street, just southeast of a steep hill extending from the Chicopee River's southern bank at Chicopee Falls, in Chicopee, Massachusetts. The section of East Street on which the Page House sits is fairly level. The property itself is situated on a flat lot. The landscaping has been neglected for some time. There appear to have once been flower beds on the western lawn. Some foundation plantings of pachysandra and a large white spirea bush remain from an earlier landscaping scheme. The most dominant elements of the lot are three huge trees which shade the building.

The Page House sits nearly in the center of its lot at 105 East Street. It is bounded on three sides by streets: East Street to the south, Fuller Street to the east, and Linden Street to the west; its southern boundary is the lot line of the neighboring property. The building is set back nearly 30 feet from Fuller Street and over 50 feet from the lot's three other boundaries. The broad setbacks and large size of the lot add to the imposing appearance of the Page House (see attached site plan).

The Page House is the largest and most imposing structure in a neighborhood of one and two family houses. The other homes on the street are predominantly modest Greek and Colonial Revival houses, and are set closer to the street than the Page House. The Page House is the most unaltered in its neighborhood; many of its neighbors have had siding or new windows added.

There are no out buildings.

The Page House's plan is rather irregular, largely because two wings were added to the rear of the house during its history. The main block is nearly square, with an off-center pavilion projecting from the front facade and two rectangular bay windows on the east and west sides. The first addition, which was built shortly after the Masons acquired the property in 1909, projects to the east from the rear of the building, with a small vestibule where the main block and east wing join. A later addition also extends from the rear of the building, this time to the west. This wing is much smaller than the eastern one, and is linked to the main block and east wing by small enclosed porches (see attached site plan - Figure 1).

The main house is three stories high; it appears to be two-and-a-half stories, but has a full attic above the third floor. The eastern rear wing, which the Masons used for meetings, has two stories, as does the smaller western rear wing. The building has a full basement.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

The Main Block

(See Photograph 1) The Page House's most dominant decorative feature is the entrance pavilion, which projects from the front of the building. The front or south facade is four bays wide. A projecting pavilion forms the center two bays, and is surmounted by an off-center gable and a square tower with pyramidal roof. A wooden, four-bay, first-floor porch runs across the length of the front facade. The porch sits on a lattice work skirt and is ornamented with a stick work balustrade, while chamfered posts and fan-shaped brackets support the shed roof. A gable extranceway with fishscale shingled pediment projects from the main porch which is reached by a set of well-worn sandstone steps. Small modillions appear under the porch roof eaves. The elaborately paneled wooden double doors in the entrance pavilion have a brownstone lintel and granite sills while the windows are 1/1 flanked by long narrow windows to each side, have brownstone sills and lintels. Ornamented panels flank these doors on both sides. To the left is a sandstone panel with the Masonic symbol, while to the right is a red floral terra cotta panel bordered with white terra cotta squares. The brick sheathed first floor is decorated with terra cotta and ornamental brick work. A course of square white terra cotta panels, bordered above and below by black brick stretchers, extends along the first floor just below the level of the door and window lintels. A course of corbelled brick work, also bordered with black stretchers, runs along the building at the level of the porch. The foundation is made of brick, with a brownstone water table.

The upper floors of the main block and pavillion are sheathed in wood clapboards, with stickwork and ornamental fishscale shingles. Small modillions form a narrow overhand just above the gable windows and between the tower's second and third stories. The gable windows are small paired 2/2 windows with stained glass transom. The tower's third-floor windows are like those on the first and second floor. A row of square stained-glass windows sits over the tower windows. Brick work and windows on the remainder of the main block are similar to those on the front facade. Rows of shingles separate the first and second floors, while clapboards ornamented with stickwork sheath the second-story.

The building's east side is five-bays wide, including the two-story rear addition (see Photograph 2). The first-floor east elevation of the main block is distinguished by a rectangular bay window lit by narrow 1/1 windows with brownstone lintels and sills. A second floor porch with woodwork like that on the front porch sits on top of the bay window.

continued

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetThomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 2

From the front the main roof of the house appears to be hipped, with gable-roofed dormers on the southern, eastern, and western sides. However, at the rear, the roof of the main block takes on a gambrel shape. The roof is presently sheathed with asphalt shingles. The original roofing material was probably slate. Two interior chimneys project from the western slope of the main roof, and one interior chimney breaks through the roof's eastern slope. The roof is supported on alternating large and small brackets. Small brackets also appear in the gable eaves and at the cornice of the tower's roof.

The Additions

At the angle where the main block and the eastern rear wing meet, a one story brick vestibule with shed roof and matchboard door allows entry to both the old and new sections of the building. The newer wing complements the older section of the house, but its ornamentation is simpler. The wing still has a brick first floor and wooden Stick Style second story, but where the main block had rows of terra cotta and corbelled brick, the wing has courses of white brick and plain stretchers. A molded brick water table replaces the brownstone one, and segmental arches of double rowlock courses of brick surmount the windows, rather than brownstone lintels.

The roof of the eastern wing is hipped, with a gable dormer in the center of the eastern slope. Stained glass windows light the second story. Narrow rectangular windows appear in the second-floor walls, and the 8/1 paired windows in the dormer are decorated with the Masonic symbol.

The Page House's west side is quite similar to the east. The main block has a similar bay window and the same brick, terra cotta, and wooden ornamentation to the eastern side. A small enclosed porch connects the main block with the western rear wing. This newest addition to the house is a simple two-story, three-bay clapboarded structure with a flat roof and 1/1 windows. The second story projects slightly over the first, and a small one-story windowless shed is attached to the north side of the wing. The roof on the western addition is flat.

At its northern side, the Page House is eight bays wide, and includes another addition at the northwest corner. The main block appears to have a gambrel roof from this side, with a round attic window. The east wing has the same features on this side as on its eastern facade.

The Interior

Overall, the most notable feature of the interior is that it has been relatively unchanged over the years. Original or early windows, woodwork, fireplaces, and fixtures are intact throughout the building.

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

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The basement, which is partially finished, is now used for storage. The finished section has a pressed-metal ceiling and the remnants of an old bowling alley. The unfinished sections have brick walls and floors.

On the first floor, elaborate woodwork and built-in cabinets characterize the rooms in the main block. Elaborate paneled doors with original hardware and heavily molded surrounds allow access to four front rooms. The plan of the main block consists of a central foyer leading to the main staircase. Four rooms are symmetrically arranged on either side of the foyer. Elaborate woodwork, including heavily paneled doors, molded baseboards, door and window surrounds with exaggerated patera cornerblocks, massive wooden fireplaces, and built-in cupboards distinguish these four rooms. The southeastern billiard room is reached through pairs of sliding doors which connect it to the foyer and to the library. The bay window in the eastern wall forms a sunny alcove framed by a molded surround with decorative brackets. In the room's northwest corner is the fireplace with its heavy wooden mantel and brick blue-and-gold tile surrounding the opening. Even the metal fireplace cover is still intact, as are those in several of the rooms. Across the hall, the southwestern parlor (See Photograph 3) is similarly ornamented, but with darker woodwork and an even more ornate fireplace in the northern wall. Underneath the windows in the bay are gilded panels depicting birds, flowers, and sunbursts.

continued

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35% COTTON FIBER

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

North of the billiard room is the library, with built-in shelves and cabinets. The living room, which is north of the parlor, also has built-in cabinets. They are located in the large wooden mantel, and are etched with figures of animals and birds.

A huge banquet room (See Photograph 4) with pressed-metal ceiling and patterned wood floor occupies most of the first floor east wing. The molded door and window surrounds in this section are much simpler than those in the front of the house.

The western wing is cut up into kitchens and bathrooms, with very little ornamentation. Moldings and door and window surrounds are plain, and in some rooms suspended ceilings and new walls have been added.

Three stairways provide access to the second floor. The main stairway in the foyer is separated from the front section of the foyer by a spindle screen supported on chamfered posts and brackets. In an alcove on the landing is an unusual light fixture, which consists of a statue of Venus holding a lamp. In addition to the main staircase, there are two narrow stairways at the rear of the building.

The room arrangement on the second floor is similar to that of the first (See Figure 3). The two front rooms have heavily molded door and window surrounds with patera cornerblocks which are simpler than those on the first floor. A marble fireplace and a marble sink set in a little alcove distinguish the southeast room (See Photograph 5). (Marble is also used for radiator caps in many rooms.) As in all the other rooms, the original shutters are also still in place.

The Masonic Lodge office leads from the southeast room to the Lodge room (See Photograph 6), a huge meeting hall once furnished with massive wooden chairs and benches upholstered in royal blue velvet. The room itself is shaped somewhat like a truncated pyramid. The bottom sections of the walls are covered with matchboard wainscoting, while pressed metal covers the upper sections and the ceiling. Stained glass windows high in the walls cast a subdued and eerie light on the room. At one time, high-backed chairs sat on platforms at either end of the room, while rows of benches provided seating along the sidewalls. Two preparation rooms located off the western side of the Lodge room provided space for the Masons to change.

continued

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Continuation SheetThomas C. Page House  
Chicopee, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 5

Like the back rooms on the first and second floors, those on the second are small and simple. The bedrooms on the third floor (See Figure 4) are also simple, though larger than those in the western wing. Windows are set high into the walls, but several rooms have small platforms or stages below the windows so that one can reach them. At the front of the house is an irregularly shaped room formed by the front pavilion with its tower; this space contains the stairway which is by stained glass windows.

On the whole, the interior, as well as the exterior has been changed very little over the years. Room configurations and decorative features have been retained and are in fairly good condition.

Besides the ca. 1909-1910 east wing and c. 1925 west wing, which have already been mentioned, there have been a few changes to the Page House. When he sold the house to the Masons, Thomas Page reserved the right to remove the mantels in the parlor, living room, and dining room and replace them with others that would harmonize with the rooms' finishes. Although the present mantels are not original to the building, they date from a significant period in the house's history, and complement the original woodwork and finishes.

### Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, several have been recorded that are in close proximity (within 1 mile). The physical characteristics of the property, a large flat terrace originally near a stream and the Chicopee River would have made this an attractive location for native settlement and subsistence activities. East Street which abuts the property may have also been a connecting trail between Springfield and the Chicopee River over at Squisnaqunick (Chicopee Falls) area. While it is likely that sites were present, the intense level of development and relatively small size of the lot suggests that the likelihood of significant prehistoric survivals is low. These factors also suggest that the potential for significant historic sites is low. Early historic settlement was present in this area with East Street probably used as a Plantation Period trail or roadway. A structure predated the Masonic Temple on the property, though archaeological remains of it may have been destroyed during construction of the present structure. Occupations-related features (privies, trash pits, wells) may exist from the existing structure which could add significantly to the understanding of the towns social, cultural and economic development during the late 19th century. In particular, an opportunity could exist to study the role of early fraternal organizations in Chicopee as they contribute towards the development.

**8. Statement of Significance** Thomas C. Page House, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

1875-1909

Significant Dates

1875

1881

1909

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Thomas C. Page

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Thomas C. Page House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building is historically significant both for its associations with Thomas C. Page, an important industrialist in Chicopee in the late nineteenth century, and for its later associations with the Belcher Lodge of Masons. The structure is also architecturally significant. The Page House is a remarkably intact example of the Queen Anne/Stick Style in a city that has only a handful of Stick Style buildings. Its imposing tower, lavish variety of materials and ornament, and the high quality of its interior finishes make it one of the most, if not the most, outstanding houses of its period and style in the city. The Thomas C. Page House meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places on a local level.

The Page House has a number of significant historical associations which make the building an important reminder of Chicopee's development as a community. The Page House was built ca. 1875 for one of Chicopee's leading industrialists, Thomas C. Page. Page played an important role in the development and success of the textile, machine tool, and bicycle industries in Chicopee in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Page was also a charter member of the Belcher Maurice Lodge in Chicopee. In 1909, Page sold his home to the Masons.

Thomas C. Page came to Chicopee in 1867. Born to a farming family in Maine, Page was among the thousands of Americans who turned from farming to manufacturing in the post-Civil War decade. In 1865, Page bought a share of the patent rights to the Lamb Knitting machine. The Lamb knitting machine was an important innovation that, according to one nineteenth century source, "revolutionized the art of knitting." This knitting machine could produce a variety of stitches and would also combine several complicated stitch patterns with tremendous speed, where previously such complicated patterns were only possible in hand knitting.

See continuation sheet



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 1

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The first factory where Page and the other owners of the Lamb patent began manufacturing the Lamb knitting machine was located in New York state. However, in 1867, Page gained control of the patent rights and moved operations to Chicopee, Massachusetts, where he purchased some of the Massachusetts Arms Company buildings in Chicopee Falls and organized the Lamb Knitting Machine Company. Page served as the firm's treasurer and managing agent for much of the company's history. His importance in the industrial and commercial life of Chicopee Falls is indicated by the prominent positions held in the Chicopee Falls Savings Bank, where he was a vice president for many years, and the Chicopee Falls Building Association, of which Page was director for a time.

The Lamb Knitting Machine Company succeeded for many years of the strength of the Chicopee textile industry. Textiles, especially cotton products, were the dominant industry in Chicopee in the early decades of the Late Industrial Period (1870-1915). In 1875, cotton goods accounted for 75% of the town's total manufactured product. However, as the period advanced, the machine tool industry took on a life of its own in Chicopee, and several subsidiary products began to be manufactured. Foremost among these products were bicycles.

In the late 1880s, during the bicycle craze, local machine tool companies began producing bicycles. Thomas Page's Lamb Knitting Machine Company began producing low-priced bicycles for a Hartford bicycle maker, Albert Overman. In 1890, Overman opened a factory of his own in Chicopee, and three years later the Lamb Company began manufacturing low-priced bicycles for Overman's competition, A. G. Spaulding. Before long, Spaulding took control of the Lamb Company and turned the firm exclusively to bicycle production. Following the collapse of the bicycle craze in 1901, Lamb Company was converted by Spaulding to the production of other athletic and sporting goods. Thomas Page was instrumental in attracting new industry to Chicopee, and thus had a lasting impact on the community long after production of the Lamb Knitting machine ceased.

The rich detailing of the Page House, both inside and out, reflects the wealth and prestige that one of Chicopee's leading manufacturers enjoyed. Page bought himself the most fashionable and elaborate house he could afford in 1881, using a style that had only recently come into fashion.

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Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

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The Belcher Lodge of Masons was founded in 1870, and Page was one of the founding members of the lodge. The Belcher Lodge is probably named after another important Chicopee industrialist, Bildad B. Belcher, owner of the Belcher Company, an agricultural implement manufacturer. The Belcher Lodge was most likely an association of wealthy industrialists and businessmen in Chicopee, and like other Masonic lodges was a society in which secret rituals played an important part in the members' activities.

In 1909, Page sold the house to the Belcher Lodge of Masons; though, by agreement, he continued to live in the front part of the house. The same year, the Masons added the eastern rear wing, which they used for meetings and social events.

The Page House is a very early example of the Queen Anne and Stick Styles of architecture. The house was built around 1875, just when the two styles were beginning to become popular. The stickwork on the upper floors reflects the interest in expressing the structure of the building on its exterior which John Ruskin advocated, and which was carried to its extreme in the Stick Style. The use of a variety of materials - wood, brick, terra cotta, and stone - is another element popularized by Ruskin's writings. Although the exterior was fairly modern for its day, however, the plan was still basically a central hall, four-room plan. The builders did not make use of the innovations possible for creating a more open or complex plan.

The lavish ornamentation inside the building certainly kept up with the latest trends in architectural fashion. Except for the west wing, the rooms display the best materials and craftsmanship available. The opulent detailing in the banquet hall and the meeting hall reflect the wealth of the Belcher Lodge.

As was mentioned above, most of the building's original fabric is intact. Page did remove some of the original mantelpieces around 1909, but replaced them with the heavy wooden ones present today. The new fireplaces complement the rooms' woodwork, and date from a significant period in the building's history - the time when the Masons purchased it. Other changes to the house are relatively minor, and tend to involve the covering, rather than the removal of features. These alterations are, for the most part, reversible. Except for the 1875 fireplaces, there are no key features which have been adversely affected by alterations.

continued

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

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There are few other Queen Anne/Stick Style houses in Chicopee of comparable scale or quality to the Page House. Out of only eleven examples of Stick Style architecture identified in the 1984 inventory, the Page House shows the most exuberant use of stickwork and variety of materials. The only comparable house is the brick Saint John's Lodge on Center Street, which, although not strictly in the Stick Style, is reminiscent of the earlier Page House in its enthusiastic use of brick, stone, shingling, and stained glass.

At present, there is no information available on the architects, builders, and craftsmen who constructed the Page House.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

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### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas C. Page House,  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

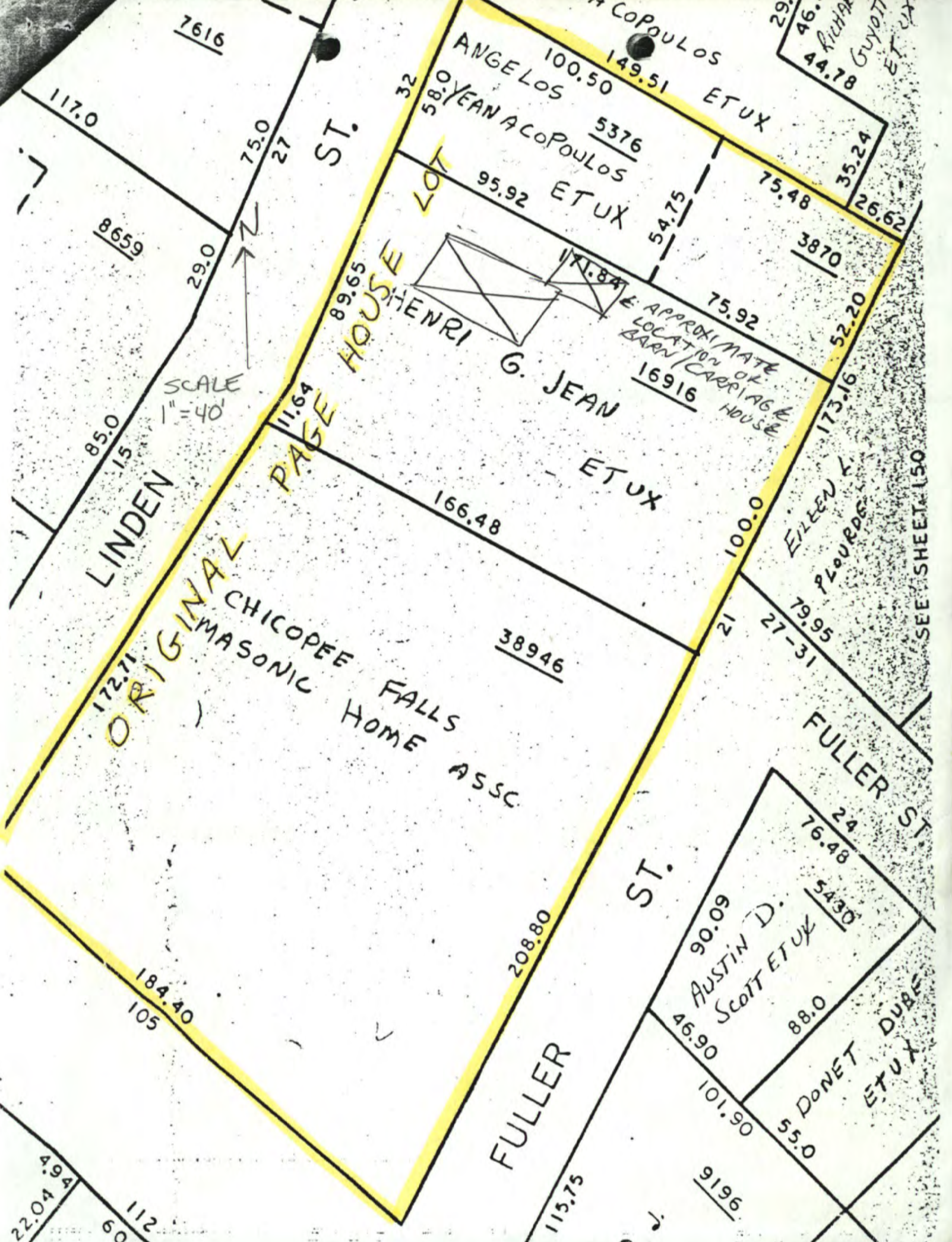
Section number 10 Page 1

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The boundary of the property to be nominated is the same as the lot lines of the parcel of land on which the building is located, described in a mortgage deed recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 2662, Page 214, as follows:

Bounded southwesterly by East Street, one hundred and eighty-four and forty one-hundredths (184.40) feet; northwesterly by Linden Street, one hundred and seventy-two and seventy-one one-hundredths (172.71) feet; northeasterly by land conveyed by the Chicopee Falls Masonic Home Association to Robert Therrien by deed dated October 4, 1955, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 2425, Page 170, one hundred and sixty-six and forty-eight one-hundredths (166.48) feet; and southeasterly by Fuller Street, two hundred and eight and eighty one-hundredths (208.80) feet.

The boundary lines are shown on the attached assessor's map.



7616

117.0

8659

29.0

75.0  
27

ST.

32

ANGELOS 100.50  
JEAN A COPOULOS 149.51 ET UX

5376

95.92 ET UX

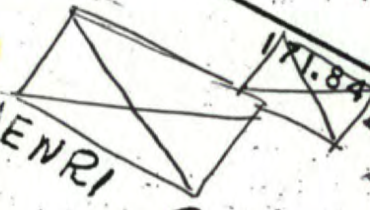
54.75

75.48

35.24

3870

52.20



APPROXIMATE  
LOCATION OF  
BARN / CARRIAGE  
HOUSE

HENRI G. JEAN

16916

ET UX

166.48

75.92

173.16

EILEEN K.  
PLEURDES

21

79.95

27-31

LINDEN

85.0  
15

SCALE  
1" = 40'

PASSE

ORIGINAL

CHICOPEE FALLS  
MASONIC HOME ASSC

172.71

38946

21

100.0

FULLER ST.

ST.

FULLER

208.80

AUSTIN D.  
SCOTT ET UX

24

76.48

5430

88.0

DONET DUBE  
ET UX

101.90

9196

115.75

22.04  
4.94

111  
60

SEE SHEET 150

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: 87001782

Date Listed: 10/25/88

Page, Thomas D., House  
Property Name

Hampden  
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.

*Betty A. Savage*  
Signature of the Keeper

10/25/88  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Criteria:

Criterion A is not applicable to the property's significance. Upon resubmission, criterion A was intended for deletion when social history was deleted as an applicable area of significance. This information was confirmed with Ann Tait, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Page, Thomas D., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampden

DATE RECEIVED: 9/12/88 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/27/88  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 87001782

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10/25/88 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Locally significant Queen Anne residence of important industrialist Thomas D. Page.*

*Return comments have been addressed.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept B+C  
REVIEWER Savage  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 10/25/88

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Thomas C. Page House/Masonic Temple  
105 East Street

Chicopee, Massachusetts 01010

Photographer: Michele Plourde 5/23/85

Negative at Chicopee Office of Community De-  
velopment, Chicopee City Hall

Photo #1 of 6

Exterior, southeast side

5/23/85



8/3/87  
Thomas C. Page House/Masonic Temple  
105 East Street  
Chicopee, Massachusetts 01013  
Photographer: Michele Plourde 5/23/85  
Negative at Chicopee Office of Community De-  
velopment, Chicopee City Hall  
Photo #2 of 6  
Exterior, eastern side of banquet/meeting hall  
addition



Thomas C. Page House/Masonic Temple  
105 East Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01011  
Photographer: Michele Plourde 5/23/85  
Negative at Chicopee Office of Community  
Development, Chicopee City Hall  
Photo #3 of 6  
Interior, first floor parlor, facing west

5/23/85



Thomas C. Page House/Masonic Temple  
105 East Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts  
Photographer: Michele Plourde 5/23/85  
Negative at Chicopee Office of Community  
Development, Chicopee City Hall  
Photo #4 of 6  
Interior, first floor banquet room facing  
northeast

8/21/87



Thomas C. Page House/Masonic Temple  
105 East Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts  
Photographer; Michele Plourde 5/23/85  
Negative at Chicopee Office of Community  
Development, Chicopee City Hall *5/23/85*  
Photo #5 of 6  
Interior, second floor SE room, facing north-  
west



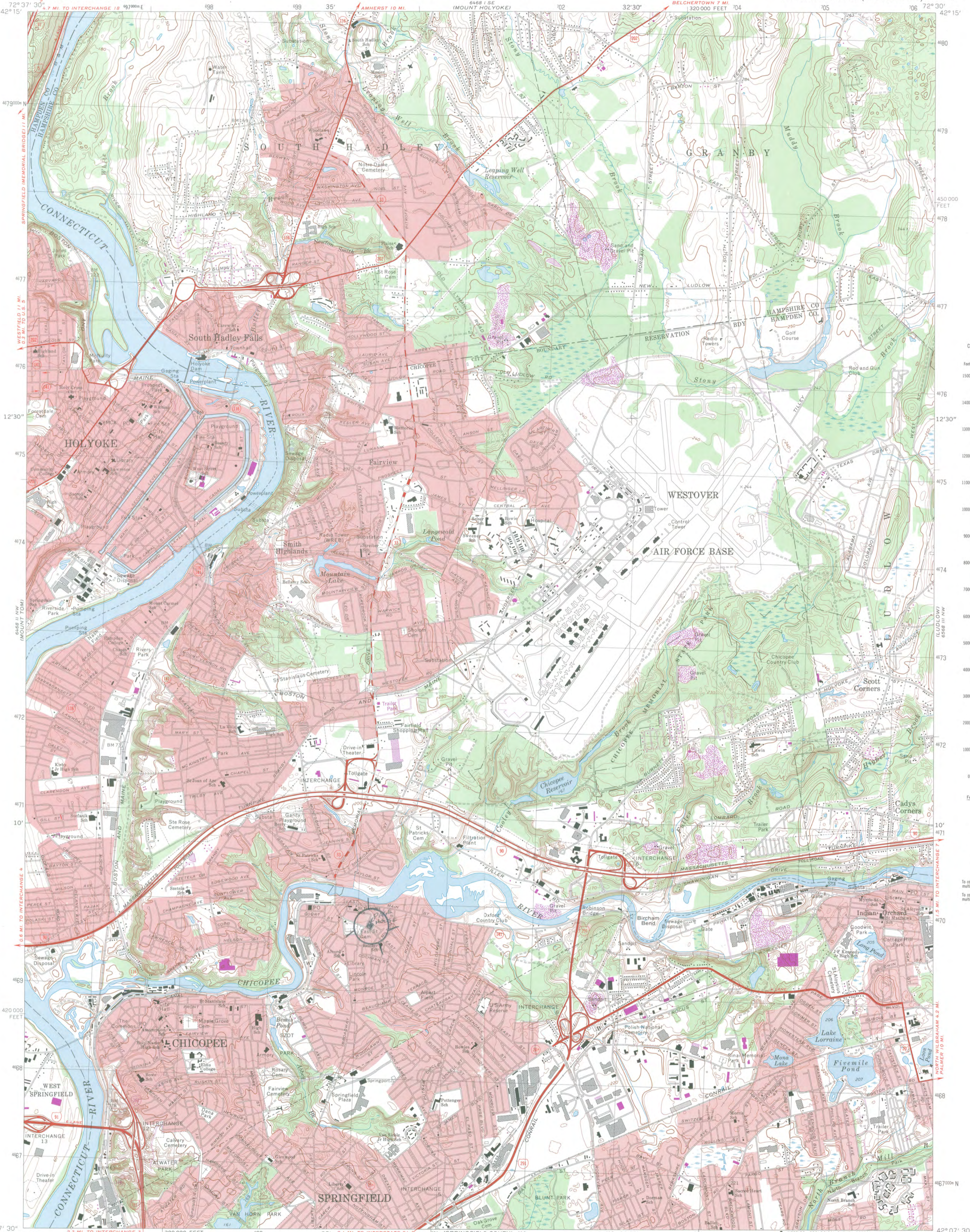
Thomas C. Page House/Masonic Temple  
105 East Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts  
Photographer: Michele Plourde 5/23/85  
Negative at Chicopee Office of Community  
Development, Chicopee City Hall  
Photo #6 of 6  
Interior, second floor Masonic meeting hall,  
facing east

5/23/85

RECEIVED

NOV - 4, 1987

MASS. HIST. COMM.



CONVERSION SCALES

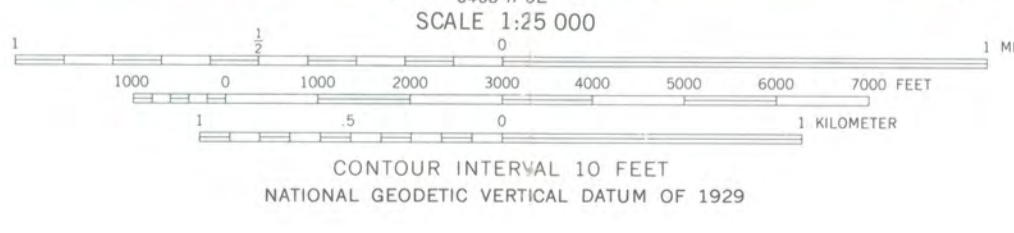
Feet	Meters
1	0.3048
2	0.6096
3	0.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

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

Thomas C. Page House (Belcher Lodge - Masonry Temple)  
105 East Street  
Chicopee  
Quad: Springfield North  
Scale 1:25000  
UTM References 18/700140/4669740

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1933. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 18

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries  
of the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

SPRINGFIELD NORTH, MASS.  
N4207.5-W7230/7.5  
1972  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6468 II NE-SERIES V814

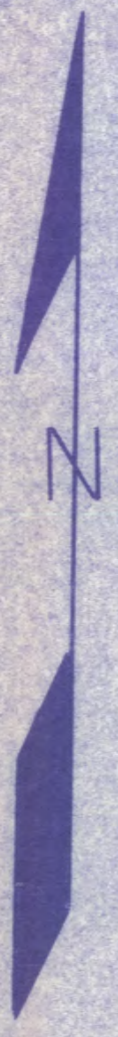


Thomas Page (Masonic Temple) Chicago, MA

149

BROADWAY

SEE SHEET 148



CHICOPEE HOUSING ASSOCIATES  
AREA 2.6 ACRES

SCALE: 1 IN. = 40 FT.

PARCEL 9

EAST ST. CEMETERY  
CITY OF CHICOPEE  
AREA 2.5 ACRES

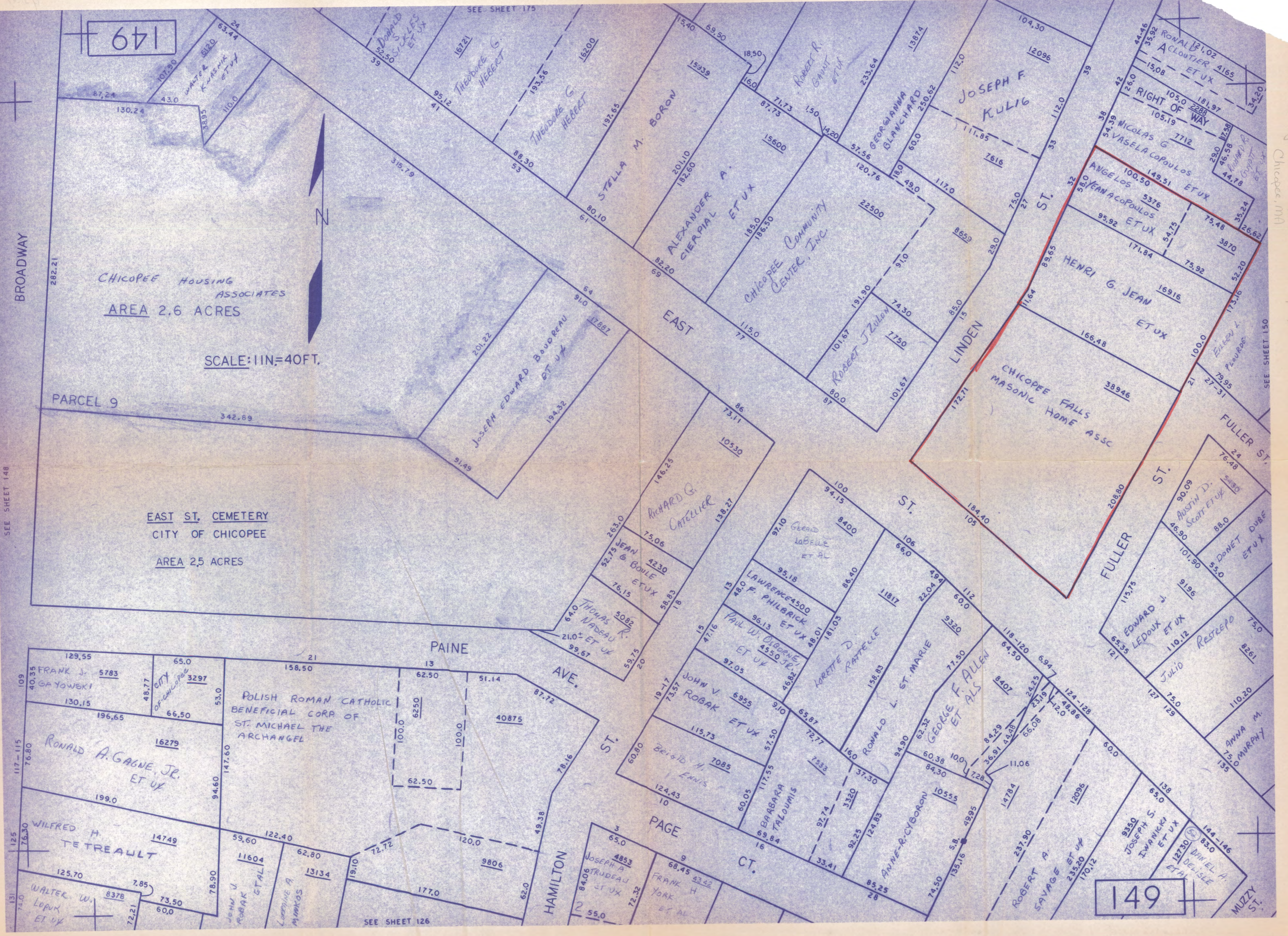
SEE SHEET 175

SEE SHEET 150

109  
117-115  
125  
131

SEE SHEET 126

149







June 3, 1988

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the revised nomination forms for the following properties, which were returned by your office for technical and substantive corrections:

Becket, North Becket Historic District, Main, High, and Pleasant Streets  
(please note that photographs do reflect current condition of buildings within the district)

Boston (Charlestown), Francis B. Austin House, 58 High Street (HPCA #10350MA)

Boston, Temple Place Historic District, 11-55, 26-56 Temple Place

Cambridge (MRA amendment), Harvard Square Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Chicopee, Thomas C. Page House, 105 East Street

Peabody, First Unitarian Church, 7 Park Street (HPCA #10410MA)

All corrections have been made, as requested. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

JUN 13 1988

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Valerie A. Talmage, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*