

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received JUL 27 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Philemon Sage House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Sandy Brook Road (Rte. 183) NA not for publication

S.W. Corner of Norfolk Road opposite Rood Hill Road

city, town Sandisfield NA vicinity of Congressional district

state Massachusetts code 125 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☒ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	<u>NA</u> in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☒ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Dornon

street & number Sandy Brook Road, South Sandisfield, Route 183

city, town Sandisfield NA vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds

street & number 334 Main Street, Town Hall

city, town Great Barrington state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the
title Commonwealth #81 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Philemon Sage House sits isolated in a narrow valley on a triangular plot of forty acres south and west of the intersection of the Sandy Brook Road (Turnpike), now Marlborough Road, the Norfolk Road and the Rood Hill Road. This intersection, in the extreme southwest corner of the town of Sandisfield, is one mile south of the small village of South Sandisfield and one mile north of the Massachusetts/Connecticut border. The area is characterized by scattered 19th century farmhouses. The closest house on the Marlborough Road, a major thoroughfare since the early 19th century, is 1/4 mile away in either direction. Woods, marsh and a small amount of open meadow characterize the land immediately surrounding the house. The Sandy Brook crosses it from west to east, south of the house.

The front portion of the house facing the intersection (northeast) is 2 1/2 stories on a full rectangular cellar and was built c. 1827 as an addition to an earlier structure. Its simple, two story Federal period design is typical of the region. The house has a post and beam frame which is sheathed with clapboard on the exterior. Architectural detailing is simple and restrained. The center entry is marked by side lights under a plain architrave with light, projecting cornice. A similar narrow cornice and frieze at the roofline has returns at the end gables. This design scale is echoed in the facade's narrow corner boards. All 12/12 sash in the nine symmetrically placed windows on the front facade are original and contain a large percentage of "crown glass" panes. Both the north and south gable ends are identical, with six windows, four of 12/12 sash and two attic vent windows of 6/6 sash. Twin end chimneys are trimmed with a two brick corbel. Exterior shutters were added to the front and gable ends during the nineteenth century. The roof is presently asphalt shingle.

The interior retains many primary features. These include: boxed corner beams; all the original doors and hardware; and, on the first floor, single board wainscoting surmounted by a chairrail. Original mantels and parsons cupboard framing quarried marble fire boxes and hearths are preserved on the north chimney. The south chimney has been rebuilt and the mantels changed in.

The 1 1/2 story rear ell is the original part of the house built by Philemon Sage in 1799. In plan, it has three rooms around a central chimney which is offset to the rear of the ell. During or shortly after the 1827 expansion, these rooms were remodelled to serve as kitchen, pantry, battery, and an additional bedroom. A 1 1/2 story woodshed and privy attached to the west gable were probably built before 1827. Entry to the ell is through the south facade which is covered by a shed-roofed, shallow porch. A cheese cellar is accessed via a cellarway under the porch.

The foundation of one barn which once stood south of (behind) the house exists. Another barn or shed foundation is visible across the Norfolk Road. A tannery site is located on the Sandy Brook near the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☒ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☒ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/humanitarian
☒ 1700-1799	☒ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ theater
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☒ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ transportation
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☒ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ other (specify)
		☐ invention		

Specific dates 1799-1827 **Builder/Architect** Philemon Sage

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Philemon Sage House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. The 1827 building and concurrent renovation of an earlier (1799) section of the house together form a well preserved example of vernacular domestic architecture in the early part of the nineteenth century. The evolution of the house attests to the success of nineteenth century industrial and agricultural activities associated with it. Goods produced on the farm were traded both locally and regionally via the Sandy Brook Turnpike (now South Sandisfield and New Marlborough Roads). The Philemon Sage House thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sandisfield, formerly plantation "Number Three" granted by the Massachusetts General Court to a group of proprietors, became a town in 1762. Today, it is the most sparsely settled town in Berkshire County. South Sandisfield is one of three small villages in the town of Sandisfield which served as nuclei for settlement in the 18th century and later as a center for the local community.

Early settlers were attracted to South Sandisfield by land and the water resources of Sandy Brook. Stephen Sage, born 1752, the father of Philemon Sage, came to Sandisfield about 1770 and was one of the first settlers on Sandy Brook. Philemon Sage was born April 1, 1781. He married Betsy Chappel, born July 5, 1782, daughter of Richard and Grace Chappel of Sandisfield in 1799. He is known to have built the 1 1/2 story rear ell of the house as a home that same year on a portion of his father's land. It contained three rooms with a loft and central chimney.

Working with his father, Philemon developed a successful dairy business, producing cheese for sale and trade in the region. He also operated a small tannery behind the house on Sandy Brook. Through both ventures, he became quite affluent for a rural farmer. With the construction of the Sandy Brook Turnpike in 1803, Philemon Sage's house was located on a major trade and stage route for the Red-Bird line connecting Hartford and Albany. It became a county road in 1828.

In 1827 Philemon Sage's father deeded him the remainder of the farm, which included the land on which to build the 2 1/2 story Federal portion of the house facing the turnpike. This provided seven more rooms to house his growing family which would total eight children, Caius Marcus, Ann Eliza, David Douglass, Solomon Seth, Mary Celestia, Rufus Cable, Augustus Philemon and Joseph Chappel, all born between 1806 and 1823.

Records from a neighbor, Abner Webster's Sawmill Account book, show a great deal of business transacted between Philemon and Webster, up the Sandy Brook. Between 1831 and 1839, raw timber and tanned leather were traded for sawed lumber and cash. Philemon was appointed for a term as the first postmaster in South Sandisfield on April 29, 1844. The post office was run from the house at the four corners for about a year before it was discontinued in 1845, mostly for political reasons. Philemon Sage died at age 77 on August 9, 1858, and was buried in the South Sandisfield cemetery. The estate

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Berkshire County, Mass., David Dudley Field, 1829
History of Berkshire County, Mass., J. B. Beers Co., N.Y., 1885
Child's Gazetteer of Berkshire County, Mass., Hamilton Child, 1885
Vital Records of Sandisfield, Mass. to the Year 1850, Smith, 1935

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 40 acres

Quadrangle name South Sandisfield, Mass. - Conn.

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A

1	8
---	---

6	5	3	0	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	5	7	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

1	8
---	---

6	5	3	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	5	7	1	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

C

1	8
---	---

6	5	2	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	5	7	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D

--	--

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

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

E

--	--

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

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

F

--	--

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

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

G

--	--

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

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

H

--	--

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

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

Verbal boundary description and justification

(see attached continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
NA			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Adams, Program Assistant with James N. Parrish, Historic Preservation Planner, Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 1982

street & number 294 Washington St. telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MASS

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie Ann Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date July 20, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 8.31.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Philemon Sage House

Item number 8

Page 1

was not probated until 1861 and contains an extensive inventory of real and personal property listing all the effects of a working farm and home. Household and farm goods were valued at \$1,157.62 and the 80 acre homestead farm at \$2,500. As a provision of his will, daughter, Ann Eliza and son, Augustus remained living in the house. Ann Eliza Sage died in 1896, the property being owned by the Sage family for over 97 years. Only two subsequent owners have occupied the house prior to preservation by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dornon in 1952.

The remains of several barns, outbuildings and a tannery associated with the house, exist as tangible records of past agricultural and industrial activities. Their preservation indicates a good potential for the presence of less visible additional historic archaeological resources in the form of structural features and artifact concentrations. These may be located through archaeological investigation in and around the main house. Excavation of these materials could produce an assemblage of materials associated with 18th and 19th century domestic, farm, and industrial activities. Analysis of materials from the period of Philemon Sage's occupation would be useful in supplementing and comparison with the documentary evidence on this prosperous early 19th century farm.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Philemon Sage House

Item number

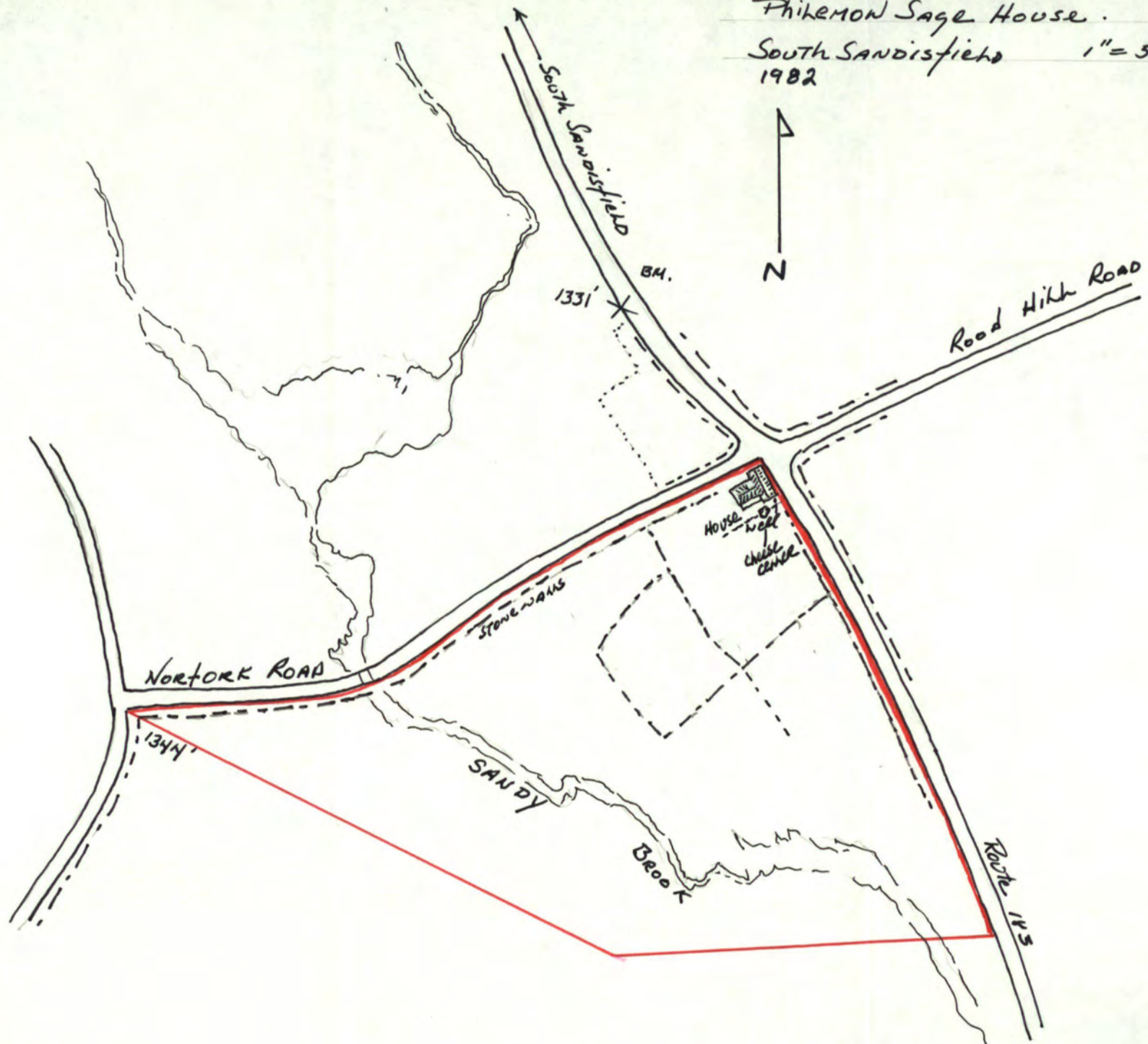
10

Page

1

Beginning at a Maple in the southerly line of a cross road leading from Sandy Brook to the Norfolk Road. Said Maple tree beginning 260 feet westerly from the west bank of Sandy Brook being the northwest corner of the parcel. Thence, 14 degrees, 45' east, 1600 feet along land on one corner to a stake, thence easterly along other land of the grantor 1300 feet more or less, to an iron pipe in the westerly line of the Sandy Brook Road. Thence northerly along the Sandy Brook Road, with the southern line of the above-mentioned cross road, thence westerly along said cross road 950 feet more or less to the place of the beginning containing 40 acres more or less.

Philemon Sage House.
South Sandisfield 1" = 500' app.
1982



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Sage, Philemon, House,
Berkshire County,
MASSACHUSETTS,

Working No. 7/27/82-2075Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83Date Due: 8-26-82 / 9-10-82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 8/31/82☐ RETURN☐ 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 Atc / AcceptReviewer DAVE DOUGANDiscipline A.H.Date 8.30.82☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ original site
		☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☒ summary paragraph
☒ completeness
☒ clarity
☒ alterations/integrity
☒ dates
☒ boundary selection JUSTIFICATION COULD HAVE BEEN MORE EXPLICIT.

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
☒ No justification of exception
☒ NA other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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 _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



77/34 # 1

Philemon Sage House, view Southwest,
front facade, C. 1827

Sandy Brook Road, Sandisfield Ma.

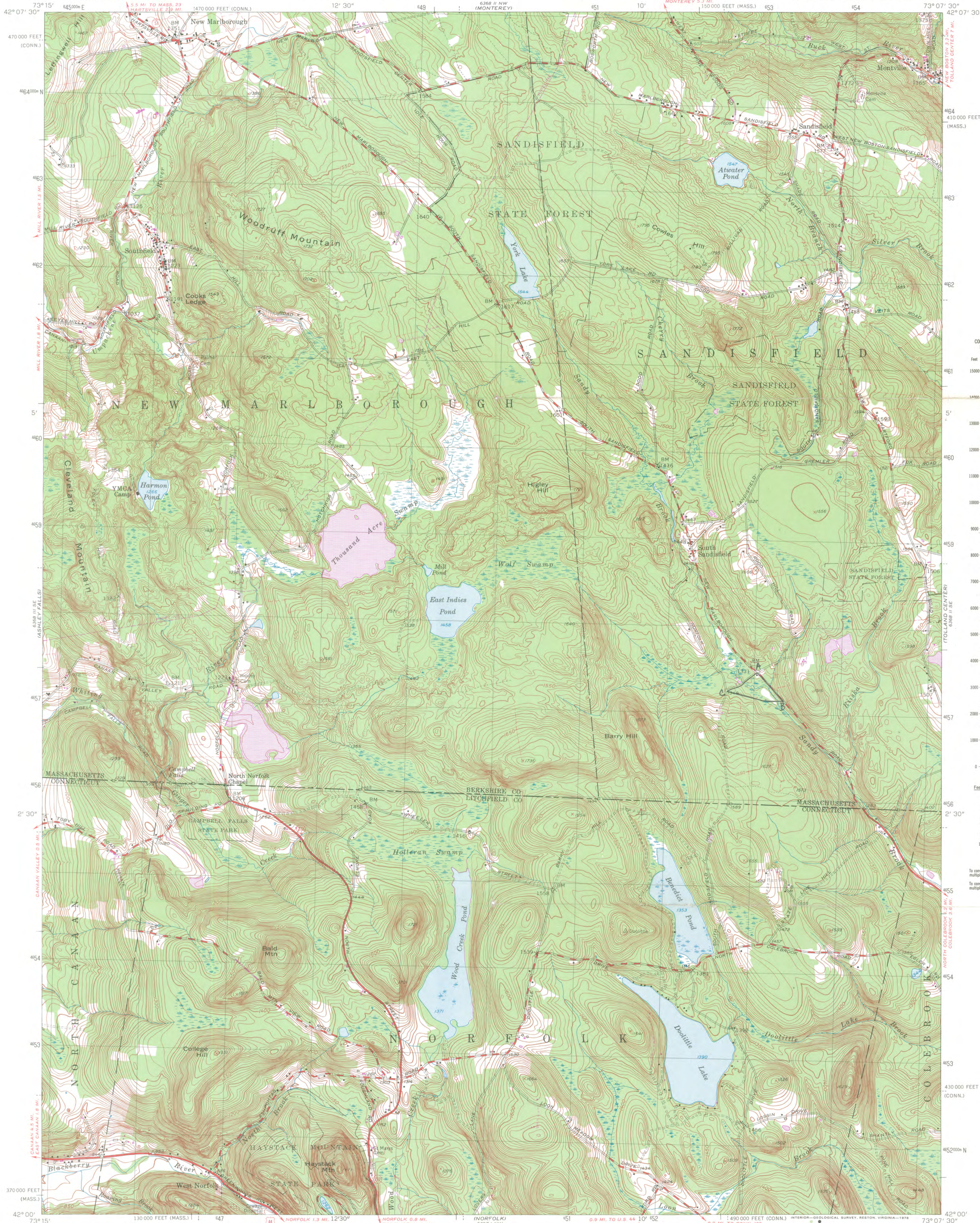
James N. Parrish, 8/2/80

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

SOUTH SANDISFIELD QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-CONNECTICUT
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



CONVERSION
SCALES



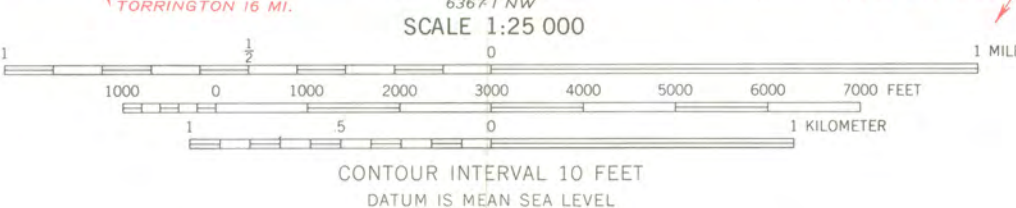
Philomen Sage House
Sandisfield,
Berkshire Co., MA

UTM References

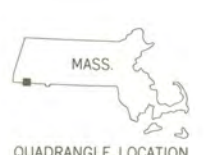
A 18/653030/4657440
B 18/653340/4657150
C 18/652680/4657260

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 3.048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Land and Harbor
Commission, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and Connecticut
Geodetic Survey.
Topography in Connecticut by planetable surveys 1944
Topography in Massachusetts from aerial photographs by
photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1942
Field check 1946. Revised 1958
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

SOUTH SANDISFIELD, MASS.-CONN.
N4200-W7307.5/7.5
1958
PHOTOREVISED 1969
AMS 6368 II SW-SERIES V814

Goodwood
Summit Road
Richmond, MA

The owner was originally notified of MHC's intent to nominate on 11/7/80, and responded in favor on 12/27/80.

The State Review Board considered the nomination on 12/10/80 and voted unanimously in favor.

The nomination was submitted to the National Register on 12/12/80; it was returned to MHC on 2/13/81.

Ownership was verified on 12/2/81 and the owner was renotified of MHC's intent to renominate on 12/14/81. The owner responded in favor by telephone.



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

July 20, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Lynn: Lynn Bank Block (local)
Monterey: Reverend Adonijah Bidwell House and First Meetinghouse Site (local)
Newburyport: E.P. Dodge Building (local)
✓ Sandisfield: Philemon Sage House (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission