

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 Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House site
and site of the first Meeting House (preferred)
and/or common "Deep Woods Manse"

2. Location

street & number dead end, Royal Hemlocks Road, end of Art School Road NA not for publication
city, town Monterey NA vicinity of congressional district
state Massachusetts code 025 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. Jack Hargis and Mr. David Brush
street & number Art School Road
city, town Monterey NA vicinity of state Massachusetts 07145

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds
street & number 334 Main Street; Town Hall
city, town Grat Barrington state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historical Assets of the
title Commonwealth #2, #908 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		Check one	Check one	
☒ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site	
☐ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved	date <u>N/A</u>
☐ fair	☐ unexposed			

Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House, Royal Hemlock Rd.

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Reverend Adonijah Bidwell House and the site of the first Meetinghouse of Housatonic Township No. 1 (Tyringham and Monterey today) are located in the Berkshire Mountains, 25 miles northwest of the present central village of Monterey. The Bidwell House is a vernacular example of a two-story mid-18th century house with lean-to and ells. The surrounding area is dominated by second growth deciduous forest with the exception of a meadow west of the house. Several 18th and 19th c. roads, which once provided easy access from all directions have been partially or totally abandoned. The Bidwell House is located on the west side of Royal Hemlock Road. The Meetinghouse site sits on a low escarpment north of an abandoned section of The Old Boston to Albay Post Road. The area enclosed by Royal Hemlock Road and stonewalls on north west and south totals approximately 60 acres and is included in this nomination.

The Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House, built in 1750, is a large "Saltbox" style Georgian house built on a post and beam frame and set on a rectangular dry lain stone foundation. It has two ells -- one built circa 1790 to the north as a horse barn; and a one-and-a-half story, Greek Revival style woodshed and carriage house, circa 1837 on the east, set ajogg to the house (Photo 1). The main house is sheathed with narrow clapboards while the ells are sheathed and covered with wider clapboard. A massive brick center chimney corbeled to a taper rises above a hand split cedar shingle roof which has been restored by the present owner. The exterior is marked by its simplicity: plain architraves at the windows, narrow corner and fascia boards and lights over the center entry, are the only decorative elements.

The facade (south) displays the customary five-bay, nine window configuration of the two-story eighteenth century house. These windows and the majority in the house contain 12 over 8 sash. The east gable contains three windows, one per floor, and the connection to the 19th century ell. A deep recessed porch on the ell allows access to both the Keeping Room and the woodshed, carriage house. Two windows on the porch and one on the carriage shed light its interior. Four, 1/2 sash, 6 pane windows light the second floor. The west gable of the main house contains five windows -- two per floor (12 over 8 panes) and a 6 over 6 attic vent window. The 1790 horse barn is attached to the rear facade at the northwest corner. Windows were added to it in the 19th century. Three 12 over 8 sash windows light the Keeping Room at the base of the long, sloped "Saltbox roof" on the main house.

The general layout of the interior of the house is traditional: three rooms around a central chimney and staircase. Two of the three fireplaces that heated the first floor have bee-hive bake ovens. This massive masonry chimney core is supported by an arch of dry lain stone masonry in the full cellar. Another notable feature of the house is the large amounts of raised wood paneling in proportion to plastered walls. The Keeping Room and both parlors have fine paneling on the hearthwalls. A combination of horizontal and vertical wainscoating are used in the front entry to a small hall on the second floor. The east bedroom is plastered and contains the only fire place on the second floor. All plaster is original.

Circa 1914, there were two barns, an ice house, a blacksmith shop, and a pig shed. All but the pig shed have fallen in, but the foundations remain intact. The pig shed is a timber framed structure west of the 1790 horse barn ell and is believed to have been built by Rev. Bidwell. It is sheathed with vertical board. Two vertical plank doors

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House Item number 7

Page 1

allow access to the first floor and the loft above. A recent shed is located south of the house.

The site of the first Meetinghouse can be reached by a much travelled path which skirts the east side of the meadow west of the house and travels southeasterly to the church site on the escarpment above the Boston and Albany Post Road. A marble marker measuring 3' x 2 1/2' was erected on the site by the Daughters of the American Revolution of Lee, Massachusetts in 1926. It is inscribed, "Site of the first church in the original town of Tyringham 1743 to 1798". The foundation, measuring 39' x 34' and three stone steps, remains on the south, west, and north, indicating the pulpit may have been on the east wall in typical Puritan fashion. The dimensions of its foundation are one foot less than those set forth by the proprietors in 1742 who called for a building "34' x 40' of suitable height for one tier of galleries."

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/
☒ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☒ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1750

Builder/Architect

Rev. Adonijah Bidwell

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and associations. The house was the home of the town's first settled minister, a working farm for his son and grandsons and for the second family to own the property, the Carringtons. They operated the farm from 1837 to 1913. Between 1914 and 1922 it served as an art school. The original character, design, and artistic quality of its construction have been little changed over the years. Its association with the development of not one but two towns; Tyngham and Monterey, through the development of the first church for the region makes it locally important. Through association with its first owner, Rev. Adonijah Bidwell and his sons, Adonijah and Barnabas, it gains regional and state wide importance. Both the Bidwell House and the Meetinghouse site are located on a portion of the 195 acre original lots set aside for the Meetinghouse and Minister in 1740-42 and 1750 respectively. The Adonijah Bidwell House and the site of the First Meetinghouse thus meet criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places. Since it is known that the foundation of the Meetinghouse remains as well as the foundation of many outbuildings, there is also a potential for meeting criterion D.

Adonijah Bidwell (1716-1784) was the son of an owner/master of a vessel which traded largely in the West Indies from Hartford, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale in 1740. In 1746 he served as a chaplain on a Colonial Sloop of War, under Sir William Pepperel at the capture of Louisburg, the French capital at Cape Breton, N.S. Later he preached three years at Simsbury, Connecticut and for a few months in Kinderhook, N.Y. It was from there that he came to newly settled Housatonic Township No. 1 (Tyngham) to serve as its first resident minister, and preach to a church with only eight members.

At the first Proprietors meeting in May, 1750, Jonathon Hubbard, Thomas Strong, and Samuel Hopkins, D.D. (a minister from Great Barrington) were appointed to look into the qualifications of Rev. Bidwell. A month later they reported Mr. Bidwell as satisfactory. He was accepted and ordained October 3, 1750, at a "Council Meeting".

For thirty-four turbulent years he served as a teacher of religion and of the school for the town. He was highly respected, and served in many capacities. He formed his own system of shorthand which he used in writing his sermons. Besides his ministerial duties, he operated a large farm. During the Revolution, he sold beef to the Continental Army. In his "House Book" he recorded the day to day life in the town including births and deaths.

During the first years of his labor the membership of his church grew to 104 persons. The lack of separation of church and state would weigh heavily upon him during the Revolution. Because of the cost of supporting the Militia during the Revolution, his salary, which never reached more than ninety Pounds, proved easier to cut than to increase. In 1777, with the town behind in their payments to him, he left his pulpit and penned a three page letter to the town outlining his grievance. He won his back pay, but not a raise. Because of the debasement of the state and Continental currency, he elected to take forty-eight Pounds of payment owed in wool, flax, clothing, and any sort of grain. He

9. Major Bibliographical References

A Hinterland Settlement, Tyringham, Massachusetts and Bordering Lands,
Eloise T. Myers, 1950 - 1965, Privately Printed.

New England's Monterey, Julius Miner and Marjorie Mansfield, Monterey Congregational Church, 1948.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 60 acres

Quadrangle name Monterey, Mass.

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A

1	8
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6	4	7	0	8	0
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4	6	7	4	4	0	0
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B

1	8
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6	4	7	1	8	0
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4	6	7	3	9	2	0
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C

1	8
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6	4	6	9	2	0
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4	6	7	3	8	9	0
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D

1	8
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6	4	6	9	0	0
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4	6	7	4	3	7	0
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E

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification From a corner of a stone wall west of the Carrington-Battelle Rd. south of its intersection with Arts School Rd., and Royal Hemlock following a stone wall running west 280'. At a corner running 25' east north east to a well built stone wall enclosing an overgrown lot. Following that wall 280' west to a corner then 27' east north east to a corner and a barway opening on to an old road. 304' north north west along that road

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see con't sheet)

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.

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie Ann Talmage

Acting title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 20, 1982

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 8/26/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House Item number 8

Page 1

died in 1784 and was buried in the Woods Cemetery one and one-half miles southeast of his church and dwelling on what is today the Beartown Road.

His eldest son, also Adonijah Bidwell, inherited the house and farm after his father's death. He was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in a company of calvary in the Massachusetts Militia raised at Stockbridge in 1792, by the first Governor of the Commonwealth, John Hancock. He served as an associate Justice of the Court of Sessions for Berkshire County from 1807 to 1809. Between 1809 and 1814, he served as an Associate Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Both Courts tried cases involving the internal concerns of Berkshire County.

Another son, Barnabus Bidwell (born in 1763), studied to be an attorney. He served as Berkshire County Treasurer from 1791 to 1810, as State Senator from 1801 to 1802, and as a Member of Congress, 1803 to 1806. He served as Massachusetts Attorney General from 1807 to 1810, as well. Accused of embezzling \$330.64 from County accounts by Federalist enemies, he fled to Kingston, Ontario, Canada to avoid arrest. He died there July 27, 1833. In 1942, 132 years later, he was cleared of all charges.

From 1837 to 1913, the Bidwell House property continued to be operated as a farm by several generations of the Carrington family. For eight years (1914-1922) it provided lodging, studio space and subject matter for a summer colony of artists with prominent local reputations

The Meetinghouse, built in 1743, served the Tyringham Valley (now Tyringham) residents to the north and the South Settlement (now Monterey Center) residents to the south, which were at that time one township. It was located on an existing road which later became the Boston and Albany Post Road. Construction of a second, new church in 1792 near the house of Adonijah Bidwell's successor, Rev. Joseph Avery, moved this important community institution one-half mile southward towards present day Monterey Village. In response to this slight distance increase, the Tyringham Valley residents to the north also formed their own church circa 1798 and the First Meetinghouse was dismantled. This spiritual and geographic separation eventually led to the incorporation of the towns of Monterey and Tyringham as two distinct political units in the mid 19th century.

The Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House and environs should be considered to contain archaeological deposits and features representing 150 years of uninterrupted use as a residence and working farm. In addition to the visible surface features mentioned above, traces of other subsurface structural features and artifactual depostions relating to outbuildings, wells, privies, and trash concentrations can probably be located through careful archaeological investigation of the property. Excavation of these historic resources could produce an assemblage of artifactual materials associated with 18th and 19th century domestic and farm activities as well as information on the internal structure of the farm as it changed through time.

The site of the First Meetinghouse appears to be an essentially undisturbed physical record of a primary early settlement institution dating from the second quarter of the 18th century. Archaeological investigation may provide artifactual materials relating to structural features

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Continuation sheet Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House Item number 8

Page 2

such as foundation stones, glass, bricks, and nails for direct comparison with the documentary record as well as indications of contemporary and subsequent activities associated with the site. In general, the distribution of materials and subsurface features at early New England meetinghouse sites is found to be sparse but critically important in interpreting social relations and functions. This site could contribute valuable information towards establishing a comparative data base in addition to revealing aspects of local history.

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Continuation sheet Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House Item number 9, 10

Page 1

#9.
Vital Records of Tyringham to the year 1850, New England Historic-Genealogical Society, page 12 - 13, Boston, 1903.

"Proprietors Records, Housatonic Township No. 1" (Tyringham, MA), Cooke

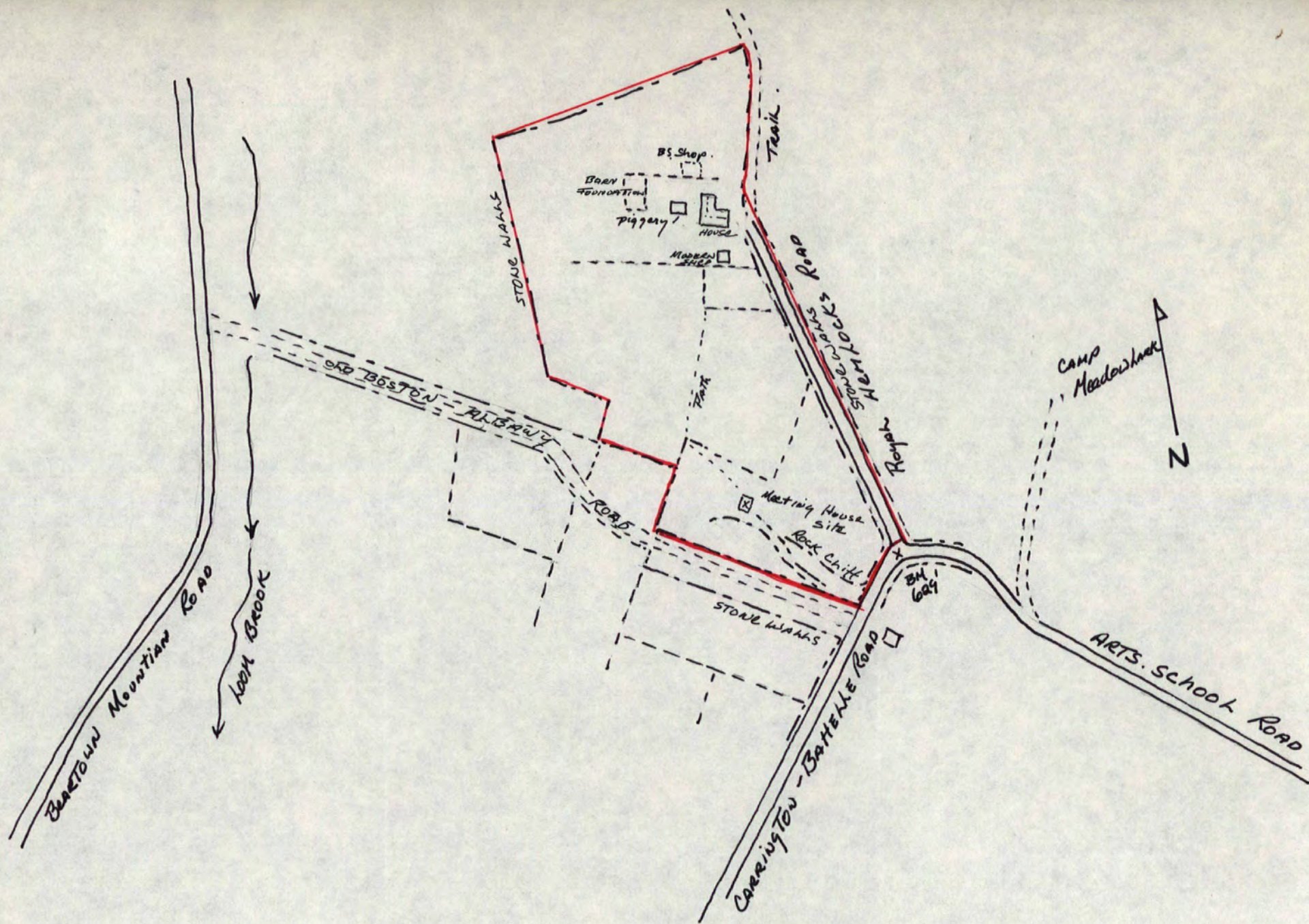
Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Ballard Collection.

Berkshire Eagle, Oct. 27, 1979, 'Our Berkshires', Barnabas Bidwell Rehabilitated, Chapman.

Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds., Book 327, Pages 182-83.

#10.

to a corner of a stone wall of an open meadow opposite. Hence 10' north north east along this wall opposite an old orchard (overgrown) to the foundation of a barn. From a corner 345' north to a corner of that wall behind the Bidwell House. Then 82' east to the northeast side of Royal Hemlock's Road. Then 165' along that road to its intersection of Art School and southerly to the beginning.



Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House (1750)
 Site of first, Tyringham Meeting House
 1743 1" = 1000' app.
 1982

ited States Department of the Interior
tional Park Service

82004954

Bidwell, Rev. Adonijah, House,
Berkshire County,
MASSACHUSETTS,

Working No. 7/27/82-2074

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 8-26-82/9-10-82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 8/26/82

Entered in the ☐ RETURN
National Register ☐ 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 _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

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

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

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



Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House,
View Northwest, front facade &
Woodshed ell to east.

Royal Hemlock Road

James N. Parrish 1979

9/4

neg. filed with photographer

Photo #1 of 2



Site of the First Church in the
Original Town of Tryingham 1743-1798
View North Foundation Stone & Front
Step in Foreground

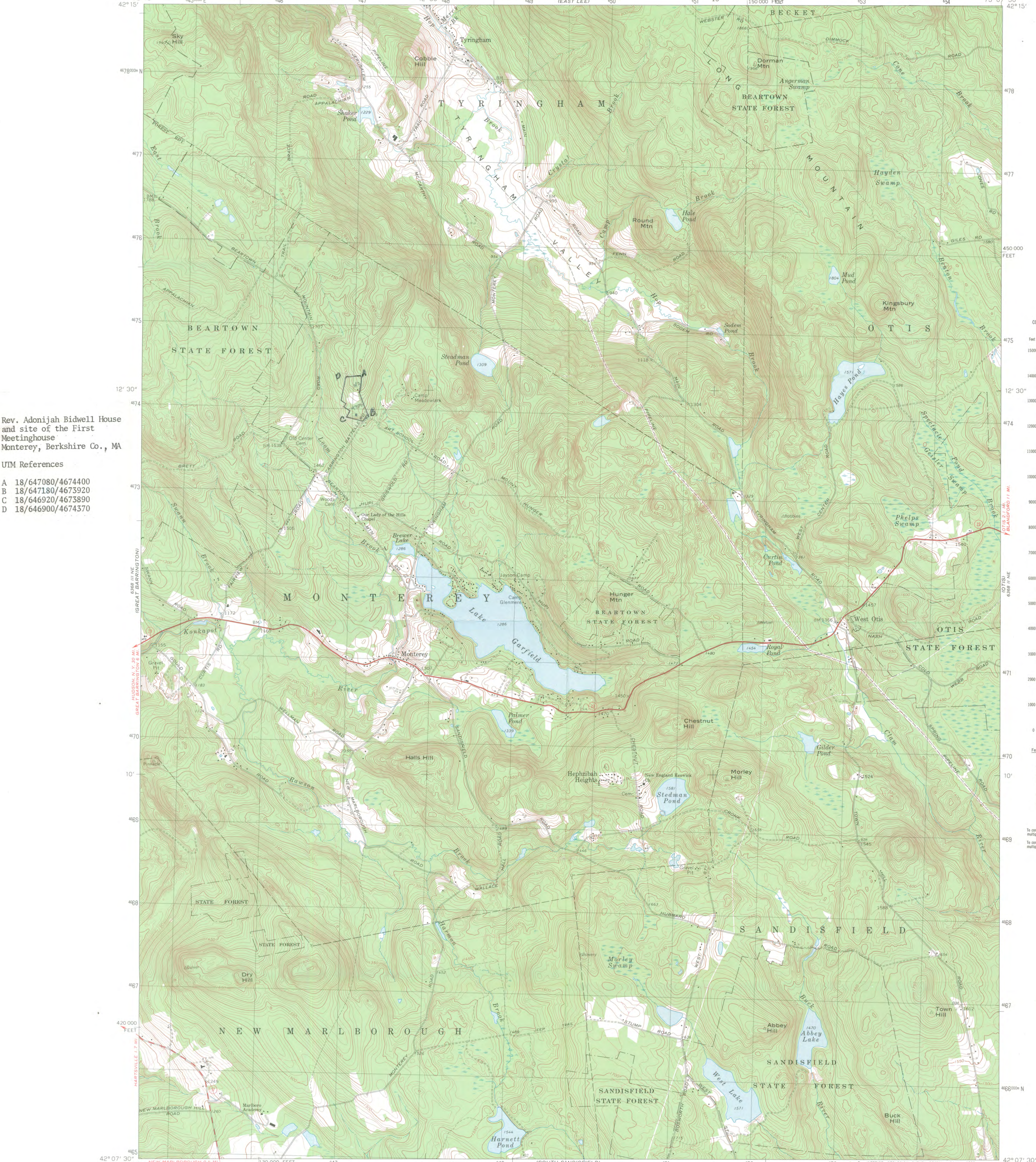
James N. Parrish 1980 79/18

neg. filed with photographer
Photo # 2 of 2

Rev. Adonijah Bidwell House
and site of the First
Meetinghouse
Monterey, Berkshire Co., MA

UTM References

A 18/647080/4674400
B 18/647180/4673920
C 18/646920/4673890
D 18/646900/4674370

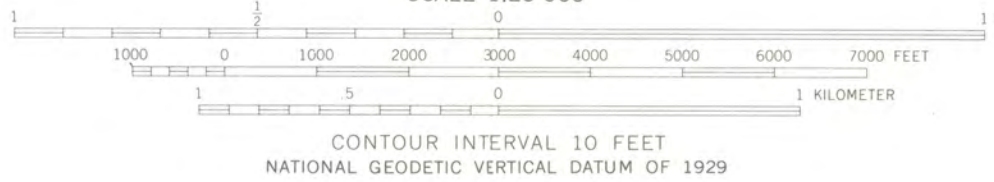
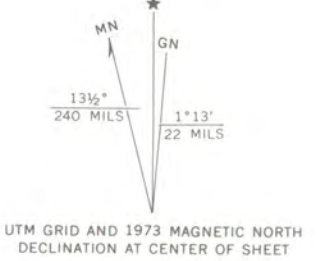


CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4000
13000	3500
12000	3000
11000	2500
10000	2000
9000	1500
8000	1000
7000	500
6000	0
5000	1500
4000	1000
3000	500
2000	0
1000	500
0	0

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

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Field checked 1946. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1973
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
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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

MONTEREY, MASS.
N4207.5-W7307.5/7.5
1973

AMS 6368 II NW-SERIES V814

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



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

4
**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

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission