

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 HCRS use only

received **MAR 31 1980**
date entered **MAY 7 1980**

1. Name

historic William Russell Allen House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 359 East Street not for publication

city, town Pittsfield vicinity of congressional district First

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Administration and Finance

street & number State House, Beacon Street

city, town Boston vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkshire County Registry of Deeds (Middle District)

street & number 24 Wendell Ave.

city, town Pittsfield state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978 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 _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Russell Allen House is located on East Street in down town Pittsfield, three blocks east of the Court Square Historic District (NR). When constructed, it occupied an ample one acre lot in the city's finest residential neighborhood. Today it is flanked by former hospital buildings which were constructed in the early twentieth century. It is one of the few remaining structures which reflect the area's elegant residential character of the late nineteenth century.

The Queen Anne style Allen House is asymmetrical in both plan and elevation. It is two and one-half stories in height and is enclosed by a complex pitched roof which is pierced near its center by a single chimney stack. It's basement is constructed of rock faced granite blocks, the first floor is uncoursed rock faced Great Barrington bluestone and the upper floors are covered with a combination of patterned wood and terra cotta shingles, specifically, a band of wooden shingles in a staggered butt pattern encircles the base of the second floor; the remainder of the second floor is covered with wooden shingles in a canted hexagonal pattern; terra cotta tiles in an arcaded pattern are used in the gables. Additionally, its porch which wraps around the southeast corner is trimmed with East Longmeadow sandstone and marble. Sash varies from a 1/1 to a multi-pane treatment. A continuous boxed cornice encircles the building forming pedimented gables.

The facade (south) is dominated by a projecting gabled pavillion which contains a two-story, three sided bay. The bay contains windows on all three faces at both the first and second stories and is topped by a balustrade to form a third story porch. East of the bay at the first story is an open porch whose entrance is approached by five granite steps. This entry is framed by short marble columns with sandstone plinths and carved foliate capitals. The entrance to the house is approximately eight feet behind this frame. At the second story the bay is flanked by square multipaned windows. At the third story a pair of doors flanked by square multi-paned windows opens onto the roof of the bay.

The east elevation is dominated by a gabled pavillion at its northern end. This gable contains an open porch and two windows at the second story and a bank of three windows and two doors flanked by patterned stucco panels in the gable. The southern end of this elevation consists of an open flat roofed porch at the first story and a blank wall pierced by a single multi-paned window at the second story.

The most prominent feature of the north elevation is a two story wood frame ell projecting slightly west of center; a one story granite and sandstone structure is attached to the ell. A shed roofed addition obscures the first story east of the ell.

The major feature of the west elevation is a tripartite oriel containing leaded glass windows with art glass transoms. It has two windows at the second story and surmounted by a cross gable containing a bank of three windows. Fenestration of the first floor from north to south consists of a conventional rectangular window, two square windows beneath the oriel and a round arched windows containing leaded glass.

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 1886 **Builder/Architect** H. Neil Wilson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Russell Allen House possesses integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship and associations with prominent local persons. Additionally it is the finest example of Queen Anne design in Pittsfield and one of the finest in Berkshire County.

William Russell Allen was the grandson of Thomas Allen, III who had given the town the Berkshire Athenaeum, (located in Park Square National Register Historic District) the decade before. Allen was also the great grandson of Thomas Allen, the "Fighting Parson" of Revolutionary War fame. Even the land on which he built his new home, although bought from the estate of Dr. John Brewster, was part of the ancestral lands of his grandfather. Beyond his family connections, William Allen distinguished himself as the owner of the Allen Farm (in the eastern part of Pittsfield) where he raised horses on his 1250 acres. At the time of his death in 1916, Allen had raised and sold over 1,000 blooded horses, including the famous stallion "Kremlin" who was at one time the fastest horse in the United States. Allen brought a revolutionary idea to the Berkshires - that of raising fast horses in a cold climate. By the 1890's Pittsfield was enjoying a reputation, not only for stock farms, but for horse racing. Much of this interest can be traced to Allen's innovative idea.

The William Allen House is the finest example of the Queen Anne style extant in Pittsfield and one of the most important examples in Berkshire County. The style expressed in its asymmetrical plan and massing, and in the variety of materials used in construction to produce contrasts in texture and color. The extensive use of terra cotta tiles which is more common in the English interpretation of the Queen Anne is particularly noteworthy.

Its architect was H. Neill Wilson, formerly of Cincinnati, Ohio, whose father, James Wilson, was a renowned authority on Gothic architecture. Wilson first came to Pittsfield to superintend the building of the Allen House, and stayed on. This then, is the first local work by an architect who was subsequently to become one of the most prominent and influential of Berkshire County architects in the late 19th century and early 20th century, designing buildings such as Shadowbrook, (1892-94), the Wendell Hotel, (1898), the Red Lion Inn, Berkshire Place, and the town hall and library complex in Dalton.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, Orrin Deer, The Allen Memorial, 1970, p. 168.
"Pittsfield Sun", January 8, 1885, February 5, 1885, June 18, 1885.
"Berkshire Eagle", September 13, 1916, July 7, 1926.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Pittsfield East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 18 6441610 4701071810
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached map. The boundaries are confined to the immediate environs of the house as it is flanked on either side by large modern structures.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator	Diane Nelson Pittsfield Historical Comm.	
organization	Massachusetts Historical Commission	date	January 1980
street & number	294 Washington Street	telephone	(617) 727-8470
city or town	Boston	state	Massachusetts

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia L. Westover

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 3/10/80

For HCRS use only

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

for Bruce Lee Dwyer
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/7/80

Attest: Patricia Andrews

date 5/5/80

Chief of Registration



MAR 31 1980

William Russell Allen House
359 East Street
Pittsfield, Mass.

Property

Allen, William Russell House

State

Ma. - Berkshire

Working Number

3-31-80 1039**TECHNICAL**

Photos

4

Maps

2**CONTROL**

This house is eligible for architecture as a fine example of Queen Anne style architecture (one of the finest in the county). Built in 1886 for a locally prominent family, the house is 2 1/2 stories and features the traditional Queen Anne elements - complex roof, asymmetrical massing, variety of construction materials. The house is rich in detailing with some fine leaded-glass windows. less than 1 acre.

HISTORIAN

accept

Patrick Andrew

5/5/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**ARCHEOLOGIST****OTHER****HAER**

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**BRANCH CHIEF****KEEPER**

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

MAY 7 1980

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

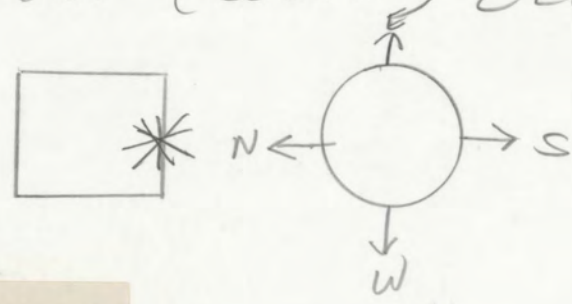
Re-submit



THE WILLIAM RUSSELL ALLEN HOUSE
 359 EAST STREET
 PITTSFIELD
 BERKSHIRE COUNTY
 MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER - D. DAVID DOUILLET
 1978

FRONT (SOUTH) ELEVATION



William Russell Allen House
 359 East Street Pittsfield, Mass.
Berkshire Co.

D. David Douillet 1978
 Pittsfield Historical Commission

Photo #1 of 4
 Front elevation facing north

MAY 3 1980

MAY 7 1980



William Russell Allen House
359 East Street
Pittsfield, Mass.

Berkshire Co.

D. David Douillet 1978
Pittsfield Historical Commission

Photo #2 of 4
East elevation facing northwest

MAY 7 1980

MAR 31 1980

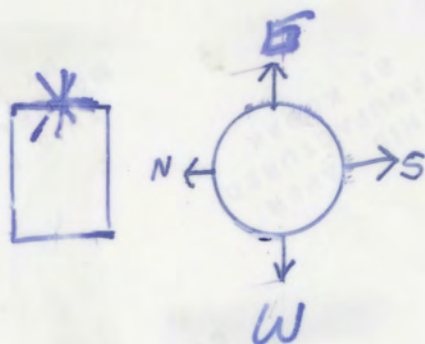
WILLIAM RUSSELL ALLEN HOUSE
EAST ST.

#2

PIPPSFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY

D. DAVID DOUILLET ATB

EAST ELEVATION





William Russell Allen House
359 East Street
Pittsfield, Mass.

Berkshire Co.

#3

Photo #3 pf 4
Rear elevation facing south

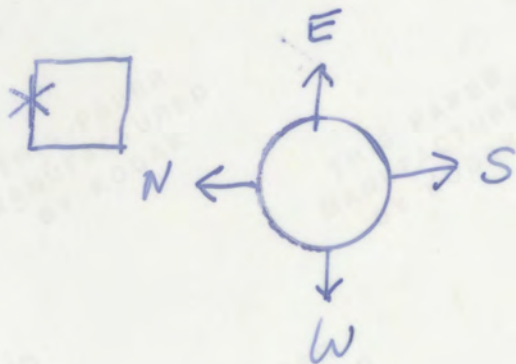
D. David Douillet 1978
Pittsfield Historical Commission

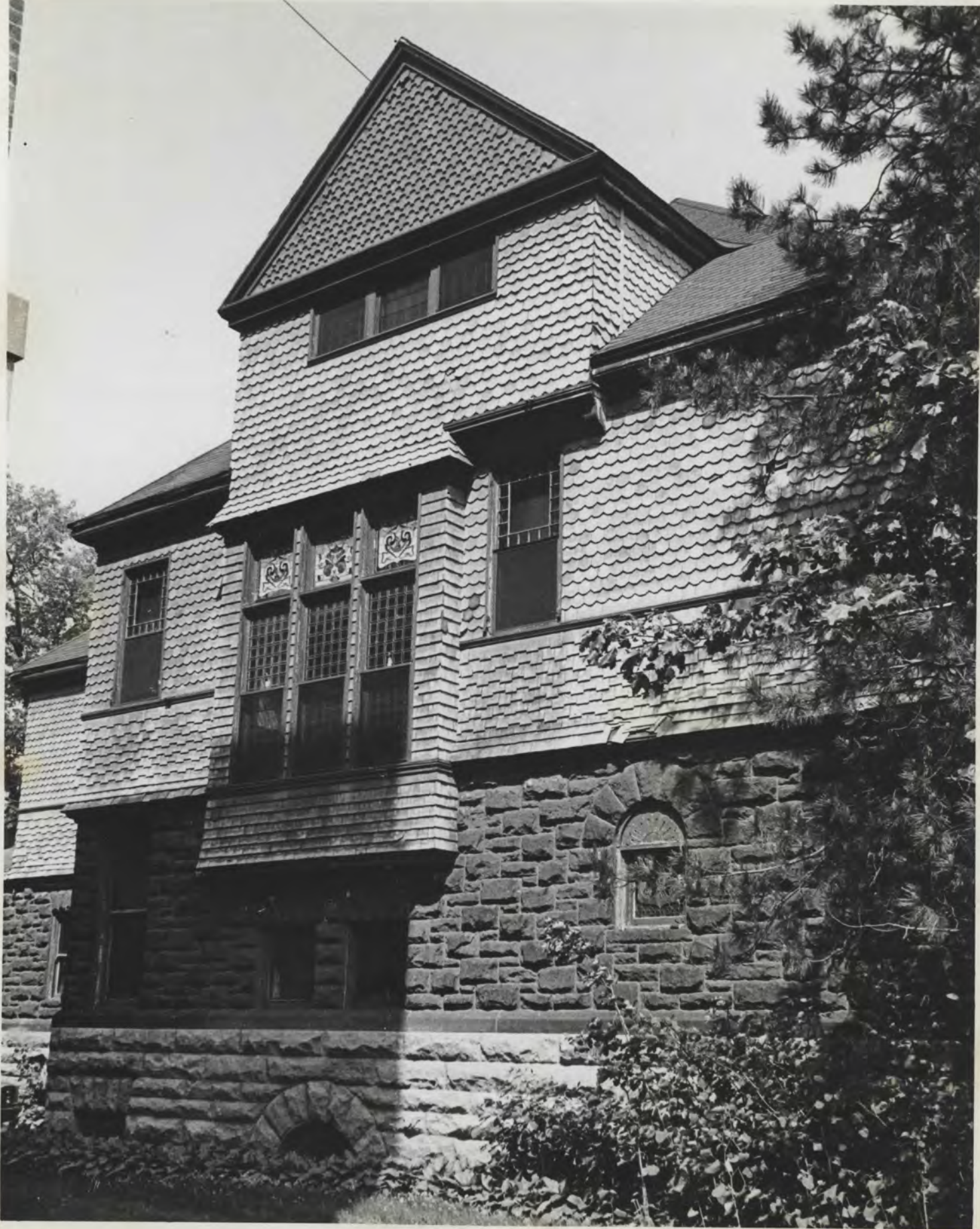
MAY 7 1980

MAR 31 1980

PHOTOGRAPHER - D. DAVID DOUILLET
1978

REAR (NORTH) ELEVATION



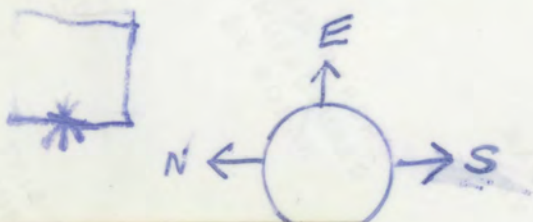


#4

THE WILLIAM RUSSELL HOUSE
359 EAST ST
PITTSFIELD
BERKSHIRE COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER - D. DAVID DOUILLET
1978

WEST ELEVATION



William Russell Allen House
359 East Street
Pittsfield, Mass.
Berkshire Co.

D. David Douillet 1978
Pittsfield Historical Commission

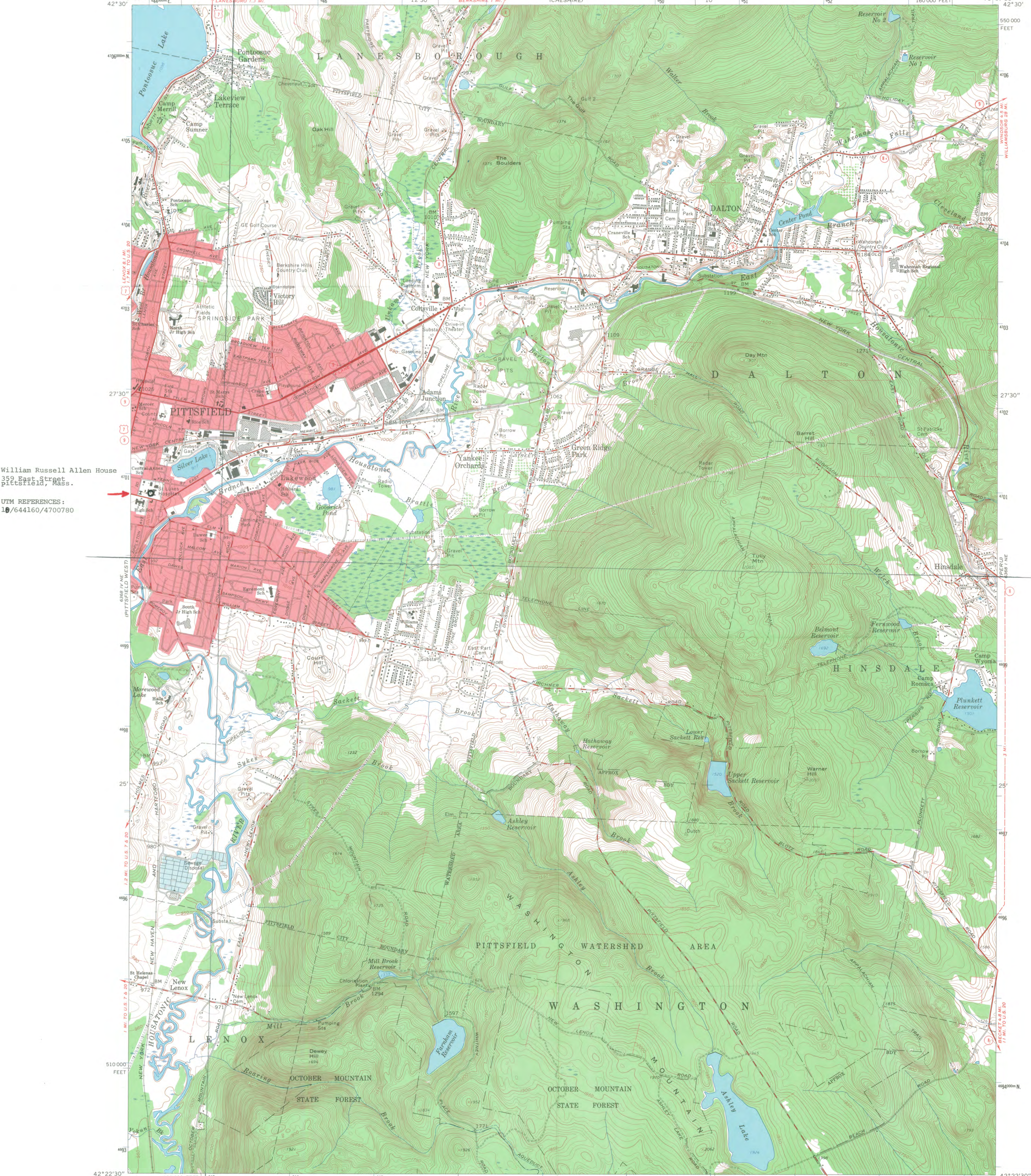
Photo #4 of 4
West elevation facing northeast

MAR 31 1980

MAY 7 1980

William Russell Allen House
352 East Street
Pittsfield, Mass.

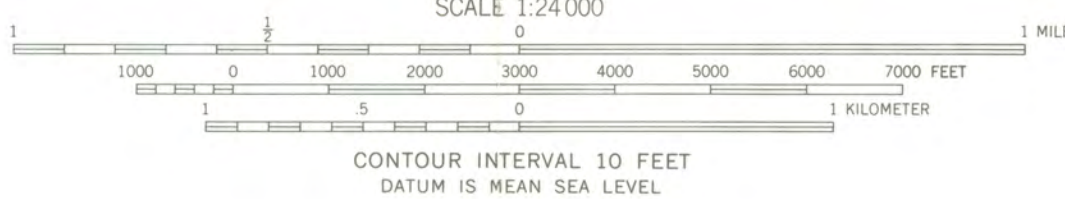
UTM REFERENCES:
10/644160/4700780



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and
Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission

Topography by planetable surveys 1943-1944. Revised 1959
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

PITTSFIELD EAST, MASS.
N422.5—W7307.5/7.5

1959

AMS 6368 1 NW-SERIES V814



MAY 7 1980

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAY 7 1980

Name

Location

Farnum, Coronet John, House

Uxbridge
Worcester County

Allen, William Russell, House

Pittsfield
Berkshire County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Joseph D. Early
Honorable Silvio O. Conte

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR

Byers/bjr 5/15/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.