

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received MAY 3 1984
date entered

1. Name

historic The Morewood School (School District #9)

and/or common Luce's District School

2. Location

street & number South Mountain Road (no assigned numbers between #28-64) N/A not for publication

city, town Pittsfield N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Pittsfield by deed to Mrs. Karen Clydesdale and Ms. Linda Schilling

street & number 66 Allen Street The Morewood School Partners 63 Concord Parkway

city, town Pittsfield N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts 01201

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Bank Row

city, town Pittsfield state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of
the Commonwealth #09-4001 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate July 9, 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

The Morewood School, Pittsfield, MA

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 Morewood School, or Pittsfield District School #9 is located on the east bank of Wampenum Brook, in the south central part of Pittsfield. It is the fourth building on the north side of S. Mountain Road, west from the intersection with South Street (Route 7). The building is located at the rear 1/3 of the lot, allowing the remainder to be used as a schoolyard. Since 1973 the yard has been used as a neighborhood playground.

Constructed ca. 1841 in the Greek Revival style, the Morewood School is a relatively elaborate example of a one room, district schoolhouse of the period. The wood frame, rectangular plan (24'6" X 32'6") structure rises one story from a dry laid fieldstone foundation to a gable roof, now clad with asphalt. A brick chimney to service the school's wood stove rises in the north end of the main roof; a galvanized iron ventilator with conical cap is centered on the ridge of the roof. Elevations are sheathed with original narrow clapboards and articulated by paneled corner pilasters, a full dentilated entablature and raking cornices in the gable ends. Windows with narrow surrounds contain 6/6 sash.

The south gable end elevation which faces the street, contains a single window centered in the wall and directly beneath the cornice. The north elevation is identical with the exception of an original one story attached shed built for wood storage and privies and which now contains the heating plant and a small teacher's office. (converted ca. 1860). The east and west elevations are identical with paired sash at their southern ends and recessed entries, one for boys and one for girls, at their northern ends. Both entries, which are recessed, are framed by pilasters, simple architraves, and rectangular transoms; the recessed areas are sheathed with plain boards. A weather hood has been erected over the east entry.

The original interior of the schoolhouse remains undivided and preserves original features such as horizontal board wainscoting, chair rail, and blackboards intact. The only significant alteration to the building was an enlargement at the rear to accomodate modern heating equipment.

8. Significance

The Morewood School, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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 1843 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Morewood School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, as well as important associations with the 19th century development of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Built ca. 1843, it is the city's oldest remaining schoolhouse and until its recent sale it was the oldest civic building still in public hands in the city. Additionally, it is an unusually well detailed and preserved example of a one room mid-19th century schoolhouse. Thus, the Morewood School meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. Although sixteen other one room schoolhouses exist in the county, this is one of the few which continues to be unaltered.

According to a record book kept by Jesse Oliver Howard, who attended the school in 1865, he was told that an earlier schoolhouse located at about 550 South Street burned in June, 1841 when during noon hours several boys built a fire in the yard. The blaze spread to the school and to a shed, barns, and a house owned by Oliver Luce, Jesse Howard's grandfather. The partly burned schoolhouse was purchased by Mr. Luce. In return, he deeded the inhabitants of School District #9 "part of a lot on the west bank of the ditch that conducts the water from the pond to said Luce's Saw Mill." He also gave the the right of trespass on the west side of the property to a spring of water on the west bank of the brook for the benefit of the school. Though the deed is dated August 18, 1853, to the best of Mr. Howard's recollection, the one room schoolhouse was built in 1843. City school records are unable to confirm this, but the style, design, and construction support the earlier construction date. Also known as School District #9 it was probably the ninth schoolhouse built in Pittsfield, but records of this period are unclear.

When Jesse Howard entered the school in 1865, the interior of the building contained a large wood box and stove in the center of the room with backless school benches for the pupils to sit on. Until 1925, water for the school was drawn from the spring mentioned in Oliver Luce's deed.

The school was named after the Morewood family who owned "Broad Hall," the Pittsfield country club; pupils ranged in age from 4 to 16 years. In addition to educating the children of local families of Montague, Humphrey, Luce, Melville, Hibbard, Read, Cadwell and Hamilton, who lived nearby, traditions equated with the school include an annual Halloween float, nature classes conducted by Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Sweitzer, and a leaf raking day each fall.

Through the years the building has remained almost unchanged. Civic pressure in support of the one room schoolhouse kept it operating one hundred thirty years as a Pittsfield Public School, until 1973. Since its closure as a school, its preservation has been promoted by the Pittsfield Bicentennial Commission who used it as their headquarters from 1974 to 1976. John A Mattoon, executive director of the Commission, stated that "now there appears to be a consensus that this building ought to be permanently restored and declared an historic site."

Present plans call for the preservation of the Morewood School through a Preservation Restriction given by the new owners to the Pittsfield Historical Commission. The new owners hope to reopen the school as a kindergarten thereby, continuing the building's tradition as a learning institution.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Jesse O. Howard Manuscript," 1937, Pittsfield Historical Commission
"The Berkshire Eagle" June 22, 1955 "The Berkshire Eagle" March 29, 1963
"The Berkshire Eagle" December 21, 1957 "The Berkshire Eagle" June 19, 1963
"The Berkshire Eagle" September 6, 1961 "The Berkshire Eagle" August 20, 1963(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .35 acres

Quadrangle name Pittsfield West

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	8
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6	4	3	0	5	0
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4	6	9	8	7	7	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(Route 7) (It is shown as lot No. 9 on the City of Pittsfield Assessor's Map H-5. The lot's dimensions are given as 148' X 83,' The original deed, given by Olver Luce (continued)

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Planning Director and Mari L. Myer, Program Assistant with James N. Parrish, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1, 1984

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Rafael J. Weslawski

State Historic Preservation Officer

title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 4/25/84

For NPS use only

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

for Silenus Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 5-31-84

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 The Morewood School

Item number

9 & 10

Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References (con't)

"The Berkshire Eagle" February 8, 1963

"The Berkshire Eagle" February 11, 1970

"The Berkshire Eagle" June 19, 197

"The Berkshire Eagle" March 9, 1974

"The Berkshire Eagle" March 15, 1974

"The Berkshire Eagle" August 3, 1974

"The Berkshire Eagle" July 11, 1977

Assessors Records, City of Pittsfield

Smith, J.E.A. The History of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 1800-1876.

10. Verbal boundary description and justification (con't)

August 18, 1853, gives the bounds as nine rods by five rods, or 148.5' by 82.5'. It contains forty-five square rods or .35 acres).

The boundary is also described in Book 139, Page 183, Middle Berkshire Registry of Deed:

"In consideration of \$50, convey unto the said inhabitants of School District Number 9 in Pittsfield, a certain piece of land, lying in said district and town, described as follows: To wit. beginning at a post standing in the north line of the highway leading westerly from said Luce's dwelling house on the west bank of the ditch that conducts the water from the pond to said Luce's Saw Mill; thence westerly at right-angles with said north line of the road, nine rods to a stake; thence westerly on a line parallel with line of said highway, five rods to a stake; thence southerly on a line parallel with the first corner on line, nine rods to the line of said highway. Thence easterly on the line of said highway five rods to the place of beginning-containing forty-five rods of land and the inhabitants are to fence said piece of land and keep the same in repair so long as they occupy the same for a school lot at their own expense; and said inhabitants have the right to trespass--way from the west side of said described land to a spring of water on the west bank of the brook for the purpose of using the water for the benefit of the schoo."

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Morewood School
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 3 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 5/31/84 - 6/17/84
Action: ACCEPT 5-31-84
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

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair
- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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

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 _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



The Morewood School, District No. 9
South Mountain Road (28-64)
Pittsfield, MA. 01201

James N. Parrish, BCRPC, 3/14/83

Photo 1 of 2 (R2-11)

View north front and east facade of
Morewood School, (1841-1843) showing
Pilasters, Cornice and Pediment.

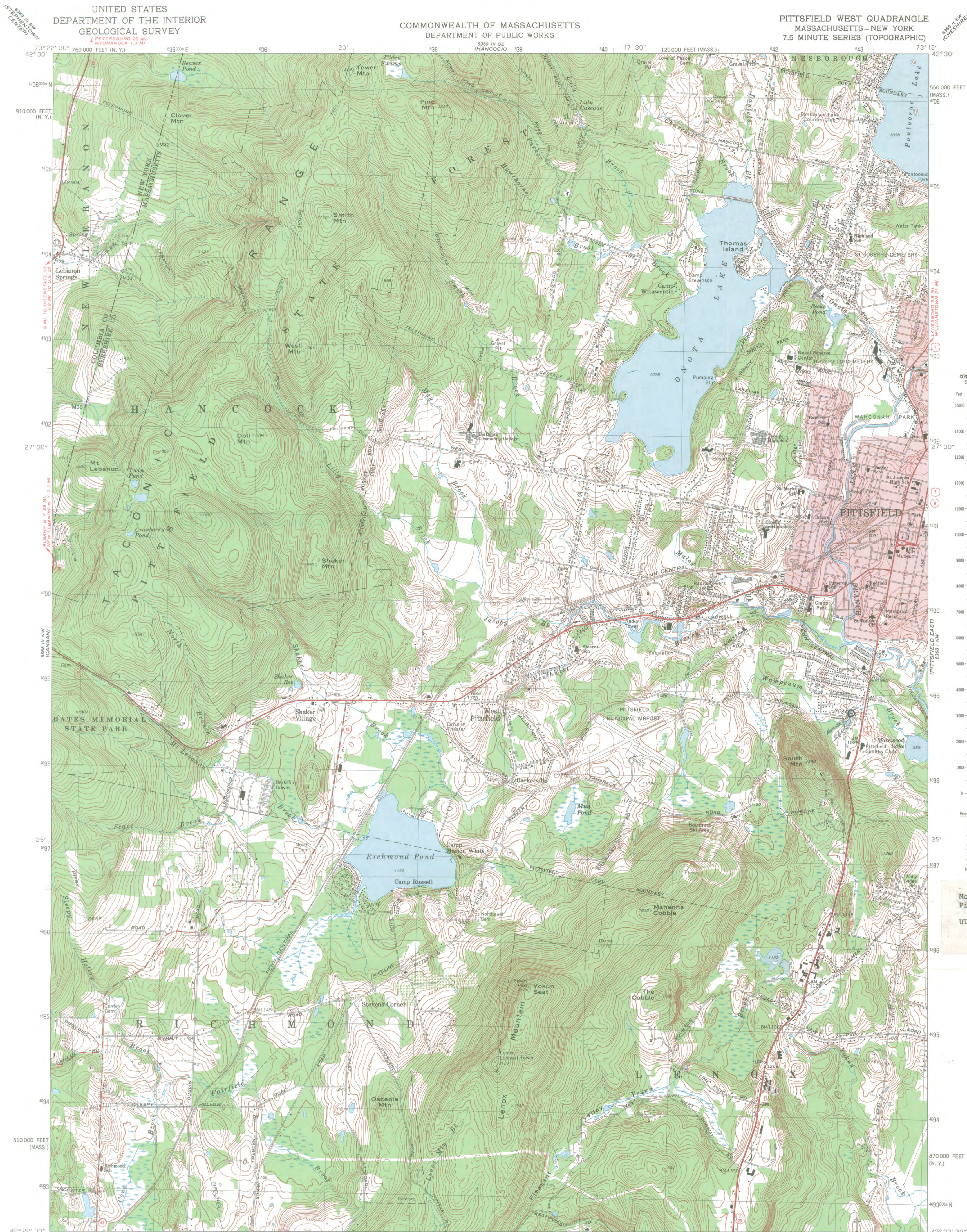


The Morewood School, District No. 9
South Mountain Rd.(28-64)
Pittsfield, MA. 01201

James N. Parrish, BCRPC, 3/14/83

Photo 2 of 2 (R2-12)

View northeast of front and west facade
of Morewood School, (1841-1843) showing
Pilastered & Recessed Entry.



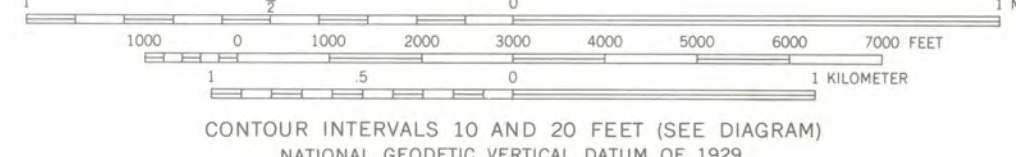
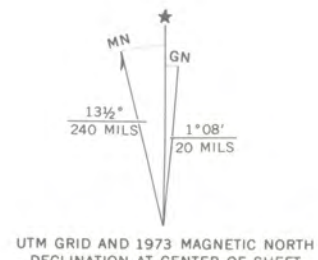
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PITTSFIELD WEST QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943-1944. 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, and New York coordinate system, east 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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road

Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

PITTSFIELD WEST, MASS.-N. Y.
N4222.5-W7315.7.5

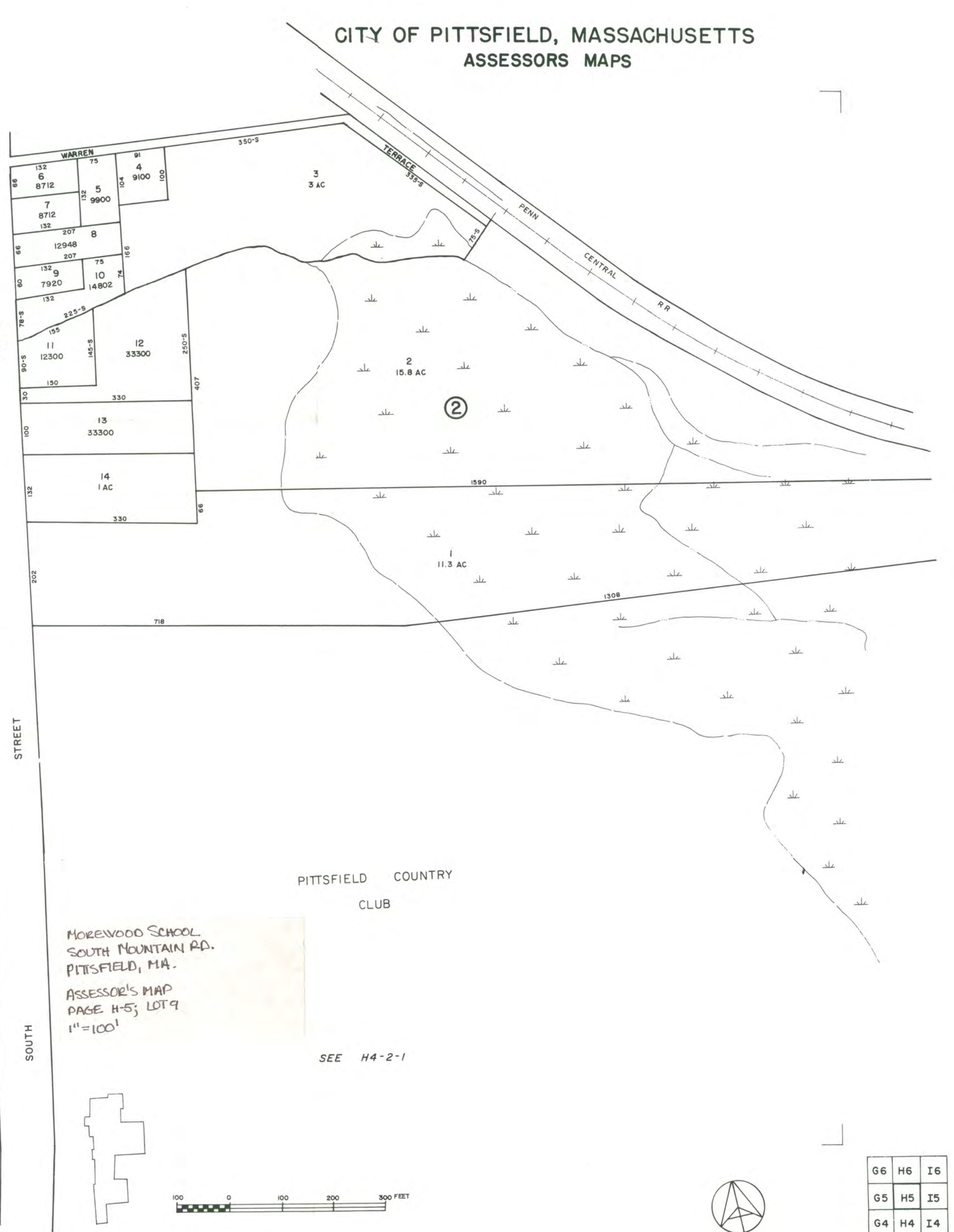
1973
AMS 6368 IV NE-SERIES V814

Morewood School
Pittsfield, Ma.
UTM: 18/643050/4698775

CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
ASSESSORS MAPS

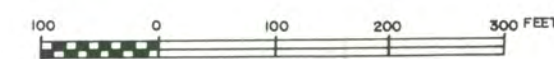


PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
PITTSFIELD BOARD OF ASSESSORS
JOHN F. CONNORS-CHAIRMAN
BY
AVIS AIRMAP, INC.



MOREWOOD SCHOOL
SOUTH MOUNTAIN RD.
PITTSFIELD, MA.
ASSESSOR'S MAP
PAGE H-5; LOT 9
1"=100'

SEE H4-2-1



G6	H6	I6
G5	H5	I5
G4	H4	I4

63 Concord Parkway
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
March 13, 1984

RECEIVED

MAR 23 1984

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
249 Washington St.
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Talmage:

I am very pleased that the Morewood School will be considered by the State Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. However, please make a correction to your file. The property is presently owned by Karen and Robert Clydesdale and not Ms. Linda Schilling. The address and other pertinent information that you have is correct.

If you have any questions concerning this property please feel free to call. I will look forward to hearing from you and the results of your meeting on April 11, 1984.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,


Karen M. Clydesdale