

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 9 MAIN STREET not for publication

city or town WEST STOCKBRIDGE vicinity

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county BERKSHIRE code 003 zip code 01266

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Brana Simon, SHPO
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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

Edson H. Beall

7-1-09

West Stockbridge Town Hall
Name of Property

Berkshire, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1 building
sites
structures
objects
1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: town hall

EDUCATION: library

SOCIAL: meeting hall

COMMERCE/TRADE: retail stores

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: town hall

EDUCATION: library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: clapboard

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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West Stockbridge Town Hall
West Stockbridge (Berkshire), MA

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SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION

The West Stockbridge Town Hall is a two-story, Greek Revival, wood-frame structure built in 1854. The building houses a library and town office space on the first floor, and a 19th-century auditorium on the second floor that has been divided into offices for town officials. Used as a site for public meetings, entertainment, and by a series of 19th-century businesses, the building's 150 years of history are not only linked with the town's government, but with its commercial and social life. Although the exterior has undergone some late 20th-century alterations, its original form and ornamentation have not changed. Recent interior alterations are reversible, and most of the building's original woodwork and decorative features remain intact.

West Stockbridge is a rural town of about 1,650 residents, located on the Massachusetts/New York border. The town's steep, rocky terrain, part of the Berkshire Mountains, has left it sparsely populated and minimally developed. The town's primary village (West Stockbridge Center) lies in the valley between Maple Hill and Harvey Mountain, where Rawson's and Wilson's Brooks provided water to the town's early farms. The village is the most densely developed part of town and is clustered between the Route 41/102 junction and Shaker Mill Pond. It includes a cluster of 19th-century commercial and industrial buildings, some of the town's finest Greek Revival houses, the Stick Style Congregational church, and the West Stockbridge Town Hall.

Construction dates for the village's building stock range from the 1805 Shaker Mill to around 1920. The railroad tracks, which used to run through the village, have been removed, and there are no longer any manufacturing facilities there. The village encompasses a range of commercial activities serving town residents and summer visitors. Narrow side streets extending east from Main Street are developed with a collection of modest wood-frame houses, mostly in the Greek Revival style. Main Street retains its diagonal parking, overhead wires, and late 20th-century gooseneck streetlights. Park benches on either side of the street form the only landscaping; there are no street trees.

On the east side of Main Street, just below Shaker Mill Pond, is the Town Hall. This wood-frame building is prominently situated, set close to the street on a small lot landscaped with a garden of perennials and ornamental grasses. The loss of adjacent buildings in a 1940 fire left a large vacant lot (now used for parking) to the south. Behind the Town Hall, the land slopes steeply upward in a rocky bank that rises toward the base of West Stockbridge Mountain.

Architecturally, the Town Hall is a two-story, wood-frame, Greek Revival structure, with a single ridge roofline and a side-gabled plan. It rests on a low foundation of local fieldstone and quarry stone. The exterior walls are covered with wood clapboards with a four-inch exposure. A standing-seam metal roof protects the building. Two corbelled brick chimneys extend through the back slope of the roof. A louvered cupola in the center of the ridgeline is topped with a weathervane in the form of a rooster. The cupola was added in 1978 to house a bell preserved from the town's 1878 Village School. (Photo 1)

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The overall form of the building preserved the rectangular Georgian footprint that was the standard building prototype in many rural Massachusetts communities from before the American Revolution to the eve of the Civil War. The exterior architectural trim reflects the Greek Revival influence of the second quarter of the 19th century, with a plain broad entablature below the eaves line and a closed triangular pediment in each gable end.

The elongated double-hung 9/6 windows on the upper story reflect the long and narrow fenestration of the Italianate style, popular in the 1850s. The double-hung 6/6 windows on the first story are a more traditional form, although a few windows were updated with 2/2 double-hung wood sash when the town library moved into the first floor in 1901. Aluminum triple-track storm panels currently protect all the windows. The windows on the upper story are hung with louvered exterior wood shutter, which were in place by 1884.

On the front (west) elevation of the building, the first floor is defined by Greek Revival pilasters that support a secondary cornice projection. Four double-leaf entries, sheltered by bracketed triangular door hoods (installed in 1986 and 1987), are arranged asymmetrically across the façade and interspersed with six double hung 6/6 and 2/2 windows. The upper story features a regularly spaced array of five elongated windows with no direct relation to the entries and windows below. **(Photo 2)**

The side (north and south) elevations are relatively simple. On the north gable end, the lower story is devoid of windows since it abuts the main interior staircase. The second story features a symmetrical pair of elongated 9/6 windows under the triangular pediment of the gable end. There is no window opening in the pediment. The south gable end shows a balanced fenestration of two 6/6 windows on the lower story, and two elongated 9/6 windows above. There is no fenestration in the triangular pediment. There is a wooden basement bulkhead at ground level near the southwest corner of the building.

The rear (east) elevation features an asymmetrical array of three paneled doors and four double-hung windows at ground level, including one blind (shuttered) window location with what may be the original solid paneled exterior shutters. The upper story presents the more regular pattern of five elongated window openings. The second opening from the south has been fitted with a transomed metal exit door leading to an iron fire escape (installed in 1908). The shutter hinges and dogs (hold-backs) survive on the rear second-floor windows, although the shutters themselves have been removed.

The first-floor interior space with primary entries on the west elevation was originally designed to accommodate private businesses (notably a local bank) as well as town offices in three rooms: one large room to the north and south, and a smaller middle room. The floor plan has been modified several times to accommodate the town library and to add modern restrooms. At the north end of the building, the entry vestibule opens directly to a wide straight-run staircase that leads to the former auditorium upstairs. A narrow secondary staircase lined with horizontal beadboard is located at the southeast corner of the building.

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The first floor is divided into an office lined with horizontal beadboard walls and narrower beadboard ceilings, a hallway/restroom area with similar beadboard walls and ceiling, and a library consisting of two large reading rooms and a small storage area on the north side. The southern office's ceiling may have been installed as part of a 1901 renovation project. The northern reading room was renovated with a pressed-metal ceiling when the library was moved into the town hall in 1901. **(Photo 4)** The central reading room was converted from selectmen's offices to library space in 1975. Mid 20th-century light fixtures (probably installed in a 1946 project) survive in both reading rooms. Original floorboards on the first floor have been covered with carpeting and/or linoleum. **(Photo 3)**

The town's 19th-century vault survives in the library's central room. It has a heavy iron exterior door, and double interior doors latched with a massive rotating iron bolt. The inside of one of the doors is inscribed with the words "L. Moffat, West Stockbridge, Mass." in large white letters. Local merchant Lawrence Moffat provided the iron doors for this vault, which was installed in the South Room in 1880, and relocated to the Middle Room in 1901 (Town Report, 1880/1, 1901/2).

The second floor interior space was originally a high-ceilinged open hall with a stage platform at the south end, added in 1885 by West Stockbridge cabinetmaker Martin Rees. It was traditionally used for town meetings, dances, movies, and a variety of popular entertainments and community events. Although the space was subdivided in the 1970s with partitions and masonite paneling, several significant period details remain. The main staircase at the north end retains its beaded wainscoting, turned balusters, carved newel post, and handrail. The former auditorium retains the characteristic plaster walls and ceiling, beaded wainscoting, and narrow-board wood floors. Distinctive Greek Revival-style eared window and door surrounds survive in all visible locations. The original ceiling height suggests the volume of the space, and the height and location of the stage is still evident. (A 1920 town report seems to indicate that the auditorium once had a plaster cornice, which was removed that year.) The stage survives at the south end of the building, though it has been enclosed for use as an office space. It retains its beadboard apron and proscenium surround, which indicate where the original stage opening once was. **(Photos 5-7)**

Based upon a cursory examination, the overall condition of the Town Hall building is remarkably good. Although the building has suffered from deferred maintenance and sequential remodeling, the architectural form and detailing of the building are largely intact. With no obvious sign of structural failure, the building should be a good candidate for restoration and reuse.

The West Stockbridge Town Hall is one of the oldest public buildings in the community and represents a vernacular architectural tradition that was deeply rooted in rural Massachusetts communities prior to the Civil War era. Its unbroken 150-year history of use for civic and community functions is particularly significant. On the basis of its architectural character and historical significance, the Town Hall merits a concerted effort toward preservation and adaptive reuse.

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Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the town hall property or in the general area (within one mile), it is possible that sites are present. Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The Town Hall occupies a well-drained, level to moderately sloping riverine terrace in close proximity to the Williams River. Shaker Mill Pond, a dammed portion of the Williams River, and the river are located less than 1,000 feet to the northwest, west, and southwest of the Town Hall. The entire town of West Stockbridge is located within the Housatonic River drainage. Given the above information, the size of the property (less than one acre), and construction of the town hall and utilities, the potential for locating significant ancient Native American resources on the property is low. Any potential ancient resources that were present were destroyed by construction of the Town Hall, landscaping, and installation of utilities.

A moderate potential exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources on the Town Hall property. Stratigraphic evidence may exist that documents landscape changes to the property in preparation for Town Hall construction. Construction features may also exist. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may identify structural evidence associated with outbuildings, barns, or stables. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells) may also be present. No historic period landuse has been identified on the property prior to construction of the Town Hall in 1854.

(end)

West Stockbridge Town Hall

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Education

Entertainment/Recreation

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1854-1959

Significant Dates

1854 (original construction)

1901 (first floor renovation to accommodate library)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Berkshire Athenaeum (Pittsfield, MA)

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The 1854 West Stockbridge Town Hall retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The historic town hall meets both Criteria A and C on the National Register as a locally significant property.

The Greek Revival municipal building in West Stockbridge is one of the oldest public buildings in town. For more than 150 years it has served not only as a municipal meeting place and government center, but also as an office space for a bank, post office, and law office, retail space, and reading rooms for the town's library. The Town Hall's second-floor auditorium was used by local bands, sports teams, drama clubs, fraternal organizations, traveling lectures and performers, and has hosted graduations and other civic functions.

Because West Stockbridge is a small town (since 1790 its population has fluctuated between 1,000 and 1,981), residents have often taken on multiple roles in the community's commercial, industrial, social, and governmental history. Construction, maintenance, and renovation of the town hall therefore became a cooperative community effort by merchants, builders, craftsmen, and manufacturers, who also served as town officers. The Town Hall's role in the community's political, social, commercial, and educational life meets Criterion A in the areas of Politics and Government, Commerce, Entertainment, and Education. Although the building has suffered somewhat from deferred maintenance and late 20th-century remodeling, it meets Criterion C as an example of a mid-19th-century, vernacular, Greek Revival municipal building.

Settlement and Colonial Period (1675-1790)

The southwestern corner of Berkshire County first attracted the notice of European settlers during King Philip's War in 1675, when a group of about 200 Narragansett Indians were pursued west by a party of Connecticut Militia under Major John Talcott. Over the next 30 years, Dutch settlers from New York and English settlers from central and eastern Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island staked claims to the fertile intervale lands along the Housatonic River. By the early 18th century, many of the indigenous people in this area had fled in the wake of the war. In the 1720s, about 20 Mahican families remained along the river (Garnett, p. 1).

The West Stockbridge area was first known as Queensboro; its rugged terrain made it one of the more inaccessible parts of Stockbridge. The first English settler in this area is believed to be John George Easland, who established his home there in 1758, around the site of the present Camp Kingsmont (*ibid*, p. 6). West Stockbridge resembled Benjamin Wadsworth's "hideous howling wilderness" more than it did the "pleasant, fertile intervale land" of the neighboring towns that established themselves along the Housatonic's broad floodplain. The area was covered in mountain forest or swampland, with white pine predominating in the northern part of town, and

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ash and maple in the swampy areas. By the late 19th century, most of the area would be cleared (*ibid*, p. 28).

As with most Massachusetts towns, West Stockbridge's early roads followed river valleys and old Indian paths. Three major roads ran through town: one from Stockbridge west to State Line, the Massachusetts/New York border (approximately along today's MA Route 102); one along the Williams River (near today's MA Route 41); and one leading from Alford through the southwestern part of town through West Center. In the early 19th century, West Stockbridge became an important stagecoach stop along the Housatonic River Turnpike, which ran from Lee to State Line toward Albany and points west (Spaulding, p. 638-639).

The area that became West Stockbridge Village was part of a 140-acre tract bought by Maj. Elijah Williams (son of the elder Ephraim Williams) from Native resident Robert Numgkouwat in 1763. The land had been the site of an unsuccessful attempt by Dutch and Indian residents to build a dam and set up a mill. Williams completed the dam and built his home and iron forge there. The forge became the Williams Iron Works, and the river was named after him (Garnett, p. 6).

In 1768, the parent town of Stockbridge voted to allow residents of the western part of town to keep part of their tax funds to hire their own preacher and create their own parish separate from Stockbridge's. The following year, the town voted to allow the western part of town to break away from the eastern. Five years later, a delegation from Stockbridge presented a petition to that effect to the General Court. The new town was approved and incorporated and its first town meeting was held on July 4, 1774. By this time, about 40 families had settled in West Stockbridge (*ibid*, p. 54).

The town was no sooner incorporated than it was thrown into the midst of revolutionary activity. In 1775, it appropriated funds to purchase weapons and ammunition, and Elisha Hooper and Benjamin Lewis were appointed as a Committee of Correspondence. Forty-eight townsmen out of a population of 370 served in the Continental Army. The iron works at Williamsville are believed to have forged cannon for the war effort, and became known as the "Independence Forge" (*ibid*, p. 25-30).

After the war, the town and many of its residents were financially strapped. It took West Stockbridge five years to pay off debts incurred during the war years. Many area residents returned from service to neglected farms and crushing debts, with no funds but the nearly worthless Continental currency. Well-to-do landowners took advantage of the situation to snatch up debtors' property at bargain prices.

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In 1786, when Daniel Shays of Pelham gathered a group of men to prevent evictions and foreclosures by forcing the courts to close, Stockbridge resident Perez Hamlin followed suit. Outraged to return from the war and find his brother in debtors' prison and his father's farm under foreclosure, Hamlin gathered a group of Berkshire County residents to march on the court at Great Barrington. Among the West Stockbridge rebels were Paul Hubbard, foreman at the Williams Iron Works, and 30-40 of his fellow ironworkers. The group demanded suspension of court action against debtors, the drafting of legislation for financial relief for Massachusetts' debt-strapped residents, and the release of imprisoned debtors. Hamlin's rebellion succeeded in shutting down the Great Barrington courts twice, and in forcing the release of prisoners, many of whom fled to New York State to avoid Massachusetts court jurisdiction.

Shays' and Hamlin's successes led the Massachusetts governor and legislature to take conciliatory action to calm the furor. Legislation ameliorating some of the more onerous provisions of debtor laws helped quell some of the dissent. Meanwhile, the state government assembled troops to stage a military as well as a psychological victory. Five hundred government men led by Capt. Stoddard assembled in Stockbridge to fight the Berkshire rebels. Simultaneously, Paul Hubbard was assembling his own force of about 200 at the Iron Works. In February, 1787, 300 government troops marched to West Stockbridge to stage a three-pronged attack on Hubbard's group, who were surrounded and forced to yield with a minimum of bloodshed. Although the rebellion fell apart, its point had been made; not only Massachusetts lawmakers, but also the representatives of the Constitutional Convention kept their concerns in mind.

Federal Period (1790-1830)

For the first 15 years of its history, West Stockbridge had no buildings for either its religious or governmental activities. Congregationalists and Baptist residents joined forces to build the town's first meetinghouse in 1788. By 1790, the town's population had nearly tripled from its 1776 total, with 1,113 residents. The old meetinghouse served double duty as church and town hall until 1828, when a new schoolhouse with meeting space on the second floor was built in the West Stockbridge Village, reflecting the growth of the commercial center. Town meetings alternated between the new schoolhouse and the old meetinghouse until about 1846, when the village became the permanent municipal center (Spaulding, p. 633-634).

As the village became the center of the town's commercial life, it acquired its own Congregational church in 1843. (The church burned and was replaced by the present Stick Style structure in 1882.) Just north of the village, a Methodist Episcopal congregation was organized in 1834, and built their Greek Revival-style church, later converted to a grange hall, on Pittsfield/Swamp Road in 1838.

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Early Industrial Period (1830-1875)

Unlike many New England communities that prospered from water-powered industries, West Stockbridge's 19th-century economy was based on its geological resources. Iron mines and marble quarries became the town's principal employers. West Stockbridge marble became known for its strength and was exported for use in a number of major public buildings. Even before railroads came to town, marble was shipped for use in New York and Boston's City Halls (History of the County of Berkshire, 1829, p. 193-194, 275). By 1827, the town was exporting nearly 2,700 tons of marble a year, and the quarries kept 200 men employed. At its peak, the town had fourteen marble mills. Lime, a byproduct of marble quarrying, was manufactured in kilns near the quarries.

Iron formed the other component of the town's economy. At first, surface ore was used for the town's first ironworks, but in 1826, an Englishman from neighboring Richmond leased land along Baker Street in the northern part of town from Nathaniel Leete, and began excavating iron ore. (The iron industry would begin to decline in the 1880s, but some mines continued to operate until the 1910s, when competition from cheaper western mines put them out of business [Berkshire County Historical Commission, p. 5-6].)

The shipping dilemmas of its quarries and mines led to the first railroad service in western Massachusetts. In 1831, the Massachusetts legislature granted permission for a line to run from the New York state line to West Stockbridge Village. The next year, the Hudson & Berkshire Rail Road Company was officially incorporated and charged with building 35 miles of railroad from Hudson, NY, to State Line in West Stockbridge. The project was contracted in 1835 and completed three years later. In 1842, the railroad was extended to Albany. The north-south-running Housatonic Railroad also reached West Stockbridge in 1842. The West Stockbridge stations became a central distribution point for coal deliveries to the rest of Berkshire County (WPA, p. 97).

The new transportation system secured the commercial dominance of West Stockbridge Village. The north-south Housatonic Railroad followed the Williams River, and the east-west Hudson & Berkshire (later the Boston & Albany) skirted the mountains to reach a natural junction in the town's northeast corner (Berkshire County Historical Commission, p. 6).

West Stockbridge's mountains were exploited for their timber, which was cut and burned in charcoal pits to produce the fuel needed for creating high temperatures required for smelting the iron.

By the mid 19th century, West Stockbridge consisted of a number of industrial hamlets, all but one of them along the Williams River. An 1831 map shows that the main village was already well

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developed with its own post office and school, a string of buildings along Main Street, and a pail and tub factory on the west side of the river.

Through the first three quarters of the 19th century, West Stockbridge's population climbed each decade, though there was a brief falloff just prior to the Civil War. By 1875, with both marble quarrying and iron mining going strong and the Williamsville paper mill in production, the population had peaked at 1,981 residents, nearly doubling the town's 1800 population of 1,002.

West Stockbridge Town Hall

By the 1850s, the village of West Stockbridge was a thriving collection of commercial and industrial buildings, including hotels, stores, tradesman's shops, and marble and iron processing facilities. Some manufacturers and merchants made their homes above their shops; others built Greek Revival and Italianate houses north and south of the commercial core and along the side streets.

The property that eventually included the West Stockbridge Town Hall was developed in the 1830s for taverns and hotels to accommodate railroad travelers. Just south of the site were the Railroad House and the U.S. Hotel (built ca.1838, now the Card Lake Inn). By 1854, when West Stockbridge appointed a building committee to find a site for a new Town House, the property was owned by Benjamin P. Bissell and Henry W. Stickney of Palmer.

At its March 1854 town meeting, the voters of West Stockbridge appointed Selectmen Franklin Tobey, John M. Gamwell, and Nahum H. Stowell to select a town hall site and put together construction plans and estimates. A month later, Thomas W. Barnes and iron manufacturer Stephen R. Gay were added to the committee and were authorized to "use their discretion in locating & building for the best interest of the Town but not to exceed the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars" (Town Meeting Minutes, Apr 3, 1854).

A few days later, Franklin Tobey purchased the Railroad House and ten acres of land from Stickney and Bissell. By June, Tobey had paid off each partner and an outstanding mortgage to Brooklyn, NY, resident Cathalina Wendell, for a total cost of \$4,200. In July, Tobey sold a portion of the land to the town for \$500. Construction must have proceeded quickly, as the hall was ready for the November elections and used as a polling site. The new building was formally dedicated with a grand New Year's Ball on Jan 1, 1855 (*Pittsfield Sun*, Dec 21, 1854).

Unfortunately, surviving town records do not provide details about the Town Hall's construction. John M. Gamwell was a master carpenter; it is possible that he participated in the construction, but there is no documentation to confirm this. The only payments that can definitely attributed to

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work on the building are a payment of \$6.70 to farmer Thomas W. Barnes and \$77.88 to Charles Reed, who is listed on the 1850 census as a carpenter (West Stockbridge Town Records, 1854).

The Building Committee evidently overspent; the next year's town warrant included an article to raise \$500 to "make up the deficiency of the last year's appropriation" (Town Meeting Minutes, Mar 13, 1855). The building was designed as a multipurpose structure, perhaps in the expectation that it would be self-sufficient. The three first-floor rooms were to be rented out to local businesses, while the upstairs auditorium would serve as the town meeting space. (The stage that currently occupies the south end of the room was not added until 1885.) Selectmen Martin R. Kellogg was appointed to act as Agent for the Town Hall and collect rent from the tenants.

In 1859, William Chester Spaulding (1832-1902), who would play a major role in both the town's and Town Hall's history, was elected town clerk and treasurer. Born in Sheffield, MA, Spaulding was the town's only lawyer for many years. Because West Stockbridge was such a small community, town officers often held more than one position to make sure all duties were filled. Spaulding was also a member of the cemetery and school commissions, postmaster, and treasurer of the Miners' Savings Bank (established 1872). Spaulding's quarters in the Town Hall's South Room served as bank, post office, and town office for several decades. Spaulding probably had his office there by 1859, and remained until his death.

The Village Post Office was one of the first tenants. Some time between the completion of the Town Hall in 1854 and the 1876 publication of F.W. Beers' map of Berkshire County, it had moved into a new building (no longer extant) between the Town Hall and the Railroad House.

In 1869, merchant and selectman Charles W. Kniffin became agent for the Town Hall. That year, some ornamental painting was apparently done; local painter R.K. Bliss received \$10 for graining, though what he grained was not specified. Kniffin listed every person who rented both the downstairs commercial space and the second-floor auditorium. Tenants that year included a W. Linnew, a Miss Webster, druggist Harry B. Boynton, and William C. Spaulding. Downstairs tenants were charged rents ranging from \$75 to \$80, which they complained were too high. Kniffin commented: "The occupants of the lower rooms of the building, claim the rents now charged are too high. I have charged \$80 each, for the North and South rooms, and \$75 for the middle room" (Town Report, 1869-1870).

Kniffin's report lists a number of "professors" as having rented the auditorium; these may have been traveling lecturers or performers. One "Professor Blitz" might have been a magician; a March 16, 1871, item in the Amherst NH *Farmer's Cabinet* includes an anecdote of a practical joke played by "Signor Blitz, the magician." Fraternal organizations using the hall included the Wisdom Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Knights Templar. The Latter Day Saints were still a presence in town; they rented the hall as well. The Union Singing Association

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held rehearsals and/or performances in the auditorium. Two local residents, conductor F.W. Tanner (it is not clear whether he was a railroad conductor or a musical conductor, though the former seems more likely) and teamster T.E. Robinson rented the hall, perhaps for social events.

In 1872, West Stockbridge finally got its own bank when the Miners' Savings Bank was chartered. Charles W. Kniffin was president and William C. Spaulding served as treasurer. In 1872, the town appropriated \$700 to add a vault to the Town Hall, probably to accommodate the new bank, which was likely located in Spaulding's office space, since town records do not seem to indicate a separate space being leased by the bank. Exactly \$219.98 was spent to finish the vault in 1873.

Late Industrial Period (1875-1910)

The town's population peaked in 1875 at 1,981. By this time, most of the developable land in town was in use as farms, quarries, or mines. In 1885, attorney and local historical William Spaulding estimated that about three-fifths of the land was either "improved or improvable" (Spaulding, p. 629). Today's heavily forested landscape would surprise the town's 19th-century residents.

It is not clear whether the Town Hall initially functioned as office space for the town, or only as meeting space. By 1875, town reports began to refer to a Selectmen's Room in the Town Hall, though there is no information about where the room is, or whether the selectmen shared space with one of the tenants. Later records indicate that the selectmen took over the Middle Room, but it is not clear whether this was the case initially (Town Report, 1875-1876).

The 1876/7 Town Report is the next one that shows town hall rentals in detail. William Spaulding was charged \$90 for renting the North Room. Jeweler and watchmaker T.S. Heath paid \$90 to rent the South Room, and druggist James S. Moore paid \$15 to rent the Middle Room. Heath also carried stationery, cutlery, and sporting goods in his store. He continued as a tenant until 1901, when his store was converted into library space. A band was granted permission to practice in the Town Hall one night a week, and the town received \$52 for rental of the upstairs meeting space. Later town reports do not provide rental specifics.

The Middle Room briefly served as an office for a druggist, insurance broker, and investment agent James S. Moore. Like Spaulding, Moore also served as town clerk and treasurer for many years; he also served as selectman, registrar, moderator, notary public, and state legislator, as well as being a member of the school and library committees. The 1885 *Berkshire County Gazetteer*

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described Moore as an astute and well-respected businessman, who was “known as thoroughly understanding his business and it is understood that his goods are ‘purely pure’” (cited in Garnett, p. 57).

In 1878, the Town Hall was spruced up with some new chairs and a stove. The following year, it hosted the 49th Regiment’s reunion, and the West Stockbridge Cornet Band held rehearsals and performances there.

In 1880, after several years of requesting funds for repairs (articles proposing funding appear in the town warrant starting in 1877, but apparently were not approved, as no appropriations were made), the town finally approved funding for a major renovation, at the cost of \$792.18. The project included the addition of a fireproof vault for town records. Local contractors Wilson & Reed performed the bulk of the construction. Kniffin Brothers supplied paint and oil, George Olds did the painting, lumber dealer H. Woodruff provided lumber for ceiling partitions, and Robert S. Weeks did masonry work. T.S. Heath and William Spaulding painted and papered their shops and offices. Merchant and gristmill owner Lawrence Moffat supplied the iron doors for his vault (his inscription is still visible on the interior of the doors). Woodruff & Barrett, lumber dealers, provided framing for the vault; carpenter and former constable Alfred Markham did some of the construction. F.F. Reed provided brick, iron manufacturer John P. Pomeroy provided sand, and blacksmith and carriage maker James Arnold provided iron. Lime burner M. Truesdell’s Sons supplied cement and lime, and D. Murray supplied stone. Heath and Spaulding continued to rent the North and South Rooms, with their annual rents reduced from \$90 to \$75 (Town Report 1880-1881).

By 1883, some town residents sought to upgrade the Town Hall’s auditorium as a performance space. A warrant article requested funds to build a platform or stage in the building. By this time, it was clear that the selectmen had taken over the Middle Room for their own use. The only tenants listed were now Heath and Spaulding. The Town Hall had shutters by this time; Heath spent \$2 to repair them. Windows were repaired and screens of wire cloth added by J.H. Butler. D.H. Newton painted and papered the selectmen’s room, purchasing a wallpaper border from Kniffin Brothers. Pittsfield furniture dealer James M. Burns supplied an office table for the selectmen’s use (Town Reports, 1883-1885).

In 1885, \$50 was appropriated to build the Town Hall stage that had been proposed in 1883. Lumber dealer James Woodruff supplied materials, while cabinetmaker Martin Rees appears to have done the labor. Kniffin Brothers supplied nails. New settees were provided by A.G. Whitcomb. A new stove was installed, and gutters and locks were repaired. The following year, new chairs were bought from West Stockbridge furniture dealer L.W. Jones (Town Report 1885-1886).

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At this time the town's population showed a decrease of nearly 15% from the previous census as laborers sought their fortunes elsewhere. The population continued to decline until the 1950s, falling to a low of 1,023 in 1905, nearly half of the 1875 peak. Except for two brief upswings in 1910 (1,271) and 1925 (1,212), the population would remain below 1,200 for the first half of the 20th century.

In the late 1880s, the town took steps to address its failing industrial base. According to *Picturesque Berkshire*, the town sought not only new businesses, but also a new kind of resident. Noticing the growing number of well-to-do summer residents attracted to surrounding Berkshire towns, West Stockbridge's community leaders set their sights on a wealthier clientele. "The town has of late begun to offer some inducement for city people to come among her people, and there are many handsome slopes and desirable sites for building purposes, or for city homes and country seats which in a few years, it is thought, will be taken up by this desirable class of visitors" (Child, p. 87).

In 1889, the town voted to make further improvements to the Town Hall, allotting \$50 to purchase curtains and scenery. In 1889, the roof was shingled again, and shelves were installed in the selectmen's room by cabinetmaker Martin Rees (Town Reports, 1888/90). In 1890, the town established its first library. A board of trustees was appointed and \$25 appropriated to set up a free public library, which was installed in a room over the Kniffin Brothers store. Charles W. Kniffin became chairman of the Library Trustees and carriage maker James P. Carpenter served as secretary. The state donated \$100 worth of books, while town residents contributed another 155 volumes. Mrs. Julian Williams became the town's first librarian.

The town also considered enlarging the Town Hall in 1890, but the article was apparently voted down and never reconsidered. In 1891, the Town Hall was painted by local contractors M. Hollihon and J.B. Scott, with paint provided by merchant W.H. Edwards. It is unclear whether the interior or exterior were painted. The 1891/2 town report notes that \$66.50 was received for "rent of hall for shows and dances."

In 1892-1893 the town purchased new settees from G. N. Hopkins, and the back of the building was cleaned. Miss Wheeler "and others gave an entertainment at Town Hall" to raise funds for the library. The next year, another concert brought in more funds for the library, which were used to buy and bind magazines. By 1894, the library's budget was up to \$115, and the trustees were lobbying for a raise for librarian Mrs. Williams (Town Reports 1892-1894).

In 1897, the town was asked for funds to purchase additional safes for town use. Town Hall Agent William Spaulding reported that "...the hall has been rented for local matters, as donations, fairs, and society gatherings, for the mere expense of running it. The repairs made in the late

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years have put the building into fair condition, and I know of no further material repairs as needed at present." That same year, Spaulding and Heath's rents were reduced to \$65 a year (Town Reports 1897/8).

In 1901, jeweler T. S. Heath moved out of the Town Hall, and his shop was renovated to accommodate the library. Spaulding made a major upgrade to his office at a cost of \$111.70. A new ceiling was installed by G.D. Goodrich (possibly the present beadboard ceiling), and other work was done by L.W. Bradley, T.E. Robinson, and painter J.B. Scott. Truesdale & Fuary supplied lime and cement for the relocation of the Town Hall vault from Spaulding's office in the South Room to the Selectmen's office in the Middle Room.

The library's trustees reported satisfaction with the move:

Since moving into our new room, in the town building, the library has been visited, and books taken out by people in town, who never visited the old rooms, and strangers in town visit the library, making much more work for the librarian. We now send a box of books every week to West Center, and a number are sent to State Line, and many more are taken out in the village than formerly. We now have one of the finest rooms, and well selected a library, as can be found in any small town in the state (Town Report 1901-1902).

Early Modern Period (1910-1958)

The turn of the 20th century brought an upswing in limestone and marble quarrying, which attracted Italian immigrants from the northern provinces of Verona and Vicenza and from the province of Sondrio, near Milan (Berkshire County Historical Commission, p. 5). The new immigrants brought a temporary upswing in the town's population, which rose to 1,271 in 1910, went down briefly to 1,058 in 1920, and rose again to 1,212 in 1925. By 1920, the town had about 100 Italian families.

In spite of the brief upswing in the marble and lime business, West Stockbridge's industries were generally in decline. By 1904, only the Richmond Iron Company appears on town maps. By World War I, the iron mines had finally met their demise with the closing of the Leete Ore Beds. The lime-burning industry was in decline by the 1920s and 1930. In 1928, the New England Lime Company went out of business, followed by Clifford Miller's kiln, which closed after his death in the 1930s.

In 1914, the Town Hall got a new roof, installed by George R. Root. By that time the library was using the town schools as unofficial branches, lending books out for student use. The second-floor auditorium also added an educational function when it was used for Chautauqua meetings during the 1920s. During World War I, the Town Hall became a site for war relief activities. A

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group of Red Cross volunteers gathered there to knit scarves and other items for Belgian and French war refugees.

In spite of the 1914 repairs, a 1920 report on the Town Hall was not positive. "The town hall is in such condition today, that it will require quite a large sum to put it back into presentable condition. The old plaster cornice should be removed and the walls repainted. Last year's appropriation was entirely inadequate. About two weeks after town meeting one of the chimneys blew off and an examination of the other one showed a condition that needed re-building" (Town Report, 1920).

Like most communities, West Stockbridge struggled through the Great Depression. During that time, the Town Hall received a new coat of paint and plaster, and WPA workers redecorated the library, installing new lights and shelves, and creating a new catalog and filing system. Through the 1930s and 1940s, the Town Hall's auditorium served as a gymnasium for school sports.

By 1939, West Stockbridge's identity was beginning to change from that of a quarrying and mining town to an agricultural community with a growing population of summer residents. Summing up the changes, WPA historians stated: "Lenox and Stockbridge have put on airs; Richmond and West Stockbridge have remained farming towns, though in no sense are they backward communities... 'Our principal crops? Wal, reckon they're hay and summer people,' the natives say" (WPA, p. 87).

With the onset of World War II, the West Stockbridge Library became involved in the Victory Book Campaign, collecting books to send to servicemen overseas. Students raised money for the junior Red Cross and the "Children's Crusade for Children" to assist children in war-torn countries. The Town Hall provided meeting space for volunteer organizations doing war work.

After the war, the town planned improvements in the village. New sidewalks were installed in front of the Post Office and Town Hall, and a study was proposed to assess the possibility of creating a new school and community center. In 1946, the library was redecorated and painted by Charles Magner and new lights were installed in 1948 at a cost of \$136.50 (Town Reports, 1946, 1948).

The postwar years saw increased growth in West Stockbridge. Population grew 10 % between 1940 and 1950, from 1,062 to 1,165 residents. Except for a brief pause in the late 1970s, the population climbed slowly but steadily for the next half century.

Anticipating the Town Hall's centennial, the town undertook at \$5,000 repair plan that included repainting the building's exterior white with green trim. After completion of repairs and painting, the town report proclaimed that the hall had been "brought into A-1 condition. The building is

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now clean, warm and comfortable and is a suitable place for all Town officers to work in." The library also received a new coat of paint in 1952 and a new linoleum floor and bookcases the following year (Town Reports, 1952-3).

In 1957, Main Street was widened and resurfaced and new curbstones and sidewalks installed. The Town Hall received a new central heating system that year. That same year, the town's first Planning Commission was appointed. It began working on a Master Plan for West Stockbridge, hoping to address concerns about future growth, economic, agricultural, and industrial development, and school enrollment. The completed Master Plan was released in 1960 (Town Reports, 1957-61).

Recent History (1959-)

In the 1964 Town Report, officials commented on the dilemma West Stockbridge faced in trying to define its identity, and set goals for the future:

Our town is at a crossroads...For years we have been trying to define just what direction our community should move in. Should we stay a bedroom town catering only to summer tourists? Or should we try to attract industry and actively promote new trade? Or attempt all of this?

Our Town must continue to make itself inviting in appearance, educational facilities, and other services...There is always something to do, see, or hear in or near West Stockbridge. We are within minutes of cultural and recreational activities which draw thousands of vacationers annually to the Berkshires...Our Town is the Gateway to New England. Modern highways are the key to our prosperity. Raw materials, finished products, and people must be moved swiftly, easily, safely. There is good transportation on the Massachusetts Turnpike and the Berkshire Extension of the New York Thruway, a major Chicago-Boston route of travel, and we are not more than a day's journey from any major market in the Northeast. This is a boon to attract both industry and tourism.

In the mid 1960s, the zoning bylaw was completed and presented to voters, creating four districts – two residential, one commercial, and one for manufacturing. Minimum lot sizes and setbacks and maximum building heights were spelled out. The new bylaws were approved in 1968.

By 1971, the Planning Board noted the increased popularity of the Berkshires as a tourist attraction and raised concerns about how West Stockbridge should handle anticipated development pressures. "With fast growing interest in Berkshire lands it is becoming more and more difficult to try and keep the town in a country atmosphere as most of us have known it. The land in West Stockbridge is being sold to outside interests at a fast pace. At the same time because of various reasons it is being closed to people for using it for passive recreation" (Town Reports, 1971).

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Two years later, a Bicentennial Committee was set to plan celebrations for both the town's 200th birthday in 1974 and the nation's in 1976. Local contractor John Astore (1909-2005) was responsible for restoring the second floor of the Town Hall. A native of Salerno, Italy, Astore moved to West Stockbridge as a child when his parents were one of a number of Italian immigrants who came to work in the quarries and mines. Astore served as an assessor and Planning Board member for many years, and ran the John J. Astore Construction Company. Later in the 1970s, Astore partitioned the second-floor auditorium for desperately needed town office space.

In 1975, the town converted the Middle Room of the Town Hall, which had been the selectmen's office, into additional space for the library, at a cost of \$1,250. The library organized a Friends group to help with fundraising for the project. The interior was painted, new furnishings and light fixtures installed, and a "heritage room" set up with exhibit cases and plans for displays. The town also approved the construction of a cupola on the Town Hall to accommodate the school bell that had been salvaged from the 1878 Village School when it was replaced in 1948 (Town Report, 1975). In 1978, Donald Mann and Anthony Skorput built the cupola using \$2,500 in funds remaining from the bicentennial celebration.

Like many Massachusetts towns, West Stockbridge faced a financial crisis in the 1980s. The selectmen eliminated all but \$1 of the library's \$2,500 budget. Voters twice defeated an override to raise additional funds. An amount of \$1,250 in state aid and a gift from the John Lewine Library Fund kept the library open through the summer and fall of 1982, but trustees expected to closed the facility once the money was exhausted. Friends of the Library sponsored book and bake sales and a concert at the Congregational Church raised funds to keep the library open (*Berkshire Eagle*, July 1, 8, 1982).

In 1986, the town received a grant to conduct an energy audit for the Town Hall, hoping to eventually garner grant funds for a new heating system, storm windows, and insulation. Repairs were made to the south side of the hall, and two canopies were added over the doors on the front façade. In 1987, the Town Hall received a new furnace, and plans were underway to paint the building. Two more canopies were added over the entry doors. New ductwork was installed in 1988. In 1989, the Town Hall was painted by prisoners from the Berkshire County House of Correction. The town's Capital Planning Committee recommended seeking more space for town offices, for boards, committees, and police (Town Reports, 1986-9).

The 1990s saw a growing interest in protecting some of West Stockbridge's historic buildings. The historical commission became more active. In 1996, the West Stockbridge Congregational Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1999 the 1838 Grange (originally the Methodist Episcopal church) was listed.

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In 1996, the town turned once again to the problem of the overcrowded Town Hall, looking at a number of strategies for increasing town office space. Among the proposals considered were renovating and expanding the existing building, buying the former train station and converting it to town offices, and building a new facility while using the old Town Hall for expanded library, archives, and Historical Commission space. The town addressed parking problems by purchasing property at the rear of the Town Hall (Town Report, 1996/7).

By the end of the 20th century, the town felt financially comfortable, noting "...the mid 90's were turbulent and the town found itself in dire financial straits..." but by 1999 the treasury had \$400,000 in free cash, and selectmen concluded that the town was in "excellent financial shape and appears poised to embark on a period of economic growth and prosperity." The town continued to mull over the Town Hall dilemma. In its 2000 report, the selectmen referred to a 1964 report that had complained about overcrowded conditions. "The need has not gone away ... we ran out of room a long time ago...some officers are still working out of their homes."

Prospects for a village commercial revival began to improve with the new millennium. In 2002, a new pedestrian bridge was built across the Williams River at the southern end of the village. By 2005, the Card Lake Inn (the 1838 U.S. Hotel) was restored and reopened. "The downtown is vibrant once again," selectmen reported, "with the re-opening of the Card Lake Inn and the Village Oven is expanding to meet demand. The other established restaurants continue to thrive." Around the same time, Town Historian Robert Salerno reported an "increased level of interest in our town's history," evidenced by a "newly revitalized Historic Commission, large interest in saving the Town Hall building, and initiation of the Town Oral History project..." (Town Report, 2005).

With the absorption of the town's school population by a regional school, the town voted to close the Village School and convert it to a Community Center, housing town offices, library, a new senior center, and recreational facilities. An architect was hired to develop plans and estimates (Town Report, 2002).

In 2004, the town began working with EDM Architects, Inc. on a plan to convert the Village School into town office and library space, in conjunction with a senior center proposal. When a state grant needed to fund the senior center was turned down, the town revised its plan, expanding the anticipated space for town and library use and reducing the size of the proposed senior center. At the 2006 town meeting, voters authorized the town to borrow \$2.6 million to convert the Village School for town office and library use. The town also voted funding for reconstruction of Main Street sidewalks (*Local Yokel*, Apr-Jun 2006).

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The town also organized a committee to review the Town Hall situation with an eye to preserving and possibly selling the building. In 2005, the town budgeted \$6,000 "to establish the historical status and significance, including a structural assessment and building appraisal." The committee hired a structural engineer, a historic preservation specialist, and a real estate appraiser. The engineer found the building to be "well maintained and in good shape," while the historic preservation consultant recommended nominating the building to the National Register of Historic Places, an opinion that was supported by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. In the process, the committee acknowledged the building's contributions in all aspects of the town's history – political, cultural, social, and educational. Joel Hotchkiss, chairman of a recently formed committee to determine the Town Hall's fate, described it as "the cornerstone of Main Street."

The committee recommended retaining title to the building, reopening the second floor for "lectures, meetings, historical displays and education, town museum, and performance space," and returning the first floor to its original commercial use. Recommended renovations would also make the building ADA compliant, with second-floor accessibility and handicapped-accessible restrooms. Anticipated revenue from renting the first floor would be used to restore and maintain the building. The committee recommended setting up a nonprofit organization to manage the building and undertake a fundraising campaign.

The committee's recommendations were approved by the 2007 annual Town Meeting. The current nomination of the Town Hall to the National Register will foster the rejuvenation of a building that has played a key role in West Stockbridge's political, social, and commercial history.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to construction of the Town Hall, additional structures and facilities located on the property, and activities that occurred in the Town Hall building and surrounding area. Archaeological data may contribute important details about Town Hall construction that are lacking in surviving town records. Stratigraphic records of soil cores and excavation units may contribute important evidence that indicates the extent of grading and/or filling of the property in preparation for Town Hall construction. Construction features may also exist that contribute information related to methods and techniques used in construction of the Town Hall and later renovations. Detailed analysis of artifacts found around the Town Hall and in features may contribute important architectural information related to the Town Hall structure and changes after initial construction.

Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate the full range of structures and their function as part of the Town Hall facility. Structural evidence of

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barns and/or stables may contribute evidence of 19th-century transportation and the availability of those facilities at the Town Hall. Structural evidence of outbuildings may also contribute evidence of support facilities and maintenance activities available at the Town Hall. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells) may contribute important evidence of the activities that occurred at the Town Hall. Occupational-related features may also contain social, cultural, and economic information related to the West Stockbridge residents who used the Town Hall facility.

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WestStockbridgeTownHall
Name of Property

Berkshire,MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 18 634500 4687940
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michele Plourde-Barker and Gregory Farmer (consultants) with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 2009

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of West Stockbridge

street & number 9 Main Street telephone 413-232-0300

city or town West Stockbridge state MA zip code 01266

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Stockbridge Town Hall
West Stockbridge (Berkshire), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

The boundary for lot 64 begins at the southwest corner of the West Stockbridge Town Hall lot and proceeds north along Main Street approximately 70 feet to the southwest corner of the property at 7 Main Street. Thence running east approximately 55 feet along the southern lot line of 7 Main Street, and then turning south for approximately 30 feet. The boundary then turns easterly, and runs S80-13-17-E a distance of 139.26 feet to an iron rod. Running thence S-13-51-27-W a distance of 59.77 feet, then running N-81-48-51-W a distance of 90.75 feet to an iron pipe; thence N-12-35-35-W a distance of eight feet to an iron rod set; then running N-83-57-15-W a distance of 40 feet to an iron rod. Running thence N-08-21-00-E a distance of 25.15 feet to an iron pipe; running thence approximately 55 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the same as the property lines for the West Stockbridge Town Hall.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Stockbridge Town Hall
West Stockbridge (Berkshire), MA

Section number photos Page 1

Photographer: Michele Plourde-Barker

Date: October 2006

Location of negatives: Agricola Corporation

Photographs:

1. Exterior view, showing west and south elevations
2. Exterior view, showing north and west elevations
3. Interior view, first floor library area looking west
4. Interior view, first floor library area looking southwest
5. Interior view, second floor hall looking southwest
6. Interior view, second floor offices looking northeast
7. Interior view, second floor office looking south

Attachments:

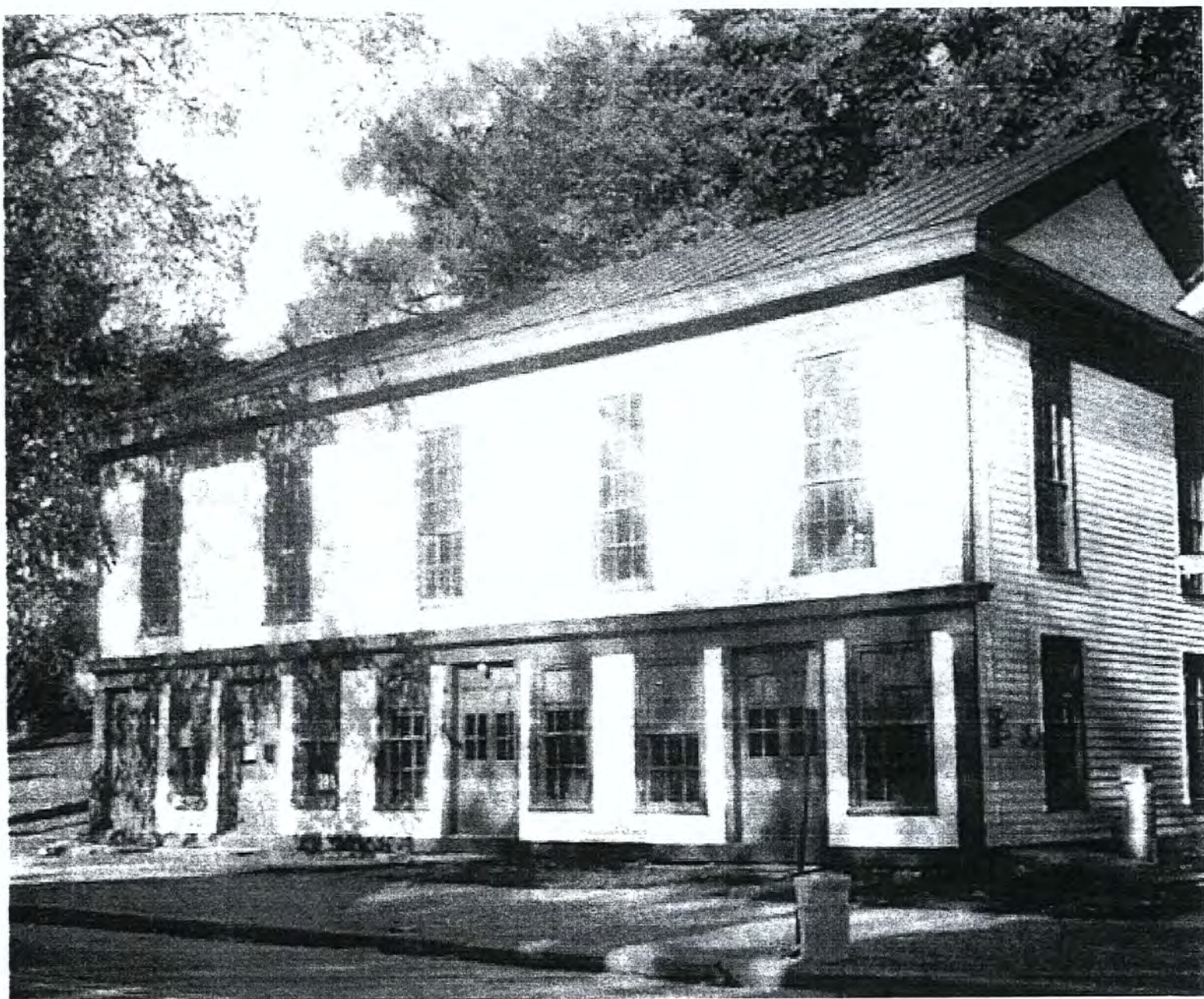
1. West Stockbridge assessor's map (2006)
2. Photograph of Town Hall, ca. 1900-1920 (courtesy of Robert Salerno)
3. Photograph of Town Hall, ca. 1952 (courtesy of Robert Salerno)
4. Photograph of Town Hall, ca. 1955-1970 (courtesy of Public Library)
5. Photograph of Town Hall, ca. 1970 (courtesy Berkshire County Historical Society)
6. Map of West Stockbridge, published by Richard Clark, 1855
7. Map of West Stockbridge, from Walling, *Map of Berkshire County*, 1858
8. West Stockbridge insert, from Walling, 1858
9. "West Stockbridge," from Beers, *Atlas of Berkshire County*, 1876
10. "West Stockbridge," insert from Beers, 1876
11. 1904 map of West Stockbridge, reprinted in Garnett, *West Stockbridge, 1774-1974*
12. Zoning map of West Stockbridge, 1998



West Stockbridge Town Hall, circa 1900-1920

Image courtesy of Robert Salerno

ATTACHMENT B



West Stockbridge Town Hall, circa 1952

Image courtesy of Robert Salerno

ATTACHMENT C



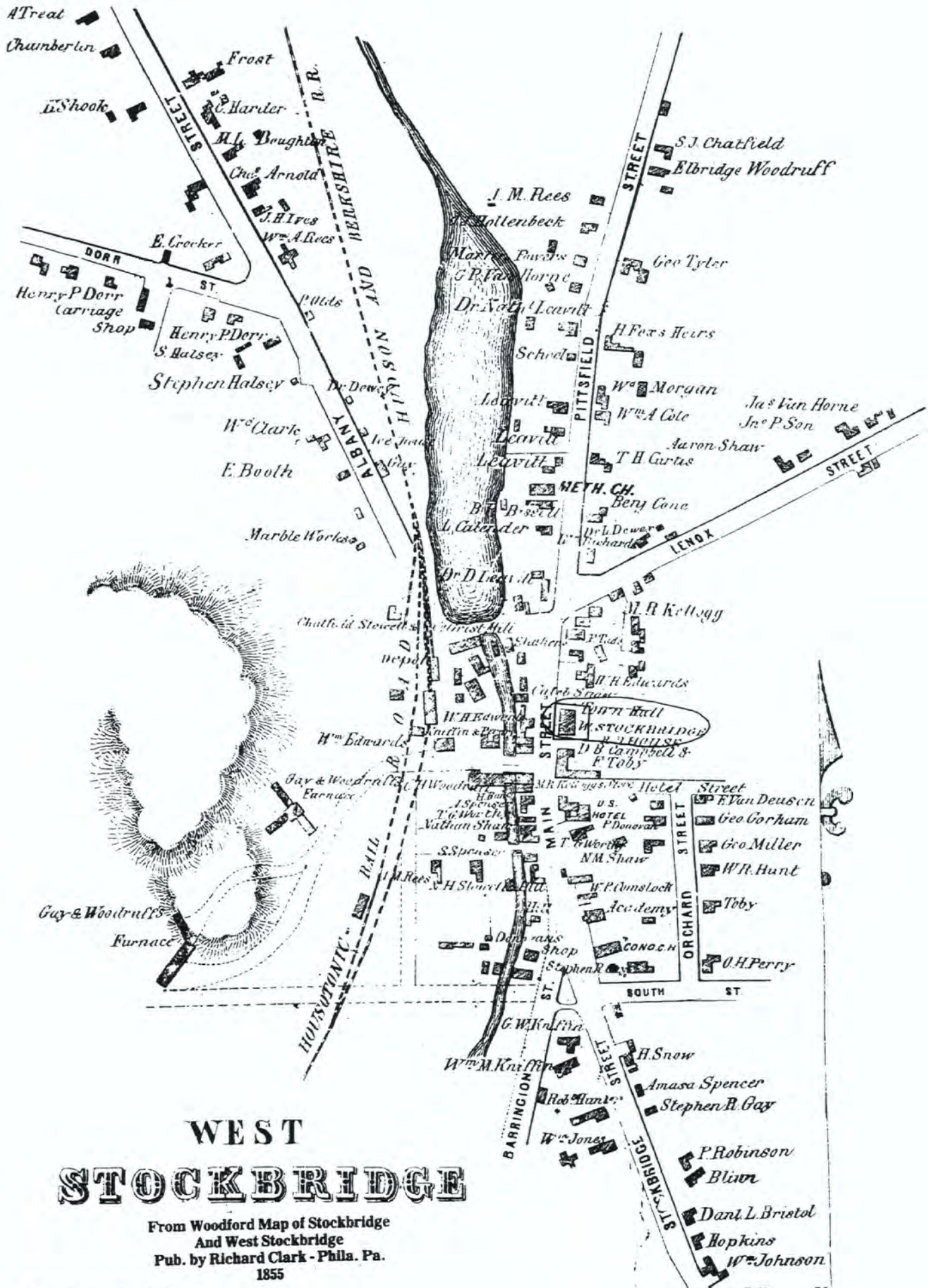
West Stockbridge Town Hall, circa 1955-1970
From the collection of the West Stockbridge Public Library

ATTACHMENT D



West Stockbridge Town Hall, 1970s
From West Stockbridge Folder (W-4), 697-706, Berkshire Historical Photograph
Collection, Berkshire County Historical Society.

ATTACHMENT E





West Stockbridge, from Walling, Henry F. Map of the County of Berkshire, Massachusetts. Boston: Smith & Gallup, 1858.

ATTACHMENT 9

7



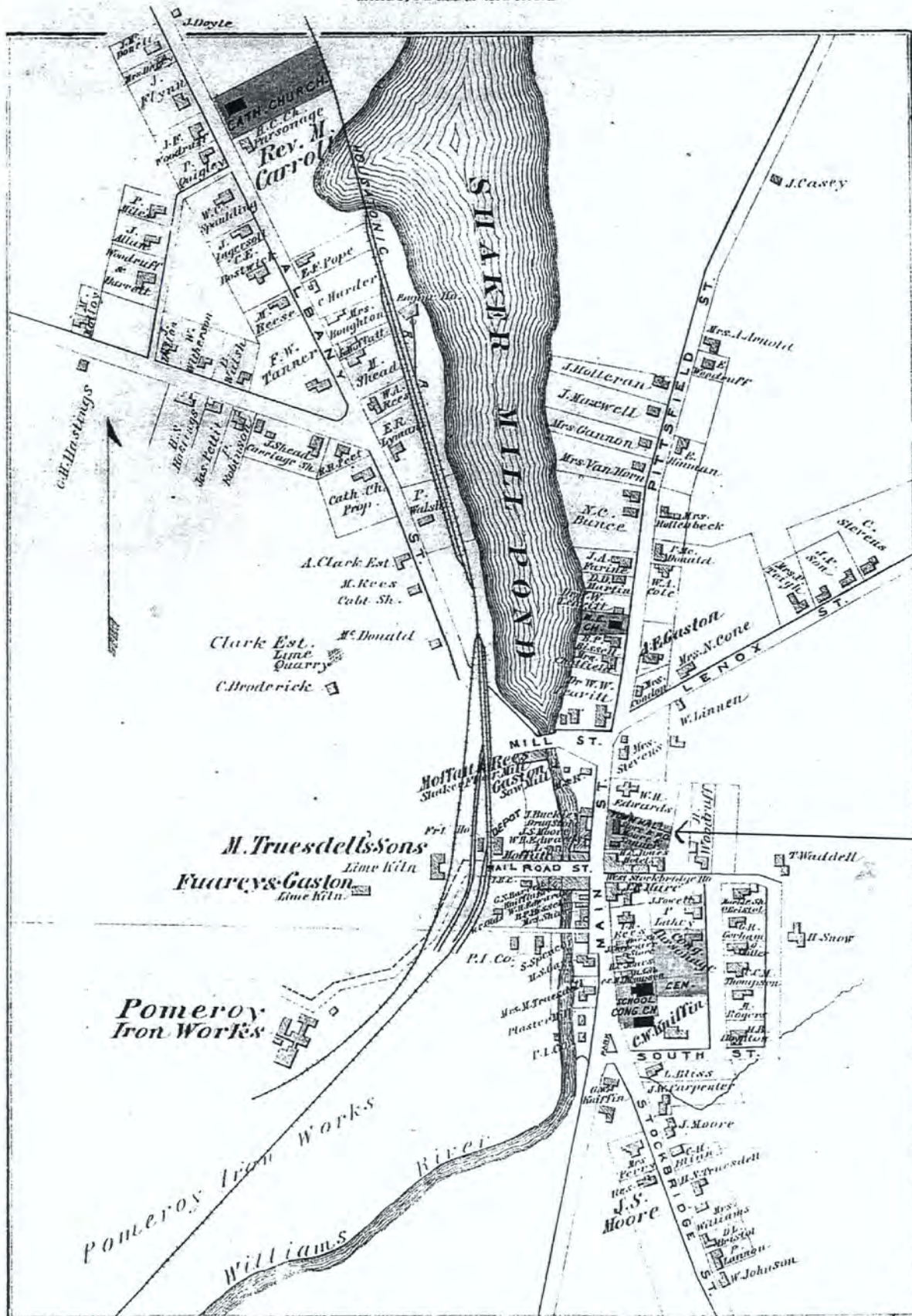
[illegible]

West Stockbridge, Mass., from Beers, F. W. County Atlas of Berkshire, Mass.
New York: R.T. White & Co., 1876. ATTACHMENT I

WEST STOCKBRIDGE

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE

Scale 375 Feet to the inch



West Stockbridge, Mass., from Beers, F. W.

County Atlas of Berkshire, Mass.

New York: R.T. White & Co., 1876.

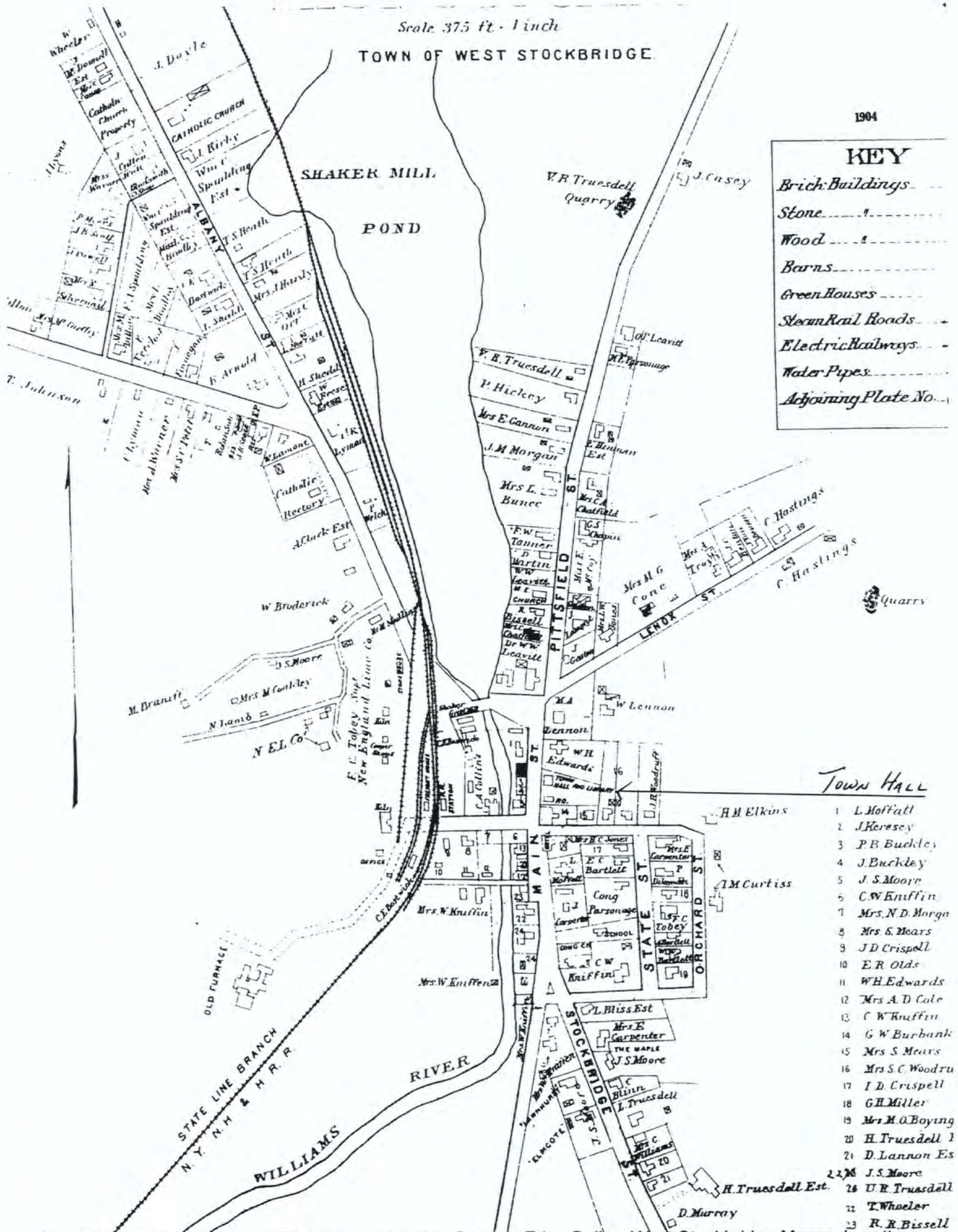
ATTACHMENT J

Scale 375 ft. = 1 inch
TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE.

1904

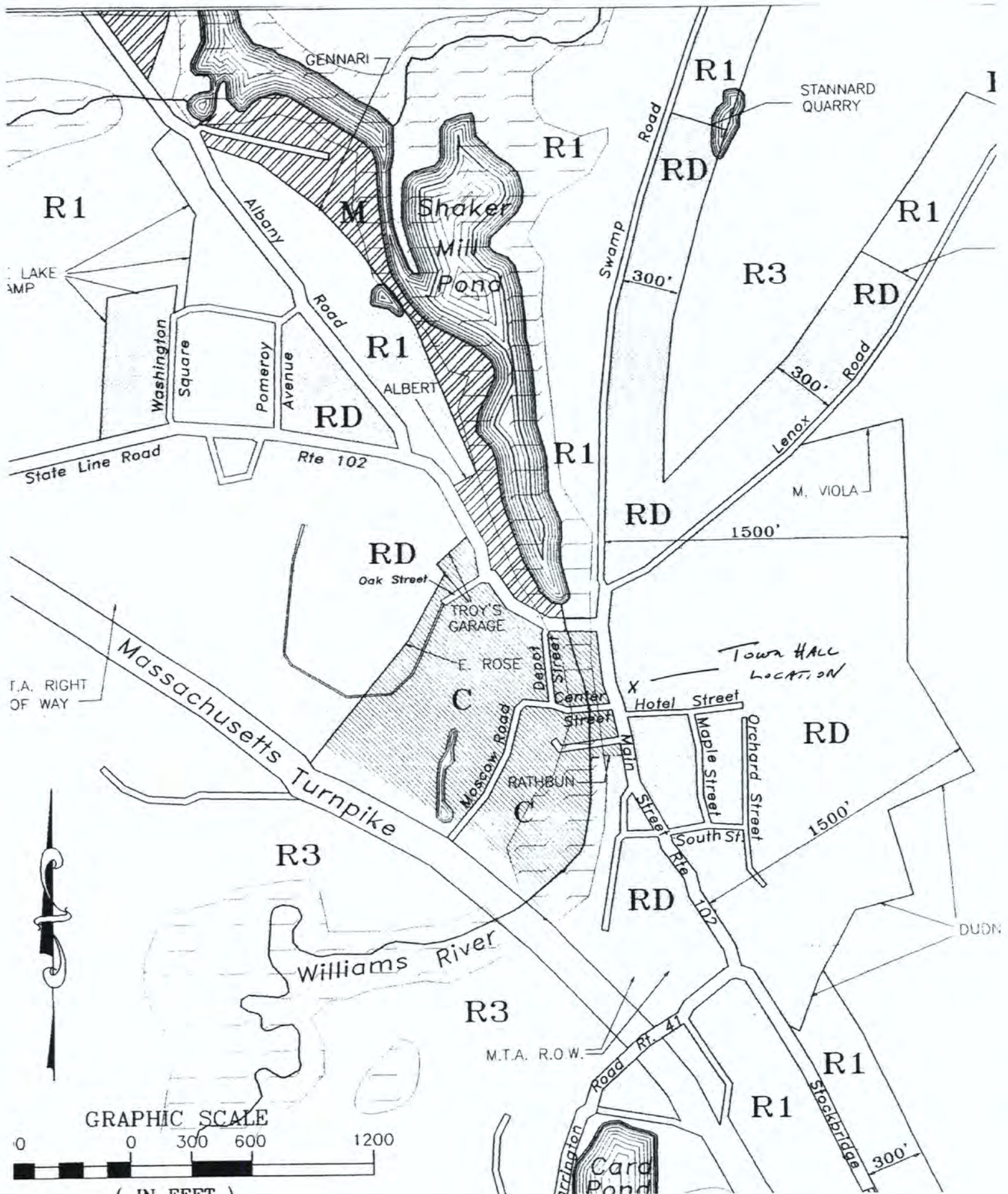
KEY

- Brick Buildings
- Stone
- Wood
- Barns
- Green Houses
- Steam Rail Roads
- Electric Railways
- Water Pipes
- Adjoining Plate No.



West Stockbridge, Mass., 1904 (atlas reprinted in Garnett, Edna Bailey. West Stockbridge Massachusetts 1774-1974: The History of an Indian Settlement Queensborough or Qua-pau-kuk. Great Barrington, Massachusetts: Berkshire Courier, 1974.

ATTACHMENT K



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY West Stockbridge Town Hall
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

DATE RECEIVED: 5/21/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/08/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/23/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/04/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000469

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7.1.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



photo 1: view of west and south elevations

West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main St, West Stockbridge, MA 2006





photo 2: View of north and west elevations.

West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main St. West Stockbridge, MA

2006





Photo 3: Interior of library, 1st fl. looking W.

West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main St. West Stockbridge, MA

2006





photo 4: Interior of library, 1st fl. looking SW

West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main St., West Stockbridge, MA

2006



Photo 5: Main stairhall, 2nd floor looking SW

West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main St. West Stockbridge, MA

2006

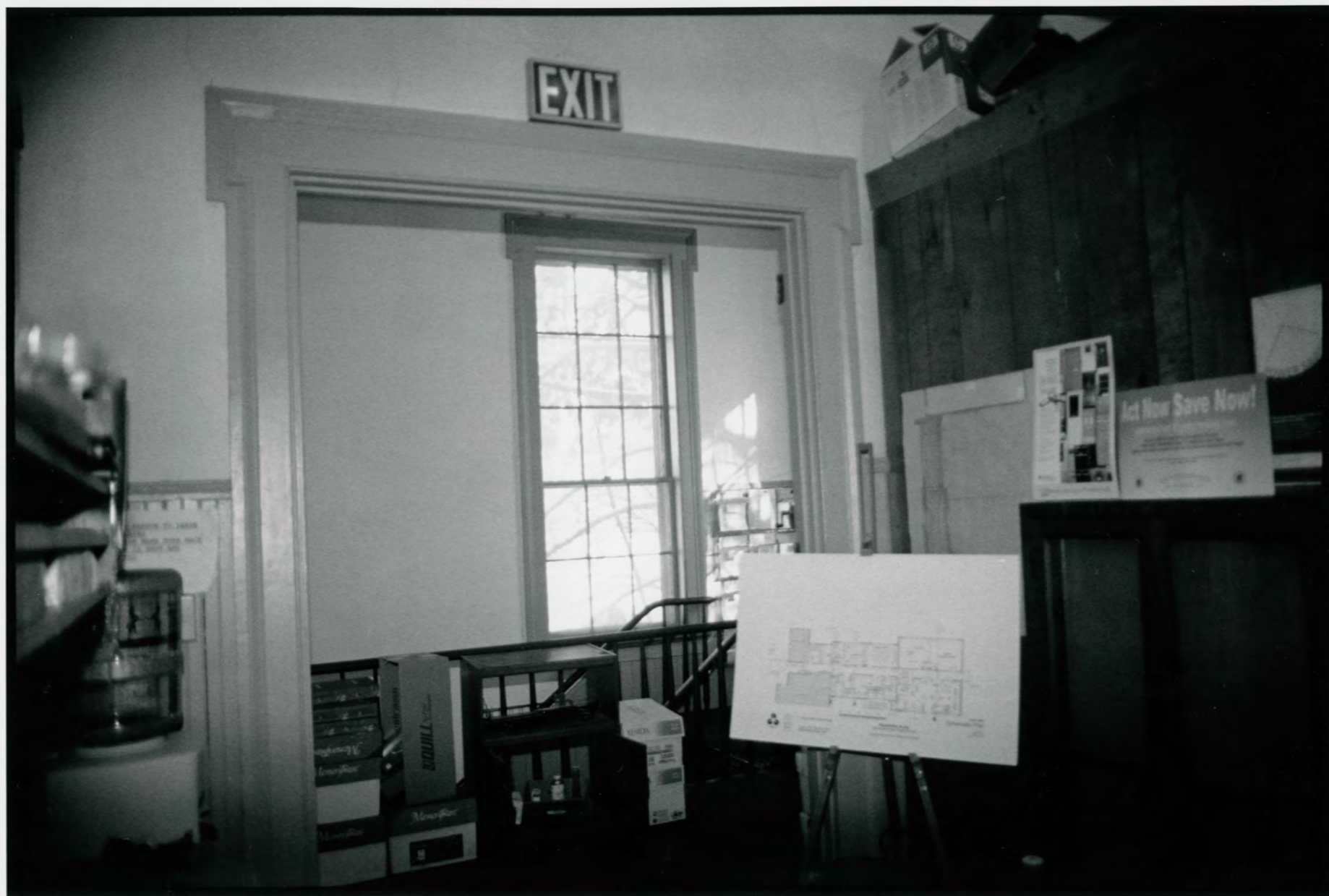


Photo 6: 2nd fl., looking NE to stairhall

West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main St., West Stockbridge, MA

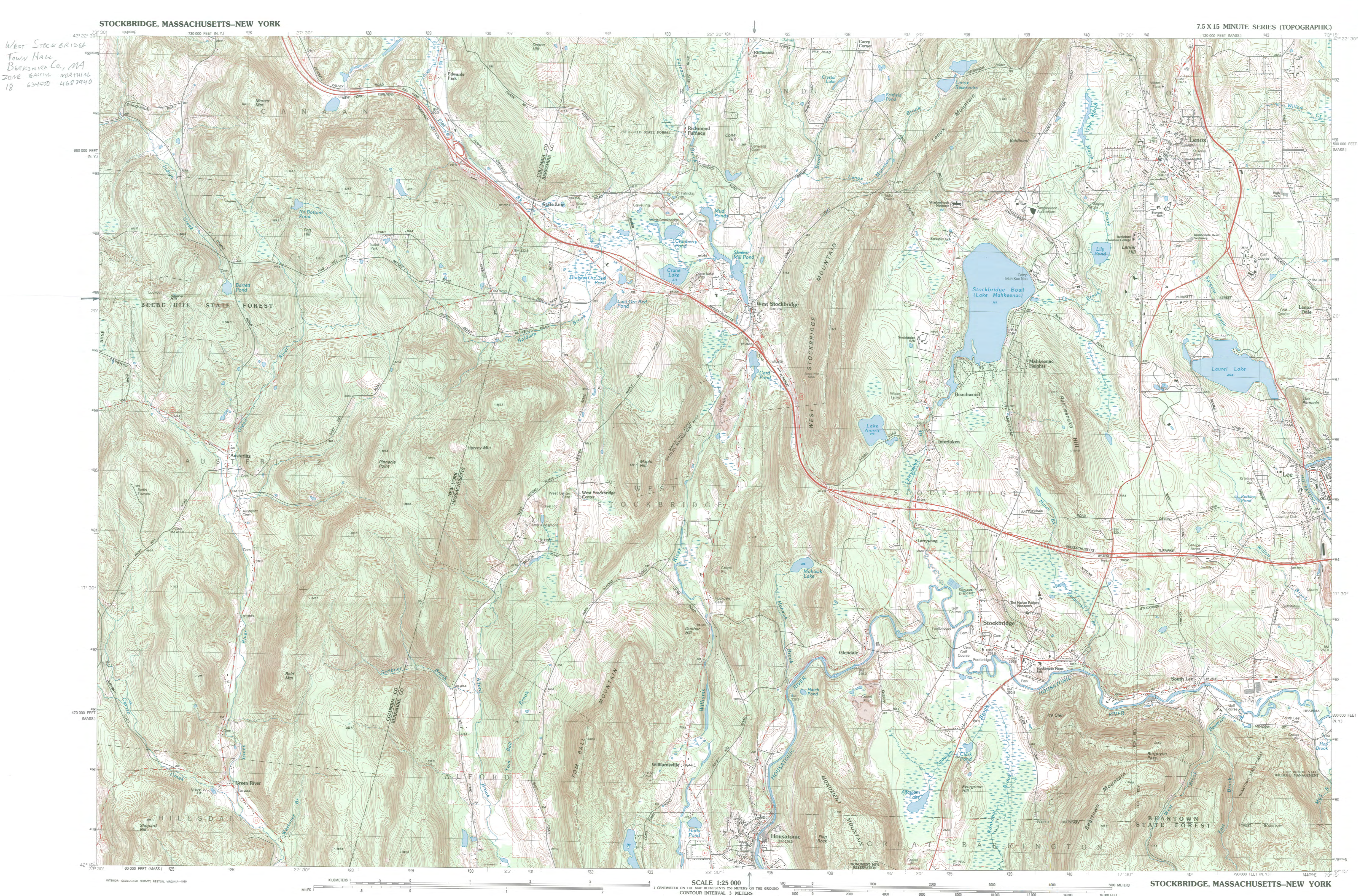
2006



Photo 7: 2nd floor offices, looking S.

West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main St. West Stockbridge, MA

2006



West Stockbridge
Town Hall
Berkshire Co., MA
2018 KATIE NORTH
18 634500 4687940



W. STOCKBRIDGE
TOWN HALL

Stockbridge

MASSACHUSETTS-
NEW YORK (BERKSHIRE), MA
1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
1997

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Derived from imagery taken 1980 and other sources. Photospectred using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1981
Boundaries revised 1999

The west half of this area also covered by 7.5-minute 1:25,000-scale map: State Line dated 1973
The east half of this area supercedes Stockbridge 1:25,000-scale map dated 1973

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1000-meter grid. Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18
10 000-foot ticks: Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone and New York coordinate system, east zone

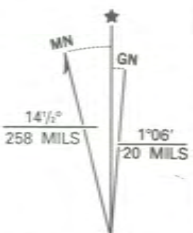
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet	Diagram		1	2	3	
1	3.2808			1	East Chatham 1:24 000		
2	6.5617			2	Pittsfield West 1:24 000		
3	9.8425			3	Pittsfield East 1:24 000		
4	13.1234			4	Chatham 1:24 000		
5	16.4042			5	East Chatham 1:24 000		
6	19.6850			6	Hillsdale 1:24 000		
7	22.9658			7	Green River 1:24 000		
8	26.2467			8	Ons		
9	29.5275						
10	32.8084						

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

UTM grid convergence (GCM) and 100 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ISBN 0-607-92649-X
9 780607 926491

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road; trail	.....
Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State	.....
Railroad, standard gage; narrow gage	.....
Bridge; drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	.....
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument; land section center	.....
U. S. public lands survey; range, township, section	.....
Range, township; section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam, dam with lock	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	.....
Windmill; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or ore	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	.....
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Swamp; marsh	.....
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	.....
Woodland; scattered trees	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

1997



Board of Selectmen

9 Main Street West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0319
Fax. (413) 232-7195
E-mail: bosws@bcn.net

August 4, 2008

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2008

MASS. HIST. COMM

Ms. Betsy Freiberg
National register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Ms. Freiberg:

This letter acknowledges the support of the West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen in the nomination of the West Stockbridge Town Hall for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Our old Town Hall is an important centerpiece of our downtown community and we eagerly look forward to its inclusion in the National Register.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this nomination.

Sincerely

Jana Skypet Caper, Chair

West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen
CC:

Greg Farmer,
Historic Preservation Consultant
Agricola Corporation, Inc.
P.O. Box 861
Chicopee, Mass 01014

Christian Goodwillie
Chairman
West Stockbridge Historic Commission



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

May 5, 2009

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main St., West Stockbridge (Berkshire), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Gregory Farmer, Michelle Plourde-Barker, consultants
Robert Salerno, West Stockbridge Historical Commission
Curt Wilton, West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen
Dana Bixby, West Stockbridge Planning Board Chair