

PH0502120

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 9 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Fay House

AND/OR COMMON

The Fay Club (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

658 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Fitchburg

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
4th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
WorcesterCODE
027**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☒ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Fay Club

STREET & NUMBER

658 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Fitchburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts, 01420

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Northern District

STREET & NUMBER

84 Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Fitchburg

STATE
Massachusetts, 01420**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE
Massachusetts, 02108

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

The Fay House is located on approximately 2/3 of an acre on Main Street in downtown Fitchburg. Main Street was once lined with fine residences, but the Fay Club is one of the few single family structures remaining. The area around the house is primarily early 20th century commercial. The house adjoins the Monument Park Historic District (local historic district, National Register nomination). The Fay House grounds are landscaped with shrubbery and some tall shade trees. A driveway and parking area follows the east elevation of the building to the facade of the carriage house located to the rear.

The impressive High Victorian Gothic building was designed by Richard Upjohn and constructed in 1883 for the local railroad magnate George F. Fay. The 2½ story, irregularly massed house is built of brick with sandstone trim. The steeply pitched slate roof has four tall chimneys, each with a corbelled cap. The compound chimney on the east elevation rises from a stepped gable. Fenestration is varied. Many windows are stained glass. Some of the sandstone window lintels are Tudor arched; others are delicately swirled arches with a cross at the crown. The partially exposed foundation has a sandstone water table at the first floor level. A projecting sandstone stringcourse divides the first and second stories. It is ornamented with two rows of small circular tiles on the north facade. Intricate finials crown many of the dormer and gable parapets.

The facade faces north toward Main Street. The eastern end has two windows on both stories and a dormer with a parapet gable in the roof. The western end of the facade is a projecting bay with triple windows on both stories. The second story windows are headed by an ornamented triple arcade. The gable parapet contains double windows flanked by smaller windows. All four are headed by tall recessed arches containing trefoil moldings. The east elevation is a series of four gradually projecting irregular bays. The center bays hold the one story, intersecting ridge roof entrance porch. A low brick porch wall gives rise to a wooden Gothic tracery screen. The spandrels of the arches are ornamented by carved quatrefoils and multifoils. The east elevation roof has a hip roof dormer in the southern end and a smaller triangular dormer with an arched window with trefoil in the left center bay.

The west elevation is dominated by a large Gothic arched window containing narrow Tudor arched and trefoil windows. The gable above contains an oculus. The center and the southern end of the elevation are both crowned by a gable dormer. The scale of the windows is contrasting, with small and large triple Tudor arched being prevalent. The south (rear) elevation has diverse window groupings as do the other elevations. A one story, flat roof extension projects at the western end from the series of projecting bays which compose the elevation.

The exterior and the first floor interior of the building have not been altered. The elaborate first floor retains elegant paneling, carving and frescoes. The second floor has been remodeled into a large dining room.

A 1½ story ridge roof brick carriage house to the southwest of the main building is distinguished by a huge fanlight over double wooden doors on the north facade. This structure has been converted to a gymnasium; the exterior and the first floor interior remain unchanged, however.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Upjohn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fay House is significant for its architecture, owner and as the most imposing residential structure in Fitchburg. It is an excellent example of High Victorian Gothic architecture and was designed by the nationally prominent architect, Richard M. Upjohn, for George F. Fay. Fay was a leading citizen of Fitchburg.

George Fay was appointed telegraph operator at the Fitchburg Depot in 1852. He later became a member of the firm of Crocker Burbank and Co., and through investments in Massachusetts railroads amassed a fortune. He built the elegant home on Main Street in 1883 on the site of a previous residence. In 1894, Fay and others helped establish the Burbank Hospital. When Fay died in 1895, his daughter Lucy inherited the \$100,000 home and several million dollars. At the age of 45, Lucy married Claude Griffith and moved to California. She gave her home to the Park Club of which George Fay had been a charter member. The sole condition of the donation was that the name be changed to the Fay Club. The club still uses the home.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emerson, William A., Fitchburg, Mass., Past and Present, Blanchard and Brown, Fitchburg, 1887.
Kirkpatrick, Doris, The City and the River, Fitchburg Historical Society, 1971.
Building, Vol. 3, No. 12, Plate 191, September 1885, (Boston Public Library).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4/5 of an acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9
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2	7	0	0	1	0
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4	7	1	8	1	3	0
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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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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor
(Frank Garretson, Fitchburg Planning Office)

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE July 5, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington Street TELEPHONE 617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Boston STATE Massachusetts, 02108

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

Patience H. Weslowski 7/25/77

TITLE Acting

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1 31 78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1 31 78

Property The Fay Club

78000470

State Mass.

Working Number 8.9.77.1264

Worcester

TECHNICAL

Photos 6
Maps 1

Signature?

CONTROL

OK - pl
8/10/77

AN IMPOSING RESIDENCE IN THE HIGH
VICTORIAN GOTHIC STYLE DESIGNED BY RICHARD CROHN.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN 2

ACCEPT
WZB 12/9/77

AGREE w/ JANN

Carriage house and second floor interior altered.
Could be more than locally significant because
of Upham. Need VBD.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Jann Gilmore 10-26-77

ACCEPT

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

4/5 done - ok without vbd
city lot

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
LEBOUCH
1/31/78

BRANCH CHIEF

Henry
1/31/78

KEEPER

Wm
1/31/78

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JAN 31 1978

Federal Register Entry _____

3.7.78

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



The Fay House (Club)
Fitchburg, Massachusetts
1976 Worcester County,

AUG 9 1977

Frank Garretson

Fitchburg Historical Commission

718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA. 01420

#1066

North facade and east elevation

DOE

JAN 31 1978

ELEV.

XV

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

1976



The Fay House
Fitchburg, Mass.
1976

Culb
Worcester County

Frank Garretson
Fitchburg Historical Commission
718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA. 01420
#246
South elevation

doe
JAN 31 1978

AUG 9 1977

JAN

XX PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



The Fay House
Fitchburg, MA.
1976

Club
Worcester County

XV

Frank Garretson

Fitchburg Historical Commission

718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA. 01420

#3 *46*

west elevation

DOE
JAN 31 1978

AUG 9 1977

FEB. 1977

FEB. 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



1900
ONLY
\$1.00

The Fay House, *Club*
Fitchburg, Mass. *Worcester County*
1976

Frank Garretson
Fitchburg Historical Commission
718 Main St., Fitchburg, MA. 01420
#4 *of 6*
East elevation

see
JAN 31 1978

AUG 9 1977

XV

FEB.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



The Fay House, *Club*

Fitchburg, Mass.

1976

Worcester County AUG 9 1977

Frank Garretson

Fitchburg Historical Commission

718 Main St., Fitchburg, MA. 01420

#5 *46*

Detail of entrance porch

DOE
JAN 31 1978

AUG 9 1977

XV
FEB

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



The Fay House, *Club*
Fitchburg, Mass. *Worcester County*
1976

Frank Garretson

Fitchburg Historical Commission

718 Main St., Fitchburg, MA. 01420

#6 *96*

North facade of Carriage House

DOE
JAN 31 1978

AUG 9 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

6669 III NE
ASHBY 2.3 MI

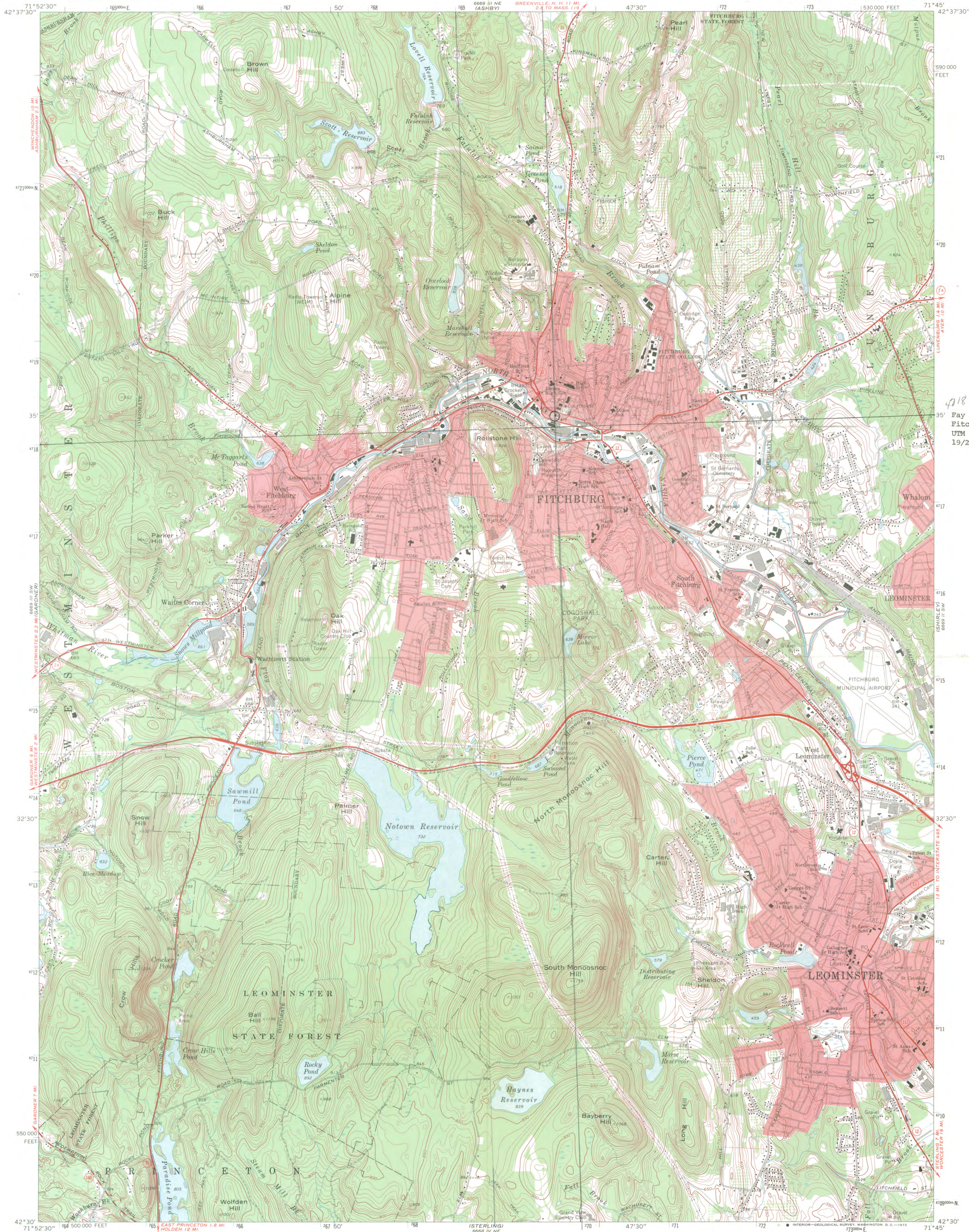
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FAY CLUB

FITCHBURG QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—WORCESTER CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6669 I NW
TOWNSEND



4718
Fay House
Fitchburg, Massachusetts
UTM Coordinates:
19/270 010/4718 130

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943 and 1944
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ties,
zone 19, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

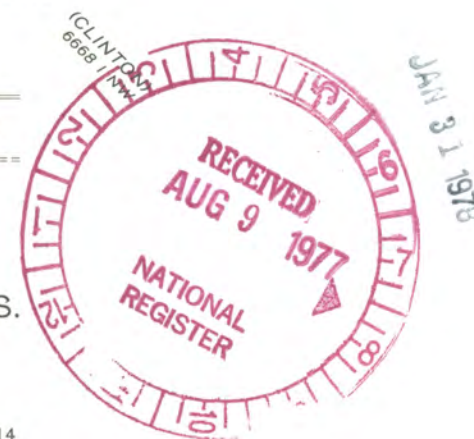


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route

FITCHBURG, MASS.
N4230—W7145/7.5

1969

AMS 6669 III SE—SERIES V814





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

*294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470*

August 3, 1977

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration Branch
National Register of Historic Places
OAHP
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20204



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find nomination forms for the following properties:

1. Fitchburg, The Fay House
2. Fitchburg, Monument Park Historic District
3. Newton, Colby Hall
4. Taunton, Courthouse Complex

These properties have been reviewed and voted by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Amadon.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/sbm
enc.

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE

1.25.78

TIME OF CALL

1:30

AM

PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

617-727-8470

THE FAY CLUB

FITCHBURG, MASS.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

WHAT IS CORRECT ACREAGE FOR PROPERTY
UNDER DESCRIPTION ($\frac{2}{3}$ acre)
UNDER 10 - ($\frac{4}{5}$ OF ACRE)

CORRECT ACREAGE IS $\frac{4}{5}$ OF KW ACRE.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

John H. Gellum

Architectural, Historical

OAHB

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **JAN 31 1978**

Name

Location

Fay Club

**Fitchburg
Worcester County**

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Robert F. Drinan

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amsdon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

880

Mott/js

2/3/78

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Fay House, The		2 OTHER NAMES: Fay Club, The		3 date of entry: JAN 31 1978	4 county code: 027
5 LOCATION street & number 658 Main St.		city / town Fitchburg	vicinity of	state MA	county Worcester
6 NPS REGION: North Atlantic				7 OWNER: ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)	
8 ADMINISTRATOR:		9 EXISTING SURVEYS: ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL 10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 4th 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL			
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		15 ACREAGE 0.80	
16 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated ☐ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated ☐ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown		17 features: INTERIOR: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9			
18 ACCESS: ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		19 ADAPTIVE USE: ☐ YES ☐ NO		20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no	
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ART-5 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)		22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐			
23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		24 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
26 architectural style(s):		27 architect:		28 master builder:	
29 landscape architect / garden designer:		30 interior decorator:		31 artist:	
32 artisan:		33 builder/contractor:			
34 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:					
35 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP					