

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mass.	
COUNTY: Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 4 1972

1. NAME				
COMMON: Merrell Tavern				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: S. side Route 102, approximately 600 feet east of the intersection of Willow St.				
CITY OR TOWN: South Lee (South)				
STATE Massachusetts		CODE 025	COUNTY: Berkshire	CODE 003
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____	☐ Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities				
STREET AND NUMBER: 141 Cambridge Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Boston		STATE: Mass.	CODE 025	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Pittsfield		STATE: Mass.	CODE 025	
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1945 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: HABS, National Park Service				
STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19th Street, N.W.				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: D. C.	CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
Mass.COUNTY:
Berkshire

ENTRY NUMBER

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DATE

FEB 23 1972

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original: Two-story Federal style brick house with rear kitchen wing; hip roof on front section of building. Built ca. 1812. Tavern bar of ca. 1815, with wooden grille, survives intact.

Present: Two-story porch and wooden third story (ballroom) added ca. 1838. Front section of building has pitch roof. Added portions of building have details transitional between Federal and Greek Revival styles. Very few twentieth century alterations except for overpainting of early interior paints and graining, and removal of early wallpapers.

Condition: The building requires structural repair and stabilization, including extensive work in the gable-end walls of the third story. In order to be displayed to the public on a regular basis, the building requires restoration of its early paints and wallpapers except in the rooms where the early paints have not been overpainted during modern times.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mass.	
COUNTY	
Berkshire	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

LEE, SOUTH, THE MERRELL TAVERN

6. Representation in existing surveys

Berkshire County Survey of historic places
1970

Local

Berkshire County Historical Society

113 East Housatonic Street

Pittsfield, Massachusetts 025

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1812

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Phi- | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Social/Human- | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | itarian | |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☒ Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original portions of the structure were built as a house by Major General Joseph Whiton, Commander of the troops of the Western Massachusetts militia in the War of 1812. It was one of the first fine brick houses in the region, its details based on the Federal-period designs of Asher Benjamin. Its facade has the large windows and smooth planar brick walls, in Flemish bond, which the new fashion required.

From 1815 until 1918 the building was owned by the Merrell family and by the Davises, who were heirs of the Merrells by marriage. The Merrells used it as a tavern from the beginning and their original tavern bar is perfectly preserved. The tavern thrived on the stagecoach travel between Springfield and Albany. The addition of a two-story porch and third-story containing ballroom and small sleeping rooms about 1838 gave the building something of the grand and institutional character of the new hotels which were everywhere replacing the old taverns. From that time on, it was called a hotel. It is thus particularly valuable since it exemplifies in one building a fine house, a tavern of the old type that resembles a house, and a hotel of a form specifically fashionable for the purpose.

The early painted oak graining has survived in the bar-room, where there is also an early Franklin stove. The ballroom and small sleeping rooms still show their original paints and, in places, painted floor decoration. The decline of the hotel's trade after 1850 has caused the architectural features to remain almost completely unchanged.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Berkshire County Middle District Registry of Deeds and Probate, Pittsfield, Mass.

Field, David D. ed. A History of the County of Berkshire, Massachusetts. Pittsfield, 1829.

Hyde, Rev. C.M. and Alexander. The Centennial Celebration and Centennial History of the Town of Lee, Massachusetts. Springfield, 1878.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		42 0 16	37 0 00	73 0 17
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. 1 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Abbott Lowell Cummings, Director

ORGANIZATION

Soc. for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

DATE

August 26, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

141 Cambridge Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE

Mass.

CODE

25

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

Name

John F. H. Dawson

Secretary of the Commonwealth & Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

March 18, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 23 1972

Date

ATTEST:

William H. Mortimer
Keeper of The National Register

Date

JAN 20 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Merrell Tavern

Berkshire

RECEIPT		PROPERTY		STATE <u>Mass</u>	
DATE OF RECEIPT		YES	NO	REGISTER NUMBER	
<u>8/31/71</u>		☒	☐	FEB 23 1972	
DATA PAGE		☒	☐	1	
PHOTO (S)		☐	☐		
PHOTO DESCRIP (S)		☐	☐		
MAP (S)		☐	☐		
MAP DESCRIPTION (S)		☐	☐	1	
LOGGED		☐	☐		
ACKNOWLEDGE <u>8/31/71</u>		☐	☐		
RESUBMIT		☐	☐		
REVIEW		<u>OK means 11/2/71</u>			
HISTORIAN		<u>Okay, Series 1/6/72</u>			
ARCHAEOLOGIST		<u>57 Marston OK 12/29/71</u>			
ARCHITECT		<u>OK Chambers 12-29-71</u>			
ASST. KEEPER					
KEEPER		<u>OK Wm 1/20/72</u>			
ENTRY					
CHIEF, OAHP		<u>EW 2-23</u>			
EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR		<u>OK CD 1/5/72</u>			
Federal Register Entry		Date <u>4/4/72</u>			
Annual Edition Entry					
Logged Card		<u>FEB 23 1972</u> <u>FEB 23 1972</u>			
		WORKING NUMBER <u>8.31.71.7</u>			
COMMENTS:					
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:					



NPS Number

Feb. 23, 1972

Title:

Merrell Tavern

Loc.

Berkshire County, Mass.
Merrell Tavern front
facade, viewed from the northMerrell Tavern
View of North Facade
August 1969UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE

Mass.

COUNTY

Berkshire

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FEB 23 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

Merrell Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 102

CITY OR TOWN:

Lee (South)

STATE:

Mass.

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Berkshire

CODE

3

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

DATE OF PHOTO: August, 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

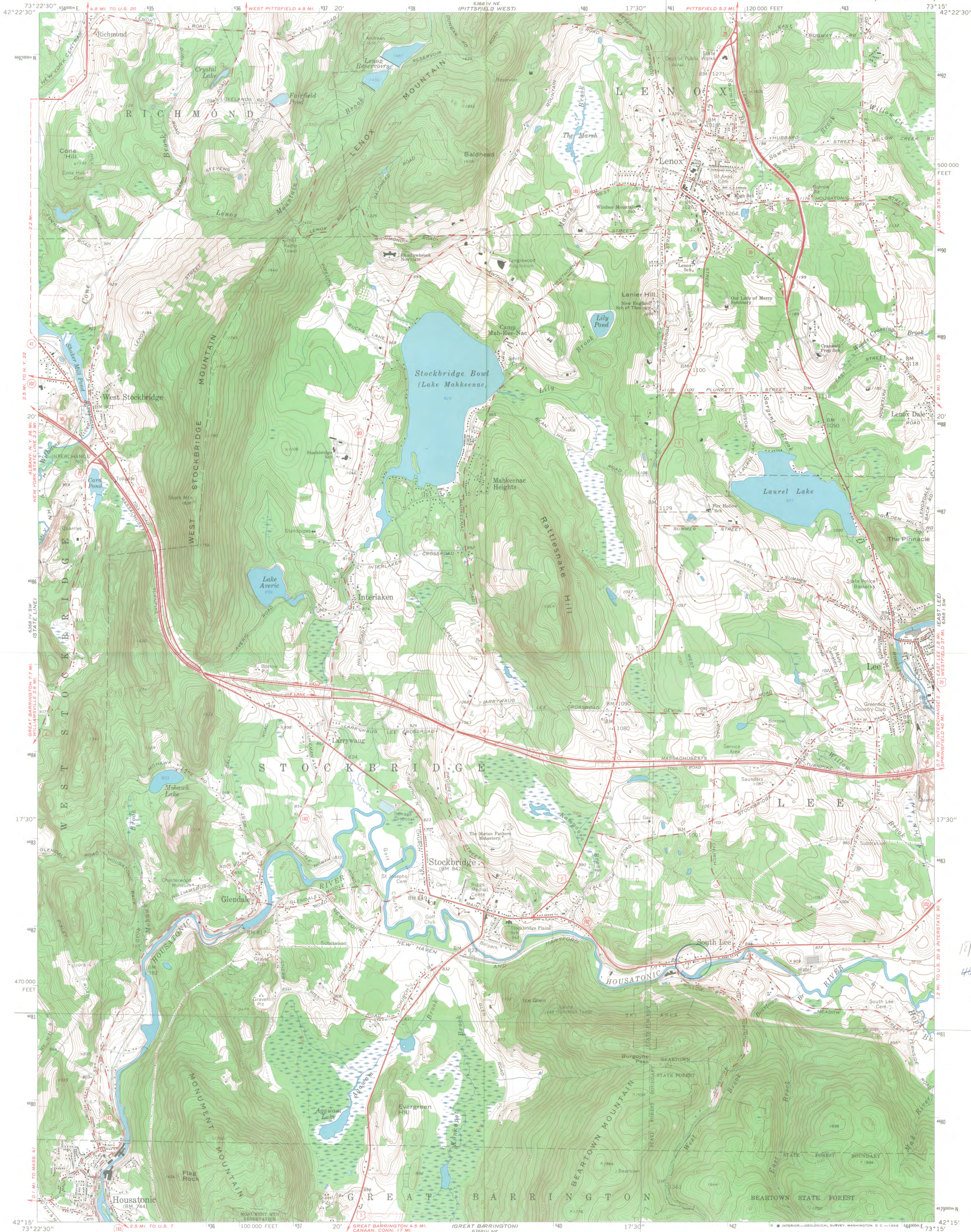
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Merrell Tavern front facade, viewed from the north

PROPER



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and
Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Field checked 1944. Revised 1959
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

SCALE 1:24,000
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MBN SEA LEVEL

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

STOCKBRIDGE, MASS.
N4215—W7315/7.5

1959

AMS 6368 IV SE—SERIES V814

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

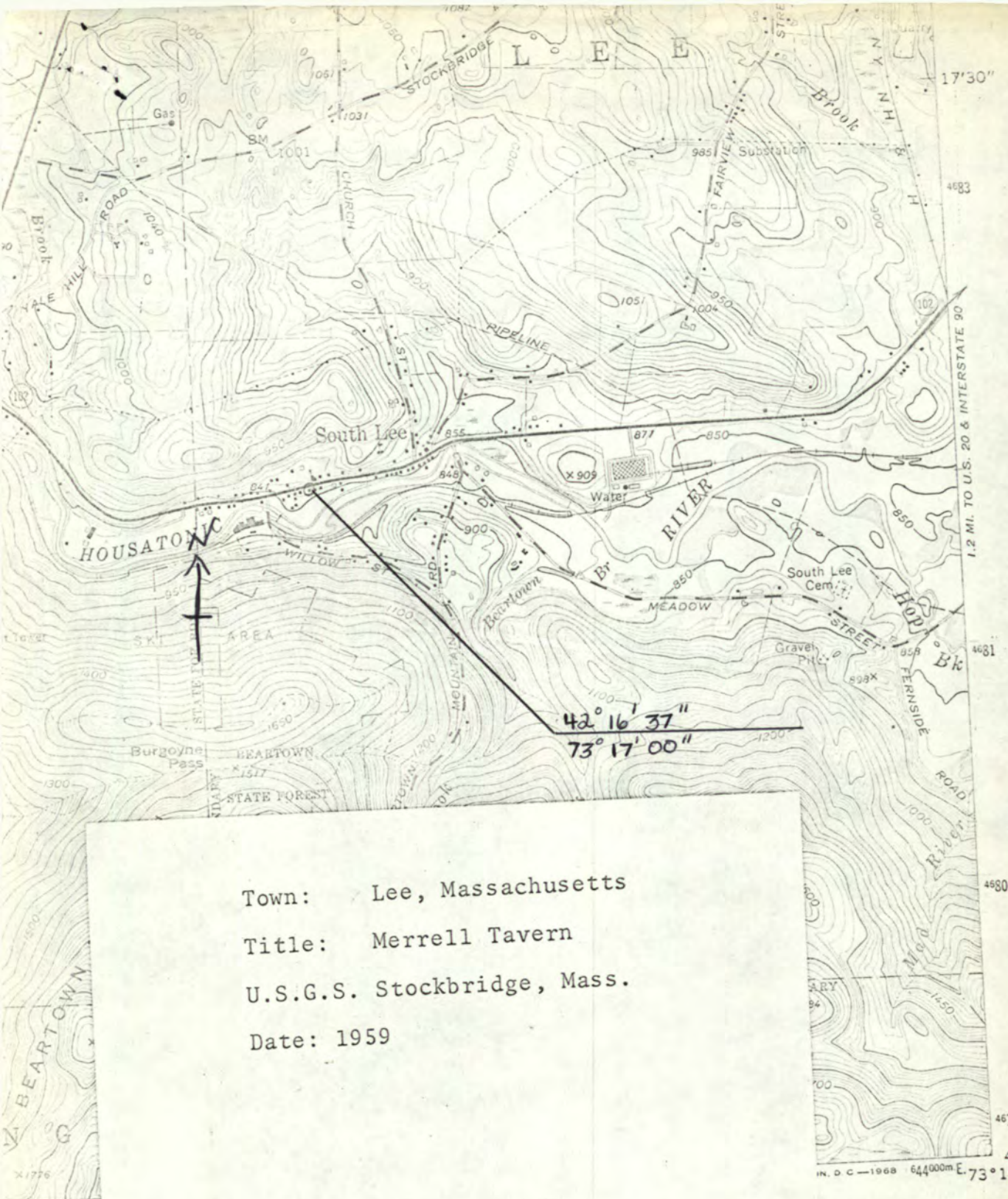
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

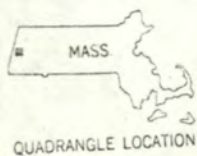
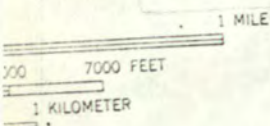
STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Merrell Tavern			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Route 102			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Lee (South)			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Berkshire	3
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
USGS Stockbridge, Mass.			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1959			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



Town: Lee, Massachusetts
 Title: Merrell Tavern
 U.S.G.S. Stockbridge, Mass.
 Date: 1959



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
 () Interstate Route () U. S. Route () State Route

STOCKBRIDGE, MASS.
 N4215—W7315/7.5

1959

AMS 6368 IV, SE—SERIES V814

(MONTEREY)
 6368 II NW

146



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

August 27, 1971

The Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation

National Park Service

801 19th Street, N.W.

Washington, D. C. 20006

Attention: Mrs. Sally Marusin

REGISTERED MAIL

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

Rotch Counting House, New Bedford

Old Third District Court House, New Bedford

Loammi Baldwin Mansion, Woburn

Twin Lights, Thacher's Island

Old African Meetinghouse, Boston

Merrell Tavern, Lee

Pelham Town Hall Complex, Pelham

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F. X. Davoren, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liaison Officer.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Hale Jr.

Richard W. Hale, Jr.

Acting Chairman

Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH:aw

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered FEB 23 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Merrell Tavern	South Lee Berkshire County
Northborough Town Hall	Northborough Worcester County
First Baptist Church	Boston Suffolk County
Old County Court House	Plymouth Plymouth County
Trinity Rectory	Boston Suffolk County
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Lanesborough Berkshire County
Crowninshield House	Boston Suffolk County
First Universalist Church	Provincetown Barnstable County
Griswold (Major Joseph) House	Buckland Franklin County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Harold D. Donohue
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Hastings Keith

State Liaison Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
Office of the Secretary
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Director, Northeast Region

HR NRoland:mm 2/16/72