

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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 GRANGE #246

other names/site number Methodist Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number 5 Swamp Road not for publication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.)

Judith B. McDonough
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

12/23/98
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

2.5.99

WEST STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE #246
Name of Property

BERKSHIRE, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u> </u> building
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u> </u> 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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite, marble, fieldstone

walls WOOD: weatherboard, plywood

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1West Stockbridge Grange
West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA**DESCRIPTION**

The West Stockbridge Grange Hall (MHC #C-47) consists of a single contributing building. There are no outbuildings or other structures on the nominated property. The principle façade faces east at 5 Swamp Road, a residential street of single family houses dating from 1830 to 1845, with the exception of a Ranch style house across from the Grange Hall built within the past 25 years.

Setting

The rear of the Grange Hall is on the west side of Swamp Road approximately 50 to 60 feet from the east edge of Shaker Mill Pond, an impoundment of the Williams River. Swamp Road was also known as the Pittsfield Road in earlier years and its south end, three hundred feet south of the Grange Hall, meets the south end of the pond and the current main road to Pittsfield, now Routes 41 and 102 which run together over the river. Swamp Road today is only built up around a quarter mile north of this intersection. The business and governmental center of West Stockbridge begins at the river and runs south along Route 41 east of the river with a business area on the west side of the river, where a railroad depot is located.

The Grange Hall sits 22 feet back from the sidewalk and 31 feet back from the edge of the road. This setback is slightly less than the average setback of houses along the street. The front facade is partially obscured by two large sugar maple trees and a small crabapple tree. The north side of the property is a mowed lawn extending approximately 70 feet north of the north side, and the south side of the building is 11 feet from the south property line and approximately 15 feet away from the adjacent house to the south. The south property line is lower than the adjacent house and has a low two foot stone wall running east-west which defines the south property line. There are no foundation plantings along the south side of the building and only several clumps of day lilies and ferns on the north side. The grange hall occupies the southern end of the middle of three, which comprise the nominated property.

Lot sizes on Swamp road vary from 12 to 120 feet of road frontage and parcels have been combined so that the buildings are unevenly spaced along Swamp Road with open side yards. The Grange Hall, originally built as a Methodist Episcopal Church in 1838, has a total frontage on the west side of Swamp Road of 122 feet, consisting of a north 40 foot-wide lot, a middle 70 foot-wide lot, and a south 12 foot-wide lot. The building sits on the middle lot. It is surrounded by older houses of approximately the same age and built mostly in the compatible Greek Revival style. These houses include the 1830 two story Federal and Greek Revival style Calender, Chaterfield, Spencer-Baldwin House (MHC #C-44); the 1841 two story Greek Revival style Benjamin Bissell House (MHC #C-45); the ca. 1830-40 Late Federal style Cone-Parmalee-Gaston-Lamont House (MHC #C-46); the 1842-45 two story Greek Revival Dr. William Leavitt House (MHC #C-48); the two-and-a-half story Greek Revival style ca. 1842-45 Leavitt, Dewey, Martin House (MHC #C-49); the ca. 1830-32 two story Greek Revival style Dr. Nathaniel Leavitt House (MHC #C-50); and the one-and-a-half story ca. 1835-40 Greek Revival style Fox-Hollenbeck House (MHC #C-51). The Grange Hall is the best preserved building on the street with the fewest alterations. The front facade and lateral north and south sides of the exterior have not been altered significantly since construction in 1838, whereas the Bissell House (MHC #C-45) and the Leavitt, Dewey, Martin House (MHC #C-49) have been aluminum sided, and across the road from the Grange Hall is a newer ranch-style house.

General characteristics and architecture

The Grange Hall is a one-and-a-half story rectangular Greek Revival temple style church building. It measures 30 1/2 feet wide

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West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA

by 50 1/2 feet deep. It is of wooden-frame post and beam construction with six-inch wide weatherboard sheathing and a metal standing seam front-gabled roof. The foundation is a mixture of local marble, granite, and fieldstone uncut blocks. The front facade is symmetrical, with two five-paneled doors under a Gothic-arched opening. Flanking the entrance are two Gothic-arched windows. Each corner of the building terminates in slightly battered undecorated flat pilasters and the front-facing gable is fully pedimented over a wide plain wooden frieze. The wooden trim is molded. The south and north sides of the building continue the wide frieze over three Gothic-arched windows and end pilasters. There is an additional small square window on the east end of both the north and south sides of the building up under the frieze which lighted the upstairs front gallery above the front entrance. Windows are 36-over-36 of wood and appear to be original. Window panes in the Gothic arches are separated by curved muntins visible only from the interior. The arched tops of the windows are covered in fixed wooden louvered covers. At the apex of each Gothic arch is a plain wooden keystone. The lower 30 lights of the lower sashes are covered over on the interior with fiberboard coverings set close to the panes, with a picture frame molding and bas-relief Grange motif of a bundled wheat sheaf visible from the exterior through the glass panes. These coverings give privacy to the interior hall.

Alterations

Alterations to the exterior are few. The rear of the building shows evidence of at least one window which was removed, probably during the 1918-19 conversion to a grange hall. The rear addition probably masks another rear window which was removed at the same time. At the front of the north side is a small exterior propane tank against the building for a front kitchen. Flush metal plates cover the plinths of the two front pilasters where water has rotted the original wood. At the front entrance is an unpainted handicapped ramp made of plywood flooring and 2 x 4 inch lumber for a hand rail. This is temporary and a reversible alteration. The building has no gutters or storm windows. Otherwise, the building does not appear to have had much maintenance and virtually no exterior alterations, viewed from the street, since the church was converted to a grange hall in 1918-19.

At the south end of the west rear side is a small addition, built in 1970, which measures 10 feet deep by 14 feet nine inches wide, housing a forced hot air furnace room and two bathrooms. This addition is sheathed in chipboard and plywood sheets, has a gabled roof and asphalt shingles, and a concrete block chimney with concrete block and poured concrete foundation. Eaves on this addition are overhung and there is one double-hung wood-framed 6-over-6 window on the south and two similar windows on the west. It was built of scrap material by John Astore, current West Stockbridge assessor and Grange member. According to Mr. Astore, the weatherboard sheathing has never been applied to this addition and it remains uncompleted to this day.

Interior features

There are no interior photographs from the time the building was used as a Methodist Episcopal church from 1838 until the church building was closed in 1910. Remaining vacant until 1917, it was purchased by the Patrons of Husbandry, the interior converted to use as a grange hall, and was opened with a dedication ceremony on August 1, 1919. The current interior arrangement largely dates from these 1918-19 renovations. The interior shows evidence of what was altered and what fabric may be original to the 1838 church construction. The 1838 interior consisted of a large interior sanctuary with the pulpit to the west rear wall and a choir or gallery upstairs at the front or east end of the building accessed by a stairway south of the front door. Inside the front entrance was a "porch" or front entrance hall extending the width of the building under the gallery. When used as a church, the choir terminated over the hall in a low two to three feet wooden five-paneled railing of wide horizontal planks with and molded trim, still in place. Above this rail, the wall was open to the ceiling. A description from 1885, notes that the church would seat 220 persons, a sum which probably included seating in the upstairs front choir. Also intact from its time as a church

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West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA

is the wide horizontally-laid wainscot underneath the windows on the lower walls. These are painted white. The floor of the choir contains the original four-inch wide pine flooring and the plaster in the second floor gallery is also original. Original fabric to the building appears to include the first floor ceiling which is slightly arched and consists of narrow boards laid flush in an east-west direction and curving down to the top of the lateral walls. In the middle of the hall is a decorative wooden vent, which may or may not have contained a chandelier at one time. The sanctuary floor of the church must have contained pews arranged on the north and south sides of two side aisles located where the two entrance doors from the front porch into the sanctuary are still located, and a center set of pews.

The records and minutes of the West Stockbridge Patrons of Husbandry are missing for the years 1918-1920, so that there is no written record of what was done to convert the church to a grange hall, nor who did the work. The 1918-1919 renovations to the interior covered the original plaster walls of the hall with vertically-laid beadboard. The rear gallery was closed in with beadboard to the ceiling and two sliding glass 12-light windows were installed above the rail which could be opened to the hall below. The original pulpit was removed at the rear west end of the hall and a stage was built across the back of the hall. This stage has a pine floor. At some time after the 1918-1919 renovations, forced air heating ducts were added to the front of the stage area under the stage floor. The main floor of the hall is hard maple and birdseye maple. It was refinished in 1979. Two west-facing large rear windows were apparently removed at this time. The pews were removed from the floor of the hall to open the space for grange functions. The north two-thirds of the interior front porch under the gallery was converted to use as a kitchen for grange functions. The door from the hall into the kitchen has a brown ceramic door handle and is a four-paneled door. The kitchen has a beadboard ceiling and walls and a blue enamel kitchen sink. A floor hatch leads to the basement under this sink. The kitchen is equipped with a propane stove, refrigerator, counters, and cupboards today. Upstairs, at the north end of the gallery, two bathrooms were installed, probably as many as 50 years ago. These are no longer used. Through the center of the porch hall or vestibule against the inner wall to the sanctuary is a red brick chimney, probably used for a wood-burning stove at one time. It is used to vent kitchen appliances today.

The grangers rearranged the sanctuary to be a hall with a large unobstructed open space. What may have been a few of the original pews from the church were permanently installed along the north and south sides of the hall under the windows. They sit atop low raised platforms. The front legs of these benches are fat piano-style wooden legs. These benches are finished in a brownish red color and the original white horizontal planking from the church wainscot can be seen underneath the benches at the bottom of the north and south lateral walls. The "stations," podiums used during grange ceremonies, were made from the black walnut of the original pulpit, according to a 1930 *Berkshire Evening Eagle* article, and the master's station was the main part of the pulpit in the old Methodist church. The same article adds that much of the 1918-1919 renovations were done by several of the grange members.

The stage sports an advertising drop curtain, which were often found in grange halls and fraternal organizations. Such curtains were painted on materials like canvas and contained a central landscape and advertising blocks paid for by local merchants and businesses in the area. The curtain in the West Stockbridge grange hall contains a central scene with a lake and mountains in the background, around which is grouped 21 advertisements, including those for banks, funeral homes, plumbing contractors, lumber mills, florists, druggists, a dairying operation, feed store, and Ford garage. It is brightly colored with a light blue background and red border. The grangers would drop this curtain at the outset of meetings so that the attendees could see the advertising and patronize regional businesses. The cost of the curtain was paid for by the businesses advertised, at no cost to the grange, and the money collected used to pay the man who solicited the businesses and person who painted the curtain.

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West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA****Archaeological Description**

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the property indicate locational criteria which are favorable for many types of prehistoric sites. The physical characteristics of the property include a well drained level to moderately sloping terrace within 1000 feet of Shaker Mill Pond, an impoundment of the Williams River. The presence of prehistoric sites has also been demonstrated in the region, especially in upland areas west of Stockbridge Bowl (Lake Mahkeenac) approximately 1.5 miles east of the nominated property and adjacent to wetlands and streams located in uplands approximately one mile to the north. Given the above information, the size of the nominated property (0.39 acres), and construction of the earlier barn and church/grange, a moderate potential exists for the recovery of prehistoric resources.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Grange Hall property. Documentary evidence exists indicating a barn was present on the parcel at the time it was purchased for the church. Structural evidence of the barn, which was torn down prior to church construction, may exist on the property. Archaeological evidence of outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with the structure's use as a church and Grange Hall may also be present. At least one well, later used as a trash pit is rumored to exist on the property.

(end)

WEST STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE #246

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: N/A

- ☐ **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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION

AGRICULTURE

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1838-1948

Significant Dates

1838, 1919

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Astore, John (1970 addition)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

West Stockbridge Grange # 246

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West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA**8. Statement of Significance****SIGNIFICANCE:**

The West Stockbridge Grange #246 building is significant locally under Criterion C as an outstanding surviving example of a Greek Revival-style in an early Methodist Episcopal church, built in 1838, and as the oldest surviving church building in West Stockbridge. It is significant under Criterion A for its associations with the Patrons of Husbandry activities in West Stockbridge, including monthly education and entertainment/ recreation activities. As a Pomona Grange Hall, it played a role in the ceremonies of the grangers in West Stockbridge and surrounding towns in Berkshire County, because it hosted fifth degree ceremonies, which it continues to do so to this day, and was further charged with "mothering" subordinate grange units, which could only offer first through fourth degree ceremonies. The period of significance of this 160-year old nominated building spans the years from 1838, the date of its construction, to 1948, the cut-off for the 50 year National Register for ordinary significance.

Architectural Significance

The building is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding local example of the Greek Revival temple style of architecture in a small building. Of the 130 buildings inventoried in West Stockbridge, 66 of them were designed in Greek Revival style, not surprising, inasmuch as 26 of the inventoried buildings were built during the 1830s and 21 were built during the 1840s. The Greek Revival style is common in surviving early 19th century buildings in West Stockbridge because the years in which this national style was in favor are years when the industries, mining and stone quarrying, were on the ascendance, due, in part, to improved transportation. The Village of West Stockbridge boomed with the coming of the Hudson and Berkshire Railroad in 1838, which ran from Hudson, New York, to the village of West Stockbridge. Other rail lines followed which connected West Stockbridge with Connecticut via the Housatonic Railroad in 1841, with Albany in 1842, and with Pittsfield in 1847. The Williams River at this intersection is where the Williams Iron Works was located in 1766, on the site of Shaker Mill building (MHC #C-43), which was rebuilt in 1805 as a grist mill. This area became the nucleus of the Village of West Stockbridge, which eventually eclipsed West Center, the first center of settlement in West Stockbridge, during the 1820s. There is little to indicate the nucleus of West Center today except for the ruins of two early meeting houses (MHC #901) built in 1788 and 1789 and a few older houses. The Village of West Stockbridge boomed with the coming of the railroads, and indications from the surviving building stock suggest that much new construction occurred in town during the 1830s and 1840s. Population in town rose gradually from 370 in 1776 to 1,034 in 1820, then increased to 1,209 in 1830, 1,448 in 1840 and 1,713 in 1850. In addition to the many residences built in West Stockbridge during the 1830s and 1840s, including several on Swamp Road, the Town Hall and Library building, built in 1854 as the Town Hall and Miner Savings Bank, and offices (MHC #C-38), was Greek Revival in style with a side gabled design. The Methodist Episcopal church/ grange hall on Swamp Road is the purest example of the temple-style Greek Revival building in West Stockbridge today and has retained on the exterior virtually all its historic architectural integrity. It is the best local representative of the style in a small public building.

1838-1910: Period of use as a Methodist Episcopal Church

The two oldest Methodist Episcopal church buildings in Berkshire County are the 1838 West Stockbridge building and the 1844 Sheffield--Village of Ashley Falls-- Methodist Church building. Both are designed in Greek Revival style, which is not surprising, because the 1830s and 1840s in western Massachusetts witnessed the coming of the railroads and years of resurgence

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in religious interest, specifically in a great revival in 1843 and 1844. There is no indication that the Methodist Episcopal church promoted a particular style of architecture in its early churches. Perhaps because of the circuit preacher method of reaching small groups of members, few local records of the early 19th century history of this denomination seem to exist.

From the time of its construction in 1838 until 1910 when the church building was closed, the West Stockbridge Grange Hall housed the Methodist Episcopal church of West Stockbridge. According to page 638 of Beers 1885 *History of Berkshire County*:

The Methodist Episcopal church was formed here about 1834. There was some denominational opposition to it at the outset. . . . Meetings were held in different places in town till 1838, when a site was purchased and the present church built in the village. It has always been part of a charge or circuit in connection with other places, the pastor of which for several years past has resided in the village. . . . The church is a plain, comfortable, and sufficient building. . . .

This bare-bones history of the church parallels that of other information from surrounding towns in Berkshire County in that the earliest Methodist Episcopal meetings occurred in the region as early as the 1780s and early 1790s, when small groups met in members' houses, in public halls, and in other denominational church buildings. The ministers were circuit riders responsible for visiting many towns during their monthly rounds. The Methodist Episcopal church set up different circuits for these circuit preachers, and as the number of members increased, the circuits became smaller in geographical area and the names of the circuits changed, sometimes yearly. Eventually, small church buildings were erected and the number of Methodist church buildings began to increase dramatically during the 1830s and 1840s, but especially during a great revival in the region during 1843 and 1844, which benefited the Methodists as well as other denominations with large additions in church membership. The Village of Ashley Falls in the town of Sheffield along the Massachusetts-Connecticut border still retains its original 1844 Greek Revival Methodist Episcopal church building (MHC #15), but almost all of the early church buildings of this denomination are gone from western Massachusetts.

When the Methodist Episcopal group was formed in West Stockbridge around 1834, the Reverend Aaron Rogers was the first pastor. Apparently he did not live in West Stockbridge and there was no parsonage in town for him. The group in West Stockbridge was part of the Richmond Parish initially, a small town located several miles to the north on Route 41. An early deed on the church property indicates that the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at West Stockbridge, purchased the 70 foot wide lot on which the church building sits on April 4, 1838. According to the 1885 Beers history, the church eventually acquired a parsonage through a liberal gift of one of the female members. A deed recorded in March, 1880, and a 1904 map indicate that the Methodists were donated a parsonage which was on the east side of Swamp Road two lots north of the George Tyler-Edward Hinman House (MHC # C-52) and which is no longer standing. It is also not clear how long the West Stockbridge church was associated with the Queechy Lake Methodist church in New York State south of Caanan. The last minister of the West Stockbridge Methodist Episcopal Church was the Reverend Laughran DuBois, who preached at the Queechy Lake church from 1897-1910, at the Milan Methodist Church in northern Dutchess County, New York, during that period, and at West Stockbridge from 1901 until the West Stockbridge church closed its doors in 1910. Other churches on his circuit are unknown. Queechy Lake was an active congregation even before their church was erected in 1829, and the Queechy Lake association with the West Stockbridge congregation may have been a durable one.

The *Berkshire Eagle* is silent on the matter of what prompted the closing of the West Stockbridge church in 1910, but it appears

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to have been a dwindling congregation. According to the Reverend DuBois' grand-son, Larry Vaber, the DuBois family themselves joined the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, and Mr. Vaber guesses that the surviving Methodist members of the town's congregation chose to join churches in the area.

1917-present: West Stockbridge Grange Hall #246

The West Stockbridge Grand #246 is significant under Criterion A for its educational, entertainment and recreation, and performing arts activities in association with the local Patrons of Husbandry. Because the building is still used as a grange hall, the grange activities have continued to the present. However, the date of 1948 is the ending period of significance because the hall is not associated with unusually significant activities since that time.

Grange activities in the building have included ceremonial, social, and educational uses. An undated scrapbook indicates that meetings were held the first and third Fridays of each month. At these meetings, program activities included self-education study, lectures on agricultural subjects, civic discussions, friendly competitions in the domestic arts, literary hours, spelling matches, poetry readings and recitations, singing, historical plays and pageants, cooperative buying activities, planning of annual fall fairs, youth and 4H activities, and picnics, pancake breakfasts, and dinners. Ceremonial activities held in the grange hall included officer installations and various Patrons of Husbandry ceremonies, which have remained secret until recent years. In addition, regular committee meetings of the grangers were held in the hall, including executive, literary, relief, music, entertainment, and refreshment committees. Among the grange ceremonies held frequently in the hall is the Pomona ceremony conferring the fifth degree. This ceremony involves a stage on which the ceremony is performed and the West Stockbridge grange hall is only one of three Pomona granges remaining in Berkshire County which may hold this ceremony: West Stockbridge Grange # 246, Sheffield Grange #224, and Stockbridge Grange #295.

After the Methodists abandoned use of their church building in 1910, it apparently stood vacant for eight years until purchased by the local grangers in 1918. The second half of the building's history is associated with the activities of the Patrons of Husbandry, who have preserved the building to the present. According to Folwell's *History of Minnesota*, volume three, the grange was a self-improvement and fraternal organization founded by Oliver Kelley of Minnesota, originally from Boston, Massachusetts, who took up a claim in Elk River, Minnesota, about 50 miles north of Minneapolis, in 1849. In 1864, Senator Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota secured for Kelley a clerkship in the department of agriculture in Washington, D.C. In 1866, Kelley toured the southern states after reconstruction from the Civil War devastation and saw a need for cooperative action by farmers which might become national in scope. Modeling this new organization on the Masons, of which he was a member, Kelley conceived a fraternity of farmers, and in December, 1867, organized in Washington, D.C. the "National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry." Returning to Minnesota, Kelley with assistance, organized the first grange in St. Paul in September, 1868. With help from acquaintances, the goals of a national grange were articulated as promoting education, dignifying the farmer's profession, collecting statistics of crops and markets, diffusing this information to farmers, establishing depots to sell produce in cities, exchanging seeds and stock, testing new farm implements, and protecting farmers against fraud and large corporations. By the end of 1869, there were forty granges in Minnesota. The National Grange, formed in 1873 was incorporated by an act of Congress. It revised the constitution to increase membership to anyone interested in agricultural pursuits.

Gardner's 1949 book, *The Grange--Friend of the Farmer*, notes that by 1874, there were granges in 32 states and two territories, that there was tremendous growth in membership; and that by 1875 the grange had grown to around one million members. In

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4West Stockbridge Grange
West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA

1873 Massachusetts, New York, and New Hampshire formed state granges and in 1874 Connecticut established its own organization. In large part, the national grange movement was assisted by falling prices of agricultural goods brought on by the Panic of 1873 and a deep-seated feeling of oppression among the farmers of the United States. Through ups and downs and various social programs, the grangers have persisted to the present. Along the way, they have been guided by the "Declaration of Purposes of the National Grange" adopted in St. Louis at their national meeting in 1874. They endorsed and continue to live by the motto, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." To paraphrase, the Declarations pledged self-improvement, mutual understanding, buying less and producing more; systematic work; meeting, talking and working together; suppressing personal, local, sectional and national prejudices and all selfish ambition. In business relations, the grange movement also pledged dispensing with middlemen, bringing producers and consumers into direct relations, and ending oppression caused by transportation companies, high interest rates, and high salaries. The Declarations of 1874 also committed members and their children to education through self-study, especially in agricultural and industrial colleges and in the area of domestic science and all of the arts of the home. The Declarations also insisted that the organization was non-partisan, promoted statesmanship, and sought the greatest good for the greatest number. In short, it was committed to self-improvement, non-partisan, progressive, and egalitarian. It declared itself to be anti-sectional, honest, pro-farmer, and pro-democratic in the best sense of the word. Its rituals and activities were and have been geared to promote all of these goals. The activities of the West Stockbridge grange are no exception to the goals of the national organization articulated in 1874.

The Register of Deeds records in Great Barrington show that the West Stockbridge Grange No. 246 bought the 70-foot middle lot on which the church building sits, on December 19, 1917. On August 2, 1919, page 3, the *Berkshire Eagle* reported that the dedication of the new grange hall occurred on August 1 and that the old Methodist church had been remodeled into an up-to-date grange hall. This dedication was attended 150 people, including 65 local visitors and grange members from West Stockbridge, as well as grange members of the Dalton Grange No. 23, and grange members from Pittsfield, Lee, Great Barrington, Alford, Ludlow, Massachusetts, and Caanan, New York. One E. E. Chapman of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, past master of the Massachusetts state grange, led the dedication exercises.

The main outline of the history of the West Stockbridge grange followed the general history of other granges in the region of western Massachusetts and eastern New York. According to a *Berkshire Evening Eagle* article of February 22, 1930, a group of 32 charter members from Alford and West Stockbridge organized the West Stockbridge and Alford grange in early 1905 in a red schoolhouse (MHC #A-8) in the western and original settled portion of West Stockbridge, known as West Center, near the town of Alford. Some of the farmers who joined had been grange members from Caanan and Red Rock, New York. After about a year, the grange purchased and moved to the Steve Johns House in West Center, which was remodeled into a grange hall and where they remained until early 1917 when grange members from Alford decided to split off and form their own grange. Shortly thereafter, the remaining members decided to move to West Stockbridge village and changed their name to the West Stockbridge Grange No. 246, Patrons of Husbandry. At first, they rented rooms in a public hall, known as the Arcanum, on Main Street, but finally appointed a committee of three, including Chauncey Jones, Arthur W. Baldwin, and William W. Howland, to purchase the old Methodist church on Swamp Road in 1917. Remodeling began shortly thereafter to fit the building up as a grange hall. The same 1930 *Berkshire Eagle* article described the new grange hall as "one of the best grange halls that is owned by any grange in western Massachusetts."

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

**West Stockbridge Grange
West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA**

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in West Stockbridge are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area have the potential to contribute information towards a better understanding of Native American settlement and subsistence in the Berkshire uplands of Western Massachusetts. These sites can also potentially contribute information which documents the importance of the Housatonic River drainage to Native peoples in the area and their relationship with other Native socio political groups to the south in the Connecticut area, to the west towards the Hudson River drainage in New York or eastward to the Connecticut River locale.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to document landuse and structural changes which occurred on the property before and after church construction and provide details relating to the social, cultural and economic lives for segments of 19th and early 20th century West Stockbridge society. Further documentary research combined with archaeological testing can document the location and associations of the barn reported to exist on the property prior to church construction. Similar research can also document the existence of outbuildings and occupational related features associated with both the Church and later Grange Hall. This research can identify changes which may have been made to the structure but not documented during its functional change from a church to Grange. Detailed analysis of occupational related features can potentially provide information on segments of West Stockbridge 19th century society including Methodist Episcopalians for whom limited information survives.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

West Stockbridge Grange
West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA

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Vaber, Laughran. West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Grand-son of the Reverend Laughran DuBois.

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"Sketch of the History of Pittsfield." In *The Berkshire Hills*. 4:5, January 1, 1904, p. 487. Pittsfield Public Library, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

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"Were Present At Dedication of Grange Hall." *The Berkshire Evening Eagle*, Page 3, August 2, 1919.

"West Stockbridge and Alford Grange Instituted 25 Years Ago By Hinsdale Man." *The Berkshire Evening Eagle*, Page 3, February 22, 1930.

(end)

WEST STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE #246
Name of Property

BERKSHIRE, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 39 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18 634410 4688140
Zone Easting Northing

2.
Zone Easting Northing

3.
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 Norene Roberts, historical consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 1998

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 West Stockbridge Grange # 246 c/o Betty Tonini, Secretary

street & number RFD #2 153 State Line Road telephone 413-232-7045

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

**West Stockbridge Grange
West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA**

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot #0740, Town of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Boundary Justification

The grange hall is situated on the property whose boundary includes the legal description historically associated with the nominated property.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page

**West Stockbridge Grange
West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), MA**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Lisa Sartori

Date: June, July 1997

Negatives in possession of photographer.

8 x 10 photograph

1. Oblique view from NE elevation

4 x 6 photographs

1. South elevation, entrance
2. North elevation, rear of building and addition
3. West elevation
4. Interior, ceiling, paneling and vent
5. Stage, paneled walls and floor, decorative curtain of old local businesses
6. Interior, upper story

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY West Stockbridge Grange No. 246
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

DATE RECEIVED: 1/08/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/20/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/22/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000134

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 2-5-99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



WEST STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE HALL NO. 246
5 SWAMP RD.
W. STOCKBRIDGE, MA

LISA SARTORI
6-1-97
HOME OF LISA SARTORI

#1 of 6
SOUTH ELEVATION
(ENTRANCE OF BLDG.)



W. STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE HALL NO. 246
5 SWAMP RD.
W. STOCKBRIDGE, MA

LISA SARTORI

6-1-97

HOME OF LISA SARTORI

#2 OF 6

NORTH ELEVATION

(REAR OF BLDG. + ADDITION)



W. STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE HALL NO. 246
5 SWAMP RD.
W. STOCKBRIDGE, MA

LISA SARTORI
6-1-97
HOME OF LISA SARTORI

#3 OF 6
WEST ELEVATION
(LEFT SIDE OF BLDG. + ADDITION)

*EAST ELEVATION IS SHOWN IN 8x10 OBLIQUE



W. STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE HALL NO. 246
5 SWAMP RD.
W. STOCKBRIDGE, MA

LISA SARTORI

6-1-97

HOME OF LISA SARTORI

4 OF 6

INSIDE, CEILING

(PANELING + DECORATIVE VENT)

WEST STOCKBRIDGE
P & H
NO. 246

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HENRY A. STEVENS



W. STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE HALL NO. 246
5 SWAMP RD.
W. STOCKBRIDGE, MA

LISA SARTORI
6-1-97
HOME OF LISA SARTORI

5 OF 6

INSIDE: STAGE, WALNUT STATION,
PANELED WALLS + FLOOR
DECORATIVE ~~BANNER~~ OF OLD, LOCAL
CURTAIN BUSINESSES



W. STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE HALL NO. 246
5 SWAMP RD.
W. STOCKBRIDGE, MA

LISA SARTORI
6-1-97
HOME OF LISA SARTORI

6 OF 6

INSIDE: UPPER STORY SLIDING WINDOWS,
PANELED CEILING + WALL
ON LEFT - OLD LIGHT FIXTURE

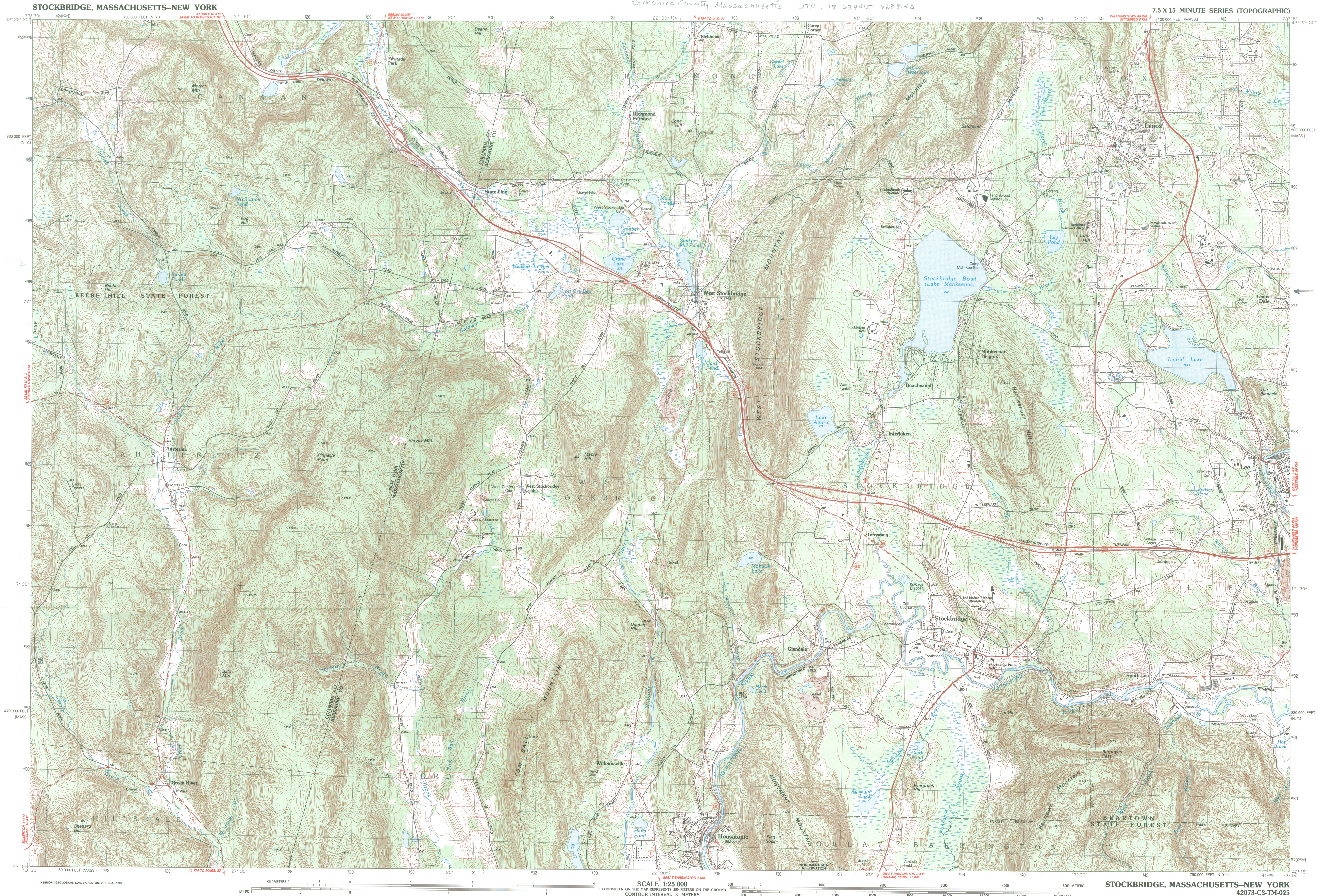


WEST STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE HALL NO. 246
5 SWAMP RD.
W. STOCKBRIDGE, MA

LISA SARTORI
7-97
HOME OF LISA SARTORI

PHOTO #1 OF 1
OBLIQUE VIEW FROM ^{NE}~~SE~~ ELEVATION
* NOTE THE POND BEHIND THE NORTH ELEVATION
(RIGHT SIDE OF BUILDING)

Looking SW



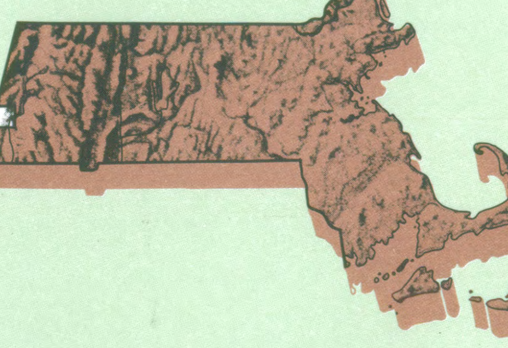
42073-C3-TM-025

Stockbridge

MASSACHUSETTS- NEW YORK

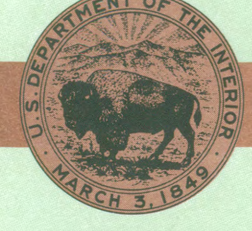
1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

West Stockbridge Grange #246



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

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



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies. Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1987. 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 supersedes Stockbridge 1:25,000-scale map dated 1973. Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18 Universal Transverse Mercator. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, maintained zone and New York coordinate system, east zone 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 36 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. 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	1°		1	2	3	4	5
1	3.2808	ON		1	2	3	4	5
2	6.5617	ON		1	2	3	4	5
3	9.8425	ON		1	2	3	4	5
4	13.1234	ON		1	2	3	4	5
5	16.4042	ON		1	2	3	4	5
6	19.6850	ON		1	2	3	4	5
7	22.9659	ON		1	2	3	4	5
8	26.2467	ON		1	2	3	4	5
9	29.5276	ON		1	2	3	4	5
10	32.8084	ON		1	2	3	4	5

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

UTM grid convergency (GN) and 1987 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.

1 East Chatham 1:24 000
2 Pinckney East
3 Pinckney East
4 Chatham 1:24 000
5 East Lee
6 West Lee 1:24 000
7 Great Barrington
8 One

ISBN 0-607-00402-0
9 780607 009026

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 gauge; narrow gauge	—————
Bridge: drawbridge	—————
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	—————
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	—————
House; barn; church; school; large structure	—————
Boundary:	—————
National, with monument	—————
State	—————
County, parish	—————
Civil township, precinct, district	—————
Incorporated city, village, town	—————
National or State reservation; small park	—————
Land grant with monument; found section owner	—————
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	—————
Range, township, section line: location approximate	—————
Fence or field line	—————
Power transmission line, heated tower	—————
Dam; dam with lock	—————
Cemetery; grave	—————
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	—————
Well; water well; spring	—————
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	—————
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	—————
Shoals, large and small; hole, 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
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

December 30, 1998 William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

West Stockbridge Grange, Swamp Road, West Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.), 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Lisa Sartori, Chair, West Stockbridge Historical Commission
Norene Roberts, Preservation Consultant
Lawrence D. Tonini, Chair, West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen
West Stockbridge Grange, Attn.: Betty Tonini, Secretary