

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SC 2824

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: General John and Mary Fellows Farmstead

Other names/site number: Greenwood Farm

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1601 Barnum Street

City or town: Sheffield State: Massachusetts County: Berkshire

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Brona Suran</u>		<u>July 3, 2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official:		Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling, farmstead
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field/storage/animal facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling, farmstead
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL /Georgian

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH C. REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, Stone, Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead is located in the town of Sheffield, Massachusetts, in southern Berkshire County, less than one mile north of the border with Connecticut. The ca.1762, center-chimney house is a timber-frame Georgian-style building, 2½ stories in height with an integral lean-to (photo 1). The center entry features an original Connecticut River Valley-style double-leaf door. Attached to the main block of the house are a two-part wing (ca. 1820 and 1845) and a ca. 1850 cow shed. On the interior the house is distinguished by ornate Georgian-style paneling, certainly created by a master joiner, in four of the principal rooms of the first and second floors. Segmentally arched fireplace surrounds in the parlor (now dining room) and parlor chamber stand out as notable features, as do the corner cabinets in the hall and parlor. The keeping room retains its large fireplace with interior oven. Wood-sheathed walls that characterize Georgian construction are found throughout the house.

The farmstead is comprised of the house, a carriage barn, a garage, an outhouse, and woodshed (**photo 2; figure 1**). There are traces of the fieldstone foundations of a chicken coop, hay barn, horse barn, and cow barn. There are three identifiable dump/pits near the house. (The pits are shown on figure 1 in dotted circles as L, which has two of the pits, and M.) In addition, the cellar hole of a former cabin is located near the north property line. The property has a total of twelve resources, all of which are contributing (see data sheet).

Shaded by black locust trees in its immediate yard, the uncommonly well-preserved house has mid-distance views of the Taconic Mountains and Mount Everett to the west (**photo 4**), tree-lined hay fields to

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the north and south, and a corn field to the east. It is reached by a quiet dirt road, Barnum Street, through a rural, agricultural landscape (**photo 5**). Barnum Street is lined with a row of maple and apple trees in front of the house, which sits on a rise that slopes down to the west and south. No other buildings are visible from the farmstead. In 2015, the setting was protected by an Agricultural Preservation Restriction placed on 132.4 acres of fields and woodlands surrounding the 3.8-acre house lot. All of the land—a total of 136.2 acres—is included in this nomination.

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) was sold to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, forever guaranteeing that the 132.4 acres would remain undeveloped. Currently, there are 3 acres of tillable cropland, 38 acres of managed woodland, 50 acres of non-managed woodland, and 7 acres of wetland. The fields are separated by barbed-wire fencing. A neighboring farmer uses the fields to grow hay and corn for dairy cattle. A stone wall (a contributing resource) is on the southern boundary of the APR land. In the woods there are a few paths that were made in 2000 for hunting and recreational access.

Narrative Description

THE FELLOWS HOUSE

Exterior

The west-facing, Georgian-style main block of the Fellows House is a plank-framed, 2½-story, five-bay, center-chimney building with a side gable roof that extends on the east as a lean-to, for a saltbox profile (**photo 6**). The exterior dimensions of the main block are 32 feet 4 inches in width, 40 feet 10 inches in length. The façade height is 15 feet 9 inches, and the east elevation height is 11 feet 10 inches. The house is wood-shingle sided and sits on stone foundations. On the east and south elevations, the visible foundations are low fieldstone; on the west (façade) they are roughly quarried stone blocks. A gap in the exterior wood shingles of the main block reveals clapboard siding beneath. (The shingles were laid over the clapboards ca. 1902.) The stone center chimney, rising through the asphalt shingled roof, is parged.

There is a 1½-story, side-gabled wing on the north elevation of the house (**photo 1**). Added ca. 1820 and expanded to the west in 1845, the wing is clad with wood shingles, has fieldstone foundations, and an off-center brick chimney at its roof ridge. The wing is 26 feet 6 inches in length on the façade (west), is set back from the plane of the main block's façade by two feet, and is flush with the main block on the east.

The façade of the main block has a center entry with a double-leaf, Connecticut River Valley-style door (**photos 7, 8**). Each leaf of the door has five panels on the upper two-thirds and a cross-buck pattern on the lower one-third. The entry is surrounded by a molded architrave that encloses a now-sealed transom. Sheltering the main entry is a Colonial Revival-style hipped-roof portico on Doric columns. Beneath the portico and extending into the lawn is a brick patio. Two wooden steps rise to the threshold of the main entry. The current portico and low stoop post-date 1926 based on a dated photograph that is not included in the nomination. **Figure 6** shows the house without a front porch; **figures 11 and 12** (early 20th century), show a different front porch and high stoop (alterations discussed in Section 8). At each side of the entry at first-floor level are two windows with 12/12 sash (**photo 9**). Windows have Georgian crown-molding lintels and paneled shutters. At second-story level, the five windows (one above the entry) are set tightly against the eaves, have flat architraves, 12/12 sash, and paneled shutters.

The façade of the wing consists of a center entry flanked by two 9/6 sash windows (**photo 10**). The entry has a double-leaf door with four vertical lights in its upper half.

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On the exposed section of the main block's north elevation, there is a single window at the second story and one at the attic level. They have capped lintels, 12/12 sash, and paneled shutters (**photo 3**). The north elevation of the wing has three windows with 9/6 sash on the first floor, and two with 6/6 at the attic level. They have capped surrounds and paneled shutters. At its eastern end, the wing has a single-story utility room (added 2000) with a secondary entry. Above the entry is a short section of flat roof that roughly connects the wing to a cow shed/animal shed (described below).

The south elevation of the main block of the house has a saltbox profile created by its integral lean-to (**photo 6**). The south elevation has full-size windows with 12/12 sash in the main first- and second-story spaces, and smaller windows with 6/6 sash in the attic and lean-to. As on the north elevation, these windows have capped surrounds. Sheltering a secondary entry at the western end of the south elevation and an adjacent first-floor window is a large, low-pitched hipped-roof porch on Doric columns in the Colonial Revival style. There is a brick patio beneath the porch and two wooden steps to reach the threshold of the paneled-door entry. The porch, according to a dated photograph, was remodeled ca. 1927.

The east (rear) elevation of the main block has asymmetrical fenestration (**photo 11**). There are two knee-high windows with 6-light casements in the attic of the lean-to. At first-floor level are two windows of varying size and an entry. That entry and one next to it in the wing are sheltered by a shed-roofed porch on four posts (**figure 15**). Added to east elevation in the 1900 alterations, the shed-roofed porch was rebuilt in a 2000 winterization project. The wing has three asymmetrically placed, knee-high windows above the entry and a ca. 2000 shed-roofed dormer on its roof. In addition to the entry beneath the porch, the wing has, on its east elevation, a single window and a ca. 2000 utility room of one-story. Except for two oversized windows on the rear elevation, all have paneled shutters. A hatchway to the cellar is located on the east elevation of the main block of the house.

The Fellows House Plan

The plan of the mid-18th-century main block of the Fellows House follows the hall-and-parlor pattern of most center-chimney houses. On the first floor (see **first floor plan/figure 2**), the principal staircase rises in a shallow entry hall, or lobby, in front of the chimney. Flanking the lobby and chimney are two rooms: the parlor (now used as a dining room) on the north and the hall on the south. Across the rear (east side) of the house, in the lean-to, is the keeping room (now used as a living room), a burning room (now used as a bathroom), and a guest bedroom off the hall. The northwest corner of the keeping room, sometime after original construction, was partitioned off as a small pantry and a stairway (now sealed off at the top) to the keeping-room chamber (**figure 4**).

At second-story level there are chambers on north and south, divided by the chimney and by a stair landing on the west (see **second-floor plan/figure 3**). A third, smaller chamber/guest-room chamber, in the lean-to, is reached from the hall chamber. A shower and toilet room were partitioned off in the lean-to space adjacent to the guest-room chamber. As mentioned, the stairway from the keeping room below has been sealed, so beyond the guest-room chamber and shower area, the keeping-room chamber is open across the full width of the east elevation. Midway across the lean-to space on its west (inner) wall are wooden stairs to the attic in the main block (**figure 4**). Two-thirds of the way up, the stairs divide into double ramps to the attic floor at each side of the center chimney. A wood-sheathed wall separates the attic of the main block from the second floor of the lean-to on the east.

The cellar of the main block of the house is reached from the exterior by a bulkhead (rebuilt in 2002) on the east elevation of the house, south of the entry to the keeping room. The shallow cellar has a low-ceilinged (four feet six inches high) corridor that extends in an east-west direction across the depth of the

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northern end of the main block of the house (**photo 12; foundation plan/figure 5**). The corridor, which runs under part of the keeping room and all of the dining room, has an unusual stone wall on its south side (**photo 13**). The stone wall abuts the stone chimney foundation and has two openings into a crawl space under the south rooms of the house. The north foundation of the main block of the house forms the north wall of the corridor, which has one small opening into the crawl space underneath the wing.

The plan of the ca. 1820, 1½-story section of the wing at the first-floor level is that of an off-center chimney with a large kitchen on its south side and two smaller rooms (now a bathroom and a workroom) on its north side (**see figure 2/first floor plan**). The foundation under the present ca. 1820 kitchen suggests that there was a smaller (narrower by three feet on west side) kitchen (**see foundation plan/fig. 5**). A utility room (added in 2000) projecting from the northeast corner of the wing is reached through a door at the northeast corner of the workroom. From the wing's first-floor kitchen, a stairway (rebuilt in 2000) to the second floor is located against the main block of the house at the room's southwest corner. At the attic level of the wing, the floor is divided into a living room on the south, an office/bedroom and bathroom on the north. The attic level of the wing opens to the second floor of the lean-to (**figure 3/second-floor plan**).

In ca. 1845, the wing received a one-story, two-room, shed-roofed addition on its west side. The interior contains a sitting room on the south end and a bedroom on the north. The main entry to the wing from the west façade opens into the bedroom. Historic photographs indicate that the entry was not original to the wing, but had been added by ca. 1900 (figures 6 and 11).

Structural Framework

The hewn frame of the mid-18th-century Fellows House is predominantly oak with some hemlock and pine; the sills are chestnut. The main block is of scribe-rule construction, a post-and-beam framing technique in which each joint in the structure was individually made to accommodate the dimensions of the framing members. This was the earliest framing method used in the Colonial period. In western Massachusetts, scribe-rule was replaced by the square-rule method ca. 1770. The square-rule technique used uniformly dimensioned structural members; made possible by sawmills set up with long carriages. One of the earliest of these sawmills was in Franklin County in 1770.

The outside walls of the house, including the integral lean-to, are plank framed, rather than stud-framed. That is, thick vertical planks, rather than studs, extend from the sill to the plate, giving rigidity to the frame. This was a framing technique used in Connecticut as early as ca. 1690 in the Norton House of Guilford.¹ Given that he was from Plainfield, Connecticut, John Fellows would have been familiar with plank framing, which was common there.² According to James Garvin, plank-framing reflects a strong local lumber industry in which long, thick planks were available and economical.³

The roof framing is that of four principal rafters with common rafters between them: A principal purlin spanning between and mortised into the rafters is located in the lean-to attic (**photo 14**). The integral-lean-to roof rafters are 28 feet long and are irregularly spaced. They are half-lapped and pegged at the peak, and there is no ridge pole (**photo 15**). (Ridge poles appeared in the region about 1770.) No scribe-rule markings are visible on the rafters, though they could have been placed on the upper sides of the joints where, once pulled together, they would not be apparent.

¹ J. Frederick Kelly, *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1963 reprint, p.40.

² Myron O. Stachiw, *Colonel John Ashley And His Web of Commerce 1735-1802* (Stockbridge, Mass.: The Trustees of Reservations, 2003), p. 8.

³ James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England*, University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire, 2001, p.22.

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The two principal rafters in the gable ends and the two principal chimney rafters on the lean-to side of the roof rest on four posts that are four feet high and are tenoned into the upper attic plate at their base and tenoned into the rafters. This was one of several options chosen by Connecticut housewrights as a means of increasing the roof pitch of the lean-to, thereby allowing larger rooms. In Connecticut this technique is seen in the Evarts Tavern, Northford, ca. 1710, and the Cyrus Hawley House in Monroe ca. 1740.⁴ The choice of posts or of the other options—cantilevered girts or a second rear plate that also raised the roof pitch—were likely personal choices made by the housewrights based on what was more familiar to them. Settlers to western Massachusetts and their housewrights brought with them a number of familiar building practices and in the Fellows House this lean-to construction technique with precedent in Connecticut is repeated. Both the principal rafters and the common rafters span from the peak to a purlin high in the lean-to section of the attic (**photo 14**) and are then seated on the outer wall plate (**photo 16**). The chimney has no flue liner, and has flues appended to it from the dining room and second-floor chamber above the dining room (**photo 17**).

Cased summer beams are visible in all the rooms of the main block of the house except for the hall chamber where a plaster ceiling covers the summer beam, whose imprint from water damage is visible on the ceiling plaster (**photo 33**). The summer beams run from chimney girt to end-wall girts (**photo 18**). Cased chimney posts and corner posts are widely flared on the second floor but on the first floor they maintain a straighter profile.

The wing of the Fellows House is square ruled in construction. Square rule was well established in this part of Berkshire County in 1801, so by the 1820s, it was a common means of construction. The wing's roof framing (covered by a new ceiling in 2000) is made up of untrimmed logs for rafters, a practice that was often followed in the early 19th century for house additions and secondary buildings such as barns.

Interior of Fellows House (see floor plans, figures 2 and 3)

The entry hall/lobby of the main block has plaster walls that are now wallpapered. The door has a molded architrave enclosing the double-leaf doors that, on the interior side, are hung by forged strap hinges with round ends on pintles at the tops and bottoms of the doors (**photo 19**). The inner side of the doors is made up of two batten boards to each leaf. Midway on the door, a thick wood bar the width of the entry opening rests at each end inside wrought-iron hooks.

The principal staircase is unusually narrow and steep. It has a square, capped newel post, a molded railing with no balusters, and scroll ornament applied to the stringers (**photos 20, 21**). There is no evidence of balusters ever having been part of the stair railing from the first to second floors, and the handrail on both floors has the same profile. While the absence of balusters is unusual, other Massachusetts examples include the ca. 1750 Jonathan Keyes House in Westford (NR pending) and the 1742 Hildreth-Robbins House in Chelmsford (NR 2016). Precedent for this open railing is also found at the Moulthrop House, East Haven Connecticut, from ca. 1690.⁵

Beneath the stairs, the wall is paneled, and a two-panel door with a molded architrave opens into a space beneath the stairs that has a trapdoor to the crawl space of the cellar. The enclosed space beneath the stairs has been roughly plastered on the back of the chimney with a first coat that has been scored. Elsewhere in the space, thick split lath with wrought nails are visible. Doors at each side of the lobby, into the north and south rooms, have molded architraves. The doors themselves display four raised panels, with planed

⁴ Kelly, pps. 52 and 189.

⁵ Ibid., p.177.

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molding in the stiles and rails and hand-forged Suffolk latch hardware with locks, typical of early Georgian houses.

All the floors of the first and second stories of the main block of the house are strip-fir flooring, a late 19th-century alteration. At the top of the stairs, the floor of the second-floor landing, in section, shows the original splined flooring with the strip flooring applied on top.

On the south side of the entry lobby is the hall (**photos 18, 22, 23**). It has plaster ceilings and plaster walls covered with wallpaper. The framing members—summer beam, chimney and end-wall girts, plate, and corner posts are cased. The cased girts and plate act as a cornice around the room. Chair-rail and baseboard moldings trim the west, south, and east walls. Molding also runs along the junction of the ceiling and the summer beam.

Paneling ornaments the north wall with its fireplace (**photo 18**). The paneling is Georgian in style with a flat-surface center whose margins are beveled and fit into stiles and rails. Two rows of three vertical panels are on the west side of the fireplace, and there is large horizontal panel above the fireplace. The fireplace surround is a double bolection molding. There is no mantelpiece, a feature that did not appear until the subsequent Federal stylistic period. Abutting the paneling and bolection molding on the east is a corner cabinet (**photo 22**). Below its heavily molded cornice, which extends into the room at an angle, the corner cupboard has a twelve-light, glass upper door on H-hinges, and a lower single-panel door also hung on H-hinges.

The east wall of the room has two doors, now out of plumb, that slope down away from the chimney. They lead into a hallway on the north and a guest room on the south. These openings have molded architraves and raised four-panel doors that are the same as those in the lobby. Above the doors, across the east wall at the cornice level, is a cased girt. The south wall of the room has a cased end-wall girt, which extends into the room at the ceiling, and a door to the exterior at its west corner (**photo 23**). The eight-panel door with molded architrave is hung on 19th-century slip-pin, butt hinges. Window sash in this room and elsewhere in the house have muntins with a profile that dates the sash between 1830 and 1850, an alteration after about a century of previous sash use. While sash were typically 6/6 between 1830 and 1850, the continued use of the 12/12 Georgian configuration is not uncommon in western Massachusetts.

The room north of the entry lobby is the parlor, now used as a dining room (**photos 24, 25, 26**). It is 10 inches wider than the hall. The most elegantly finished room of the house, the parlor displays the work of an accomplished joiner. The summer beam and corner posts are cased and molding runs along the top of the summer beam (**photo 24**). Cased end-wall and chimney girts and a cased plate create a cornice around the room, which is ornamented with additional molding.

Centered on the south wall is a stone fireplace with a brick-arched opening and a stone hearth (**photo 25**). The segmentally arched fireplace opening is uncommon in western Massachusetts. The only other known example is in the General Joseph Dwight House of 1739 in nearby Great Barrington.⁶ In the Fellows House, the fireplace wall is paneled, and on each side of the firebox fluted pilasters on plinths rise to support an entablature. The capitals of the pilasters contain carved rosettes, and their bases are planed with an arched, raised panel. The composition of fireplace framed by pilasters on pedestals is found in the Connecticut River Valley beginning around 1740 and was carried north and west to the Berkshires thereafter. A complex profile of bolection molding surrounds the fireplace opening in a segmental arch. Paneling above the fireplace opening is made up of a border of bolection molding whose lower chord is

⁶Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS, MA-360, Prints & Photographs Division, Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ma0506/>

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arched to repeat the arch of the fireplace surround. Outside the pilasters at each side are two raised panels with mitered edges, one panel above the other.

Four-panel doors on the east and north walls have molded architraves, but the south door, to the entry lobby, has a trabeated surround with a projecting cornice. In the northwest corner of the room is a square-topped corner cabinet with a semi-domed interior (**photo 26**). Its upper door, hung on H-hinges, contains sixteen-light glass. Its lower door has a raised panel in cross-buck pattern. It is hung on butt hinges. The cabinet doors have a molded architrave that curves upward at each side of the lintel to meet a projecting section of architrave above the cabinet. Baseboards have a planed, quarter-round profile at the top, and window sills are similarly ornamented.

The walls of the parlor/dining room (excluding the paneled wall) are wallpaper over sheet rock, a relatively recent alteration. It is not known what is beneath the sheet rock, which was installed prior to a 1928 photograph. There is a door on the dining room's north wall leading to the sitting room of the wing. The dining room's east wall has settled dramatically as it slopes away from the chimney. As seen from the cellar, the floor joists of the dining room are distinctly different from those of the other rooms of the house. They are three-and-a-half by four-and-a-half inches in dimension, run in an east-west direction and are mill-sawn by a reciprocating sash saw while the other first-floor joists are seven- to eight-inch-diameter round joists running in an east-west direction.

The guest room, at the south east corner of the lean-to, has a cased corner post, and a cased end-wall girt and plate that extend into the room at the ceiling. The room has papered-over plaster walls and a plaster ceiling. On its west wall is a full-height closet with a wood-paneled door. Its interior reveals hand-planed sheathing that is feathered and beaded. While closets with finished interiors were often original to mid-18th-century houses, at the Fellows House it is also possible the plaster on the walls of this and other rooms may cover original sheathing like that of the closet.

The bathroom/borning room is behind a small hall with a trapdoor in its floor, which leads to a crawlspace. The room has drywall over the original wood sheathing, portions of which can be seen across from the shower. The bath ceiling has a cased plate across the east wall but no other significant trim. There was a doorway into the keeping room but it is now covered over. The window into the bathroom from the exterior is a paired, four-light casement that was a later addition. The north wall of the bathroom was a later addition, as originally, the kitchen extended south to the guest room.

The keeping room has plaster over wood sheathing (discovered beneath the windows of the east wall during a 2002 repair), wood walls, and a plaster ceiling with a wood-cased summer beam. Wood casing also covers the east plate, which projects into the room. The room is dominated by its ten-foot-wide fireplace and hearth at the southwest corner (**photo 27**). The fireplace is made of roughly dressed stones and has an original rear-wall oven made with a self-supporting beehive-shaped roof of dressed stones and reddish clay mortar (**photo 28**). The stone hearth has a later, raised curb at the edge of the cooking area, and within the fireplace are the implements of cooking: crane, kettle hooks on the crane and in the walls, as well as kettles. The current crane is not original. (**see Section 8**). The opening of the fireplace is supported by a half-inch-thick piece of iron across the opening. There are a few rows of brick on top of the iron piece, suggesting the lintel and bricks were a later repair to the fireplace opening when a wooden lintel was replaced, possibly by an owner in the 1940s. The mantel and two panels below it were added ca. 2000.

A pantry was built into the northwest corner of the keeping room, likely in 1890 (**photo 29**). A fixed-light window was inserted in the pantry wall to provide light from the keeping room to the pantry interior. Original hand-planed, vertically sheathed walls are still visible on the pantry's west interior wall (**photo**

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30) and on the keeping room's north walls. The back stairs to the second floor of the lean-to have been enclosed as part of this pantry corner as well, and are lined with vertical feathered and beaded sheathing. The east wall of the keeping room has a window with two paired, eight-light casements that were added in the 1920s. There is also, on the east wall, a thick door to the outside that is secured by a heavy wood bar. The bar spans the width of the door and is placed on iron brackets in the same manner as the front entry door. A window in the door is a later alteration.

The principal stairwell, rising from the entry lobby to the second floor, has papered-over plaster walls that extend to the landing, except for the north and south walls, which are paneled at the second-floor level (photo 31). The simple paneling consists of a top, center, and bottom rail between which three stiles extend forming four recessed wood panels. At the southwest corner of the second-floor landing is a chimney post, whose flare measures sixteen inches at its top. There is a narrow chair rail on the west wall. A boxed plate extends into the space at the ceiling on the west wall.

The hall chamber has three plastered walls with a low molded chair rail, and it has a lowered plaster ceiling that covers the summer beam. Its boxed corner posts also have a sixteen-inch-wide flare (photo 32). Its north wall is paneled, and there is no fireplace (photo 33). This is not an indication of alteration because it is not unusual for one of the principal second-floor rooms to lack a fireplace (see Section 8). Rather than a fireplace, the north wall has an off-center cupboard with double-leaf, raised-panel doors hung on H and L hinges. It opens to shelving hung on hand-planed paneling similar that on the first floor, though in the hall chamber the paneling inside the cupboard is horizontal rather than vertical. The wall paneling consists of two rows of one panel on the left, or west, side of the door to the room followed by five raised panels, then the cupboard, followed by two rows of two raised panels on the east, or right side of the cupboard. Doors on the north and east walls have two panels hung on H and L hinges within molded architraves. One side of the door is flat and the other side has raised panels.

The dining room chamber is the more elaborate of the two bedrooms, and corresponds to the parlor below in the quality of its joinery. In this room the paneled south wall is organized around a centered fireplace (photos 34, 35). The fireplace repeats the highly unusual, segmentally arched opening that appears in the parlor. Its surround is made up of a complex profile of three bolection moldings separated by square-section moldings. Above the fireplace is a horizontal raised panel whose lower chord follows the arch of the surround. East of the fireplace is a section of three single raised panels that are small at the top, medium-sized in the center, and largest at the bottom. Next east is a cupboard with two raised, single-panel doors. The upper door, on H-hinges, is separated by a rail from the lower and smaller of the two doors. It too has H-hinges. West of the fireplace are two rows of four raised vertical panels. Flared posts (photo 36) and a summer beam are cased, as are the chimney and end girts and plate. There is a narrow chair rail across the papered and plastered walls. A wide baseboard finishes the plaster walls.

The first floor of the ca. 1820 section of the wing has a chimney centered on the north (interior) wall of a large kitchen. A brick fireplace with a stone hearth and side oven with an iron door has a modest wooden mantelpiece with a shelf (photo 37).

Wooden cupboards are located on the east and west walls. A sink and stove are on the west wall. Doors at each side of the fireplace open on the west to a small pantry, and on the east wall to a workroom with storage cabinets. On the south wall is an enclosed stairway that was rebuilt in 2000. It leads to the wing's finished attic. The kitchen floor is made up of six-inch-wide boards; walls are plaster over accordion lath. Leading into the pantry is a batten door, and a four-panel door leads into the workroom. The sitting room (photo 38) and bedroom (photo 39) in the 1845 (west) section of the wing have plaster walls over strip lath, baseboards with applied quarter-round molding at their bases, four-panel doors, and simple window surrounds.

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The attic level of the wing's 1820 section has a living room (above the kitchen), an office, and a bathroom (**figure 3**). Walls and ceilings were insulated and plastered over in 2000. Floors are wide boards. With the exception of the kitchen, floors in the wing are narrow wood strips, applied ca. 1905 over the existing flooring.

OUTBUILDINGS

The Carriage Barn Exterior

The ca. 1880 Carriage Barn is a New England-type barn with its main entrance in the west-facing gable end (**photo 40**). Two-and-a-half stories in height, it is 26-and-a-half feet wide by 36-and-a-half feet long. The lateral wall height is 16 feet, eight inches, and the height to gable peak is 25 feet. The barn is vertical-board-sided and has an asphalt-shingle roof and low fieldstone footings. The unboxed eaves of the roof have exposed rafters. Where once on the west façade were sliding double doors on an exterior track is now an in-filled opening with a central pedestrian door flanked at each side by two windows. The exterior track and its mounting remain above the openings. At second-story level is a centered hay mow loading door between two windows with six-light casements. The north elevation of the barn (**photo 41**), retains at its northwest corner a pair of double-leaf vehicle/horse doors with fixed, six-light windows in their upper halves and panels in their lower halves. An opening with a fixed twelve-light sash is followed by a window with 12/12 sash on this elevation. At second-story level is a window with a pair of twelve-light fixed sash 12/12 sash inserted sideways (these windows may have come from the house when the windows were replaced in the 1950s). The east elevation of the barn has a centered pedestrian door below a transom light and two irregularly placed windows at each story. The south elevation has four openings: an off-center pedestrian door and three windows of varying sizes—two with 6/6 sash and one with paired six-light 6 beside 6 fixed sash. There is a second loading bay into the hay mow on this elevation. The majority of windows and doors in the carriage barn have flat, pedimented surrounds.

The Carriage Barn Construction and Interior Spaces

The carriage barn was constructed ca. 1880 using a truss system developed and used for bridges. The builder of this barn designed it so that the weight of the second floor is carried from above by angled trusses that are mortised and tenoned into a dropped tie-beam that is joined to the barn's posts. The trusses at each side rise at an angle to tenon into a cross-beam between their ends. The resulting truss has angled sides and a horizontal beam top (**photo 42**). The trusses carry the weight of the floor beams below, provide stability, and prevent racking. They hold the weight of the floor below by metal tie rods, secured at each end by metal plates that are hung from the upper horizontal cross-beam of the truss, through a smaller dimensioned middle cross beam, to the underside of the floor. They provide the final vertical support. As framing technique, the use of trusses and metal rods appears toward the end of the 19th century in barn construction, and was largely used in livestock and carriage barns where a post-free first floor was highly desirable.

At first-floor level, the barn is divided into three spaces: a large room on the west where carriages were parked, and two smaller rooms, likely formerly containing a stall or two on the east. There are two stairs to the second floor: an enclosed stairway on the north wall of the larger barn space and a second stairway from the more northern of the small rooms on the east. The larger space of the carriage barn was converted to a recreational room with the addition of a bar brought from the Bowery in New York City in the 1940s. It was at this time that the west façade and other elevations were altered with the addition of several windows.

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The second floor, once a hay mow interrupted only by trusses, was partially divided into two rooms in a conversion of the floor in the 1920s–1930s into housing space.

The Garage

The garage is a Sears Catalogue building, ca. 1930. It is a one-story, novelty-sided building under an asphalt-shingled, hipped roof (**photo 43**). It has a principal rafter and common purlin roof. The principal rafters make up the upper chords of a king-post truss and are placed in the gable ends and one in the center of the roof. In order to stabilize and prevent the garage from racking, small-dimension cross-beams nailed to the bottom chord of the center truss connect to the four corners of the garage (**photo 44**). The walls of the garage are made up of exposed studs between which novelty-siding has been nailed. A curved metal track runs from the north and south walls across the west façade of the barn. It carries two garage doors that slide to a close over the garage entry. Each leaf of the door consists of three hinged panels with runners on their interior face. The roof has eaves trimmed in the gable ends with a single, unornamented bargeboard, but the eaves are not fully boxed so there are exposed rafters on the lateral elevations

Cow Shed

A one-story wood-shingled cow shed is loosely connected to the wing of the main house on the north elevation (**photos 3, 45**). It is north-facing, fourteen by twelve feet, and sits on fieldstone foundations. Listing (or sagging) on its east elevation, the front-gabled shed has double-leaf doors in its north gable end. On the east and west elevations are a pair of six-light windows. Each of the two windows on the east elevation has a single board-and-batten shutter. Windows on the west have pairs of batten shutters. The south elevation of the shed has an off-center pedestrian entry above which is a metal rail that crosses this elevation and would formerly have held a sliding door. The presence of the exterior-mounted sliding door suggests the earliest date, ca. 1850, for the cow shed. The south elevation connects to the house by a narrow, flat roof extended between the two buildings.

The Woodshed

North of the cow shed is a low, open-sided woodshed, ca. 1940, with a shallow-pitched gable roof (**photo 46, center**). Cross-braces between posts form the shed's structure.

The Outhouse

On the south side of the woodshed is an outhouse (**photo 46**). It sits on stone footings, is vertically sided, has a shed roof, and a single door on its west façade. It dates to ca. 1930. The floor was replaced in 1995 and it is now used as a garden shed.

Sites (see figure 1)

There are seven sites at Fellows Farmstead. The first is the site of a large barn (J on site plan); portions of the foundations are located south of the house in a field. The second site is that of a hay barn (I) behind and to the south of the existing carriage barn. The third is a chicken coop (K) between the garage and woodshed. Stones identify its foundation location. There is also the cellar hole of a cabin (O) in the woods northeast of the house. Three dump/pit locations (M, L) are also known: one right behind the garage and two to the east of the woodshed.

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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.)

- A. Owned by a 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
- Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

ca.1762-1968

Significant Dates

ca. 1820 wing added

1845 west addition to wing added

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Brigadier General John Fellows

Elizabeth Ward Greenwood

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The General John and Mary Fellows Farmstead retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. It meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C with a local level of significance and Criterion B with a state level of significance.

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The Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead is significant under Criterion A at the local level for its ability to reflect mid-18th-century life in Sheffield and for its association with two prominent Sheffield families. The current ca. 1762 Georgian-style house stands on land that was farmed by an earlier generation of the prominent Fellows family as early as 1749. Slightly less than half of the farm's original acreage is still part of the property, and some of the land is still in agricultural use. The property continued to reflect the broad patterns of history into the 20th century, when it transitioned to a summer farm and summer vacation place. Use as a summer farm and vacation place was a commonplace in western Massachusetts where people, principally from the New York City area, came for respite from urban life at the turn of the 20th century. The long tenure of generations of the Ward-Greenwood family, from 1814 to the present spanning uses from family farm to summer and weekend getaway and back to full-time occupancy, is historically significant.

The property is significant under Criterion B at the local and state levels for its association with Brigadier General John Fellows (1735–1808). During his ownership and occupancy of the property (ca. 1762 to 1798), he was a member of the committee that created the Sheffield Resolves of 1773 (a petition against British rule), was a member of the first and second Massachusetts Provincial Congresses in 1774 and 1775, respectively,⁷ and rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Massachusetts Militia during the Revolutionary War, commanding troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill, the retreat of Washington's troops from Brooklyn to Manhattan, General Howe's attack on Manhattan, the defeat of General Burgoyne in northern New York, and the movement of captured Hessian soldiers to Boston after the Battle of Bennington. He is commonly referred to as "General John Fellows" though his specific rank was that of brigadier general. The property is therefore significant in the area of Military.

The property is also significant under Criterion B at the local level for its association with Elizabeth Ward Greenwood (1850–1922). Although her primary residence was in Brooklyn, New York, Greenwood spent summers from her birth in 1850 through her death in 1922 with family members at Fellows Farmstead, which was called Greenwood Farm during her lifetime. She was the first woman to preach in the town of Sheffield, and she did so for more than twenty summers. From biographical accounts during her lifetime, it is apparent that Greenwood's acceptance in the small Massachusetts town as a female preacher was based in part on the respect the Ward-Greenwood family carried in the community, but also on the intelligent manner in which Greenwood conveyed her religious and social-justice convictions as they applied to Sheffield residents. Deeply involved in the temperance movement as a pioneering member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), Greenwood was known for her role in developing the national movement of the WCTU, as the organizer of New York. As a temperance advocate she championed the Scientific Temperance Instruction Law between 1877 and 1884 and was documented as taking her cause to all but two states across the country. Her advocacy work was instrumental in acceptance of the temperance law, which brought a requirement of science education to schools across the country as a means of teaching children and young people about the physiological effects of alcohol on the human body. The property is therefore significant in the area of Social History

The Fellows House is architecturally significant under Criterion C as a fine example of a mid-18th-century Georgian-style dwelling. It is also an extremely well-preserved example of construction techniques as they evolved from scribe rule to square rule. The interior of the house is highly significant as the work of one or more of the Connecticut River Valley joiners who were active from ca. 1750, and circulated from the valley itself westward as settlement spread in that direction. These highly skilled joiners were well-versed in Georgian-style features, but used them in their own interpretation as seen in the Fellows

⁷ The Massachusetts Provincial Congresses were provisional governments created during the Revolution to manage the portions of the colony under control of the rebels before the creation of a state constitution.

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House's segmentally arched panels and fireplace molding as well as pilasters with rosette-ornamented capitals. Its interior woodwork remains unaltered and stands as a fine example of the Connecticut River Valley-style of 18th century joinery.

The Period of Significance begins with construction of the house in ca. 1762. It ends in 1968, the 50-year cut-off suggested by the National Park Service as adequate for an objective historical perspective.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

AGRICULTURE

While the current General John and Mary Fellows house dates to ca. 1762, the farmland was in active cultivation from at least 1749, when it was owned by General Fellows's parents. Agricultural practices changed over the centuries from subsistence farming in which livestock and crops were raised to sustain a family plus a small amount of trade, to mixed livestock and dairy farming that characterized the mid-19th-century farming of lower Berkshire County. Finally, the farm served as a summer home in the late 19th and much of the 20th centuries, during which period its agriculture was aimed at supporting a small number of animals, summer gardening, leasing-out of the land, and supporting neighboring farms. Today, most of the land is forest; about three acres are cultivated by Sheffield farmers, who raise corn and wheat, and by the owner of the farm, who enjoys the old apple trees and has a small garden. A portion of the land that has grown into forest is used as managed forestland while the rest of the woods are left alone. The farm with its multiple buildings and sites serves as a model example of farm layout from the second half of the 18th century to the present.

ARCHITECTURE

Dating of the house through Architectural Features

The ca. 1762 date of the Fellows House is based on a dendroarchaeology study conducted by William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, and a thorough investigation of the building's historic materials by Myron Stachiw, a preservation consultant experienced in the evaluation of 17th- and 18th-century building fabric. These studies were commissioned by the current owner because deeds indicate that a house was on the property by 1750. The objective of the studies was to determine whether or not an earlier house was incorporated into the frame of the current building.

In his 2015 dendroarchaeology study, Flynt obtained 11 wood samples from the Fellows House roof and ground floor frames. He compared these to a Berkshire County Oak Master and a Hudson Valley Oak Master. Due to decay of the timbers, however, outer rings were counted but not measured, so to compensate for the lack of clarity of number and size of the rings, an estimated number of years were added to the range of dates, leading the study to conclude that the house was likely constructed in the early 1760s. Flynt went on to note that the level of sophistication seen in the parlor joinery suggests that the "frame erection and finishing of the rooms was more or less contemporary."

Stachiw, in his 2017 investigation, examined visible framing elements in the following locations: the cellar, the crawl space, the attic of the lean-to, and the attic of the main block. He concluded that the

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current “ two-story, double pile [sic], center chimney house with a saltbox roof form was likely constructed all at one time.”⁸

Although both studies acknowledge that it is not possible to conclusively state that no elements from an earlier building survive, the frame of the house and its Georgian interior date to the early 1760s. The physical evidence for the date is supported by the fact that the Georgian style of the parlor joinery coincides with that found in the 1760s in sophisticated houses in the Berkshires. The date has been further narrowed by the fact that the building of the house was likely stimulated by the marriage of Gen. John Fellows and Mary Ashley in 1762.

Architectural History

Between 1700 and 1725, carpenters’ handbooks that focused on classical architectural forms then being used in England were widely circulated in the colonies.⁹ The books’ accessibility brought about significant shifts in architectural design for both exterior and interior work. On the exterior there was a regularization of fenestration and overall form, so that the three-structural-bay house’s façade had a center entry and either five (in a one-story house) or nine (in a two-story house) symmetrically placed windows. Similarly, the choice of single or double pile houses guided the number of windows in the side elevations. In both cases, the choice of windows and house depth was more reflective of budget than date, as both arrangements were in use concurrently, but the symmetrical window placement was new. The 18th-century roof pitch became less acute than its predecessors, and the center door surround was often elaborated with classical design features in the form of trabeated surrounds. In the Connecticut River Valley, joiners created distinctive surrounds composed of pilasters on pedestals rising to entablatures that supported pediments. The capitals on the pilasters were often ornamented in a non-classical manner with foliage and rosettes. The doorways were frequently built wide enough for double-leaf entries whose doors were paneled. Window lintels were shaped to follow classical molding profiles, and in so doing, projected from the plane of the façade. On the other hand, the use of lean-tos persisted from the 17th century to mid-18th century in rural areas of western Massachusetts and Connecticut, shifting from added to integral versions.

The architectural elaboration that appeared in builders’ handbooks in the early 18th century for exterior details was carried out to an even greater extent on the interior. During the Georgian stylistic period, structural members were cased and often ornamented with beading or molding, cornices with elaborate molding profiles ornamented rooms, and bolection-molding ornamented a fireplace opening. Mantels did not appear until the Federal stylistic period.

Paneling began replacing sheathing on one or more walls after 1725. The amount of paneling in a room depended on the importance of a room and the size of the owner’s budget. Prior to 1760, paneling was often painted.¹⁰ The presence of a corner cabinet, such as that found in the Fellows House, signified a well-furnished interior. It is also likely that the Connecticut River Valley doorway, a high-style detail, dates to the time of the joinery inside. The quality of the joinery in the Fellows House suggests a skilled craftsman was responsible for the work.

⁸ Stachiw, p. 9.

⁹ Fiske Kimball, *Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic* (New York: Dover Publications, 1966), p. 133.

¹⁰ William Flynt, “Recent revelations of dendrochronology studies associated with 18th century buildings in Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts,” *Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 40, 2009, p.51.

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Architectural Significance

The house is a fine example of the Georgian style and the center-chimney, saltbox form. On the exterior the Connecticut River Valley entry with its double-leaf door is evidence of the quality of design and execution that spread from the Connecticut River Valley west into Berkshire County in the middle decades of the 18th century.

The interior finishes of the parlor and parlor chamber are significant as the work of a master joiner, and they reflect the status and taste of General John Fellows and his wife, who was a member of the prominent and Ashley family. The joinery is high style in the use of classical architecture with pilasters supporting entablatures on both the fireplace paneling and the corner cabinets, the moldings at ceiling and summer beams, and the highly unusual segmentally arched firebox (**photo 25**).

There are Georgian-period fireplaces in both of the main rooms of the first floor and in the keeping room (original kitchen), which has a large hearth with a beehive oven in the rear wall (**photo 17**). There is a fireplace opening in the north chamber of the second floor, but there is none in the south chamber. According to J. Frederick Kelly, "It is not at all unusual to find one of the front chambers of the second floor, where the house is of central-chimney plan, without a fireplace."¹¹ In fact, this arrangement is also found at the John and Ruth Rose House of 1743 in nearby Granville, Massachusetts (NR nomination in process). In both cases, there is no indication of a later enclosing of a fireplace opening by added paneling, nor is there visible evidence of the existence of a former hearth covered by flooring.

There is documentary evidence that a second cooking fireplace existed before the 1820 wing was added. In 1794, when General John Fellows advertised the sale of the Fellows Farmstead, he itemized the property as containing "about four hundred Acres, more than one half of which is under good Improvement, with a good bearing Orchard.... The Dwelling house has seven good rooms in it¹² and is joined by a very spacious and convenient Kitchen with Piazza's &c."

The interior of the 1820 portion of the wing displays such Federal-period features as an exterior oven closed by a metal door and a fireplace with mantle shelf. Although practices varied, technological advances had allowed beehive ovens to move from the rear chimney wall to outside the firebox by the end of the 18th century. The ca. 1820 wing with its kitchen fireplace and exterior oven is significant as a representative of early 19th-century construction and the changing technology of cooking and heating.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Plantation Period (1620–1675)

During the Plantation Period, settlement of western Massachusetts was concentrated in the Connecticut River Valley where William Pynchon established a trading outpost in Springfield in 1636. The growing trade in furs during the Plantation Period brought a measure of success to Springfield and, with it, a desire on Pynchon's part to extend trade further west. In 1662, encouraged by the presence of Native American trails that crisscrossed the region between the Connecticut and Hudson River valleys in the southern portion of what was to become Berkshire County, Pynchon sent Samuel Pearlay to the Housatonic River valley to build a trading house and raise cattle. From the outpost he hoped to develop a relationship with Dutch traders at Fort Orange (Albany, New York). Pearlay's trading house did not lead to permanent

¹¹ Flint, "Recent revelations," p. 74.

¹² The seven rooms would be those that follow the basic Georgian floor plan described by Kelly, op. cit. p. 8 as: the hall, parlor, keeping room, the first floor bedroom, and a pantry on the first floor, and hall chamber, and parlor chamber, on the second floor. The "kitchen" mentioned by Fellows was an addition in the location of the present 1820 wing. No evidence remains of the 1794 "Piazza's."

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settlement but it does stand as the first documented attempt by Europeans to settle in the vicinity of what is now Sheffield.¹³

Colonial Period (1675–1775)

At the outset of the Colonial Period, King Philip's War (1675–1678) discouraged permanent settlement in the area where Sheffield was later established, but even after the war had officially been brought to an end by the Treaty of Casco, the fear of Indian attack persisted for a few decades, slowing settlement. In western Massachusetts, the early Connecticut River Valley settlements gradually recovered, but the Housatonic River Valley remained relatively unpopulated. The lack of settlement, however, did not prevent both the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Livingston Manor¹⁴ interests from claiming the Housatonic River Valley. The first attempt at guided settlement came from the New York Dutch who in 1705 issued the Patent of Westenhook to Pieter Schuyler and Derrick Wessels of Albany who then bought land made available by the patent from the Native Americans. According to Sheffield historian Lillian E. Preiss, the grant comprised four large tracts of land along the Housatonic River covering much of the present towns of Sheffield, Great Barrington, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Egremont, Alford, and Mount Washington, as well as Canaan and Salisbury in Connecticut.¹⁵ By the terms of the agreement, the grantees were obligated to clear and improve some part of the land within six years and to pay an annual rent of £7.10s to the collector of customs in New York. The land that became the Fellows Farmstead lay on the edge of the eastern line of the Westenhook grant and was not officially incorporated into Sheffield until 1757.

Although New York claimed land all the way to the Connecticut River, the Bay Colony of Massachusetts, by force of occupancy, obtained possession and eventually established its right to the disputed territory. The Massachusetts effort began in 1722 when the General Court, ignoring the Patent of Westenhook, awarded the right to establish Upper (Great Barrington) and Lower (Sheffield) townships along the Housatonic (Westenhook) River to a committee that then in 1723 bought the land from Chief Konkapot and a group of 20 other Native Americans with the understanding that 55 families were going to settle. The first to arrive in Sheffield and take up property was Matthew Noble, who came in 1724–1725 from the town of Westfield. In 1726 a settling committee of John Ashley and others laid out the Lower Township (now Sheffield). By the spring of 1727, lots had been laid out in the Lower Township and some of the investors had already started to make improvements on their land. There were, however, ongoing problems with the Dutch in New York, which delayed concerted settlement until after 1733. On June 22, 1733 Sheffield became the first incorporated town in the future Berkshire County.

The Fellows property was among the first of the farms to be established in the land of the Lower Township (Sheffield) established by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1722. The settlement of the land that today makes up the General John and Mary Fellows Farmstead has significance as remaining intact through one of two patterns of land transfer practiced by the General Court that occurred in western Massachusetts—land exchange and land grant.

The General Court, often wishing to move the Dutch, some African-Americans, and Native Americans from one area to another, would make land exchanges with them, thereby freeing land of occupants they wished to grant to others. In this case, the General Court exchanged land known as Indian Town, located in what was to become Stockbridge, with members of the Stockbridge Indian Settlement and with a Dutch fur trader, John Burghardt. The Stockbridge Indians and Burghardt, in exchange, were given land in west

¹³ Ruth A. McIntyre, *Pynchon Papers, v. 2 Selections from the Account books of John Pynchon, 1651–1697*, pp. 438–439.

¹⁴ Livingston Manor was a large area on the Hudson River in New York, where German Palatine immigrants were sent to work off their debts to the English crown, which had paid for their passage to New York. Many later settled on the land.

¹⁵ Lillian E. Preiss, *Sheffield: Frontier Town* (Sheffield: Sheffield Historical Society, 1976), p. 7.

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Sheffield, including the land that was to become the Fellows Farmstead. Burghardt's share of the exchange was four lots in west Sheffield, one of which, amounting to 700 acres, he traded in 1738 to the wealthy land speculator Israel Williams of Hatfield. Williams then sold the 700 acres to two settler families: he sold the southern half in 1743 to William Coit of Plainfield, Connecticut, for £700.¹⁶ He sold the northern half to another Plainfield inhabitant, John Fellows, Jr. (1704–1757, father of General John Fellows), in 1749 for £2,000 “in bills of Crown.”¹⁷

The following year, Fellows, Jr. acquired 87 acres that abutted the southern portion of his land from Coit. The 1750 deed for this sale states: “That I William Coit living on Y[e]. Farm that was Williamses... for 350 pds... from John Fellows now living on y[e] above said Farm.”¹⁸ This suggests that the parents of General John Fellows were living in a house on the property by 1750. Further, the fact that the Fellowses paid £2000 for 350 acres in 1749, while their neighbor to the south paid £700 only six years earlier for his 350 acres, lends support to the notion that there was a building, or buildings, on the site by 1749. While the location of an earlier house has not been identified, it is possible that elements of that house were incorporated into the present ca.1762 house (**See architecture section, above**).

Those who came to Sheffield were drawn to the area for its proximity to the Great New England Fur Trail that connected upstate New York to the Great Lakes, for its closeness to the iron-ore deposits in Salisbury, Connecticut, and for its loam-rich lowland valley. Later, its underlying limestone was noticed and exploited.

John Fellows, Jr. (1704–1757) and Jerusha Douglas Fellows (1706–1786), who married in 1728, moved to their new property in Sheffield in 1749 after they had sold the 500 acres they owned in Plainfield, Connecticut. As their later farming and foundry activities reveal, they were likely drawn to the area by both its rich land and iron-ore deposits. They arrived with their children Ezra (1730–1805), Rachel (1731/32–?), Sarah (dates unknown), John, later known as General John (1735–1808), and William (born after ca. 1736–?). Daughter Rachel was married in 1750 as a Sheffield resident. The family may also have arrived with a slave named Cuf who was a documented part of their household eight years later.¹⁹

In the new community, John Fellows, Jr. soon settled into town affairs acting as surveyor of Sheffield land in 1750, and then as Sherriff in 1761.

At the time of the Fellows family's arrival, Sheffield had a subsistence economy that operated largely on a barter system. Salisbury was the closest community of any size likely to have a retailer. Otherwise, it was a long trip to Springfield, Albany, or Hartford for goods. The agricultural economy in which the family took part was one in which farmers raised crops and beef for food, sheep for wool, chickens for eggs. If there was any surplus available for trade, it went to the immediate neighborhood, as inadequate roads made it difficult to reach other markets. Diversification of income sources in these circumstances was a wise strategy for those who had the means to invest in this remote region; it appears that John and Jerusha Fellows were among those who could invest. Within eight years the Fellowses owned, in addition to the land and buildings of their farmstead, an up-and-down sawmill, an interest in an ironworks, and land they had bought from Native Americans on Tockonnack Mountain (Mount Washington).

The colonial wars between the British and French, with Native Americans serving both sides, had still not come to conclusion in this largely unsettled region, and in August of 1756 John Fellows, Jr. organized

¹⁶ Hamden County Registry of Deeds, Book O, Pages 279-280, 16 December 1743.

¹⁷ Hamden County Registry of Deeds, Book S, Page 38, 4 November 1749. “Bills of Crown” meaning British currency.

¹⁸ Hamden County Registry of Deeds, Book S, Page 403, 30 August 1750.

¹⁹ Will dated August 13, 1757, Berkshire County Probate Court, Pittsfield, Mass.

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and served as captain of a militia company of 30 men who marched 102 miles from Sheffield to Fort Edward on the Fort William Henry alarm of August 1757. Fellows and his militiamen represent the grassroots forces that were relied upon so heavily by the British Crown to discourage a French takeover. Self-equipped, the soldiers adapted to Indian warfare, acquiring techniques they and their sons would employ to good effect during the coming revolution against British rule.

John Fellows, Jr., however, died shortly after the alarm of an unspecified cause, on September 10, 1757, in Salisbury, Connecticut, at the age of 56.²⁰ He was buried in the family plot a quarter of a mile south of the farmstead.

In the year between the time Fellows returned from militia service and his death in September, he and his sons Ezra and John (the future General John) bought a sawmill in January and a one-ninth part of an ironworks in August, both nearby in northern Salisbury. They bought the ironworks share from William Bull, son-in-law of John Ashley. John Fellows, Jr. also gave son Ezra 170 acres of his property, "part of which he bought from Williams." At his death, Fellows, Jr. left a will in which he gave a third of his land and buildings to his wife Jerusha. He gave 45 more acres and a one-third right in his up-and-down sawmill on Schenob Brook to their son Ezra, and two-thirds of his farm and buildings, all of his interest in the ironworks, one-third of the sawmill, and their slave Cuf to their son John. One-third of the sawmill and "Indian Land purchased in Tockonnack Mountain" went to their son William, while daughters Sarah and Rachel received money and other items, as was common.

Jerusha Fellows and her son John continued to occupy the family property after inheriting it from John Fellows, Jr. It seems likely that Jerusha was living with her son John and perhaps others in the earlier house (precise location unknown). In 1762, John married Mary Ashley, daughter of John and Louisa Ashley, who were among the first settlers in Sheffield and were the Fellowses' neighbors one mile to the east. Given the results of dendrochronology and examination of the building's frame, discussed above, it is likely that the present house was constructed for John and Mary Ashley Fellows at the time of their marriage, as was often the custom. In the house, John and Mary Ashley Fellows had eight children, in the following order: Mary (?–1844), John (1765–1813), Hannah (1767–1798), Charlotte (1769–1845), Jane (1771–1844), Edmund (1775–1841), an infant who did not survive, and Henry (1782–1858).

While the Fellows family supported the British in the Indian wars, they would soon take up the Patriot cause. The British Crown's impatience with the flow of profits from the American colonies met with resistance throughout New England, and was expressed very early in Sheffield. John Fellows (by then a Major) was named to the committee that drew up the Sheffield Resolves on Jan. 12, 1773, after a meeting at his wife's parents' home, the Col. John Ashley House (NR 1975). The declaration was published in *The Massachusetts Spy* on Feb. 18, 1773. The declaration's text, written by Theodore Sedgwick, stressed: "Mankind in a state of nature are equal, free, and independent of each other, and have a right to the undisturbed enjoyment of their lives, their liberty and property." "Under the leadership of Colonel Ashley and Theodore Sedgwick," wrote historian Arthur Chase, "the committee hammered out a declaration of grievances—not a declaration of independence. The number of substantial property owners on the committee ensured against the production of a truly explosive, revolutionary document."²¹ Among the substantial property owners was John Fellows, a fact that provides insight into the competing values of the well-to-do Fellows family prior to the Revolution. Following his work with the committee of Sheffield Resolves, in 1774, John Fellows was a delegate the first and second Massachusetts Provincial Congresses in 1774 and 1775, respectively, where he served on the committee of safety.²²

²⁰ Will, op. cit.

²¹ Arthur C. Chase, *The Ashleys: A Pioneer Berkshire Family* (Beverly, Mass.: The Trustees of Reservations, 1982).

²² "The journals of each Provincial congress of Massachusetts in 1774 and 1775, and of the Committee of safety" (Dutton and Wentworth, Printers to the State, 1838), https://archive.org/stream/journalsfeachpr00massuoft/journalsfeachpr00massuoft_djvu.txt.

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Federal Period (1775–1830)

With gunfire exchanged at Lexington and Concord April 19, 1775, war was inevitable. John Fellows, promoted to colonel, marched with a regiment of Minutemen to Cambridge on April 20. When they arrived, the regiment was determined to be too large to be under one command, so it was divided into two and Fellows was given one regiment and Colonel Pattison of Lenox was given the other half. He and his regiment were sent to Charlestown where they built Fort No. 3 and took part in the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17 under General Ward.²³ After the siege of Boston ended, most of the soldiers were absorbed into Ward's Regiment—the 21st Continental Regiment.

There survives in the National Archives five letters Fellows wrote during this period to General Washington, including the following written during the campaign in New York:

Kenderhook [sic] July 24th 1777

Dear sir

Am in duty bound to acquaint your honr that I am well informed from a person of real Dependence, that he has for a long time put himself off for a Tory—and that he has entertained the Enemies Expresses from one Army to the other, one of which passed his house 7 Days since from Genl How to Genl Burgoyne who informed him that Genl How meant to make a Diversion somewhere in Connecticut in order to draw off Genl Washington's Army if possible then to push up the River—The same Express returned yesterday from Genl Burgoyne's Army at Schenatdy and advised that Genl Burgoyne meant to attack in Ten Days at least at which time sr John Johnson was to attack Fort Schuyler and Genl How the Highlands—That sr John had a much greater Force than was expected and had no Doubt of carrying the Place with little Difficulty—As whatever has been related by my intelligencer so far as the time would admit has proved true have not the least Doubt of the truth of the whole—Genl Schuyler has sent of Colo. Brown with a small Pa[r]ty of light Horse to take Burgoyne's Express he will no Doubt meet with success but no Papers are expected, as none were brought by reason of the Difficulties of the times—the Enemies Expresses meet at Livingston's Manner next Sunday, as one goes from that to How, the other to Burgoyne, they are two notorious Scotch Men whose Plan of Rendezvous is well explained—I really fear that Fort Schuyler is in such a situation as that it will be carried. I am with the greatest Respect Your honrs most Obedt Hume St

John Fellows B. Genl

Fellows, by this time a brigadier general, took charge of a brigade with Putnam's Division at Manhattan. David Hackett Fisher, in *Washington's Crossing*, lists Fellows's Brigade in Appendix D as participating in the defense of Brooklyn Heights and the evacuation to Manhattan Island the night of August 29–30, 1776.²⁴ That night, Washington's entire force of 9,500 soldiers, equipment, supplies, and all but five cannon were safely ferried to Manhattan in small boats. Fellows and the Berkshire County Militia helped protect Brooklyn Ferry until carried over to New York to Fulton's Landing.

The following month, on September 15, 1776, British General Lord Howe launched an 84-boat assault landing at Manhattan's Kip's Bay on the East River. A total of 9,000 British and Hessian troops joined General Clinton waiting at Murray Hill. Seeing their numbers, the Connecticut Militia broke rank and ran without firing a shot. General Fellows incurred the direct anger of General Washington when his brigade of 2,500 Massachusetts Militia sent to reinforce the Connecticut Line also broke. Washington is quoted as

²³ According to *Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors*, "engaged April 21, 1775; service, 4 days... engaged April 25, 1775, service, 3 mos. 14 days." And so began his lengthy service to the Continental Congress and to Gen. George Washington. He was "elected Brigadier for Berkshire co., Jan. 30, 1776, an appointment that became a commission in February.

²⁴ David Hackett Fisher, *Washington's Crossing: pivotal moments in American History* (Oxford University Press: 2004), p.101, 386.

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saying after hurling his hat on the ground three times, "Good God, have I got such troops as these?" "Are these the men with which I am to defend America?"²⁵ The American army fled up to Harlem Heights.

Despite the momentary anger by Washington, Fellows continued in service for four more years, including participation in combat at White Plains, Monmouth, and Bemis Heights. Under General Gates, in command of the American forces in 1777 in northern New York, Fellows was sent out with 1,500 men to thwart General Burgoyne and his British troops who were marching south from Canada and were expected to cross to the east side of the Hudson River to get to British supplies and reinforcements. When Fellows confirmed that Burgoyne's troops were not crossing the river he led his brigade to Batten Kill where they were able to deny British access to the supplies and reinforcements in that location. As a consequence of Fellows's action and of British defeats at Oriskany, New York, and Bennington, Vermont, Burgoyne was forced to surrender to General Gates on October 7, 1777.²⁶

At the same time that Fellows was leading his armed neighbors against British rule, he was negotiating the sale of his enslaved black woman, Ton, and a four-year-old girl, Bett, to Theodore Sedgwick (1746–1813) of Sheffield. The July 1, 1777, bill of sale reads:

Know all Men by these Presents that I John Fellows of Sheffield in the County of Berkshire Esq. for & in Consideration of the sum of Sixty Pounds to me in Hand well and truly paid by Theodore -- Sedgwick of said Sheffield Esq. here and by these Presents bargain, sell and convey unto him the said Theodore Sedgwick his Executors, Administrators and Assigns, one Negro Woman named Ton and about thirty years old, and ~~one Negro Girl named Bett~~, [meaning of the strike through is unknown] about four years old, to have and to hold said Negro Woman & ~~Negro Girl~~ to him the said Theodore Sedgwick his Executors, Administrators and Assigns the said Negro Woman for and during the Term of her natural Life and said Negro Girl Until she shall arrive at the Age of twenty one years, and I the said John Fellows for my self and Heirs, Executors & Administrators do covenant promise & engage to and with said Theodore Sedgwick his Executors, Administrators and Assigns that I have good Right and lawful Authority to bargain & sell the said Negros in Manner aforesaid & that he the said Theodore Sedgwick his Executors, Administrators & Assigns may & shall Use, possess, and dispose of the said Negros for and during the Term aforesd. by Force & Virtue of these Presents, Witness my Hand & Seal this first Day of July Anno Dom: 1777²⁷—

One explanation of this document is that Sedgwick was purchasing Ton's freedom, perhaps with her own money or with funds raised by others. In 1781, Sedgwick successfully represented the slave Elizabeth Freeman ("Mumbet") in her suit for freedom from Mary Ashley Fellows's father, Colonel John Ashley, arguing that slavery was contraindicated by the new Bill of Rights. The ruling by the court effectively established the justification for ending the institution of slavery in Massachusetts. By 1790 the first Federal census documents that there were no more slaves in the Fellowses' household.

In August 1777, militia troops under Fellows's command escorted 400 prisoners eastward to Boston after the battle of Bennington, Vermont, and his Hudson River standoff. The prisoners were dragoons from the Duchy of Braunschweig and artillery companies of Hessen-Hanau who had come to fight with the British.

²⁵ John J. Gallagher, *The Battle of Brooklyn, 1776* (Da Capo Press, New York, 1995), p. 160.

²⁶ Henry Phelps Johnston, *The Campaign of 1776 around New York and Brooklyn* (Long Island Historical Society, 1878), as seen on Project Gutenberg at www.gutenberg.org/files/21990/21990h.

²⁷ Bill of sale from John Fellows to Theodore Sedgwick for Ton (a slave), Sedgwick Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society collection. http://www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?item_id=551 (viewed 1 May 2015).

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The dragoon surgeon Julius Friedrich Wasmus kept a diary in which he wrote of that time: “[August] 19th We set out at noon; most of us, particularly the wounded officers riding horses. We had a new Captain by the name Johnson and a few men on horseback with us who are under the command of Gen. Fellows who will accompany us to Boston.” They marched south from Pownal, Vermont, to Williamstown, Massachusetts. Some of the more seriously wounded men and officers were left in Stockbridge, Northampton, and Springfield, Massachusetts. In Springfield, Wasmus continued, “On September 12, Cornet Stutzer returned from Northampton. He had much to tell of that town and also about 44 dragoons and 24 Jaegers of our jaegers who were living and very happily working there with the inhabitants. Gen. Fellows had selected 15 dragoons and taken them along to his estates at Sheffield; the inhabitants [of Northampton] did not like at all giving them up.”²⁸ These men, held back in Northampton, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and Springfield, may have left for Boston as early as October 25, 1777 with Oliver Boardman of Middletown, Connecticut, or as late as November 3, 1777, when a second group was escorted to Boston. The duration the 15 dragoons’ stay at the Fellows farmstead is not known.

In 1794, General Fellows advertised sale of the Fellows Farmstead. The advertisement itemized the property as containing “about four hundred Acres, more than one half of which is under good Improvement, with a good bearing Orchard....The Dwelling house has seven good rooms in it and is joined by a very spacious and convenient Kitchen with Piazza’s &c. A large Barn with two large Cow Houses adjoining it.”²⁹ By the end of the 18th century, gentlemen’s farms, such as his, were being put together throughout Massachusetts, and at the same time travel had eased on Berkshire roads, so he added to the property’s description: “The whole very eligible for a private Gentleman, or Public House, as much traveled road runs thro’ the middle of the Farm.”³⁰ It took four years for the farm to sell, and in the meantime, in 1797, Mary Ashley Fellows died.

In 1798, General Fellows sold the farm out of the family to Reuben Hamlin, an innkeeper from Sharon, Connecticut.³¹ Fellows, by 1798, owned 1,416 acres in Sheffield appraised at \$11,000.³² Hamlin bought 320 of the approximately 400 acres of the farm and its buildings for \$3,000. He may have envisioned turning the building into a public house, but since he remained in Sharon it is more likely that he saw the property as an investment. In 1801 Hamlin sold the property to David and Eleazer Hamlin who shared ownership 50-50 and jointly paid slightly over \$4,000.³³ The pair held on to the farm for four years, selling it in 1805 to Zachariah Shears for \$4,642.66.³⁴

The sale to Shears brought the property back into association with Fellows family because Shears was the father-in law of John Fellows (son of General John and Mary), who had married Polly Shears. Zachariah Shears would have continued the farm’s cultivation during his nine years of ownership. In a deed dated 1810, but not recorded until 1814, he sold the farm in equal 160-acre shares to Amos and Samuel Shears, presumably his sons. The two, who were Sheffield farmers, sold the 320-acre farm the same year to John Ward (1778–1852), who, with his wife Lucretia (1785–1876) and four children, had been a resident of Sheffield since 1810.³⁵ The Wards paid \$5,000 for the farm with its land and buildings. In contrast to the

²⁸ J. F. Wasmus, Helga Doblin, Mary C. Lynn, *An eyewitness account of the American Revolution and New England life: the journal of J. F. Wasmus, Company Surgeon 1776–1783* (New York, Greenwood Press, 1990).

²⁹ The seven rooms would be those that follow the basic hall and parlor plan described by Kelly, op. cit. p. 8 as: the hall, parlor, keeping room, the first floor bedroom, and a pantry on the first floor, and hall chamber, and parlor chamber, on the second floor. The “kitchen” mentioned by Fellows was an addition in the location of the present wing. No evidence remains of the 1794 “Piazza’s”.

³⁰ “To Be Sold,” *Norwich (Conn.) Weekly Register*, 18 March 1794.

³¹ Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds, Book 37 Page 29, 30 April 1798.

³² Fellows’s land holdings increased by 2020 acres in 1803, thanks to a bequest from his father-in-law, Col. John Ashley.

³³ Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds, Book 39 Page 774, 1 May 1801.

³⁴ Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds, Book 42 Page 414, 12 February 1805.

³⁵ Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds, Book 59 Page 53, 10 November 1814. The deed was not recorded until 21 November 1823, possibly awaiting settlement of a court case involving boundaries.

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previous four owners, for the Wards, the farm was their primary home. They gradually added acreage and eight more children to their family.

Ward became prominent in town, and the area along Barnum Street became known as the Ward District. According to Elizabeth Ward Greenwood, John Ward "soon became a man of remarkable character and wide influence throughout the County and State ... A most successful farmer, he helped build a Methodist church (now gone), two miles down the road in Chapinville (now called Taconic), Connecticut, and the Ward School on Kelsey Road in Sheffield (extant and in private ownership). For years he was a surveyor in Sheffield and as 'Squire Ward' was prominent in town meetings."³⁶

It was during the Ward's ownership that the ca. 1820 wing was added to the north elevation of the house. In 1820 there were eleven people in the household, and twelve in 1830, so an addition for that large a household was sensible. The wing would have served as space for sleeping rooms at attic level, and with its back stairs (now blocked off) at the northeast corner, it was suitable for the family, as well as household or farm help. At first-floor level, the wing would have provided a modern kitchen area with a central fireplace for heating. The oven was placed outside the firebox, a location that became common after 1800. Foundations in the cellar point toward the wing having been built in the location of an earlier kitchen, which was noted in General Fellows's 1794 advertisement for the sale of the house (discussed above).

Early Industrial Period (1830–1870)

At the opening of the Early Industrial Period, and a hundred years after its 1733 incorporation, John Haywood described Sheffield, Berkshire County's oldest town, as "a very pleasant town, on both sides of the Housatonick [River]... The village is neat; situated in a beautiful valley ... There are manufactures in the town of leather, hats, ploughs, and spirits, but the principal business of the people is agricultural."³⁷ Sheep-raising was a major endeavor with the introduction of merinos, and, by 1837, the ratio of sheep to residents of the town was approximately three to one with 2,308 people and 6,892 sheep. Limestone deposits had been discovered and were being exploited with marble quarries and lime processors operating. Sheffield, however, never evolved into an industrial town, even though its Housatonic River neighbors Great Barrington, Stockbridge, Lee, and Lenox successfully made full use of their waterpower. Sheffield's topography was too flat, the drop in water too small, the flow too wide and slow to support industry. Throughout most of the period, the Wards, like many of their neighbors, concentrated on farming and took part in local affairs.

With the arrival of the railroad in the 1840s, there was a gradual switch in southern Berkshire County from sheep to dairy farming, as the railroad enabled farmers to make daily shipments of milk, butter, and cheese from the depots in Sheffield center and Ashley Falls.

According to the Sheffield valuation list of 1841, the Wards had 2 horses, 6 cows, 5 sheep, and 33 swine. By 1850 the farm had 400 acres, 250 of which were improved. The Wards raised rye, Indian corn, and oats, as well as peas, buckwheat and hay. These crops, in part, supported their livestock of 2 horses, 8 dairy cows, 2 working oxen, 318 sheep, and 5 swine. The cows produced 200 pounds of butter, and the family sold home-made goods worth \$90. The farm, then, went from few cows and pigs, and a substantial number of sheep, to a few more cows, but fewer pigs, and a large herd of sheep.

In ca. 1845, the Wards added two rooms across the front or west façade of the 1820s wing. The change to the wing may have been in anticipation of the Wards' taking on more permanent farm help, since in 1846,

³⁶ Elizabeth Ward Greenwood, "The Ward Family: A Sketch", typescript, n.d.

³⁷ John Haywood, *The New England Gazetteer* (1839), p32-33.

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when he was 68 years old, John Ward gave the use of a portion of the house and land to a John Palmer. It is likely that Palmer was a Sheffield resident as vital records document that John and Lucinda Palmer had lost a child the previous year in Sheffield. In the agreement that Ward wrote, he mentioned that the land was about 400 acres and that Palmer was to have the use of the whole of the "new part of the house" (likely the entire wing) and of the cellar under the north front room of the old dwelling house (the taller crawl space under the parlor (today's dining room). Palmer was to be responsible "for repairing fences, livestock and half of taxes."³⁸ The arrangement was not long-lived; the 1850 Federal census omits John Palmer from the Ward household and from Sheffield altogether.

1846 was the year in which the Wards' eleventh child, their daughter Cynthia, married Joseph M. Greenwood in a wedding at the house. Greenwood was a prominent lawyer in Brooklyn, New York, and the couple set up their household there. The many decades of family members living in Brooklyn and visiting Sheffield began with this marriage. The marriage (or the 1845 wing addition) may also have prompted the Wards to replace the windows in the house, which appear to date from this period.

In 1850, the Wards' real estate was valued at \$10,000, a time when \$1,700 was an average value for Sheffield real estate. Clearly the Fellows Farmstead had maintained its extent and agricultural worth. Following John Ward's death in 1852, however, there were no devoted family members to run the farm, and John Ward's will divided the property ownership between Lucretia Ward and their five remaining children, Artemisia, Hannah, Clarissa, John, and Cynthia. John Ward was buried in the family plot of the nearby cemetery, coincidentally near John Fellows, Jr. As instructed in Ward's will, the 304-acre property was surveyed two years later, in October 1854, and divided on paper into nine lots of various sizes.

Lucretia and three grandchildren continued to live on the farm, and in 1855 grandson Ward Lewis farmed with the help of a boarder, John Sullivan. In 1865 Lucretia was still listed in the Massachusetts State Census as living in Sheffield on the farm. She was 80, her granddaughter Mary Lewis was living with her, along with 14-year-old Mary Winters and 16-year-old Albert Dean, who was working as a laborer together with boarder William Dailey who had been working on the farm since at least 1850. In this household of older adults and teenagers, it is unlikely that substantial farming was going on. In fact, the agricultural censuses for Sheffield of 1860 and 1870 failed to list Lucretia Ward. From census records as of 1870 the farm was no longer occupied year round, as at the age of 85 in that year, Lucretia Ward left the farm and moved to Lenox, Massachusetts, to live with her grandson Lewis Ward, a grain dealer. In the census of that year it is clear she owned the farm still as her real estate value was listed at \$6,000. Lucretia died in 1876 in Lenoxdale, MA. The farm remained in family ownership after her death; on a contemporary plan of the land, the property was divided into strip parcels and allotted among John and Lucretia Ward's seventeen heirs.

While the family maintained a solid presence in Sheffield, the farm transitioned to a summer retreat for the family members. Scaled-down farming continued year round, however, and the family maintained a few cows, chickens, and horses. From about 1861, Cynthia Ward Greenwood and Joseph Greenwood used it as a summer place with their four children, Cynthia Josephine, Elizabeth Ward, Joseph William, and Mary Lucretia Greenwood.

Late Industrial Period (1870–1915)

The town of Sheffield during the Late Industrial Period took part in the gradual expansion from agricultural community to agricultural and tourist community that characterized western Massachusetts and the Berkshires, in particular. During this time, the number of people who came to Sheffield for summers continued to grow, and with their arrival came guesthouses, boardinghouses and, ultimately,

³⁸ In John Ward's ledger 1814–1823.

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tourist cabins. Visitors to town wanted to see Bash Bish Falls in the nearby town of Mount Washington; they came to the spa at Berkshire Soda Springs; the Big Elm or Sage's Ravine in Sheffield; and the Ice Glen in Stockbridge. Sheffield residents took in guests who arrived by rail drawn by advertisements for the healthy farm food, fresh dairy products, produce, and berries they served. As the period progressed, the Ward heirs and Greenwoods with their own farm peripherally took part in this movement, spending their summers at the farm, and bringing guests from Brooklyn and elsewhere to take part in their country life.

Joseph and Cynthia Greenwood and Joseph's siblings primarily came to the farm on summer weekends, but kept usable land in active farming with the help of a hired hand. In 1880, the Sheffield agricultural census listed 20 acres tilled, 50 acres in apple orchards, 18 acres in woodland, 10 acres in other cultivation, and 16 acres in grain lands and 20 acres in hay. They had \$310 in livestock including 15 cows, 2 horses, and 1 pig. They raised 2 acres of oats, 5 acres of rye, 4 acres of Indian corn, and had 20 bearing apple trees on a half-acre. They produced 350 pounds of butter and cut 15 cords of wood worth \$15. They recorded that they had spent \$10 repairing the farm buildings in the previous year.

In 1879, ownership of the Fellows Farmstead, by the seventeen Ward heirs, was consolidated when Joseph Greenwood bought approximately 200 acres and the buildings from the rest of the family for \$2,000. These 200 acres were 5 of the 9 lots from the 1854 survey; the lots continued to appear on assessor's maps until 2015, when the land was resurveyed.

Greenwood bought the farm for his and Cynthia's son Joseph William Greenwood (J. William), who was 25 at the time, a lawyer in Brooklyn, and married to Lola Alvarez de la Mesa of Brooklyn. Lola's father was Colonel Carlos Alvarez de la Mesa (1828–1872.) Born in Spain, Colonel Alvarez de la Mesa fought at Gettysburg with the Spanish Company of the 39th New York State Volunteers. Lola's mother, Frances A. M. Terry (born Frances Taft), was a member of the family that included President Taft. After the Colonel's death in 1872, Frances married a second Civil War veteran, Dr. Charles Terry. As documented through family photographs, the two of them spent time at the farm.

According to family members and the current owner, Frances Terry had a major influence on the appearance of the house in the 1890s. In addition to replacing 18th-century furniture with late 19th-century-style pieces, she is credited with several alterations to the building, including the front and side porches (not extant) shown in **figure 12**. Construction of the front porch may have involved alterations to the Connecticut River Valley door surround (**compare historic photo in figure 6, the earliest photograph of the house, to figure 12**). Although the transom shown in **figure 6** is extant, it has been infilled. Frances Terry's efforts to modernize the house also included sealing off the keeping room fireplace and, it is thought, removing the original crane.

Elizabeth Ward Greenwood

Among the children who grew up summering on the Fellows farm and contributed to Sheffield life was the second of Cynthia and Joseph Greenwood's children, Elizabeth Ward Greenwood (1850–1922), for whom the house meets National Register Criterion B. Elizabeth graduated from, and later taught at, the Brooklyn Heights Seminary, and she did graduate work at Chicago University. A lifelong Brooklyn resident, in 1870, when she was 20 years old, she was the first woman to preach a church sermon in Sheffield.³⁹ This was no guest appearance, as she continued to do so for the next 20 years. At the request of people in the neighborhood, Elizabeth had given her first Sheffield sermon in the Ward School, which had been built ca. 1820 by John Ward on nearby Kelsey Road. Following that sermon she was asked to preach a church sermon in Sheffield. Her services became so well-attended that they were moved to the

³⁹ Bernard Drew, *Perspectives-3*, typescript, 2015, p.11.

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larger Methodist church in Chapinville, Connecticut, also built by John Ward. In Sheffield village, she preached to joint congregations of Congregationalists and Methodists who came together to hear her, a captivating evangelist bringing to townspeople reflections on her work in the movements of temperance, suffrage, and education.⁴⁰

Raised in the Methodist Church, Greenwood became a Congregationalist, preaching in all but two states of the Union, in Canada, Europe, and the United Kingdom. The main organization through which she worked was the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), formed in 1874. Greenwood became a committed member around the issue of Prohibition. Her preaching skills, honed in Sheffield, allowed her to rise in the organization as an evangelist and superintendent of evangelism of World's and National WCTU as well as superintendent of the New York WCTU. The organization saw their Prohibition efforts as connected to other progressive movements of the day such as women's rights, suffrage, and education, so Greenwood's work brought her as an active worker into missions, prisons, asylums, and more, preaching her evangelistic message. She worked with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and, in 1883, through the WCTU, was one of three women who introduced legislation across the country to make health and hygiene required public school subjects. Underlying the effort was the belief that the health classes would include discussion of the physiological effects of alcohol on the body.

For seven years during the winters Elizabeth Ward Greenwood preached Sunday school for children of workers in the Mayflower Mission of Plymouth Church near the docks and factories of Brooklyn Heights in New York. A sub-group of the Mayflower Mission advocated against the use of alcohol by boys and young men. At its height in the late 1890s, the mission had 600 pupils and 65 teachers. Greenwood was listed in *Who's Who in New York State and City*, for successive years in the early 1900s for her work as a preacher, in the temperance movement, and in education. Elizabeth Ward Greenwood died in 1922, the same year as her brother J. William Greenwood, and is buried in Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery.

Fellows Farmstead 1889-1915

In 1889, J. William and Lola Greenwood wanted to repay Joseph Greenwood the money he had spent to buy the farmland from the many heirs, but were financially unable to. So Lola's mother, Frances A. M. Terry, known as Fanny, paid off the debt by buying the farm from Joseph and putting the title to the property in Lola's name. In an undated, unsigned letter in the Greenwood family archive, J. William Greenwood is blunt in describing the farmstead's condition and how difficult it was to finance and keep up: "I would struggle desperately to save the old place and my friends would help, but I would be paying full value for it when I had paid off Louise's mortgage.⁴¹ If you will give me the deed subject to the mortgage and all the contents - I will go immediately and see Finkle [a farmer who was either living in the house or leasing the land] and pay the farm on another basis - if not then it [the farm] will have to go and I will only know that I have done my best to save the place I love so well." The property was transferred to Lola for \$2,500. The money was given to her father-in-law Joseph Greenwood.

The farm continued to be Lola and J. William Greenwood's summer home with their two surviving children, Charles and Monica, (two other children, Joseph and Frances, died at ages one and four, respectively) and in Charles's case the summer extended at least once long enough for him to enter school in Sheffield. Among the few changes to the property undertaken during this period was construction of the carriage barn ca. 1880. Built in a turn-of-the-century technique in which the first-floor ceiling was hung from above so that the space below was free of columns, the carriage barn served to

⁴⁰ "A Sketch compiled in part from an article by Frances E. Willard," President of the WCTU, *Elizabeth Ward Greenwood*, n.d., typescript in collection of Lasso family.

⁴¹ The identity of Louise is not known, but the Lasso family believes that she may have been an investor in the farmstead by a Bond dated April 15, 1897, between J. William Greenwood and Mary Louise Torrance of Northampton MA, relationship unclear.

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house horses, tack, and hay, along with carriages. Around 1902 Lola Greenwood had the exterior of the house covered with shingles and she reopened the keeping room fireplace, furnishing it with an 18th-century crane from Ashford, Connecticut. She also removed her mother's Victorian-era furniture, and is thought to have brought indoor plumbing, sinks, and an indoor water tank to the house.

J. William went on to make unspecified improvements the year after his father's death in 1899. Invoices in the Greenwood family archive for the work are from Beers and Trafford, Contractors and Builders, in Millerton, New York. A picture taken of the exterior at the rear of the house (**figure 10**) in 1897 shows it to have been clapboard with a cistern on the east side. As noted above, in ca. 1902 the house exterior was shingled, according to photographs taken at that time, so it is possible that the work included changing the exterior siding, repairs to a leaking roof, and installation of a water tank in the attic presumably to serve the sinks and toilets added to the house. Photographs taken in the early 1900s (**figure 12**) show the porches with their high stoops on south and west (façade) elevations; shutters were dark green and louvered. The family at this time also got their first phone, opting for a Connecticut number as they at times felt more linked to Salisbury than to Sheffield.

A guest book kept by Charles Terry Greenwood from about 1910 tracks a steady flow of house guests to the farm, at that time called "Greenwood Farm" by the family. People who came by train and by car from Sheffield, Salisbury, Lakeville, New York City, and New Jersey left notes and drawings in the family's guest book about their visits. In 1911, Lola's husband gave her a 1907 Ford in which she did her errands and likely collected their guests from the station. Lola's mother Frances and her second husband Dr. Charles Terry continued to come to the farm as well. From the guest book it is clear that the house was used from June through September. Charles, who graduated from Yale in 1912, brought many friends from the city to the farm on weekends even into the winter months.

Although the house was used principally as a summer place, it did continue to function as a farm during the period. The 1902 tax valuation indicates there were three horses, ten milking cows, six yearling cows, two two-year-old cows, six sheep, and three swine. One of two large barns that are now gone would have been used for the livestock. The second, in the east field, was taken down about 1900. Lola Greenwood hired, as tenant farmer, Eddie McCormick, to whom she gave room and board and \$5 a week to work from 4:30 am to 6 pm, milking twelve cows and caring for six horses alongside other farm work. This arrangement was described by Charles Greenwood in an unpublished memoir.⁴² It may have been Eddie McCormick for whom the un-insulated carriage barn was altered at its attic level to house one or more people.

A cabin was built on the property ca. 1912, thought to have been north of the house by about 500 feet (see figure 1, location O). A 1912 photo with a caption "Log Cabin on Brook," and an August 31, 1924 sketch in the guest book, verify its existence. Charles Greenwood is known to have used the cabin in later years.

Early Modern Period (1915–1930)

In 1916 Charles Terry Greenwood served in World War I, and the guest book temporarily stopped. The war may have brought about other changes to the farm. By 1917, according to the town Valuation List, there was no livestock and the farm buildings consisted of one house and two barns (the cabin was not mentioned). Farm fields were leased or cultivated by farm caretakers even though livestock was not being raised. Charles returned from war and the Greenwood family—Charles and Monica, their parents Lola and J. William Greenwood—continued to live together in Brooklyn, coming to Sheffield in warm

⁴² Charles Greenwood, *Life with My Mother*, typescript, n.d., p.13.

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months. In 1919, the entries in the guest book start again with Charles Terry Greenwood, signing as "civilian" in September of that year. The house continued to be used for weekends and vacations. Guests included the landscape painter Carlton Wiggins, who was photographed painting at the house. One of his paintings is currently in the possession of the owners. His son Guy Wiggins, also a painter, was a friend of the family and appears in the guestbook.

In 1920, J. William Greenwood was a clerk in a Brooklyn watch factory; Charles, at 28, worked as a credit man in a Brooklyn bank, while Monica, 19, taught school. In 1922, J. William Greenwood died at age 65, and within a few years the family members were in different households. Lola remained in Brooklyn; Monica, in 1924, married John Van Pelt Lasso, and lived in Brooklyn, where Lasso was a salesman for a wholesale food company. Charles moved to Manhattan, where he was assistant treasurer for a settlement house. Meanwhile, Lola Greenwood began to live on the farm for longer periods during the year. She was joined in the summer by the Lassos, who brought their son John Lasso, Jr., and later their twin sons Terry and Peter, and by Charles, who continued bringing his friends to the farm.

In the 1920s and 1930s there was a clay tennis court in the field just south of the house where the last remaining large barn once stood. The garage was added as well. It is similar to the "Norfolk" model featured in Sears catalogues between 1920 and 1939.

Modern Period (1930–1970)

Sheffield became largely a residential community in the middle decades of the 20th century, but retained some of the last remaining dairy farms in southern Berkshire County. Residents worked in several town businesses, a private school, a few dozen retail businesses, bed and breakfasts, and restaurants. Some residents commuted to larger towns such as Great Barrington for work. Many continued to use Sheffield as a summer and weekend retreat. During the period, only one or two new houses were built on Barnum Street, which remained a narrow rural road.

Until her death in 1942, Lola Greenwood was listed as a Sheffield resident because she spent nine months of the year in the house, while family members used it as a weekend and vacation home. So important was the property to the family and friends who visited that two books were written about it. At the time both books were written, it was believed that the house was older than it is now believed to be. Elizabeth Stacy Magovern Payne (1868–1944), a novelist and fashion writer, visited the house as a child during the Greenwoods' ownership since her grandfather was Joseph M. Greenwood. She wrote in her 1931 historical fiction book *These Changing Years*:

"For six generations the old Trent house" [as she called it in *These Changing Years*] "has stood, as it stands today, four-square to the four winds and centered by its massive chimney, its western windows facing across the valley to the mountains. When the sun sets behind the mountains, a hundred tiny panes in the Trent windows give back the reflection so that the old house has the effect of being brilliantly lighted within.... In the almost two hundred years since the first Jonathan Trent established his farmstead and there reared his twelve children in the fear of god and with a proper reverence for the standards of his forefathers, the house has altered scarcely at all. Along in the eighties, Adeline Trent Reeves had foolish little porches built out from the west and south doorways, but Amy Trent Bannister, in the early nineteen hundreds (when everybody was removing Victorian whatnots, fetching old Colonial highboys down from the attic and

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discovering the preciousness of pewter) had the clumsy porches removed and the wide stone doorsteps replaced....⁴³

Chippy Irving, another family friend, included Greenwood Farm (as the Fellows Farmstead was also known) in her 1987 survey of American design, *The Farmhouse*. She noted the house, "now covered in brown shingles, is the oldest house in Berkshire County still on its original site yet it attracts scant attention, having never been fully restored to reveal its early clapboarding."⁴⁴

In 1931, Charles Terry Greenwood married a fiction author and screenwriter, Ursula Parrott, and the couple used the house briefly as a country house. Their divorce a year later was publicized in New York papers. Between 1933 and 1936, title to the house passed back and forth between Monica Lassoë and her brother Charles who, in 1936, noted in his guest book the official opening of the house that Fourth of July. At the time, Charles lived in Washington, D.C., and he died at a veterans' hospital in Tennessee in 1939 from the effects of having been exposed to mustard gas in World War I.

In 1940 the Sheffield valuation list recorded the property as having two houses, one barn (the carriage barn), and one garage. The second house was probably the cabin discussed above. Lola Greenwood continued to live at the house for up to nine months of the year, closing off the main house and living in the wing in the colder months. She died at the farm in 1942 shortly after coming back from her winter in Brooklyn with Monica and John Lassoë, Sr.

Family traditions were kept up, however, and John, Jr., Terry, and Peter Lassoë re-started their uncle Charles's guest book in 1942, recording visitors of both generations of the Lassoës at the farm. It was in 1944 that John Lassoë, Sr. added a large bar, brought from the Bowery in New York, to the carriage barn, where a celebration was held at the end of World War II. The bar was to furnish the carriage barn in its conversion to a party place and center for family memorabilia. Windows were added, doors were altered, and furniture, pictures of friends and family, and bookcases were brought in. The tennis court in the south field was replaced by a large victory garden, which remained until about 1970.

In 1957 Terry Ward Lassoë, son of Monica and John Lassoë, Sr., married Caroline Regan. Their son, Ward Van Buren Lassoë, was born in 1960 and two years later their daughter Allison Greenwood Lassoë was born. Meanwhile, Monica Lassoë sold three acres of the farm to its caretaker Floyd Woodbeck.⁴⁵ The three generations of Lassoës enjoyed the farm during the summer. John Lassoë, Sr. died in 1962; his and Monica's son Peter died the following year. Monica deeded John Lassoë, Jr. and Terry Lassoë an undivided half interest in the farm, but when Terry died in 1978 both Monica's and Terry's shares reverted to John Lassoë, Jr. In the 1980s, John Lassoë, Jr. sold several parcels to generate income for property maintenance. A lay professional at the Episcopal Church National Headquarters and the Episcopal Diocese of New York, John Lassoë, Jr. was acting legislative representative, program coordinator, writer, editor, and corporate secretary. He came to the farm on weekends and for annual five-week vacations. At his death in 1997, the farmstead was inherited by siblings Ward Van Buren Lassoë and Allison Greenwood Lassoë. The latter currently occupies the property.

In 2000, Allison Lassoë had the wing insulated on walls, ceiling, and floors, and the main room of the wing plastered on the first floor. She added heating to the wing and had one of the bedrooms at the attic level turned into a bathroom, added a utility room (at the northeast corner of the first floor) for a furnace, and had a water tank moved out of the cellar. In 2002, she removed wallpaper and layers of paint from the

⁴³ Elizabeth Stancy Payne, *These Changing Years* (Philadelphia: Penn Publishing Co., 1931), pp. 11-12.

⁴⁴ Chippy Irvine, Dennis Krukowski, *American Design: The Farmhouse*, New York, Bantam Books, 1987, p. 17-21. N.b. The Ashley House of 1735 pre-dates the Fellows Farmstead but was later moved less than a mile to a new foundation, so Irving was stretching the Fellows Farmstead's position as the oldest house.

⁴⁵ Book 322 p. 213, Berkshire County Registry of Deeds.

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keeping room and changed the mantel by adding raised panels to its visible elevation. In the winter the unheated main block of the house is closed off.

In 2015 an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) was placed on the 132.4 acres of field and woodlands, generating income and forever protecting the land. The 3.8-acre lot (parcel 17 on the assessor's map) with house and outbuildings was excluded from the preservation restriction. In 2015, Allison Lasso bought her brother's interest in the 132.4 acres of APR land. Ward and Allison maintain undivided interests in the house and house lot.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Lassoe Family Collections

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SHE.43

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 136.24 acres (132.4 APR, plus 3.8 house lot)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.06180 | Longitude: -73.40087 |
| 2. Latitude: 42.06180 | Longitude: -73.39413 |
| 3. Latitude: 42.05444 | Longitude: -73.39306 |
| 4. Latitude: 42.05444 | Longitude: -73.40319 |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Please see the attached assessor's maps 1 and 2. The boundaries follow the following parcel boundaries: on

- Map 2, Block 1, Parcel 17 of 3.8 acres (house lot)
- Map 2, Block 1, Parcel 18 of 126.0 acres (APR land)
- Map 1 Block 2, Parcel 3 of 6.4 acres (APR "triangle lot")

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected for this nomination are those of its current legal extent.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Bonnie L. Parsons, preservation consultant with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail: Betsy.Friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone: (617) 727-8470
date: February 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to

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the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: John and Jerusha Fellows Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Sheffield

County: Berkshire State: MA

Photographer: Bonnie Parsons

Date Photographed: 9/7/2015, 11/22/2015, and 10/14/2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0001.tif. House without shutters when they were removed to paint windows and trim in 2014
2. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0002.tif. House, garage and barn looking north to south side of house.
3. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0003.tif. View to east of house.
4. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0004.tif. View to west from Barnum Street in front of house.
5. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0005.tif. View to south of Barnum Street.
6. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0006.tif. South and west elevations of main block of house.
7. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0007.tif. Center entry double doors on facade (west). Viewed to east (transom above doors paneled over).
8. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0008.tif. Detail of one of two identical leaves of main entry Connecticut River Valley doors.
9. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0009.tif. Detail of windows at southwest corner of the facade.

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10. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0010.tif. View to northeast. Façade of wing.
11. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0011.tif. East (rear) elevation of main block and wing. Cow house in background.
12. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0012.tif. Cellar corridor looking west.
13. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0013.tif. cellar corridor wall under dining room (looking at area below fireplace) and chimney foundation looking southeast.
14. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0014.tif. Attic rafters of leanto joined to purlin in lower attic space.
15. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0015.tif. Attic rafters joining at ridge.
16. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0016.tif. Lean-to rafter seated in to outer plate.
17. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0017.tif. Stone center chimney in upper attic looking north.
18. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0018.tif. Hall. North wall with paneling, corner cabinet, and fireplace .
19. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0019.tif. Entrance vestibule. Interior of double- leaf main entry door.
20. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0020.tif. Staircase in main entry, viewed to south.
21. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0021.tif. Detail of main stairs to second floor with handrail and ornamented stringers. View to east.
22. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0022.tif. Hall. Corner cupboard.
23. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0023.tif. Hall, secondary entry on south wall.
24. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0024.tif. Parlor/dining room, south wall and ceiling. Detail of parlor fireplace, paneling, and cased summer beam.
25. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0025.tif. Parlor/dining room, south wall

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
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26. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0026.tif. Parlor/dining room, corner cupboard (northwest corner) and ornamental cornice joinery.
27. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0027.tif. Stone Keeping Room fireplace with rear wall beehive oven on right side. Looking SW.
28. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0028.tif. Keeping Room fireplace. Detail of beehive oven interior.
29. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0029.tif. Keeping Room, looking north, showing left to right: door to dining room, window of panty, open door leading past old staircase and to kitchen, and door to back porch.
30. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0030.tif. Pantry (in lean-to). Feathered and beaded sheathing typical throughout house (often under plaster and wallpaper).
31. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0031.tif. Paneling at second floor landing. Viewed to north east (towards parlor/dining room chamber).
32. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0032.tif. Hall Chamber. Flared corner post southwest corner, typical of second floor.
33. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0033.tif. Hall Chamber. Paneled wall and cupboard (no evidence of a former fireplace).
34. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0034.tif. Parlor Chamber with paneled wall, fireplace, and cupboard.
35. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0035.tif. Parlor Chamber. Detail of fireplace .
36. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0036.tif. Parlor Chamber. Post in northeast corner (typical of the second floor).
37. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0037.tif. Wing. Brick fireplace and adjacent beehive oven in kitchen. View to north.
38. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0038.tif. First floor wing sitting room looking north into bedroom.
39. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0039.tif. Wing. Bedroom looking north, bathroom door in center of photo.
40. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0040.tif. Façade of carriage barn, looking east.

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
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41. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0041.tif. Carriage Barn, north elevation.
42. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0042.tif. Second floor of carriage barn, looking west, trusses and iron supports visible.
43. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0043.tif. Garage viewed to north and west.
44. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0044.tif. Interior of garage (back wall), viewed to east
45. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0045.tif. Cow house, viewed to south.
46. MA_Sheffield(Berkshire)_Fellows Farmstead_0046.tif. Outhouse (now garden shed) and woodshed viewed to north east.

Figures (used with permission of the Lasso Family):

Figure 1: Site plan

Figure 2: First-floor plan and photo key.

Figure 3: Second-floor plan and photo key.

Figure 4: Section through the house, looking south.

Figure 5: Foundation plan.

Figure 6: Historic Photo (undated). Front (west elevation) of house looking east. Earliest known picture of the house, shows clapboard, transom over front doors, no exterior porches; wing addition to north (left) does not have a door. Ward Family Collection, Sheffield Historical Society Photographs.

Figure 7: Historic photo (1889). East elevation (rear) of house looking west and north, showing clapboards, original cow shed

Figure 8: Historic photo (ca. 1889). East elevation (rear) of house looking southwest, probably same day as figure 7, shows barn to south (not extant).

Figure 9: Historic photo (1889). View from south of house looking north, shows horse barn, house, carriage barn and hay barn.

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State

Figure 10: Historic photo (1897). East elevation (rear) of house looking west and north, showing clapboards, cistern outside kitchen door, and well pump. In picture are J. William Greenwood and son Charles Terry Greenwood (age 7).

Figure 11: Historic photo (early 20th century; after porch additions).

Figure 12: Historic photo (early 20th century; after porch additions). Front (west elevation) of house. Note shingled exterior, shutters, front and south side porches.

Figure 13: Historic photo (ca. 1902 or 1903). South side of house looking north. Shows new fence on south side, cow barn in rear to right (renovated with windows and no sag in roof). People in picture (l-r): unknown woman, Monica Greenwood (baby born Nov. 1900), J. William Greenwood (father), Lola Alvarez de la Mesa Greenwood (mother), Frances Taft Alvarez de la Mesa Terry (grandmother), Charles Terry Greenwood (brother).

Figure 14: Historic photo 52. (ca.1902) . Same day as figure 13 but this one shows horse barn to left and carriage barn to right.

Figure 15: Historic photo (ca. 1905 or later). East elevation (rear) of house looking west and north, showing new rear porch, and renovations (trim) to cow shed (compare to figure 7).

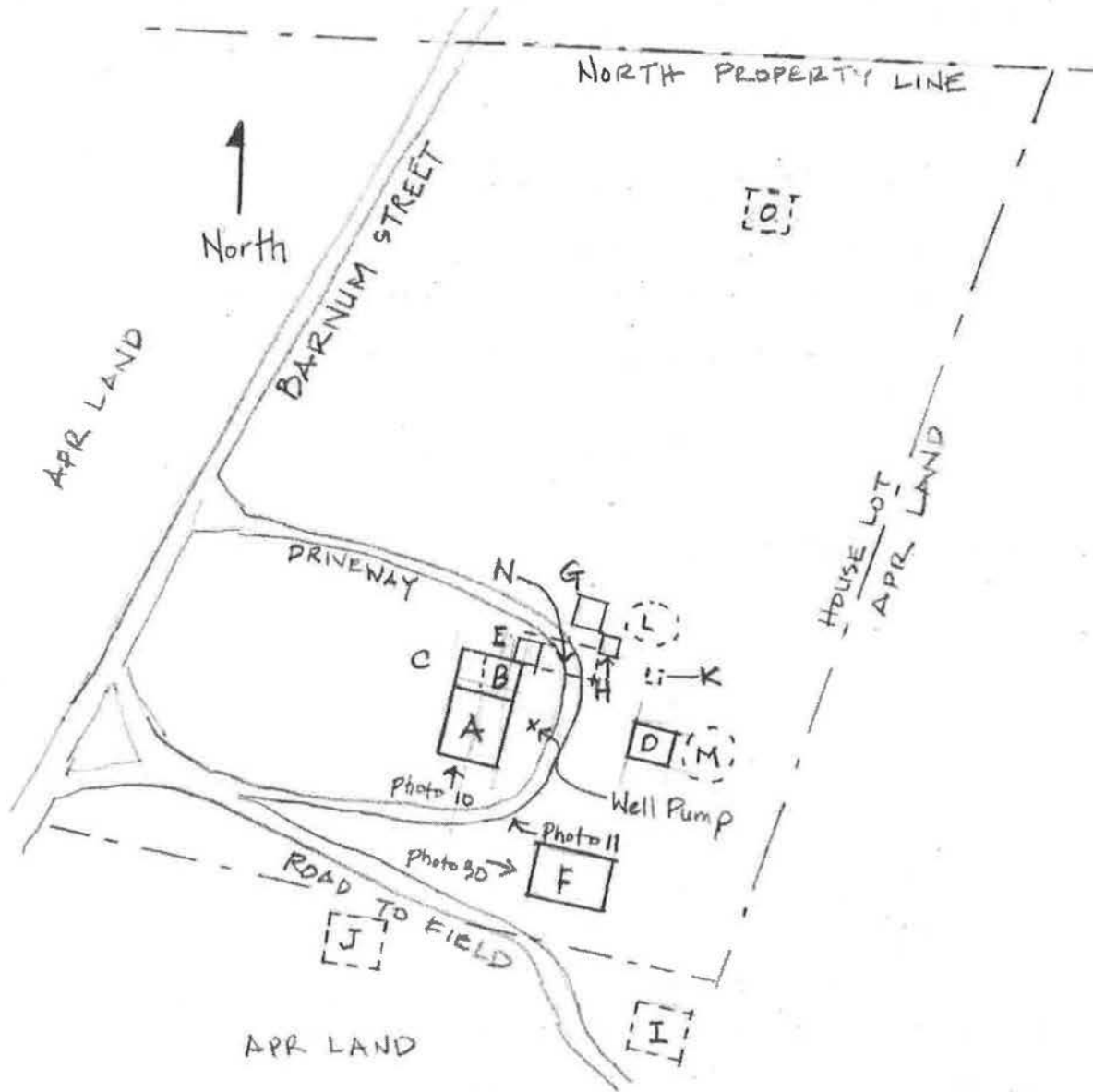
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
 Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
 County and State

Figures



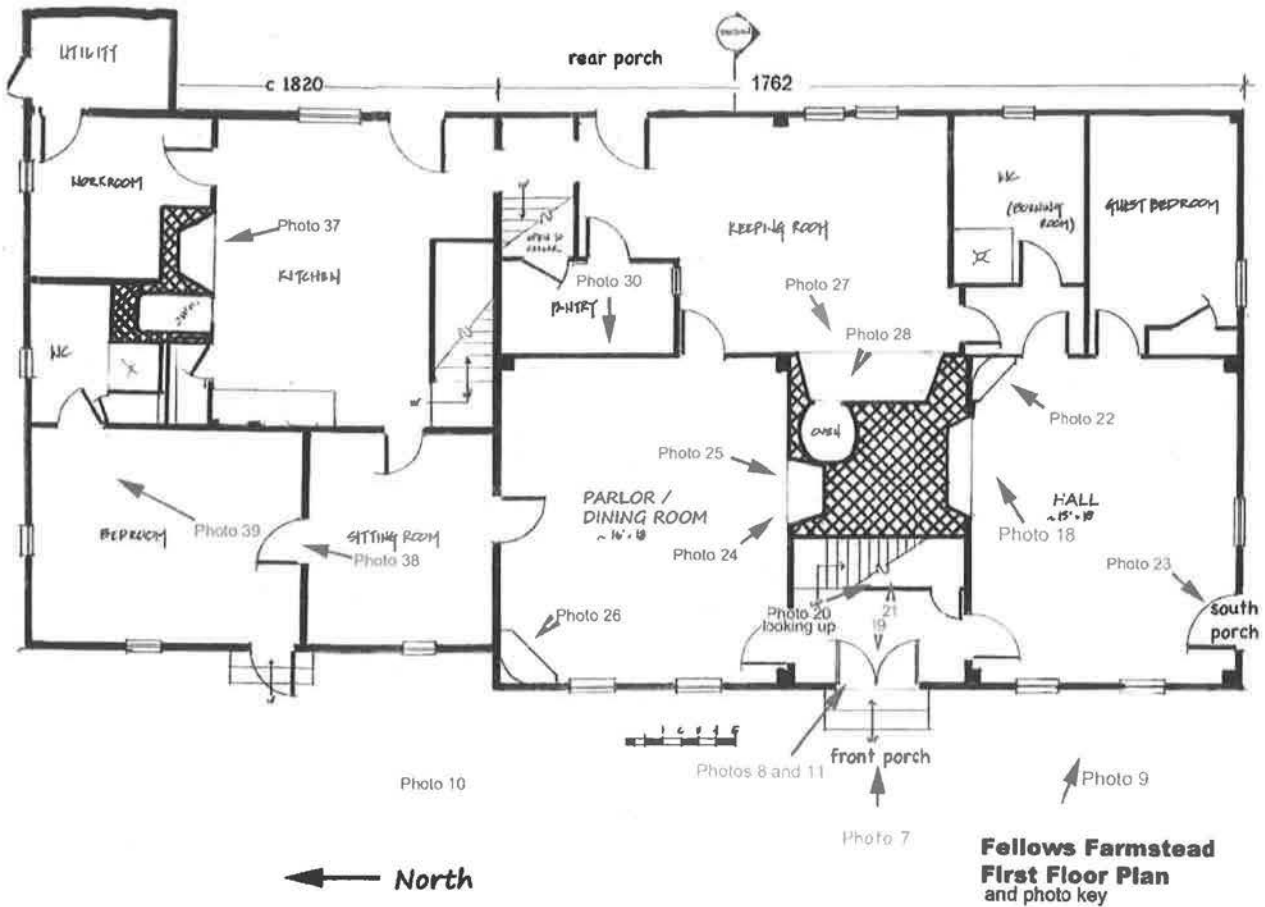
Fellows Farmstead Site Plan (not to scale)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| A. Main Block of House
c.1749-1762 | G. Wood Shed | L. Pit used until 1980 |
| B. Wing c.1820 | H. Outhouse/ Garden Shed | M. Pit used prior to 1950 |
| C. Addition c.1850 | I. Site of Hay Barn - burned
1978 | N. Site of old cow house |
| D. Garage c. 1930 | J. Site of Horse Barn - in
south field | O. Site of Cabin in north
woods |
| E. Cow Shed | K. Site of Chicken Coop | |
| F. Carriage Barn 1882 | | |

Figure 1

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



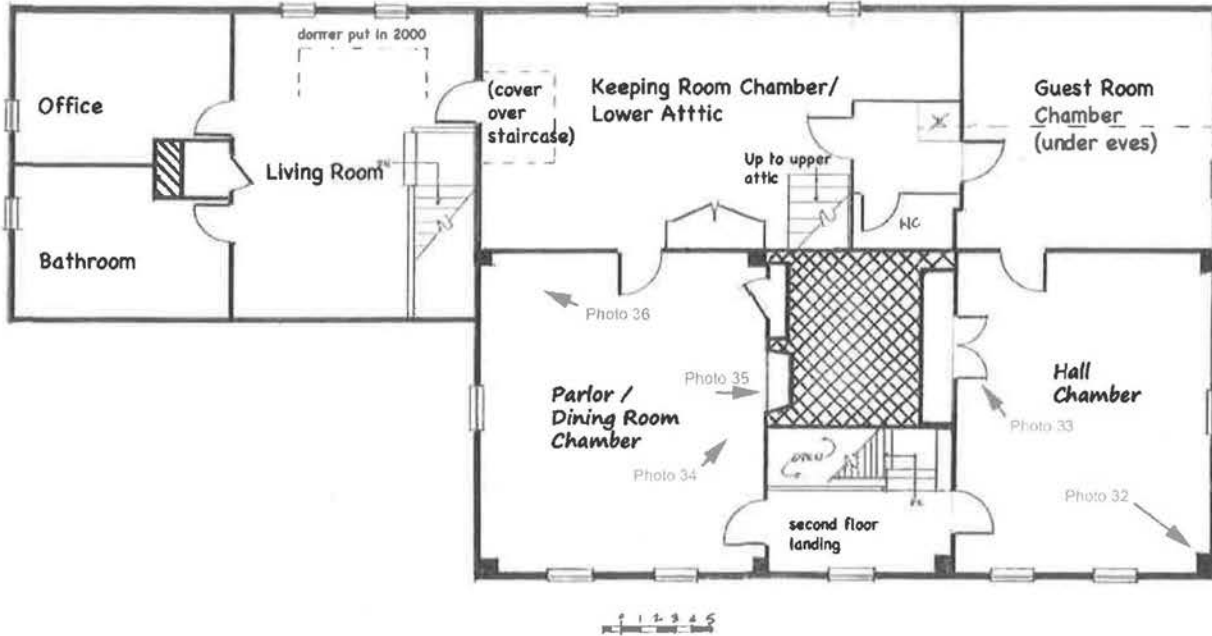
**Fellows Farmstead
First Floor Plan
and photo key**

By Allison Lassoe rev. Feb 2018

Figure 2

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



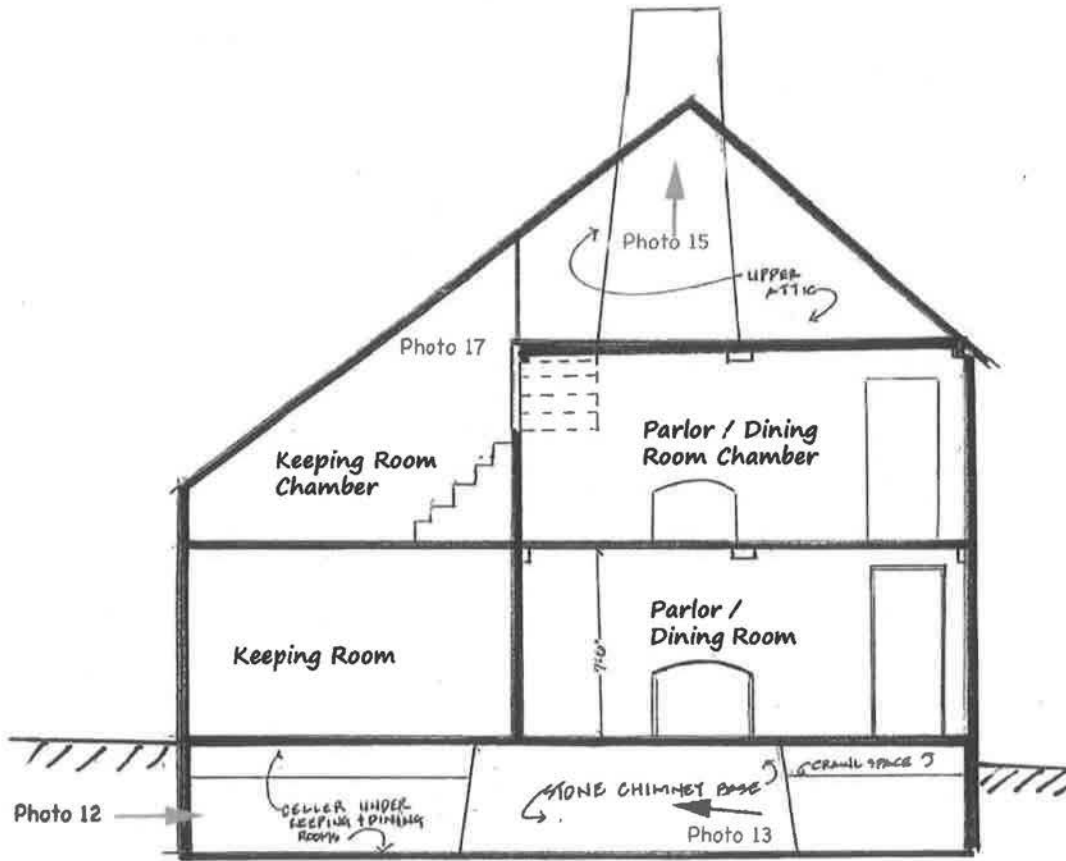
Fellows Farmstead
Second Floor Plan
and Photo Key

by Allison Lasso
-rev. Feb., 2018

Figure 3

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



Fellows Farmstead
Section facing south
Revised Feb. 22, 2018
by Allison Lasso

Figure 4

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State

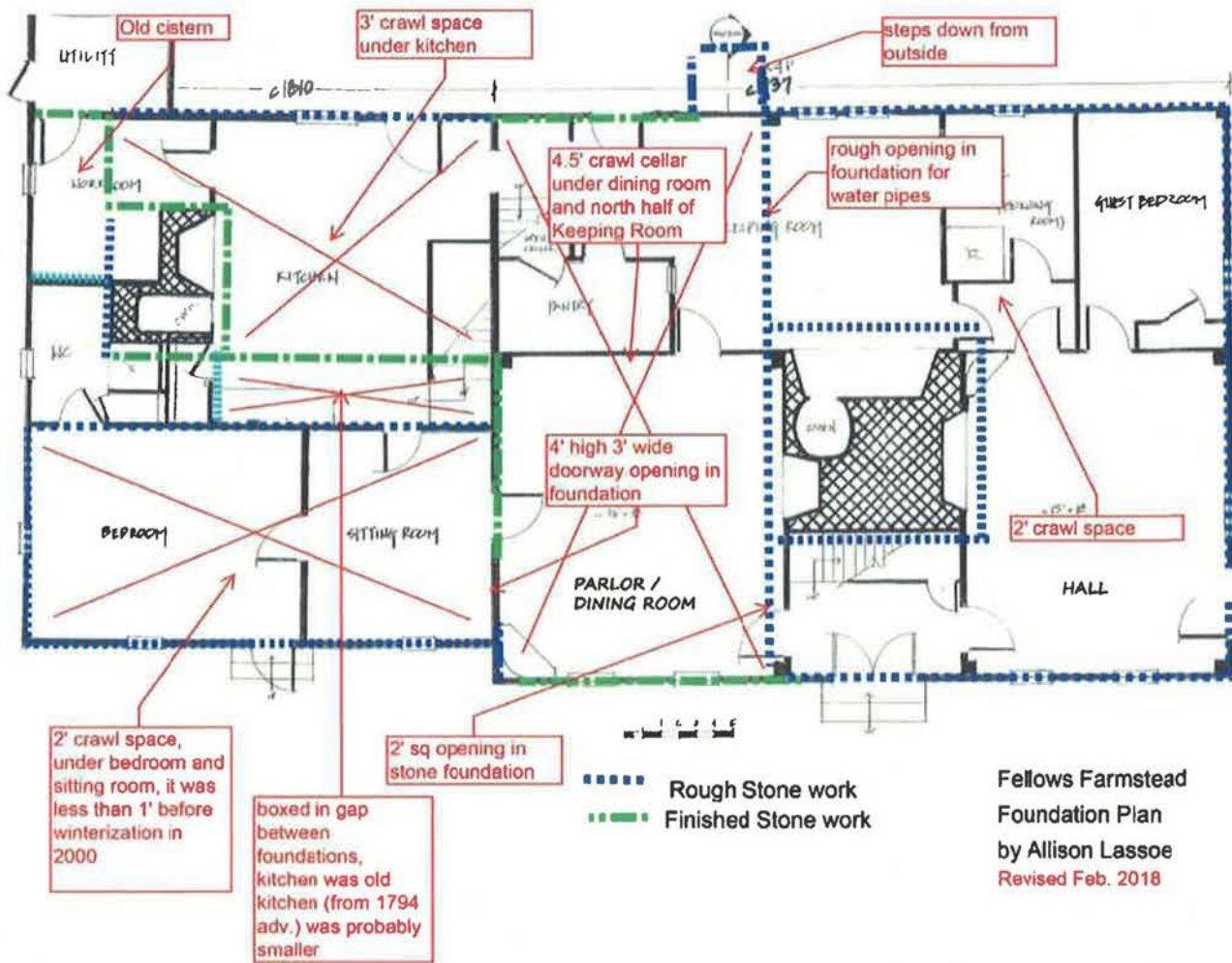


Figure 5

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure 6: Historic Photo (undated). Front (west elevation) of house looking east. Earliest known picture of the house, shows clapboard, transom over front doors, no exterior porches; wing addition to north (left) does not have a door. Ward Family Collection, Sheffield Historical Society Photographs.

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure 7: Historic photo (1889). East elevation (rear) of house looking west and north, showing clapboards, original cow shed

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure 8: Historic photo (ca. 1889). East elevation (rear) of house looking southwest, probably same day as figure 7, shows barn to south (not extant).

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure 9: Historic photo (1889). View from south of house looking north, shows horse barn, house, carriage barn and hay barn.

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State

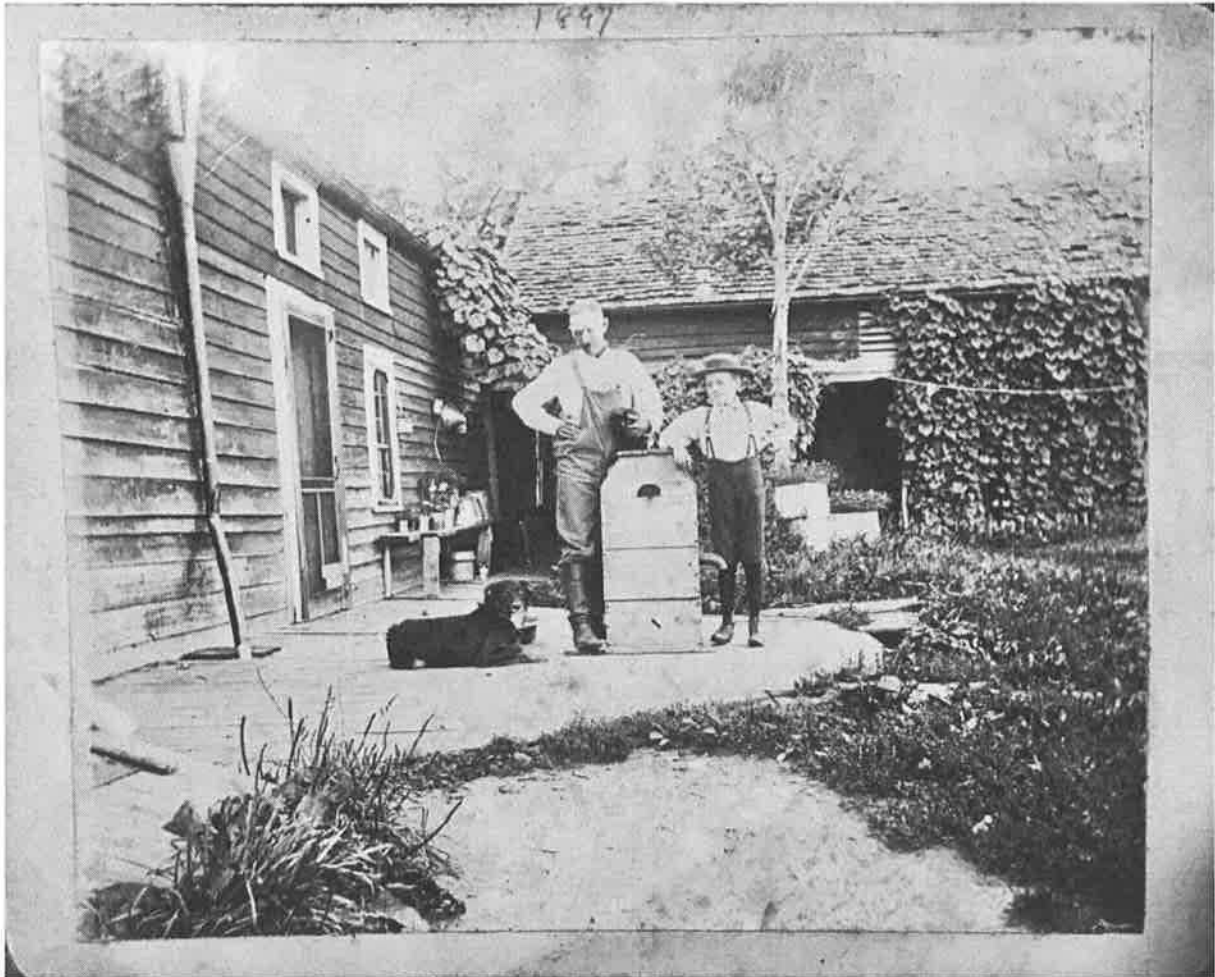


Figure 10: Historic photo (1897). East elevation (rear) of house looking west and north, showing clapboards, cistern outside kitchen door, and well pump. In picture are J. William Greenwood and son Charles Terry Greenwood (age 7).

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure 11: Historic photo (early 20th century; after porch additions).

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure 12: Historic photo (early 20th century; after porch additions). Front (west elevation) of house. Note shingled exterior, shutters, front and south side porches.

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

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Figure 13: Historic photo (ca. 1902 or 1903). South side of house looking north. Shows new fence on south side, cow barn in rear to right (renovated with windows and no sag in roof). People in picture (l-r): unknown woman, Monica Greenwood (baby born Nov. 1900), J. William Greenwood (father), Lola Alvarez de la Mesa Greenwood (mother), Frances Taft Alvarez de la Mesa Terry (grandmother), Charles Terry Greenwood (brother).

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure 14: Historic photo 52. (ca.1902) . Same day as figure 13 but this one shows horse barn to left and carriage barn to right.

Gen. John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts
County and State



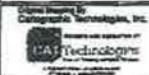
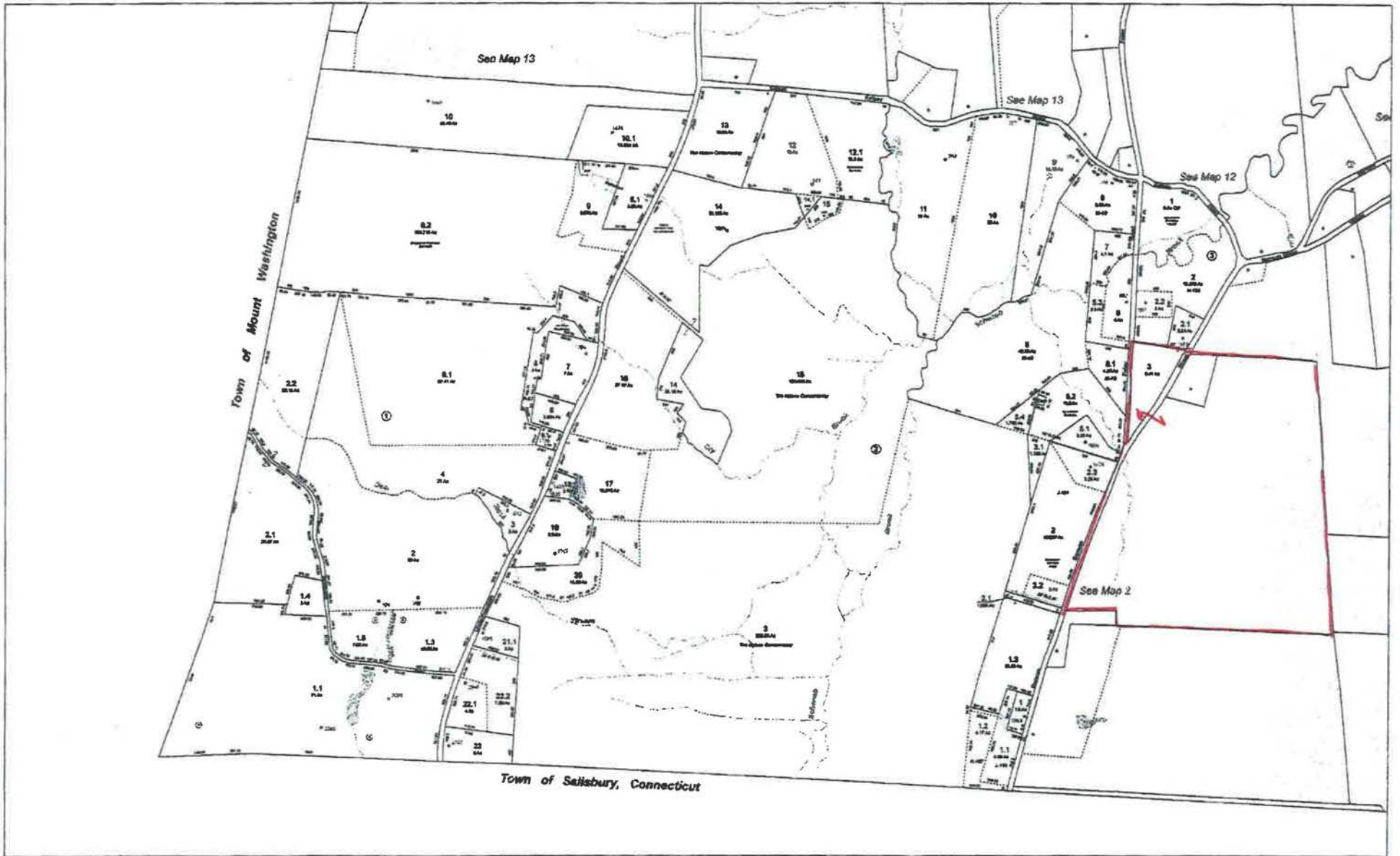
Figure 15: Historic photo (ca. 1905 or later). East elevation (rear) of house looking west and north, showing new rear porch, and renovations (trim) to cow shed (compare to figure 7).

**General John and Mary Fellows Farmstead
Sheffield, Berkshire County, MA**

Data Sheet

MHC No.	Map #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Resource	C/NC	Photo #
SHE.43	2-22.1	Fellows House	1601 Barnum Street	ca. 1762	Georgian	Building	C	1-3, 6-39
SHE.265	2-22.1	carriage barn	1601 Barnum Street	ca. 1880	no style	Building	C	2, 40-42
SHE.266	2-22.1	garage	1601 Barnum Street	ca. 1930	Craftsman	Building	C	43, 44
SHE.267	2-22.1	outhouse	1601 Barnum Street	ca. 1930	utilitarian	Building	C	46
SHE.268	2-22.1	woodshed	1601 Barnum Street	ca. 1940	utilitarian	Structure	C	46
	2-22.1	chicken coop foundations	1601 Barnum Street	ca. 1930		Site	C	
	2-22.1	barn foundations	1601 Barnum Street			Site	C	
	2-22.0	barn foundations	1601 Barnum Street			Site	C	
	2-22.1	pit	1601 Barnum Street			Site	C	
	2-22.1	pit	1601 Barnum Street			Site	C	
	2-22.1	pit	1601 Barnum Street			Site	C	
SHE.927	2-22.1	stone wall	1601 Barnum Street	ca. 1762	utilitarian	Structure	C	

Gen. John & Mary Fellows Farmstead, Sheffield (Berkshire Co.), MA (sheet 1 of 2)



Map Features

- Parcel Boundary
- Common Ownership
- Land Mosaic
- Easements, Rights-of-Way, etc.
- Brooks & Streams
- Label & Points
- Block Number
- Building

- 10 Parcel Number
- Ac Acre
- Lot Line Dimension (feet)
- Sublot Number

- Zoning Districts
- Rural/Residential
- Village
- General Business
- Commercial

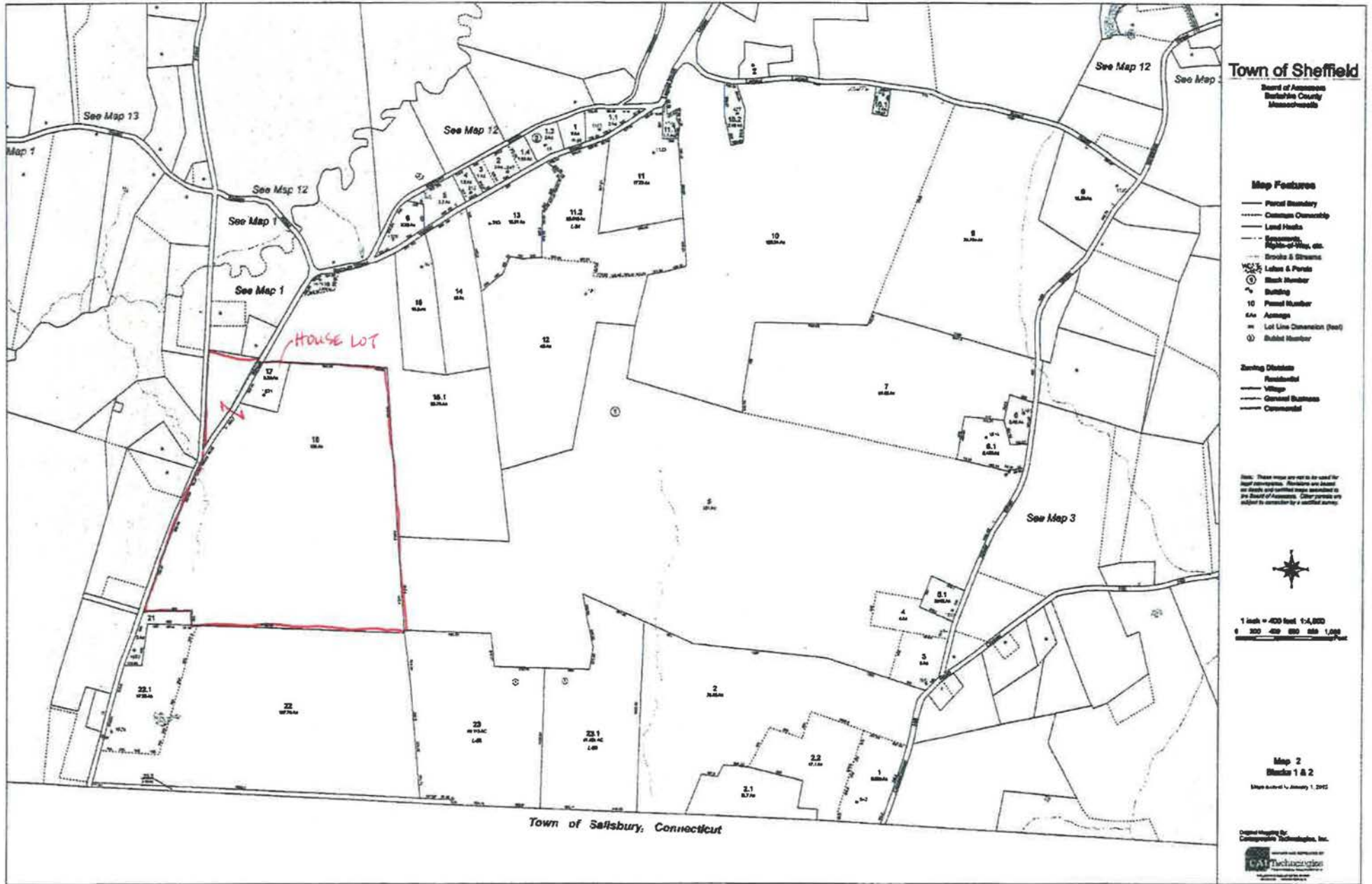
Town of Sheffield
Board of Assessors, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Note: These maps are not to be used for legal proceedings. Boundaries are based on records and verified maps submitted to the Board of Assessors. Other parties are advised to consult a verified survey.

1 inch = 400 feet 1:4,000
0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet



Map 1
Blocks 1, 2, 3
Map 1: SHEFFIELD 1, 2, 3



Town of Sheffield

Board of Assessors
Berkshire County
Massachusetts

Map Features

- Parcel Boundary
- Common Ownership
- Land Heats
- Easements, Rights-of-Way, etc.
- Brooks & Streams
- ⊕ Lakes & Ponds
- ⊙ Block Number
- ⊙ Building
- 10 Parcel Number
- AAA Acreage
- ⊖ Lot Line Dimension (feet)
- ⊙ Sublot Number

Zoning Districts

- Residential
- Village
- General Business
- Commercial

Note: These maps are not to be used for legal determinations. Boundaries are shown as depicted and verified maps obtained to the Board of Assessors. Other parties are subject to correction by a verified survey.

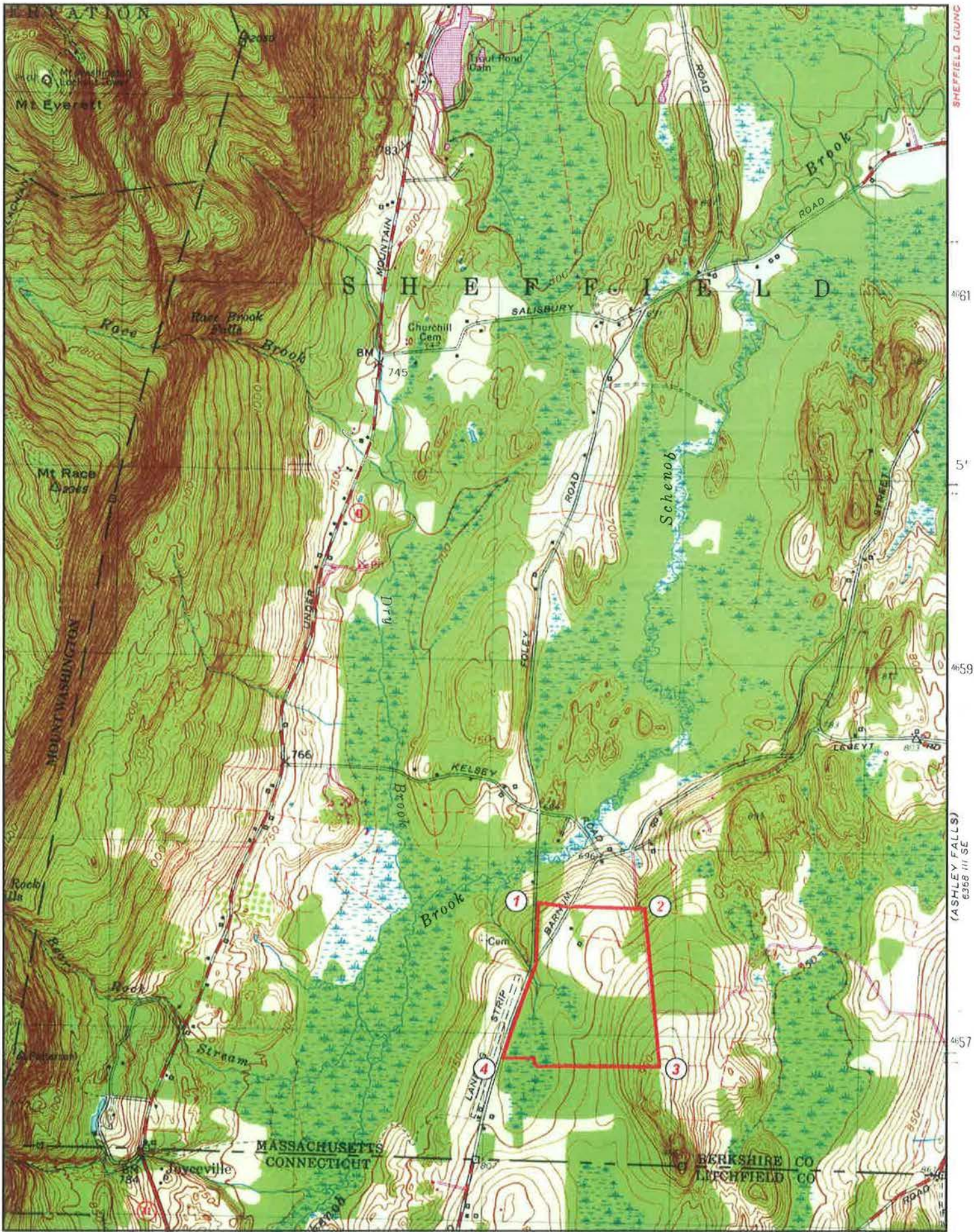


1 inch = 400 feet 1:400
 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1,000

Map 2
 Blocks 1 & 2
 Maps issued by January 1, 2012

Digitized by
 Computer Technology, Inc.


Town of Salisbury, Connecticut









































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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Fellows, General John and Mary, Farmstead

Multiple Name:

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

Date Received:
7/16/2018

Date of Pending List:
8/13/2018

Date of 16th Day:
8/28/2018

Date of 45th Day:
8/30/2018

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100002828

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 8/28/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Period of Significance: c. 1762-1968; Areas: Agriculture, Architecture, Military, Social History; LOS: State and local. Significant Persons: Brigadier General John Fellows and Elizabeth Ward Greenwood.

Recommendation/ Criteria: A, B, and C.

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 8/28/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 11, 2018

Dr. Julie Ernstein
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

General John and Mary Fellows Farmstead, Sheffield (Berkshire County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owner of the property was notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 75 days before the meeting and was afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Allison Lasso, 1601 Barnum Street, Sheffield, MA 01257
Bonnie Parsons, consultant
Dennis Sears, Chair, Sheffield Historical Commission
David Smith, Jr., Chair, Sheffield Board of Selectmen
James Collingwood, Jr., Chair, Sheffield Planning Board