

PH0365769

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 31 1977

DATE ENTERED

NOV 2 1977

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

1 NAME

* HISTORIC Old Central Fire Station
*

AND/OR COMMON

Old Central Fire Station

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

66 Allen Street

CITY, TOWN

Pittsfield

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st Massachusetts

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Berkshire

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

X PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

X UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

X OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Pittsfield, Paul Brindle, Acting Mayor

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 70 Allen Street

CITY, TOWN

Pittsfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Berkshire County Registry of Deeds (Middle District)

STREET & NUMBER

24 Wendell Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Pittsfield

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1977

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Central Fire Station is located in the center of Pittsfield, one block east of North Street, the major commercial area, and just above the Park Square Historic District. Just to the north of the Station is the Pittsfield City Hall.

The Central Fire Station was constructed in 1895 in a simple Queen Anne style with Richardsonian Romanesque detailing. It is 100' wide, 70' deep and two stories (30') high with a 60' hose tower. The entire building rests on a rusticated granite table with raised beaded joints of colored mortar. The side and rear elevations are plain water struck brick masonry laid in common bond, relieved only by the granite table and segmental arched fenestration.

The facade is composed of four bays, defined by the engine bays and the central engaged hose tower. The end bays have full round arches of rusticated granite voussoirs of alternating length. This arch rises from the granite table. The bays defined by these arches project out from the facade, and the corners are defined by rusticated granite quoins on the first floor only. At the floor line is a table of projecting brick courses supported by alternating brick headers. This is capped by a narrow granite course. The arch contains the engine stall door, topped by a multi-pane light. To the sides of the door, inside the arch, is brick infill and the granite table.

The second floors of these two bays have paired windows on individual granite sills. These windows are topped by segmental arches that rise to a shared granite lintel. Above this is a paneled brick parapet wall rising to the roofline of the main structure, from a base of five successively projecting brick courses.

The two interior bays flank the central hose tower. These bays have segmental arched doorways with granite key and horizontal granite lintel. The doors are flanked by single windows and doors. At the floor line is a corbelled table topped by a granite course. The second floor has two paired segmental arched windows, with granite keystones. At the level of the transom, ending at the impost of the arch, the brick wall projects in a series of courses. At the roofline is a corbelled table.

The central, engaged hose tower has rusticated granite quoins extending to the top of the second story window arches of the flanking bays. At this point the quoins are capped by a granite course. The tower continues uninterrupted save for an elongated segmental arched window, with granite sill and lintel on the facade and, above this, on all four sides, an oculus with 4 granite keys and radiating brickvoussoirs. The tower is capped by a stepped out brick cornice. At the second floor level, on the facade of the tower, is a granite plaque with the inscription "PFD, Central Station, 1895."

The original hose tower steeple was removed in the mid-1920's, and the brick tower was increased 9' in height. The interior has been altered successively, but the engine bays retain their original pressed tin ceilings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1895 BUILDER/ARCHITECT E.J. Cowell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Central Fire Station is significant as the oldest existing fire station in Pittsfield and for its architectural styling and scale.

Previous to its construction, volunteer companies occupied sites on or near this structure. The firehouse was built in 1895 for the newly organized City Fire Department which was quartered here until 1976.

The Central Fire Station was designed by a Pittsfield man, E.J. Cowell, the City Inspector of Buildings. Cowell was a woodworker, designer, artist and amateur photographer. He is also credited with designing many local houses.

The fire station is an important part of downtown planning. A mixed professional and commercial use is anticipated.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boltwood, Edward, History of Pittsfield 1876-1916, Pittsfield: Eagle Printing, 1916.
The Berkshire Hills Vol. 4, No. 11, July 1, 1901.
City of Pittsfield Municipal Register, 1896

Interview with David Cullen, Retired Fire Lieutenant, January 24 & 26, 1977.

Gaylord, Ralph F., 1913-1962, A Brief History of the Pittsfield Fire Department.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8
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6	4	3	7	0	0
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4	7	0	0	9	4	0
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ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

B

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--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

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

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara L. Barros
Pittsfield Planning Board

Joseph R. Orfant, National Register Editor and

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

May 19, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

5/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/2/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-1-77

Columbus
Renewal
No. 5

England's
Dept.
Store

Jubilee
Renewal
No. 3

West St

Berkshire
Common

**Old Central
Fire Station**
Downtown Pittsfield
Sketch Map 1"≈200'
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 1977

Old Central Fire Station
Pittsfield, MA.

Property Sketch Map

North Street

Fenn St

Dunham Mall

Police

School St

Old
Town
Hall

Federal St

NE
T&T

**Old
Central
Fire
Station**

Park Square

Historic District

South St

North



NOV 2 1977

Property Old Central Fire Station

State Mass.

Working Number 5.31.77.891

Bershire

TECHNICAL

Photos 3

Maps 2

CONTROL

OK 6.2.77.

HISTORIAN

Is this to become part of district?
Community planning & politics/government significance
is not defended, but am willing to accept for
architectural significance.

John
10/31

NO V.B.D.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept.

11/16/77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
11/1/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept 11-1-77
C. Shull for
C. Herrington

KEEPER

Wm
11/2/77

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered NOV 2 1977

Federal Register Entry 12-6-77

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Old Central Fire Station
Pittsfield, MA.

1977

Joel Librizzi

Pittsfield Planning Board, City Hall
Pittsfield, MA.

Photo #1 *063*

Looking east towards the facade

NOV 2 1977 Doc-

Berkshire Co.
MAY 31 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Old Central Fire Station
Pittsfield, MA
1977



Old Central Fire Station
Pittsfield, MA.
1946

Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA.

Photo #2013
Looking east towards the facade

NOV 2 1977 Doc

MAY 31 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Old Central Fire Station

Pittsfield, MA.

1977

Joel Librizzi

Pittsfield Planning Board, City Hall

Pittsfield, MA.

Berkshire Co.

MAY 31 1977

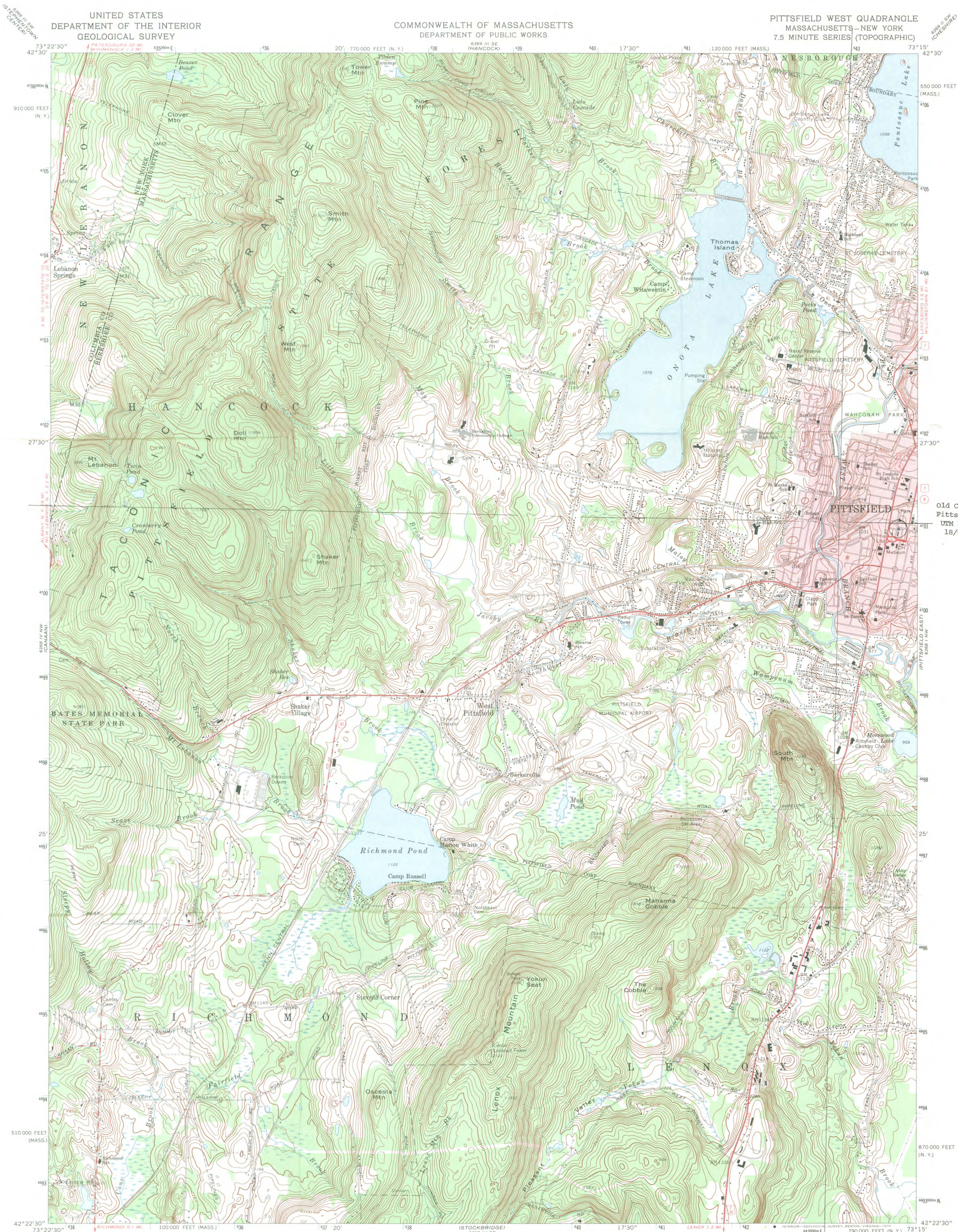
Photo #3 *73*

Looking south towards the north elevation

NOV 2 1977 *Doc*

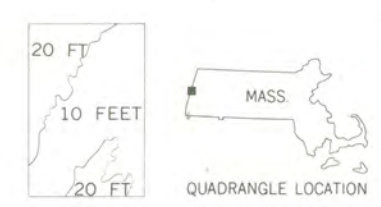
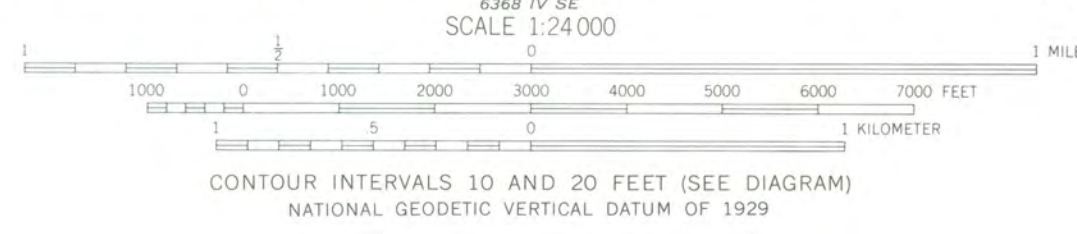
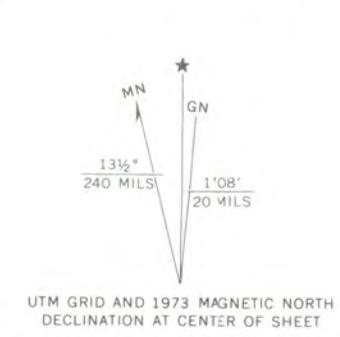
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*North Side
Old Central Fire Station
Pittsfield, MA
1977*



Old Central Fire Station
Pittsfield, MA.
UTM Reference
18/643700/4700940

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943-1944. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1973
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New York coordinate system, east zone
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18,
shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road

PITTSFIELD WEST, MASS.-N.Y.
N4222.5-W7315.7.5
1973



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **NOV 2 1977**

Name

Location

Old Central Fire Station

**Pittsfield
Berkshire County**

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Silvio O. Conte

Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

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

880

Mott/js

11/3/77

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Old Central Fire Station				2 OTHER NAMES:				3 date of entry: NOV 2 1977		4 county code: 03																																					
5 LOCATION street & number 66 Allen St.		city / town Pittsfield		vicinity of		state MA		county Berkshire		6 NPS REGION: NA																																					
7 OWNER ☐ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☒ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)								8 ADMINISTRATOR:																																							
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL 10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 01 1st				12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL				if state who prepared form?																																							
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO				14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO				15 ACCESSION ☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION																																							
16 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ good ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated ☐ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown				17 features: <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td style="width:33%;"> INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 </td> <td style="width:33%;"> EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 </td> <td style="width:33%;"> ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9 </td> </tr> </table>								INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7	EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8	ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9																																	
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18 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown				19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		20 SAVED? ☐ YES		21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no																																							
22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td>☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2</td> <td>☐ COMMERCE-6</td> <td>☐ ENGINEERING-11</td> <td>☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15</td> <td>☐ POLITICS/GUVT.-21</td> <td>☐ RECREATION-28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1</td> <td>☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7</td> <td>☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26</td> <td>☐ LAW-16</td> <td>☐ RELIGION-27</td> <td>☐ SETTLEMENT-29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ AGRICULTURE-3</td> <td>☐ CONSERVATION-8</td> <td>☐ EXPLORATION-12</td> <td>☐ LITERATURE-17</td> <td>☐ SCIENCE-23</td> <td>☐ URBAN PLANNING-31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ ARCHITECTURE-4</td> <td>☐ ECONOMICS-9</td> <td>☐ HEALTH-27</td> <td>☐ MILITARY-18</td> <td>☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24</td> <td>☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ ART-5</td> <td>☐ EDUCATION-10</td> <td>☐ INDUSTRY-13</td> <td>☐ MUSIC-19</td> <td>☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>☐ INVENTION-14</td> <td>☐ PHILOSOPHY-20</td> <td>☐ TRANSPORTATION-25</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>												☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2	☐ COMMERCE-6	☐ ENGINEERING-11	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15	☐ POLITICS/GUVT.-21	☐ RECREATION-28	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1	☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7	☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26	☐ LAW-16	☐ RELIGION-27	☐ SETTLEMENT-29	☐ AGRICULTURE-3	☐ CONSERVATION-8	☐ EXPLORATION-12	☐ LITERATURE-17	☐ SCIENCE-23	☐ URBAN PLANNING-31	☐ ARCHITECTURE-4	☐ ECONOMICS-9	☐ HEALTH-27	☐ MILITARY-18	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	☐ ART-5	☐ EDUCATION-10	☐ INDUSTRY-13	☐ MUSIC-19	☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30			☐ INVENTION-14	☐ PHILOSOPHY-20	☐ TRANSPORTATION-25		
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23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				24 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION																																							
26 architectural style(s):				27 architect:		28 master builder:		29 engineer:																																							
30 landscape architect / garden designer:			31 interior decorator:		32 artist:		33 artisan:		34 builder/contractor:																																						
35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:																																															
36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP																																															