

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JUL 6 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic Dimock Estate

and/or common ☒ Grove Hill Mansion (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Florence Road, and Front Street N/A not for publication

city, town Northampton N/A vicinity of congressional district 1

state MA code 025 county Hampshire code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture ☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial ☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational ☒ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ object	NA in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Alan Verson

street & number 16 Center Street

city, town Northampton N/A vicinity of state MA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampshire Registry of Deeds

street & number 33 King Street

city, town Northampton state MA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the title Commonwealth of Massachusetts #22 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1975 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state MA

7. Description

Dimock Estate, Northampton

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Grove Hill Mansion, a High Victorian mansion, is set on a hilltop overlooking the Mill River in the village of Leeds in Northampton. The house stands about 75 feet back from Front Street, surrounded by residential structures, a few of which are contemporary and the rest are later infill. The property contains $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, and includes at the front a stand of large pine trees which formed a distinctive part of the landscape when the house was built.

Highly eclectic and idiosyncratic in design, the brick mansion (built in 1880) incorporates elements of both Queen Anne and Eastlake styles. The building is generally $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories high, with a T-shape floor plan embellished by numerous Eastlakian porches and a $4\frac{1}{2}$ story tower at the front. Intersecting gable and hip roofs of the various building segments are broken by decorative chimneys (one of which enframes a window); all roof surfaces are covered with slate tiles.

Decorative brick and stone stringcourses enliven the walls, while the irregularly placed windows are articulated by granite sills and rusticated lintels. Brick relieving arches cap the second story windows. Wooden ornament of particular note includes the first floor porches on each side, featuring bulbous posts and a geometrically formed balustrade; stickwork and decorative shingling on the gable ends of the south wing; a covered balcony and open arcade on the tower; and a bracketed entablature with loosely interpreted triglyphs. The exterior remains essentially in its original condition.

On the interior, Grove Hill Mansion retains its grand period woodwork. The entrance vestibule is distinguished by double doors with etched and bevelled glass, oak panelling and strapwork, and a coffered ceiling. A central stairway opening onto all three floors has panelled wainscoting and unusually carved newels and balustrade in the Eastlake manner. Rooms on the first and second floors contain handsome fireplaces, some with set-in tiles, some with built-in shelves and cabinets above. These rooms have additional built-in cabinetry, wood trim, and hardwood floors; one contains concealed drawers in its panelled walls. On the third floor, rooms are generally furnished more simply. The third floor billiard room, however, has highly decorative beams and a cathedral-like ceiling, and the central area of this floor has a large handsome skylight with etched glass.

Fifty feet northeast of the house stands an original greenhouse. Approximately 10 feet wide by 30 feet long and 6 feet high, the structure has 14 inch thick brick bearing walls and a peaked roof of glass.

8. Significance

Dimock Estate, Northampton

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 1880 Builder/Architect E.C. Gardner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Grove Hill Mansion retains integrity of design, materials, setting, and location. The building is significant for its associations (1) with the development of Leeds Village and (2) with a locally prominent manufacturer and a regionally known architect, and as an excellent and unusual example of its style in the area. The property thus meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

Grove Hill Mansion was built in 1879-80 for Lucius Dimock, an incorporator and director of the Nonotuck Silk Company. The company manufactured silk threads and yarns from 1855 until 1921, when it passed out of local hands. The Nonotuck Silk Mill in Leeds was established in 1879 and is significant for its role in revitalizing the town after a disastrous flooding of the Mill River. Both the mill and mansion were objects of local pride. A contemporary newspaper account described the mill as a "model" factory, "massive, solid, neat and attractive," and the nearby owner's residence as "one of the finest houses in the Connecticut Valley."

The mansion was designed in 1879 by E.C. Gardner. A native of Ashfield, Gardner (1836-1915) began to practice architecture in Northampton at the age of 22. Gardner settled in Springfield after the Civil War and maintained a practice there until 1911. Although he designed numerous commercial buildings in Northampton prior to his move to Springfield, the Dimock house and one Elm Street residence, also of brick and designed in 1879, are his only residential designs yet identified in Northampton. The Dimock house remains a unique example of its style in the Northampton area.

As originally conceived, the Dimock estate was once considerable: about 20 acres of land including the mansion, greenhouse, barns and stables (the two latter since demolished), and many fine trees which graced the hill. Grove Hill Mansion was a product of the marriage of Dimock's wealth and late Victorian imagination, as well as Gardner's architectural skills. This local showpiece has recently been allowed to deteriorate, but plans are currently underway for the rehabilitation and re-use of the property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA Sept. 21, 1880 and July 3, 1946.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.5 acres

Quadrangle name Easthampton

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 18 639480 4691330
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with
Alan Verson

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date May 7, 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston

state MA

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Valerie Ann Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date June 28, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Item 10: Verbal Boundary Description

Deed Description, Hampshire Registry of Deeds, Book 2118, Page 49

Beginning at an iron pin set in the easterly line of Old Florence Street, so-called in the Village of Leeds, City of Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, thence N. $17^{\circ} 38' 20''$ W. a distance of 147.13 feet, more or less, along the easterly line of said Old Florence Street to a point; thence N. $7^{\circ} 56' 10''$ E. a distance of 12.66 feet, more or less, along the easterly line of said Old Florence Street to a point; thence N. $7^{\circ} 36' 40''$ E. a distance of 242.38 feet, more or less, along the easterly line of said Old Florence Street to an iron pin set at the intersection of said Old Florence Street and Front Street, so-called; thence N. $82^{\circ} 01' 10''$ E. along the southerly line of said Front Street a distance of 299.14 feet, more or less, to an iron pin at land shown as Lot 1 on a plan hereinafter mentioned; thence S. $9^{\circ} 28' 59''$ E. a distance of 195.97 feet, more or less, along said Lot 1 to a point; thence N. $88^{\circ} 27' 22''$ E. a distance of 103.00 feet, more or less, by land of said Lot 1 to an iron pin; thence S. $10^{\circ} 01' 50''$ E. a distance of 222.69 feet, more or less, to an iron pin at land shown as Tract 3 on the plan herein after mentioned; thence S. $85^{\circ} 01' 30''$ W. a distance of 329.49 feet, more or less, by land of said Tract 3 and Lot 4 on said plan to an iron pin; thence N. $88^{\circ} 22' 10''$ W. a distance of 131.41 feet, more or less, to the iron pin set at the beginning and being comprised of Parcels 2, 3 and 5 on a plan entitled "Land in Northampton, Mass. Surveyed for Samuel Goldman", as revised April 17, 1978 by Gordon E. Ainsworth & Associates, Inc., recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Plan Book 108, Page 38 to which plan reference is hereby made for a complete and accurate description;

being a portion of the premises described in deed of James C. O'Donnell, Special Master, dated June 15, 1973 and recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 1710, Page 121; Lot 2 contains approximately 20,559 square feet of land, Lot 3 contains approximately 21,195 square feet of land and Lot 5 contains approximately 2.86 acres of land with the buildings and other improvements thereon.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Grove Hill Mansion (Dimock Estate), Hampshire
County, MASSACHUSETTS,

Working No. 7/6/82-1930

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 8-4-82/8-20-82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 8/11/82

Entered in the ☐ RETURN

National Register ☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

☐ resubmission

☐ nomination by person or local government

☐ owner objection

☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



NORTHAMPTON, MASS.
Grove Hill Mansion

View from southwest
Photograph by Alan Verson, 1980
Negative filed with photographer,
16 Center Street, Northampton
Photo 1 of 3

Grove Hill Mansion,
Northampton, Mass.

view from southwest



NORTHAMPTON, MASS.
Grove Hill Mansion

View from north
Photograph by Alan Verson, 1980
Negative filed with photographer,
16 Center Street, Northampton
Photo 2 of 3

Grove Hill Mansion
Northampton, Mass

view from north



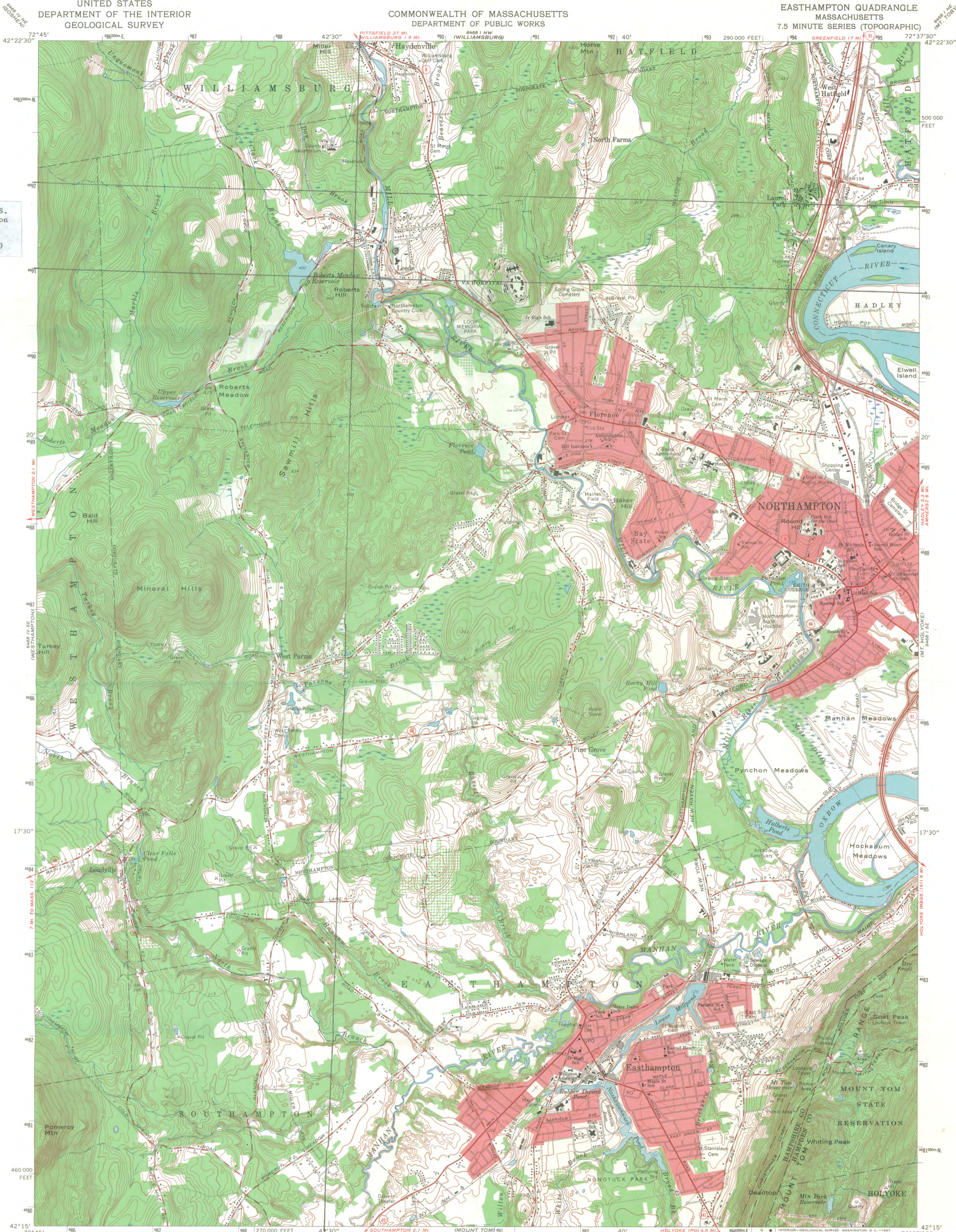
NORTHAMPTON, MASS.
Grove Hill Mansion

Interior: Entrance and
stair hall (*first floor*)
Photograph by Alan Verson,
1980

Negative filed with photo
photographer, 16 Center St,
Northampton
Photo 3 of 3

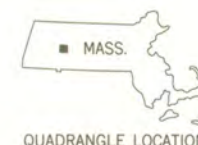
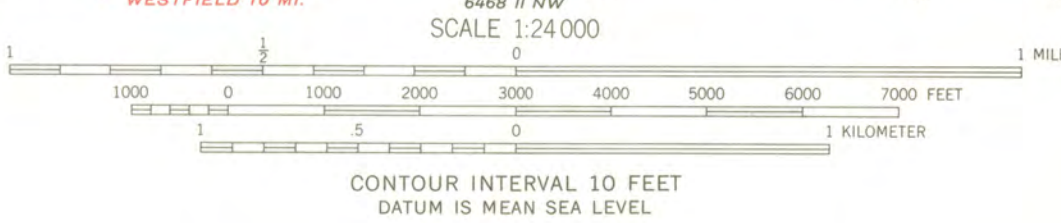
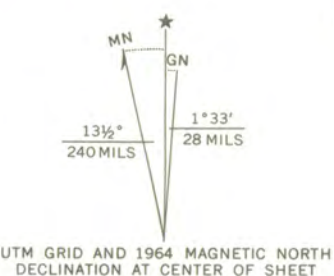
Grove Hill Mansion
Northampton, Mass

1st floor, hallway, stairs &
front doors



NORTHAMPTON, MASS.
Grove Hill Mansion
UTM Reference:
18/689480/4691330

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1935. Revised 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

EASTHAMPTON, MASS.
N4215—W7237.5/7.5

1964

AMS 6468 1 SW—SERIES V814

ALAN VERNON
ATTORNEY AT LAW

16 CENTER STREET, SUITE 312
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01060
TELEPHONE (413) 586-1348

February 11, 1982

RECEIVED

FEB 17 1982

Ms. Candy Jenkins
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Office of the Secretary of State
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts -2108

MASS. HIST. COMM.

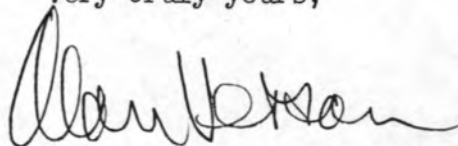
Dear Ms. Jenkins:

Enclosed is an application for registration of a building on the National Historic Register, along with photographs. Ms. Ann Tomasik is quite familiar with the building and has assisted in preparation of the application form that I am now submitting. I have also submitted to Mr. Orfant an application for certification of a rehabilitation project on the building.

The timing of this project requires that construction begin on May 1, and it will therefore be necessary, of course, that the registration and certification processes have been approved by the state Historical Commission prior to that time. I am hopeful that you will be able to assist me by having your Board act on this application for registration within this time frame.

I would be very appreciative if you would give me a phone call to discuss this matter after you have had an opportunity to review the application. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Enclosures



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

6/28/82

Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Becket: Becket Center Historic District (local)
Billerica: Manning Manse (local)
Lowell: Allen House (local)
Lowell: South Common Historic District (local)
Lowell: Washington Square Historic District (local)
Lowell: Wamesit Canal and Whipple Mill Complex (local)
✓ Northampton: Dimock Estate (local)
Westfield: Landlord Fowler Tavern (local - DOE: 11/79)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 - 75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/sac

