

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received SEP 9 1983

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Eber Sherman Farm (preferred)

and/or common Sherman-Carpenter Farm

2. Location

street & number 1010 State Road (Route 2) N/A not for publication

city, town North Adams N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Siciliano

street & number 1010 State Road

city, town North Adams N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds

street & number 65 Park Street

city, town Adams state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth, #M-299 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Eber Sherman Farm, North Adams, Massachusetts

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Eber Sherman Farm, consisting of 7.8 acres of land, lies 3/4 mile south of the Hoosic River and just north of the North Adams Airfield. It is located on State Road at the western edge of the city's limits close to its boundary with Williamstown.

The Eber Sherman House, built ca.1843, is one of four distinctive transitional Greek Revival/Italianate residences in North Adams. All of these buildings date from the mid 19th century; three are located in proximity to one another at the western edge of the city, with the other being nearer the center of town, and all employ common elements. Their shared features, which include heavy brackets, a wide frieze and a porticoed main entry, are combined in such a way that they create a distinctly local architectural form. The other three buildings retain their architectural integrity and will be subjects in a future multiple resource area nomination for the City of North Adams.

Similar to its three counterparts, the Eber Sherman House is a 2½-story, five-bay, center entry structure with a gable roof and two interior chimneys. This traditional plan is combined with Greek Revival features that include pilaster cornerboards, a wide frieze at the cornice, and a trabeated entrance composed of sidelights and a transom. Additional ornamentation, primarily Greek Revival in form, can be seen in small rectangular windows placed in each tympanum and octagonal columns that support a porticoed entry. One of the most distinctive features of this house, and the other three, however, is the use of prominent Italianate brackets at the cornice of the roof and entry portico.

Over the years no major changes or additions have altered the Eber Sherman House. It remains standing on its original stone foundation and retains its overall rectilinear five-by-two bay plan with two small 1- and 1½-story gabled ells attached to the eastern end of the building. The larger two-bay ell, featuring a columned porch, extends directly from the eastern elevation of the main building with the smaller wing being attached to the northern elevation of the larger extension.

On the grounds of the property, north of the house, stand the cheese cellar, three barn foundations, and a small milk house. The cellar, built adjacent to the house, is original to the property, measures approximately 10 feet by 12 feet, and is constructed of stone. Although only the foundations of the barns remain, a concrete milk house, built ca.1920, still stands, and since the 1960s has been used as a guest house.

8. Significance Eber Sherman Farm, North Adams, Massachusetts

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1843

Builder/Architect Eber Sherman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Eber Sherman House is located at the western end of North Adams on land that until 1900 was part of Williamstown. This property, now consisting of almost 8 acres, once included a little over 310 acres, and in the mid 19th century was well known locally as a prosperous and extensive dairy farm. The farmhouse, dating from ca.1843, is noteworthy for its architectural features which combine in a unique and distinctively local manner, Greek Revival elements along with Italianate detail. Significant for its association with an important and successful 19th century farming family as well as for its distinct architectural characteristics, the Eber Sherman House meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1813, William Sherman purchased from Daniel Day two parcels of land in North Adams totalling 310 acres. Sherman's newly purchased land holdings lay to the north and south of the Hoosic River. Known for his entrepreneurial abilities, Sherman, who lived in Williamstown proper throughout his life, not only operated a successful store there, but also amassed a substantial amount of land in the area. This farm and orchard in North Adams formed only a small part of his total holdings.

The nominated building, constructed by William's son Eber in 1843, was the second house to be built on this property. Still extant, the earlier structure, built ca.1825, is similar in plan and detail to the later house. It too is a five-bay, 2½-story dwelling with Greek Revival details that include pilaster cornerboards and a wide frieze. This building, located west of the nominated property, remained in the Sherman family until the last quarter of the 19th century.

In 1843, Eber Sherman purchased from his father the portion of land in North Adams which lay south of the Hoosic River. In that year, he built a substantial five-bay center entry farmhouse with distinct Greek Revival and Italianate details. Although similar in plan and ornamentation to the older dwelling on the property, this newer house with its heavy brackets and porticoed entry bore a more marked resemblance to three other residences constructed in the same period, and located nearby on land which until 1823 had formed the northern portion of the William Sherman property.

Unlike his father, who was involved in various business ventures, Eber concentrated on the management of his dairy and sheep farm which primarily produced wool, cheese, and milk. In addition to these activities, he and his brother Chauncy operated a retail cheese business. The farm remained

(Continued)

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

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

For NPS use only:

received:

date entered:

Continuation sheet Eber Sherman Farm,
North Adams, Mass.

Item number 8, 9, and 10 Page 1

a prosperous one through the Civil War, when it was greatly affected by a marked economic depression in the early 1870s which crippled the New England dairy industry. From this period through the early 20th century, although the land continued to be farmed, it never regained its economic viability. A reflection of the farm's decline can be seen in the quick changes of ownership which began in 1871 with the Sherman family selling their property and continued through the early 20th century. This period of instability ultimately culminated in a bank foreclosure in 1907. Since that time, the land surrounding the farm has been subdivided into smaller parcels, development which has resulted in diminishing the property's acreage to eight acres.

Although the environment surrounding the Eber Sherman House has changed substantially over the last 60 years, the farmhouse remains as a well preserved example of a distinct local architectural style which combines in an unusual manner Greek Revival and Italianate features. The building also stands as an important reminder of a period in North Adams' past which played a significant role in its early development.

The land surrounding the Eber Sherman House should be considered to contain subsurface remains of ancillary buildings and discrete and scattered trash deposits in addition to the visible barn foundations. Carefully designed and conducted research utilizing archaeological methods may provide information important to our understanding of past land use, the spatial configuration of and economic activities associated with a 19th century dairy farm, and aspects of domestic life in that period. Also, the property's location on the Hoosic River floodplain indicates a potential for the presence of prehistoric cultural remains.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Williamstown, The First Two Hundred Years, Robert R. Brooks, 1953.
Williamstown and Williams College. Arthur Lathan Perry, Robert R. Brooks, 1899.
Origins of Williamstown. Arthur Latham Perry, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1896.
Boyhood Reminiscences. Judge Keyes Danforth, Gazhay Brothers, 1895.
Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

boundary of State Road (Route 7), westerly from a point where Paull Brook crosses the highway. The east and west boundaries run 1164.2 feet south to the northern line of Harriman Airport, a line running N81 degrees - 42 degrees west. Paull Brook runs roughly through the middle of the property south to north. (See attached copy of the North Adams Assessors Map.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sherman, Eber, Farm
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 9 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 10/6/83 - 10/24/83
Action: ACCEPT 10/6/83
~~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 excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed unaltered altered original site moved 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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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 _____ Dated _____ Phone: _____



99-12

EBER SHERMAN FARM, 1010 State Road,
Route 2, North Adams, Mass. #99-12
James N. Parrish, 3/22/82, BCRPC,
10 Fenn St., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201

Eber Sherman Farm House (1843), view
South front facade

Photo 1 of 3



99-15

EBER SHERMAN FARM, 1010 State Road
Route 2, North Adams, Mass. #99-15
James N. Parrish, 3/22/82, BCRPC,
10 Fenn St., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201

Eber Sherman Farm House (1843), view
Northwest, rear ell

Photo 2 of 3



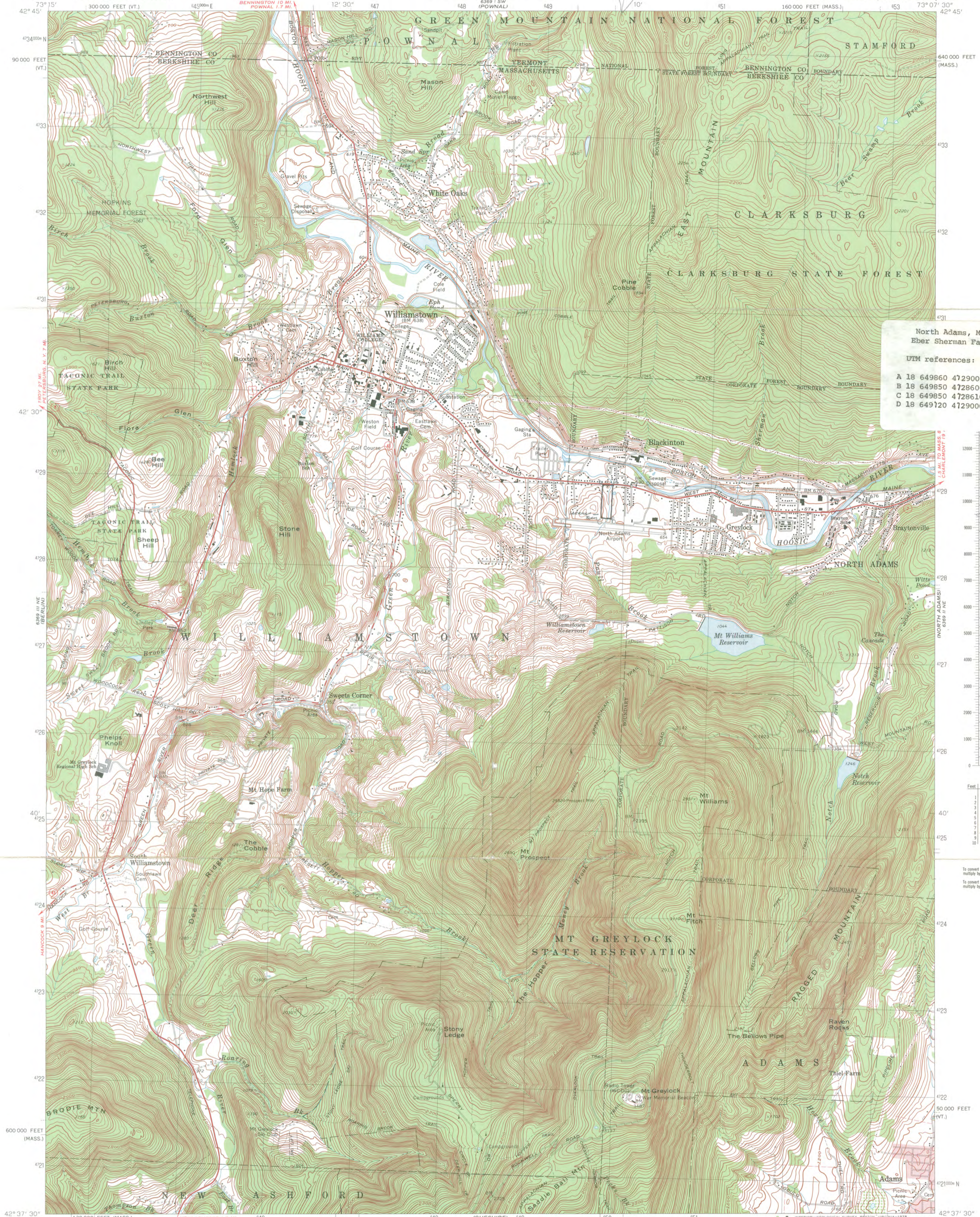
EBER SHERMAN FARM, 1010 State Road,
Route 2, North Adams, Mass. #99-10
James N. Parrish, 3/22/82, BCRPC,
10 Fenn St., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201

Eber Sherman Farm House (1843), stair-
case, newel post volute upon a plynth,
mahogany

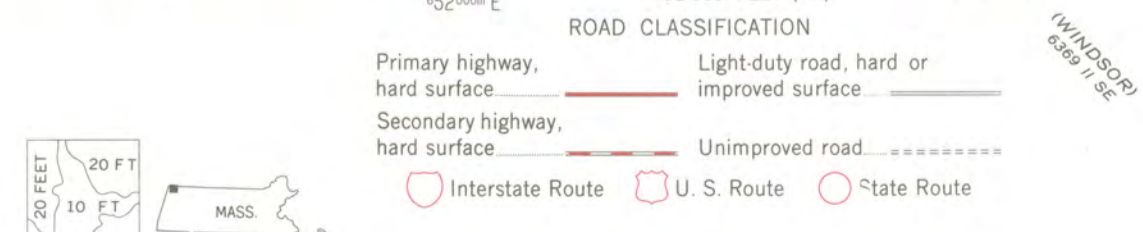
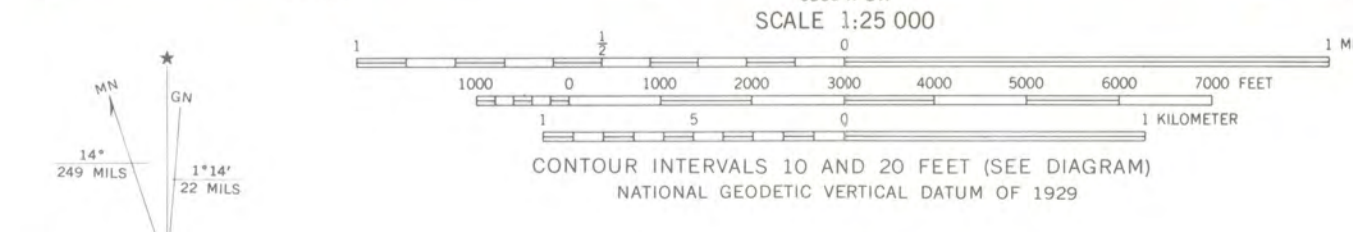
Photo 3 of 3

North Adams
Eber Sherman Farm
A 18 649860 4729000
B 18 649850 4728600
C 18 649850 4728610
D 18 649720 4729000

North Adams, MA
Eber Sherman Farm
UTM references:
A 18 649860 4729000
B 18 649850 4728600
C 18 649850 4728610
D 18 649720 4729000

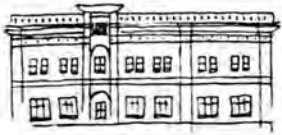


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Field checked 1944. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Vermont coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
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



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

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.-VT.
N4237.5—W7307.5/7.5
1973
AMS 6369 II NW—SERIES V814



North Adams Historical Commission

North Adams, Massachusetts 01247

May 25, 1982

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear People,

The North Adams Historical Commission fully supports the nomination of the Eber Sherman Farm (N.A. Historic Properties Survey, 1978, M-299) to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Sherman Farm is one of the few North Adams Greek Revival houses that survived the Queen-Anne architectural boom of the 1880's and as such is particularly important to the architectural history of the city.

The Commission would also like to commend the Siciliano Family and Jim Parrish for the time and effort put into preparing the nomination form. Their work has added considerably to our fund of local history in addition to the Sherman Farm's value for national history.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Connerton
Daniel P. Connerton
Chair, Historical Commission