

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name PILGRIM MEMORIAL CHURCH and PARISH HOUSE

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 249 Wahconah Street N/A not for publication

city or town PITTSFIELD N/A vicinity

state MASSACHUSETTS Code MA county BERKSHIRE code 003 zip code 01201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon 10/11/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the
National Register
☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Eamon H. Beall 11.25.05

PILGRIM MEMORIAL CHURCH and PARISH HOUSE

Name of Property

BERKSHIRE, MA

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

☒ private☐ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal☒ building(s)☐ district☐ site☐ structure☐ object**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

20

building

00

sites

00

structures

11

objects

31

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**N/A**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic/ RomanesqueEarly 20th Century Commercial**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: fieldstone, poured concretewalls STONE: fieldstone, graniteBRICKroof STONE: slate, composition; built-up

other _____

Narrative Description

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

(Please refer to continuation sheets)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The Pilgrim Memorial Church (MHC# 205) is located in Pittsfield's North End on Wahconah Street in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood. The church faces east on Wahconah Street. The property, a little over half an acre, is bordered on the south by a row of mature pine trees. The property consists of a two contributing buildings: a stone church, built in 1897, with an attached Parish House, built in 1927; one contributing object, a stone date block on the front lawn with a "1927" date; and a non-contributing object, a new wooden sign near the sidewalk announcing "Pilgrim Memorial Church." The style of this small church building lies in the simplicity of line and function.

Designed by architect H. Neill Wilson of Pittsfield, the church is constructed of local fieldstone and exhibits elements of the Gothic and Romanesque, in styles popular at the turn-of-the-century. The style of this small church is reflective of the original plans to erect a chapel first and a larger church later, which was never built. The exterior stone walls are laid in an irregular pattern with one square stone belt course around the top of the foundation wall.

The building form is simple with thick walls and few windows. The parapetted gabled roof runs lengthwise over the sanctuary parallel to Wahconah Street and intersects with a lower projecting parapetted gabled ell at the front entry wall. The church has reinforcing buttresses perpendicular to the gable ends and walls, which add substance to the building and, on the front façade, divide the four bays south of the projecting entry ell. In total, there are five bays on the front façade: four equal ones and one bay consisting of the projecting front gabled entrance with Gothic-arched doors of wooden vertical planking. To the right of the front doors, set in the wall, is a date block, which reads "MDCCCLXIII" and "MDCCCXCVII" to commemorate the founding of the Sunday School and the construction date of the present building. The bays are articulated by the stone buttresses on the exterior and reinforcing buttresses perpendicular to each gable wall. Roofing on the church is slate, which exhibits visible repairs of mis-colored states. There are two chimneys, one at the rear southwest corner of the building and the other of lower profile at the northeast corner of the building next to the Parish Hall addition. Both chimneys penetrate the eave line of the rear and front walls. Stone for the 1897 church building came from the Martin Gaylord quarry on New Lenox Road. Gaylord is listed in the 1897 Pittsfield city directory as a farmer at this address, but according to the 1927 church directory, he was not a founding member of the church.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 7 Page 2

The Gothic windows and front door have no adornment except for granite frames. The front door in the projecting ell is composed of vertical planking. First-story windows on either side of the sanctuary consist of paired, rounded-arched windows with wooden frames set into the stone walls with vertically laid stonework forming shallow arched lintels and simple flush stone sills. Windows in the front of the sanctuary, which is located on the south wall behind the altar, consist of three separate openings with very tall pointed-arched Gothic windows. The center window rises above the two Gothic-arched flanking windows. This triad of windows on the south side is set apart by the stone walls of the south side of the building. Below each window on the south side are three raised rectangular basement windows centered below the Gothic-arched triad of windows above. Windows on the main floor are doubled and are leaded and diamond patterned.

The Parish House, also designed by Wilson, is a one-story building with a low gabled parapet and flat tar roof, set back from the main church façade and attached to the church at the northeast corner. It is faced in tan brick with a chimney to the north. Under the gabled parapet is one bay recessed with brick corbelling and banding consisting of a brick soldier course. In front of this facing the street is a lower projecting space covered by a shed-roofed porch on the front façade with white aluminum flashing at the eaves. This area had a gabled front entrance supported by wrought iron posts, is four bays wide, and the two bays north of the entrance consist of a three-window bay divided by a brick pilaster from a single-window bay and another brick end pilaster. The shed roofed porch on the Parish House terminates in a raised parapetted wall on the north side. The style of the Parish House is Early 20th Century Commercial. Front façade original windows are 1/1s in wooden frames with concrete sills. This building has a partial form-concrete basement.

The interior of the church is largely devoted to the sanctuary, which is oriented lengthwise, and parallel to the street to the left of the front entrance, and measures 33' x 40'. The roof of the sanctuary has four exposed Gothic-arched chestnut trusses with purlins, and is stained a dark brown. The lower portion of the walls is chestnut beaded wainscot and the upper portion to the eaves is plaster. The raised altar area has a free-standing oak pulpit, and deacon chairs situated behind a communion table. To the left of the altar is a choir stall, and to the right, an organ. Opposite the front of the sanctuary, to the north above the front entrance is a gallery with additional seating facing the sanctuary. The pews are paneled chestnut. The floor is carpeted. Front and rear shallow

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 7 Page 4

arched windows have a stained glass green surround at the wooden frames with gold and brown stained glass in a diamond pattern. Behind and parallel to the sanctuary is a hallway leading to offices and toilet facilities, and into the Parish Hall.

The current organ, installed in 1920, was manufactured by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont. The organ is a late production of this company and is numbered #1938. Between 1915-1920, Estey produced 25,000 organs and another 24,000 between 1920-1925. These were the two peak five-year periods of production in the 20th century. The Estey company began manufacturing organs in 1848 and closed the business in 1955.

The oak organ case at the Pilgrim Memorial Church measures nine feet wide and nine-and-a-half feet deep, including the bench. The visible pipes have a gold finish and are for show. The working organ pipes are metal and not visible. There are 17 stops, two-and-a-half octave pedals, two keyboards, and a five octave swell. It has not been electrified. This current organ replaced a previous 1899 organ donated to the church by the well-known Pittsfield music store, Wood Brothers, on Upper North Street. Installation of the 1920 organ required moving the choir from the right side of the sanctuary to the left side, the only major physical change to the interior of the sanctuary.

The church has a random ashlar stone foundation. Raised basement windows are 2/2 double hung in wooden frames. The basement contains a Sunday school room under the sanctuary, a basement closet, a paint and tool closet, a supply closet, and a nursery room for young children. Floors are maple and walls are plaster with a ceiling in the Sunday school room supported by iron posts.

The interior of the Parish House contains a parlor to the right of the front door off a foyer with a fireplace on the north wall of tan brick with an oak mantle. The parlor floor is carpeted. Behind the parlor is a large high-ceilinged fellowship hall at right angles to the sanctuary with a stage at the rear. Offices and a kitchen complete the rooms in the Parish House addition. Walls are rough plaster and pine grooved panelling. Floors are maple, and doors contain five panels. The kitchen has its original wooden cupboards, acoustic ceiling tiles, and vinyl squares on the floor.

Condition:

The church has been plagued with a wet basement since its original construction in 1897. It was sited on low ground not far from Onota Brook emanating from Peck's Pond to the northwest of the church property. Use of the church facilities for meetings was suspended in October, 1938, when the floodwaters made it impossible to use the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 7 Page 5

facilities. The front shed roof of the Parish House leaks and has done so for many years, and the basement stairway of the church also leaks, staining the walls. The maple floor of the fellowship hall recently buckled from water damage. The boiler in the Parish House basement currently needs repairs.

Alterations:

The interior of the sanctuary has had one major alteration since construction in 1897: when the new organ was installed in 1920, the choir was moved from the right side of the sanctuary to the left side.

For a time, the church property included a Parish House on land donated by the Russell family in 1908. In 1971, the Pittsfield General Hospital (now Berkshire Medical Center) bought the parsonage and tore it down in order to expand hospital facilities. Also, in 1905, the Russell Manufacturing Company gave a revokable license to the church to erect and use a horse shed on company land behind the church property and gave another license to use a way for access from Wahconah Street to the shed over company land. These licenses were apparently revoked after automobiles replaced horses as the primary mode of transport and the horse shed was no longer needed by the church.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the church property, sites may be present. Six sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the nominated property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that support the presence of ancient sites. The church and parish house are built on a well-drained, level to moderately sloping outwash plain/stream terrace within 1,000 feet of Onota Brook and the west branch of the Housatonic River. The area lies within the Housatonic River drainage. In general, however, the potential for locating significant ancient Native American resources on the property is low. The small size of the parcel (0.594 acres combined) with construction of the church and parish house indicates any Native American resources that were present were destroyed during construction.

A low to moderate potential also exists for locating significant historic archaeological resources on the nominated property. Archaeological evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist; however, none have been identified. Structural evidence of outbuildings may also exist. A horse shed was built by the church on the adjacent Russell Manufacturing Company property. Other than the church and parish house, no additional structures were known to exist on the church property.

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PILGRIM MEMORIAL CHURCH and PARISH HOUSE

Name of Property

BERKSHIRE, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE**SOCIAL HISTORY****RELIGION****Period of Significance****1897-1955****Significant Dates****1897, 1927****Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A**Cultural Affiliation****N/A****Architect/Builder****WILSON, H. NEILL (a) 1897, 1927; DODGE and
DEVANNEY (b) 1897; PIKE, D. HERBERT (b) 1927****Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 8 Page 1**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pilgrim Memorial Church is significant under Criterion A for its associations with the development of Pittsfield, specifically for its association with the Jabez L. Peck and Son textile mill and the S. N. and C. Russell Manufacturing Company (and their successors, the Berkshire Woolen mill, the Elmvale and the Wyandotte mills), from which the church drew most of its members. It is significant under Religion as the first religious endeavor in Pittsfield's North End to accommodate the families of mill workers living at that end of town. It is also eligible under Criterion C as a small-sized, modest, and inexpensive local example of late 19th century ecclesiastical architecture, incorporating both the Romanesque and Gothic styles of architecture from a design by local architect H. Neill Wilson. The Parish House, also designed at the end of Wilson's career, is an example of Early 20th Century Commercial architecture, popular in the 1920s. As a religious property the church is also eligible under Criteria Consideration A.

Criterion A

The Pilgrim Memorial Church is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of significance "Social History" and "Religion." Pilgrim Memorial was both an informal outgrowth of the First Congregational Church of Pittsfield and a direct outgrowth of the Peck and Russell Sunday School which began on the North End neighborhood of Pittsfield in 1863. From the Sunday school came the movement toward the establishment of a Congregational church in the northwestern section of Pittsfield, known as the North End. The Sunday school and the 1897 church were responses to the population growth of Ward 1, comprising the "North End" neighborhood, and the felt need for a church in that area of the city. Until the church was established, all Pittsfield churches were in the downtown commercial area of the city.

The spirit of the Social Gospel and a concern for Christian fellowship pervaded the school from the beginning and set the tone for the social activism of the church after its founding in 1897. The church, as the Sunday school had done before, was socially active in Pittsfield's North End and has a strong tradition of servicing residents in that area of the city where many of the residents were employed in the textile mills located there. At the 10th anniversary of the Church exercises in 1907, the central ministry of the church was described in the *Report of the Exercises at the Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary...* "as bringing the Pilgrim Memorial Church "into closer contact with this community." This report stressed the congregation's social and religious mission: "Ours is the responsibility for the spiritual welfare of practically the whole population of this end of Pittsfield."

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 8 Page 2

In the winter of 1862-63, representatives of the Protestant churches in the city met to divide the town into districts with interested churchmen assigned to visit families not attending church. The district in the North End around the neighborhood of the Peck and Russell woolen mills fell to a committee of three canvassers: Jabez L. Peck, owner of two textile factories on Onota Brook which produced flannel and cotton warp, and two other men representing the First Congregational and the Methodist churches. As a result of their visits, Jabez Peck and Samuel Howe of the Methodist Church started a Sunday School to serve families of the area, known as Peck's Factory Sabbath School, using largely instructors from the First Church in downtown Pittsfield. According to the "Pilgrim Memorial Church, 1897-1972" pamphlet: "Although many families in the North End were members of down-town churches, they found a neighborhood Sunday School convenient ... when in the latter part of the nineteenth century public transportation was almost non-existent." (p. 3) It was not until 1897 that the Pilgrim Memorial Church was actually founded and built on Wahconah Street from contributions from friends of the Peck and Russell Sunday School on a lot purchased for a church as early as 1876 by S.N. and C. Russell manufacturing company, in the hope that a church would someday be built.

Around 1883, after moving twice, thriving, and growing, the Sabbath School moved into a new building provided by textile mill owners Jabez L. Peck and Son and Solomon N. and Charles Russell, two brothers who had owned the S. N. and C. Russell Manufacturing Company. Charles died in 1870, but members of the Russell family continued to operate the textile mills until 1928, when the main mill was leased by the Elmvale Worsted Company. The Russell family, continuing with Zeno Russell, Henry R. Russell, and Miss Jane Austin Russell became dedicated servants of both the Sunday School and then of the church when it was founded in 1897. It was Russells who donated the land on which the church and parish house sit today. Jabez Peck died in 1895, but his son, Thomas D. Peck remained a generous contributor to the Pilgrim Memorial Church. Both the Peck and Russell families were members of the First Church of Christ, Congregational. Superintendents of the Sunday school between 1863-1895 were Jabez L. Peck, Zeno Russell, and I. F. Chesley. The 25th anniversary celebration of the Sunday school included a speech which described the success of the school in terms of the Pecks and Russell contributions:

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 8 Page 3

Because Christian men owned the mills, they felt a deep responsibility for those who were to them something other than hands. Mr. Russell's quiet strength and sweet reasonableness conserved what Mr. Peck's fiery zeal had begun. . . Together these mills bore the financial burden, together their owners labored and prayed and fostered friendship [One man commented about the success of the Sunday school: "We never could have had it if the owners of the mills had not kept it up"]

True to the original mission, the church and Sunday school have continuously been proactive in the immediate neighborhood, the city, and in wider circles. Throughout each year, church records indicate various fund-raising endeavors through penny socials, church suppers, auctions, card parties, rummage sales, catering of weddings, and food tables. Money and support was given to a long list of causes over the years: for example, the Home Mission, the Seamen's Friend Society (for over 43 years), the "New Morning Star" (a mission ship to Micronesia), various missions in the United States from New York to Minnesota; support to Labrador, books for the Turks, the Fresh Air Fund, Boys Club, Colored Sunday School, Red Cross, Poor Whites, Tennessee, American Board of Foreign Missions, Cuba, Puerto Rico, India Relief, Assistant Pastor in China, Japanese Relief, Bowery Mission, school for colored girls in the South, and Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. In 1921, the church congregation befriended the Russian Society by offering the downstairs of the church when the Russians had a large congregation.

After the Parish House was built in 1927, with its large auditorium and stage, which could be converted to a gymnasium, records of the Standing Committee indicate that the facility was used as an active community center, so numerous were the groups and activities each week. In the late 1920s and early 1930s the Parish House was rented to Pittsfield's Health Board for \$100 per year to be used as a health clinic for babies living in the North End. So many groups used the Parish House that the Standing Committee voted "that the Parish House be not for rent to any persons or societies not affiliated in some manner with the church" in 1932. Nonetheless, for decades after 1927, it was rented out for a nominal fee to several troops of Boy Scouts, and used for girls' neighborhood basketball teams and practices. In 1940, the church allowed the Civilian Conservation Corps to use the Parish House for \$8.00 a night, just enough money to pay for the light, heat, and a janitor. On April 2, 1941, before Pearl Harbor and the U.S.A. entry into World War II, the Standing Committee voted to form a Social Action Committee to prepare an appeal for funds for the "suffering people abroad."

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 8 Page 4

Each year, the church records show the benevolences of the congregation. The Parish House was rented to the city in 1942. In 1943, the church voted to make the minister's study available to six air raid wardens during blackouts and allowed the use of the auditorium once a month for the Air Raid Wardens' meetings. In 1945, the church decided to hold neighborhood prayer meetings and allowed a local chapter of the DeMolay Society use of the Parish House for basketball. The same year, people in the church were asked to double their gifts to the War Victims and Services committee. In 1947, the church voted to let the old boiler room be used for a Train Club supervised by Y.M.C.A. personnel, and voted in 1950 to turn over use of this room to the Explorer Scouts. Church records show that the legacy of social activism at Pilgrim Memorial Church has continued throughout the history of the church right up to the present. The church is currently active in several community-outreach programs: the Christian Center, a local program which provides lunches, clothing, and money to the under-privileged in Pittsfield; the Elizabeth Freeman Center; Habitat for Humanity; the Salvation Army, and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Criterion C

The church architecture is modest and the building small for an H. Neill Wilson commission, but the Pilgrim Memorial Church is a small architectural gem of the Gothic/Romanesque style. The size of the edifice fit the pocketbooks of the donors and fundraisers. The 1897 church building plans were originally conceived by Wilson to be two buildings: a church with a seating capacity of 450 to cost \$20,000-\$25,000, and a smaller chapel, seating 300 at the cost of \$7,000. Either could be built first with the other added when the time came. It was the chapel which was begun when local contractor Dodge and Devanny broke ground on July 8, 1897. Even \$7,000 was an enormous sum to raise in those days, although Wilson donated his time and waived his architectural fees. The larger church was never built. When additional space was needed for the many social and religious functions of the church, the congregation went back to Wilson with a request to design a Parish House. The Jane Austin Russell Parish House attached to the Pilgrim Memorial Church was commissioned by the church in 1924, toward the end of Wilson's life. It was completed a year after Wilson's death in 1927. Contemporary newspaper articles described the architecture of the church as Gothic.

Henry Neill Wilson (1855-1926), a Pittsfield architect, was trained by his father, a midwest architect named James K. Wilson who favored the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Henry Neill Wilson was born near Cincinnati, Ohio, working with the firm of Water and Wilson in Cincinnati and, then, briefly in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Wilson

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MASection number 8 Page 5

came to Berkshire County in 1885. In 1899, he took a partner, Henry E. Weeks, and the firm then became Wilson & Weeks. His various commissions included churches, hotels, private residences, and commercial buildings. Notable Wilson designs in Pittsfield include the Wollison-Shipton Building at 142-156 North Street (1888); the Berkshire County Home for Aged Women in (1888), St. Stephen's Parish House; the Wendell Hotel at Park Square (1898, razed); the Pilgrim Memorial Church (1897) and Parish House (built in 1927); and a number of fine Pittsfield residences during the 1880s and 1890s. He also designed three commercial buildings in Pittsfield on Upper North Street: the North Union Block (in 1890, burned and rebuilt in 1891), the Mills Block (1897, burned in 1940), and the New Mills Block, designed by Wilson and Weeks in 1901, and converted to the Capitol Theater in 1921-1922. Wilson also designed the Irving House in Dalton (razed); the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, the Town Hall and Library in Dalton (1892); the Ten Eyck Hotel in Albany, N.Y.; and collaborated with Charles T. Rathbun on the Housatonic Congregational Church (1893-94) in Great Barrington.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute additional information relating to the landuse history of the church property and the social, cultural, and economic lives of the church parishioners. Identification and mapping of outbuilding remains may help locate all structures and facilities related to the church. Detailed analysis of artifact distributions and the contents of occupational related features may contribute important details about the church parishioners and ultimately the residents of Pittsfield.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

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"Ceremonies at the Laying of the Corner Stone." *The Sun*, August 12, 1897, pp. 1,2.

"Cornerstone of New Parish House of Pilgrim Memorial is Formally Put in Place," *The Berkshire Evening Eagle*, August 1, 1927, p. 3, 4.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

"Impressive Memorial Service for Miss Jane A. Russell," *The Berkshire Evening Eagle*, March 7, 1927, p. 3.

"Letters from the Past." *The Berkshire Eagle*, January 23, 2000.

"New Parish House Project to be Undertaken by Church." *The Berkshire Evening Eagle*, April 16, 1927, p. 11.

"A New Pittsfield Church." Undated 1897 clipping in Church Scrapbook, 1897-1928.

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"Pilgrim Memorial Church." *The Sun*, March 18, 1897, p. 7.

"Pilgrim Memorial Church Grew Out of Peck and Russell Sunday School." *The Berkshire Eagle*, June 16, 1934.

"Spirit of the Past" [Peck and Russell Sunday School]. *The Berkshire Evening Eagle*, September, 1913.

"Two Berkshire Men Remain in N.C. Jail." *The Berkshire Eagle*, April 2, 1964.

Church Records

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"Philathea Society Secretary Reports for Pilgrim Memorial Church. On file: Church archives.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MA

Section number 9 Page 3

Pilgrim Memorial Church Records, April 1897-January 1, 1907. On file: Church archives.

"Pilgrim Memorial Church Records, 1914 to 1937 inclusive." On file: Church Archives.

"Pilgrim Memorial Church Records, January 1938-_____ [October, 1951]." On file: Church Archives.

"Records Evening Side Parish, Pilgrim Memorial Church," 1896, 1897. On file: Church archives.

Records of the Parish House Fund in separate file folders for the years 1922, 1923, 1926, 1927, 1928. On file: Church archives.

"Report of the Exercises at the Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Organization of the Pilgrim Memorial Church, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, March 10 and March 14, 1907." On file: Church Archives.

"Report of the Exercises at the Celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Organization of the Pilgrim Memorial Church, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, May 2, 1912." On file: Church Archives.

"Scrapbook of Pilgrim Memorial Church, compiled by Miss Caroline Tucker, 1897-1928." On file: Church Archives.

Stone, Orra L. *History of Massachusetts Industries*. Vol. 1. Boston: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1930.

Maps

Beers, F. W. *County Atlas of Berkshire, Massachusetts*. New York, 1876, pp. 45-46.

"Pittsfield, Mass. (Birdseye)." A. M. Van de Carr: South Schodak, New York, 1899.

Barnes and Farnham. *Atlas of Berkshire County, Massachusetts*. Pittsfield: Barnes and Farnham, 1904, Plate 7.

Interviews

Alan Gold, church organist, October 7, 2003.

(end)

PILGRIM MEMORIAL CHURCH and PARISH HOUSE

Name of Property

BERKSHIRE, MA

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References See continuation sheet.**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. Zone 18 Easting 643560 Northing 4702740

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Norene Roberts, historical consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHCorganization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September, 2005street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02125-3314**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name PILGRIM MEMORIAL CHURCH (c/o Mrs. Evelyn Harmon, Church historian, POB 118, Richmond MA 01254street & number 249 Wahconah Street telephone (413) 447-7443city or town Pittsfield state MA zip code 01201**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as Block 2 Lot 5 on the accompanying City of Pittsfield Assessors' map, Sheet H12. The parcel number is: H120002005. The total lot area is 0.594 acres.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the entire single parcel of land in the legal description, containing a church building, attached Parish House, street sign, and stone marker.

(end)

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Photographer: Norene Roberts

Date of photographs: September 24, 2003

Location of Negatives: Pilgrim Memorial Church

1. View facing NW, church to left, Parish House (attached) to the right.
2. View facing N
3. Interior view facing W toward front of sanctuary
4. Interior view facing E toward back of sanctuary and balcony

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

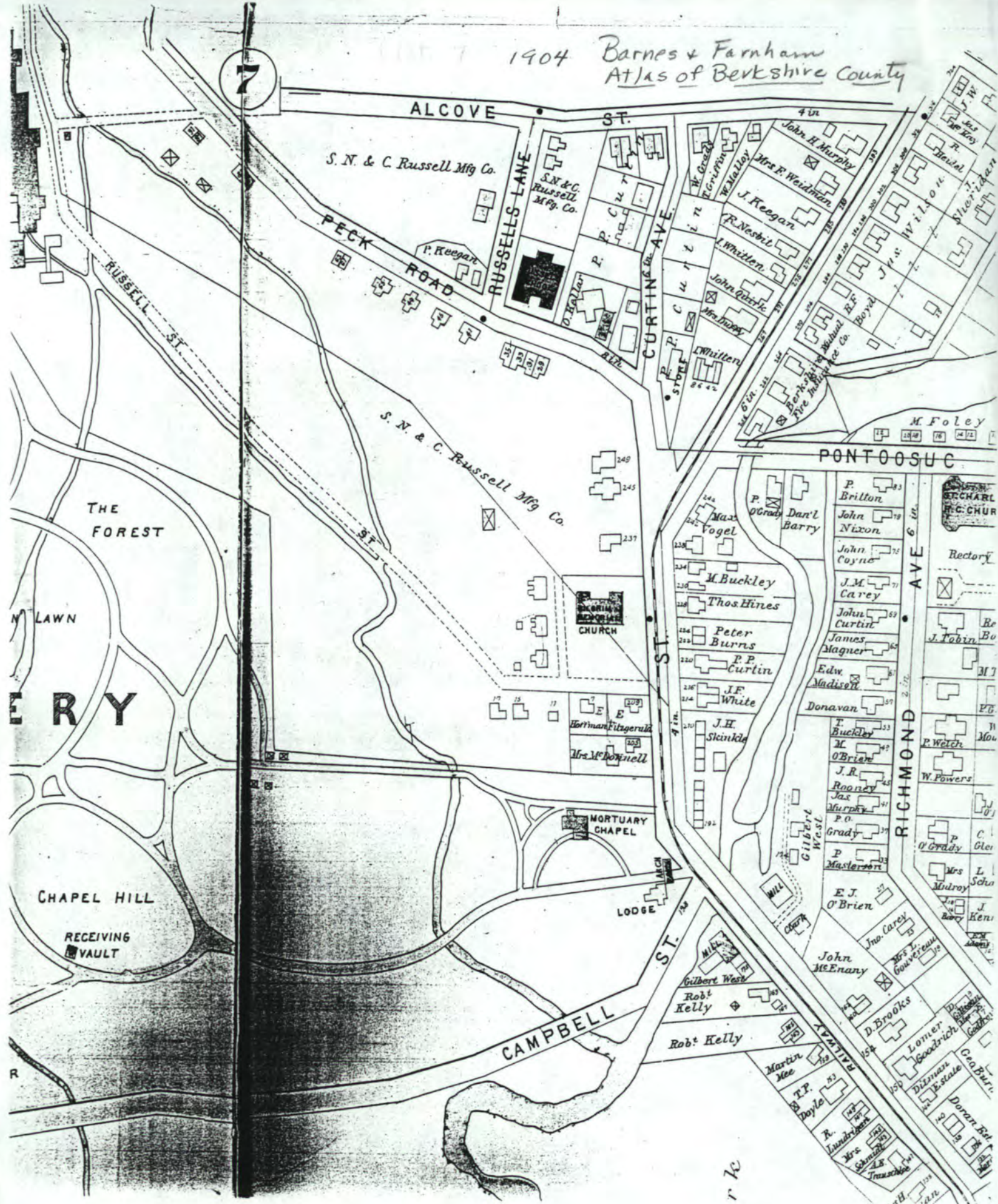
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pilgrim Memorial Church & Parish House
Pittsfield (Berkshire), MA

Section number _____ Page _____

DATA SHEET, PILGRIM MEMORIAL CHURCH

Pilgrim Church	1897	fieldstone	Gothic & Romanesque	B	C
Parish House	1927	brick, concrete	20 th century commercial	B	C
Date block	1927	stone		O	C
Sign board	ca. 1985	wood		O	NC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Pilgrim Memorial Church and Parish House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

DATE RECEIVED: 10/14/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/09/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/24/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/27/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001323

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

1 ACCEPT _____ RETURN _____ REJECT _____ 11.25.05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Pilgrim Memorial Church
249 Wahconah Street, Pittsfield
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Photographer: Norene Roberts

Date of photograph: Sept. 24, 2003

Location of Negative: Pilgrim Memorial Church

View facing: Northwest, Church to the left, Parish House
(attached) to the right.



Pilgrim Memorial Church

249 Wahconah Street, Pittsfield

Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Photographer: Norene Roberts

Date of photograph: Sept. 24, 2003

Location of negative: Pilgrim Memorial Church

View facing: North



Pilgrim Memorial Church

249 Wahconah Street, Pittsfield
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Photographer: Morene Roberts

Date of Photograph: April, 2005

Location of negative: Pilgrim Memorial Church

View facing: West toward front of Sanctuary



Pilgrim Memorial Church

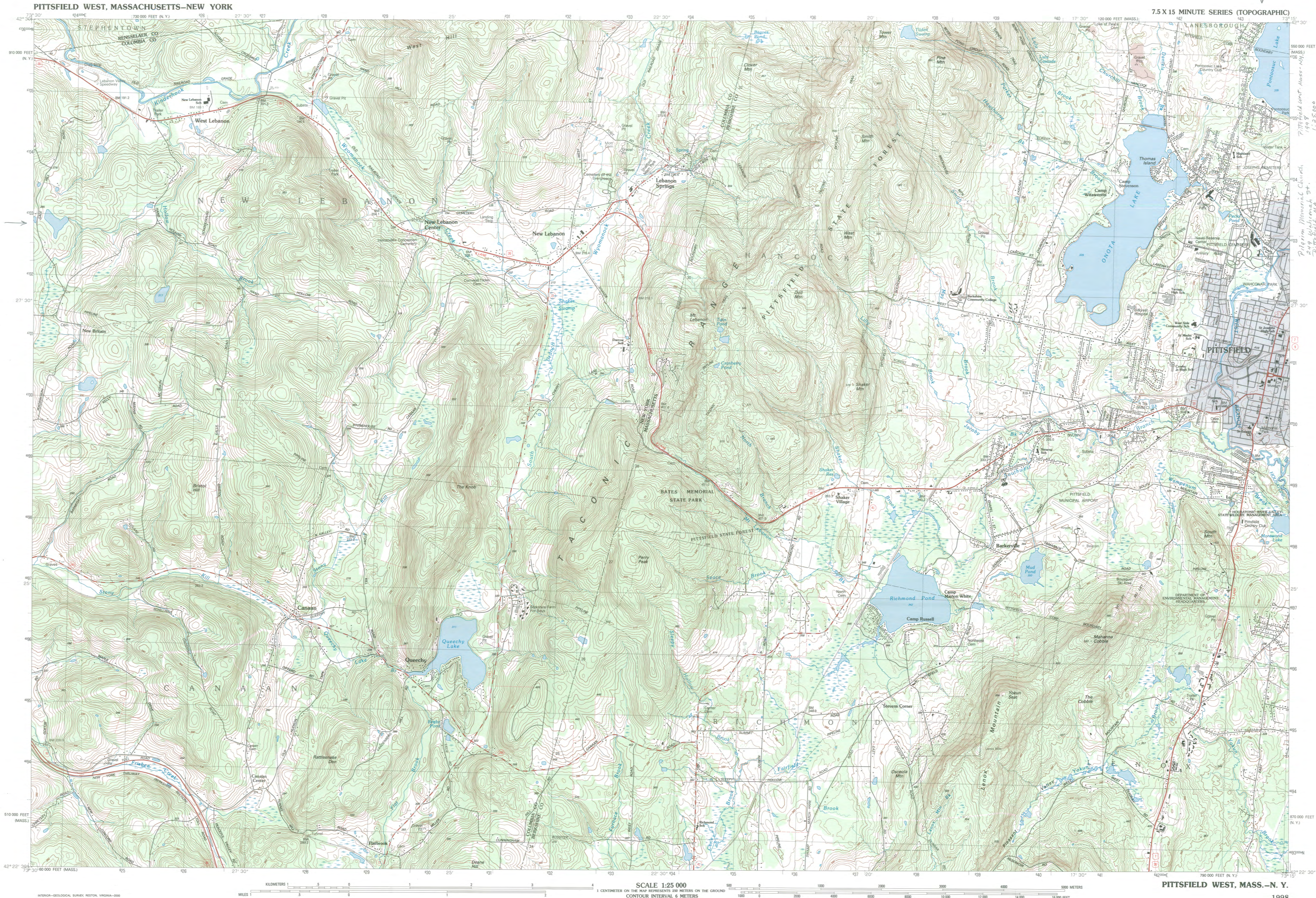
249 Wahconah Street, Pittsfield
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

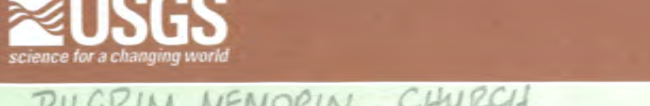
Photographer: Morene Roberts

Date of photograph: April, 2005

Location of negative: Pilgrim Memorial Church

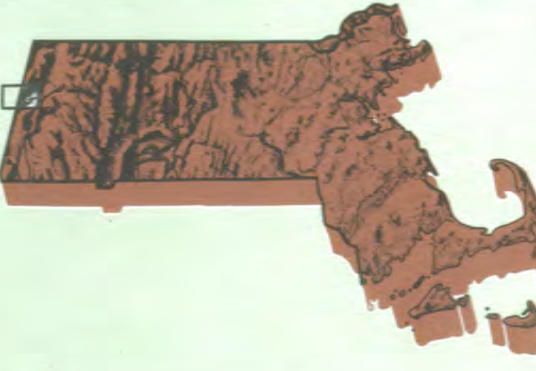
View facing: East toward back of sanctuary + balcony





Pittsfield West
MASS.-N. Y. (BERKSHIRE), MA

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

1998

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Derived from imagery taken 1981 and other sources. Photostereoscopic using imagery taken 1998; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1981.
Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 2000.

This area also covered by 7.5-minute, 1:25,000-scale maps: Canaan and Pittsfield West dated 1979.

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18. 10 000-foot ticks. Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone and New York coordinate system, east zone.

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 6 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet		1	2	3	
1	3.281		1	2	3	
2	6.562		4	5		
3	9.843					
4	13.124					
5	16.405					
6	19.686					
7	22.967					
8	26.248					
9	29.529					
10	32.810					
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (000) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.				
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048						

1	2	3
4	5	
6	7	8

1 Naden (7.5')
2 Stephentown Center
3 Canaan
4 East Canaan (7.5')
5 Pittsfield East
6 Canaan (7.5')
7 Stockbridge
8 East Lee



Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road; trail	.....
Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State	.....
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	.....
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County, parish	.....
Civil township; precinct; district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument; found section corner	.....
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	.....
Range, township; section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam; dam with lock	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	.....
Windmill; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or drift	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	.....
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapid, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Swamp; marsh	.....
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	.....
Woodland; scattered trees	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request.

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

1998

CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
ASSESSORS' MAPS

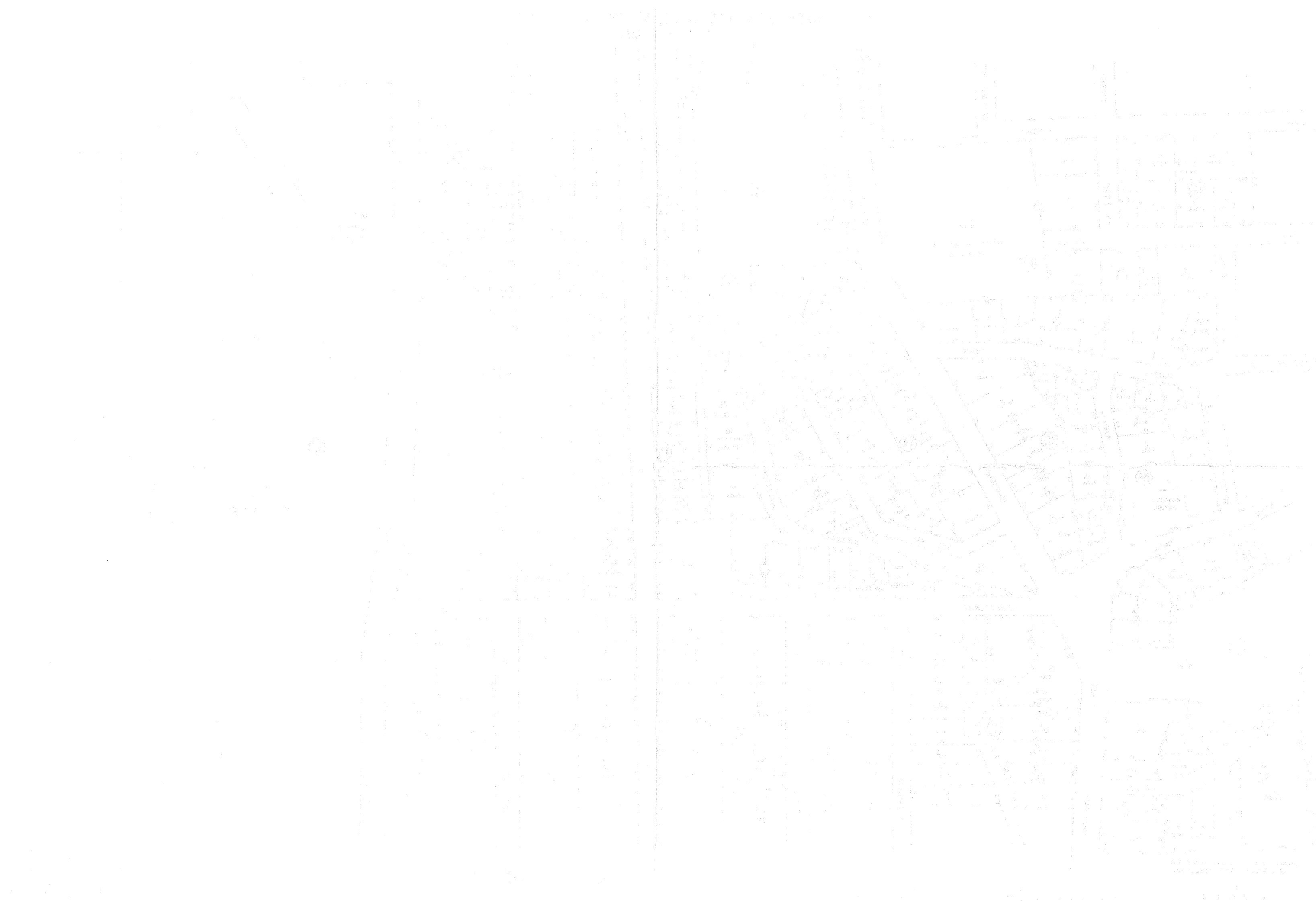


PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
PITTSFIELD BOARD OF ASSESSORS
BY
AVIS AIRMAR, INC.

Pilgrim Memorial Church
249 Waconah Street
Pittsfield (Berkshire Co.) MA
Block 2 Lot 5

G13	H13	I13
G12	H12	I12
G11	H11	I11

RECEIVED
MAR 09 2004
MASS. HIST. COMM





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

October 11, 2005

Mr. John Roberts, Acting Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

OCT 14 2005

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Pilgrim Memorial Church, 249 Wahconah Street, Pittsfield (Berkshire), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Hon. James M. Ruberto, Mayor, City of Pittsfield
Rebecca Smith, Pittsfield Historical Commission
Norene Roberts, consultant
State Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.
Evelyn Harmon, Pilgrim Memorial Church
Deanna Ruffor, Community Development Director