

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



499

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Frank Howard Building  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 124-132 Fenn Street, 67-71 Federal Street  not for publication  
city or town Pittsfield  vicinity  
state Massachusetts code MA county MA Berkshire code 003 zip code 01201

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Brona Simon June 28, 2012  
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

For Eileen H. Beall 8-14-12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store/hardware  
 store

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/Classical  
 Revival

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
 walls: BRICK, STONE/Limestone/Marble,  
 WOOD, METAL  
 roof: ASPHALT  
 other:

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Frank Howard Building (photo 1) is located in Berkshire County's largest urban commercial center—Pittsfield, Massachusetts—two blocks east of North Street, the main commercial street. The Howard Building is east of City Hall, which is within the Park Square National Register Historic District (1975/1991), and half a block south of the Pittsfield Common (figure 1).

The building occupies the full width of a block on a corner lot, so it has three street elevations: Fenn Street on the north, First Street on the east, and Federal Street on the south. Projecting from its west elevation are two undistinguished, mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings (photo 3) that separate the Howard Building from the Park Square Historic District. Other than sharing a firewall, the two structures are unrelated to the Howard Building. The neighborhood of First, Federal, and Fenn Streets is a mixed commercial and institutional neighborhood. Within a block of the building are two churches, the former William R. Plunkett School, and a number of smaller, commercial buildings. An example of a well-built, early 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial structure, the Howard Building has a mix of office and retail space. The three-story, red-brick and limestone building was designed by Joseph McArthur Vance in the Classical Revival style. Other Vance-designed buildings, which are of similar scale, level of ornamental detail, and quality of materials, are located in the adjacent Park Square and Upper North Street Historic Districts

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### Narrative Description

#### Exterior Description

The Frank Howard Building is a three-story, red-brick building with a flat roof bordered by a parapet wall (photograph 2). The building is Classical Revival in style, and its three street elevations are designed in classical column order, with the first story acting as base, second and third stories as shaft, and the parapet wall as the capital. The fourth (west) elevation is blind with two attached buildings. One two-story building shares a party wall on the north end of the west elevation, and one single-story building shares the party wall on the south end (photograph 3). The west elevation is notable for remnants of a painted sign on its upper southwest corner reading, "Howard." The brickwork of the three street elevations is ornamental, with five rows of stretchers followed by a single row of alternating stretchers and headers. The brick is smooth-faced, and mortar joints are uniformly recessed. Limestone is used for the window sills, pilaster bases, and other ornament; granite is used for steps, visible foundation stones, and thresholds.

The principal elevation is the north façade on Fenn Street (photograph 2). On the first story, the two eastern bays of the façade are the original Howard hardware storefront, with a recessed entry between two glass display windows. The display windows rest on bases glazed in panels with an opaque ceramic material, which is a ca. 1930, alteration to an original wood-paneled base. The easternmost display window has its original copper corner muntins and wood-framed windows, but the glass of the adjacent Fenn Street opening has been re-glazed, maintaining its original size, with an aluminum muntin dividing it into two pieces of glass (photograph 4). The more westerly display window has its original wood frame and single glazing. The recessed entry has glazed display windows at each side, and original varnished matchboard ceiling. It is composed of an aluminum-framed vestibule door and aluminum-framed inner door. This entry system is a replacement, inserted into the original space. No alterations were made to the display windows or matchboard ceiling to admit the aluminum replacement structure. The floor of the recessed entry is a mosaic tile in which the word "Howard" has been laid (photograph 5). To the west on the Fenn Street façade, in the three remaining bays at the first-story level, are two storefronts separated by a shallow recessed entry with three glass and aluminum

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doors and an original tile mosaic floor (photographs 4 and 6). The center door of the recessed entry leads to the building's upper stories; its two flanking doors lead into the adjacent storefronts, with display windows in wood frames over a metal base on the east and a louvered base on the west. A portion of original wood paneling remains on the base reveal of the western storefront (photograph 7). The three entry doors are separated by slender wood pilasters that support an entablature with a dentil row. Above the doors are original solid panels, ornamented with a Classical Revival dentil row at the ceiling junction.

Multiple-light transoms of translucent, decorative glass blocks, dating from the building's 1916 construction, top the display windows across the north façade (photograph 8). Five brick piers with limestone bases separate the storefronts and form the building corners. They rise to an entablature that consists of a limestone stringcourse below a metal frieze and projecting metal cornice. In the middle bay of this elevation, beneath the cornice, is a full-width limestone sign block with the word "HOWARD" engraved in it. The entablature serves as the base for the second and third stories. On the north façade paneled piers divide these upper stories into five bays. Within the bays there are triple and double windows corresponding to the storefronts and entries below (photograph 4). From the east, the bays contain: three windows; three windows; two windows; three windows; and two windows. The window openings contain white vinyl storm/screen combinations, with 6/6 and 9/9 muntin configurations in front of replacement metal 1/1 sash. The original window configurations for the second and third stories' sashes were 1/1. The windows have straight lintels made up of header bricks, and their limestone sills are continuous across each bay. The second- and third-story piers have narrow limestone blocks as capitals below a square-paneled impost block, and they support a projecting, molded, metal cornice. Above the cornice is the parapet wall with merlons rising above each of the piers below (photograph 4). Each merlon is ornamented with a recessed limestone panel. Copper caps the parapet wall.

The east elevation of the building repeats the base, shaft, and capital divisions, and the entablature and cornice between the first and second floors cross this elevation as well (photograph 9). The second and third stories are divided into nine bays of paired windows. Above the third story the cornice and parapet wall continue. At the first-story level, however, placement of the fenestration departs slightly from the north and south for its asymmetry. In the center of this more utilitarian story is a double-wide opening, with a recessed pedestrian door adjacent to a paneled overhead loading door. To its north are two paired, full-length windows, followed by two paired half-length windows. To its south is a single pair of full-length windows and one bay where a pair of half-length windows were in-filled with brick. They are followed by a corner storefront window from the south storefront. The only alterations to this elevation are the use of an overhead door on the loading dock, and the two window infills.

The south elevation of the building (photograph 10) continues the classical column divisions, but the stories are not mirror images of the north façade. The first story is devoted to storefronts, as on the north, but the configuration differs because the south elevation was designed as four rather than five bays. On the upper stories, the fenestration pattern of the four bays is, from west to east: three windows; three windows; two windows; two windows. On the eastern half of this elevation is a single glass, aluminum, and ceramic metal-base storefront (71 Federal Street) with a recessed side entrance near the center of the building. It is a replacement of an earlier storefront that had a center entry between two display windows; however, like the corresponding storefront on the north, it retains the original configuration and has a corner display window on First Street, the east elevation. The west half of the first story is composed of a recessed entrance in the center of the elevation followed by two storefronts. There are two doors in the recessed entry—one to the second floor and one to the adjacent store. The doors are glass and aluminum, and the storefront closest to the entry has maintained the original configuration of its display windows, but the frames are aluminum rather than the original copper frames, indicating it was a later alteration. The westernmost storefront has a brick base that replaced a wooden base ca. 1940, and its storefront has been temporarily boarded in. The main recessed entry floor retains its tile mosaic. Four brick piers dividing the bays duplicate those of the north. An added signboard has been tacked on to the brick frieze between first and second stories, but the frieze remains beneath it and the cornice is a continuation from the north and east sides of the building. Windows in this elevation at the second and third stories have the same vinyl storm/screens in front of 1/1 metal replacement windows as the north facade, all of which are equal in size. The cornice above the third story is a continuation from north and east, as is the parapet wall.

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## Interior Description

The Howard Building was constructed with heavy timbers in the manner of slow-burning construction with no floor joists, but with heavy planks spanning the wood beams (photograph 11). Cast-iron columns supporting the beams are attached to them by iron brackets. This was a conservative manner of building—the first all-steel frame had been built 22 years earlier in New York in 1894. The building is three equal structural bays wide and eight structural bays long, though the easternmost bay has been evenly divided into two bays with an extra row of cast-iron columns on the second and third floors (photograph 20). From basement to third floor, the cast-iron columns decrease in size as their load diminishes. Within this structural framework the building is variously partitioned on its three floors and basement.

The concrete-floored basement occupies the full width and length of the building and is divided into east, middle, and west sections by brick walls. There is a hardware store office in the east basement that is elevated above floor level on a base of brick, and is partitioned off by matchboard walls (photograph 12). It is on the outer east wall and is reached by a short flight of stairs. On a row of stones beneath the office space is stenciling marking storage areas for plaster components as follows: “grit, beef scrap, oyster shells”; “white atlas; white sand”; “goat hair, Keene cement, MEDUSDA”; “hydrate lime”; and “wood pulp, plaster, atlas cement.” A wooden freight elevator connects the basement with the first, second, and third floors to the roof, near the east elevation’s loading dock. It has a 2004 cab inserted into its shaft, but the original wood grate exists at the basement level. The middle and west sections of the basement have been divided into utility spaces by drywall partitions and contain equipment rooms.

The first-floor layout is divided into three spaces corresponding to the three bays of roughly equal dimensions. In the center and entered from north and south by storefront entrances is a broad corridor space (photograph 13). On the north end of the corridor and on its east side is a commercial space with a storefront on Fenn Street. A corresponding storefront on the south end of the corridor has no partitions for a commercial space. The elevator opens to the corridor on its eastern side. On the west side of the center corridor, the bay is divided into commercial spaces that each extend half-way across the length of the building. Their storefronts face onto Fenn and Federal Streets. On the east side of the center corridor, the bay has again been divided approximately midway to create two commercial spaces on the north and the south opening to Fenn and Federal Streets. The first floor has its original wood floors, plaster walls, and stairs. In the center of the corridor, a portion of the floor has been built up with plywood from north to south to create a ramp and equalize differing entry levels for accessibility. A railing borders the ramp and is decorated with portions of a metal conveyor (photograph 14). There is an open staircase connecting the first and second floors in the eastern third of the building on its south side (photograph 15). It has a wooden staircase with turned balusters. Above its first step is a pendant glass and metal lighting fixture. Stairs to the basement are located on the east and west sides of the building.

The enclosed Fenn Street stair leading to the second floor from a recessed entry has pink marble steps, white marble wainscoting with a red marble chair rail (photograph 16). It is duplicated on the south elevation leading from Federal Street. These stairs lead to the office spaces of the second floor and were made more appropriately formal and elegant for public use. As was the practice for mixed use buildings, the enclosed staircases lead directly from the street to the second floor.

The second floor is devoted on its east and north walls to offices reached by an L-shaped corridor. On the outer side of the corridor are ten office spaces—some of which interconnect—that are well-lit by the rows of windows of the east, north, and south elevations (photograph 17). On the inner side of the corridor are two bathrooms, several storage rooms and—separating the two bathrooms but connected by internal hopper windows—an airshaft topped by a skylight. The offices are created by translucent glass and wood partitions along the corridor, letting the light penetrate further into the building (photograph 18). The glass is decorative and the wood framework is varnished. Doors are partially glazed and have transoms framed by varnished wood surrounds. Inner office walls are wood paneled and plaster. The bathrooms have marble wainscoting and marble partitions (photograph 19).

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The balance of the second floor is open space broken only by a row of cast-iron columns. This L-shaped space has an added vinyl-tiled floor and plaster outer walls. There are no partition ghosts on the walls, so it has long been an open space (photograph 11).

The third floor is entirely open with the exception of the two stairwells, the elevator shaft, and the airshaft that penetrates its space (photograph 20). Floors are wood, walls are plaster, and the ceiling has wooden beams with braces above them to support the roof as it slopes to the center of the space for drainage (photograph 21).

### **Archaeological Description**

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the Howard Building property, sites may be present. Six ancient sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Most known sites are located on riverine terraces bordering the West Branch of the Housatonic River and its tributaries, located approximately one-half mile to the west of the Howard Building. Environmental characteristics of the nominated property do not represent locational criteria (soil drainage, slope, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. Soil types on the level to moderately sloping property are classified as urban land that has been significantly altered or obscured by urban works and structures, making the identification of soil characteristics impossible. Buildings, industrial areas, paved parking lots, sidewalks, roads, and railroad yards cover most of the land surface. The Howard Building is also located over 1,000 feet from the nearest wetlands. The East Branch of the Housatonic River lies approximately one-half mile to the southeast, while the West Branch of the Housatonic River lies approximately one-half mile to the west. The entire city of Pittsfield lies within the Housatonic River drainage. Given the above information, the small size of the nominated property (0.241 acres), and the fact that the three-story, red-brick building covers nearly the entire lot, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the Frank Howard Building property. Any potential ancient resources that may have been present on the property were destroyed by construction of the Howard Building.

A low potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Frank Howard Building property. While the Howard Building was built in an area of commercial buildings and part of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Allan Estate, no structures have been identified related to either form of land use. Any potential structures that were present on the property prior to 1916 were also destroyed by construction of the Frank Howard Building.

**(end)**

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Commerce

#### Period of Significance

1916-1960

#### Significant Dates

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

#### Cultural Affiliation

#### Architect/Builder

Joseph McArthur Vance, architect

#### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

#### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance of the building extends from its construction in 1916 to the end of its use as a hardware store by the second generation of its owners, the Howards, in 1960.

#### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

None

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Frank Howard Building in Pittsfield, MA, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level.

Under Criterion A, the Howard Building is historically significant as the location of a business that operated throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and contributed to the development of Pittsfield as a city. The Howard company is significant for serving the surrounding Berkshire County farms and gentlemen's estates between 1893 and 1960 as they transitioned from agricultural uses to suburban neighborhoods. The Howard Hardware business contributed to Pittsfield, serving as a source for building materials for seven decades. The Howard Building is representative of a 20<sup>th</sup>-century New England general hardware business building whose owners used science and innovative marketing to shift the inventory to meet the needs of a changing society. The building is significant as the location of a family-run business whose two generations of owners were active for 67 years as other Pittsfield hardware businesses either came and went, or specialized.

Under Criterion C, the Howard Building is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of the work of Joseph McArthur Vance, a Pittsfield architect who was responsible for a large number of commercial and institutional buildings that stand as major contributors to Pittsfield's character. Well-versed in the architectural idioms of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Vance designed the Howard Building and his other commercial blocks to harmonize stylistically. Collectively they create a strong architectural context for downtown Pittsfield. The Howard Building is significant as a representative Classical Revival-style commercial building of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that displays simple geometry in its decorative features. The building is also representative of the type of commercial design that existed outside Chicago and New York. It is the most intact of Vance's commercial buildings in Pittsfield and has the fewest storefront alterations, thanks to the long Howard-family ownership.

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

**Historical Narrative**

Howard & Morrow and Frank Howard, Inc., North Street, 1893-1915

The Frank Howard Building was constructed in 1916 to house a hardware and agricultural implement business that had been forced to move from its first store at 59 North Street in Pittsfield when the building was sold to the Kresge Company. The business had been formed in 1893 as "Howard & Morrow" by Frank Howard and John C. Morrow to sell farming supplies and implements. Their location on North Street, which is two blocks west of the present location, made the first store part of Pittsfield's major commercial thoroughfare. That same year they produced their first seed catalogue. A picture (Historic Photograph A, 1905) of their store interior on North Street suggests not only why the business eventually moved to larger quarters, but also the true range of supplies and implements in stock—ranging from home gardening to farm-scale planting, cultivating, harvesting, cooking, and canning—that were wedged into the store interior. Among the firm's employees in 1905 were Pittsfield natives Frank Hadsell, Eva Delamarter, and Lillian Simmons, who was a bookkeeper.

In the 1890s, Pittsfield was a city of commerce and institutions, and it was the largest commercial center for the surrounding small farms and great estates of the rural Berkshires, to which Howard & Morrow delivered orders by horse and wagon. In 1910, Howard & Morrow became solely Frank Howard's business when he bought out John Morrow.

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From the directory of 1915 it is clear that the business on North Street had a telephone and had expanded its focus from agriculture to construction, as contractor's tools along with flue lining, wall plaster, and sewer pipes were now being advertised. At the time when Howard made his decision to move to a larger building and expand the business, there were three other businesses selling agricultural implements in Pittsfield Center, and all three were on North Street.

By expanding his stock between 1893 and 1915, Frank Howard was responding to the market in an increasingly suburbanizing Pittsfield where building construction was active, if agriculture was steady. The city saw growth as an important manufacturing center beginning in 1891, when Stanley Electric Manufacturing Company arrived; this growth continued after 1903 when Stanley Electric became General Electric, launching a decades-long expansion. The electrical industry drew population in need of housing, and Howard, as well as the other agricultural implement stores, was there to provide the materials and equipment. The dual agriculture/construction focus of the company was to last until its closing in 1960, but agricultural goods and supplies were always the primary focus. Frank Howard was popularly known as a seed company and, beginning in 1916, the company annually produced a scientifically annotated seed catalogue, which it produced through 1960, issuing 10,000 copies that year alone.

By the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Fenn and Federal Streets, a block east of North Street, were predominantly commercial, but there also remained several 19<sup>th</sup>-century estates that had once dominated this section of Pittsfield. In 1904, the estate of Mrs. Thomas Allan extended from Park Square to Fenn Street, with one lot subdivided off for a lumber company on the southeast corner of Fenn and First Streets.

#### Frank Howard, Inc. on Fenn, Federal, and First Streets, 1914-1960

In 1914, a decade after the 1904 map was drawn, the building on North Street housing Howard's store was taken over by the Kresge Company, and Howard needed to relocate his business. His choice was to build a large commercial building on Fenn Street and to extend it further south, on the now-divided Allan estate, through to Federal Street. It would have stores on the first floor, offices on the second floor, and storage for his business on the third floor. The office rental space was on the north and east sides of the second floor from 124-128 Fenn Street and from 63-69 Federal Street. Howard's Hardware store occupied the entire first floor of the building between Fenn and Federal Streets—at 132 Fenn Street and 71 Federal Street—and the entire third floor.

#### Temporary Store

Until the new building was finished, however, Howard moved the company in 1916 from North Street to a one-story, wood-frame store he built on the southwest corner of Federal and First Streets (Historic Photograph B). It appears that this temporary building was designed by architect Fred H. Brown (DPS card file). The novelty-sided building sported a painted sign on one side, as well as a vertical electrical sign saying "Howards." The business operated there for a year, continuing to deliver goods to customers, but by then, it had a motorized vehicle as well as his horse-drawn wagon. Both the temporary and the new store's sites were located just behind the former Central Fire Station.

#### History of Howard Building's Occupants

When the new permanent Howard Building was completed, its rental spaces on the first and second floors were occupied by a mixture of stores, doctors, government offices, and offices of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company (Historic Photographs C and D). Dr. H. J. Roney was the first doctor in the building, occupying offices there for over thirty years and was joined by Drs. H. E. Story and Gordon W. Barrett, the latter for about twenty years. The building often held its other tenants for many years and was consistently the home office for agricultural organizations. In 1920, the Berkshire County Farm Bureau was at 126 Fenn Street on the second floor followed in 1930 by the Berkshire County Extension Services. NET&T remained on the second floor through 1930. The offices of Drs. Roney and Barrett were also

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on the second floor. National Cash Register Company took space on the second floor. In 1920 the R. McFarlane Tire Company occupied the first-floor 67 Federal Street storefront, while Hackbridge and Castle, a meat market and grocery store, rented the storefront at 128 Fenn Street.

By 1930, the Registry of Motor Vehicles had taken first-floor commercial space in the building, at 63 Federal Street, National Cash Register had expanded to include the storefront at 67 Federal Street, and the U.S. Postal Delivery Service was in the storefront at 124 Fenn Street. In the storefront at 128 was Van Deusen & Toole, a men's clothing store. On the second floor Drs. Roney and Herbert F. Wright had their offices, sharing space with National Cash Register, which presumably occupied the large open second-floor space. Frank Howard had an automatic fire sprinkler system installed in the building in 1931, at a cost of \$7,000. Until then, the fire suppression system had depended on buckets stationed throughout the building.

Little had changed by 1940. The Federal Street storefront at #63 was vacant; National Cash Register Company was still occupying the storefront at 67 Federal Street. The storefront at 124 Fenn Street was vacant, as was that at #128, but most of the second floor continued to be occupied by Drs. Roney, Walter Seaman, and Barrett, the architectural firm of Harding and Seaver, and the firm Pollock and Halvorsen, tree surgeons.

In 1950, the building had no vacancies. National Cash Register occupied two storefronts on Federal Street, while on the second floor Dr. Charles Baver, M.D., Lincoln Eramo, M.D., Walter Seaman, D.D.S., and Dr. Barrett, osteopath, rented their office spaces, sharing space on the second floor with National Cash Register. The Berkshire County Production and Marketing Administration took space on the second floor along with the Earthman King Real Estate Company. In the first-floor commercial spaces were the Plouffe Studio of Photography and Holmes Clothing Supply Company.

Reflecting, perhaps, a concerted effort to support the dwindling farms of Berkshire County, in 1960 the building held the Division of Forest and Parks, the Berkshire County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee, the Berkshire Soil Conservation District, and the Berkshire Soil Conservation Service. Drs. Baver, Seaman, Barrett, and Eramo maintained their offices on the second floor with Frank G. King Real Estate. In the Fenn and Federal Street commercial spaces were the Movie Mart, Holman Clothing Supply, and National Cash Register. All these businesses remained in 1961 after the Howard Hardware store closed.

### Two Generations of the Howard Family

Pittsfield-born Frank Howard had left school when he was eighteen to work in the H. P. Lucas agricultural store on North Street in Pittsfield, thereby setting a course that lasted until his death in 1940. Howard and his first partner, John C. Morrow, had met working for H. P. Lucas, and both served on the City Council. From early adulthood, in addition to running a business, Howard was active in Pittsfield's government. Serving on the City Council for many years, he was also chairman of the Board of Public Works from 1904-1912. In that capacity, he worked to acquire public park land for the City. For fourteen years he was a county commissioner, serving as chairman for ten of those years. He belonged to the fraternal order of the Masons and was a past master of Mystic Lodge. He and his wife Belle Merchant, whom he married in 1883, belonged to South Church.

Frank trained his and Belle's three sons—Arthur, Edward and Albert—in the business, which they took over at their father's death in 1940. Arthur M. Howard became president, and Edward F. Howard became treasurer. Albert's role was brief because he died in 1941. Arthur and Edward ran the business successfully for the next seven years, and in 1943 on its 50th anniversary, the business was noted by local newspapers as one of the oldest hardware and agricultural stores in western Massachusetts. Frank Howard was honored with a biographical profile. Presaging later 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>-century seed companies, Frank Howard, Inc., under the Howard brothers continued to publish their annual seed catalogue in

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which they advertised their products, but in which they also included scientific and how-to articles in collaboration with the Massachusetts Extension Service, an agricultural advisory service from the Massachusetts Agricultural College (later the University of Massachusetts). Their catalogue was cited by the Extension Service in 1943 for the plans it furnished during World War II for family gardens known as "victory gardens," one plan suitable for a family of two, and a second plan for a family of five. It was this scientific foundation to the business that characterized Frank Howard, Inc., under the second generation of the Howard family and distinguished it in Pittsfield.

Arthur became Frank Howard, Inc.'s sole proprietor when his brother Edward died in 1948. He was, however, well-equipped to run the business. He was educated at the Massachusetts State College, and according to the Berkshire Eagle was a specialist in seed germination and seed testing. He was president of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers Association and was on the advisory board of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. He developed Howard Orchard in the nearby town of Richmond, and ran it for 24 years. During World War II he was in Germany, a major in the Army, and was put in charge of all the repairs and obtaining supplies for the food processing plants in the American zone. Back in Pittsfield, he was a member of the Pittsfield Shade Tree Commission.

The agricultural hardware business was never without competition in Pittsfield. Beginning in the 1940s, however, competition among the hardware stores shifted to include machinery, along with seeds and supplies, and Frank Howard, Inc. and Berkshire Hardware were the primary companies supplying all three. From the 1930s the number of small farms diminished in Berkshire County, but their business was replaced by the many owners of new homes who came to Frank Howard, Inc. for their lawn and garden needs. The result was that the hardware business remained relatively steady.

Alterations to the Howard Building were few during Arthur and Edward's ownership. Between 1941 and 1960, the building continued to function in its original use for the seed and hardware business, requiring few if any interior changes, but alterations were made to the exterior with replacement of the wood paneled display window bases with metal on Fenn and Federal Streets (Photographs 1 and 9), installation of an overhead door at the loading dock on First Street (Photograph 8), reconfiguration of the storefront at 71 Federal Street from a recessed center entry to a side entry (Photograph 9), and an aluminum entry door replacing an original wood entry (Photographs 3, 5). The Howard Building is, in fact, one of the least altered and best-preserved among the works of Joseph McArthur Vance in Pittsfield, which include the Kinnell/Kresge, Melville, and Waite buildings that contribute to the Park Square and Upper North Street Historic Districts.

By 1950, the competition in Pittsfield became very strong with the addition of two national companies, Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck and Company, on North Street. To meet this competition, Frank Howard, Inc. carried farm machinery, chemicals, dairy supplies, barn equipment, mowers, fertilizers, garden supplies, household supplies, poultry supplies, wire fencing, roll and slate roofing, builders supplies, sprayers, and wooden ware along with children's toys, electrical, and dog supplies. Without a third generation to carry on the business, Howard closed it in 1960. The store's closing was marked by the Berkshire Eagle on June 6, 1960, and the Eagle article ended with a note from Arthur that he was looking to find placements for his six employees. He died in 1976.

When the business was closed in 1960, Arthur continued to own the building, though the hardware space on the east side of the building and the third floor became vacant. It has had varied owners and tenants since that date. After Howard's death, the building was twice sold to trusts. In 1998, it was sold by the Shamrock Nominee Trust, whose trustee was William N. Shirley, to Meryl H. Joseph. It was then that the windows were replaced (Photographs 1, 9), storms and screens added to the windows, and first-floor partitions altered to open up two of the four commercial spaces into a lobby with gallery space and a ramp (Photograph 16), and a new elevator cab was installed. The Frank Howard Building was sold again in 2010 to its current owners, A. C. Enterprises, LLC.

(continued)

Frank Howard Building  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

Joseph McArthur Vance, Architect

The architect chosen to design the building in 1916 was Joseph McArthur Vance, a Pittsfield architect who had a long career in the city designing mainly residential and commercial buildings, and, in the process, contributing significantly to the development of downtown Pittsfield. Vance was a Midwesterner, having been born and educated through college in Urbana, Ohio. He moved to the Northeast for graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he took a degree in architecture in 1891. At that time, MIT's school of architecture was comprised of faculty who had been professionally trained at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Thus, by the time he graduated, Vance would have been fully conversant in European architecture—its classical precedents, construction techniques, and, by extension, the work of the Ecole des Beaux Arts' American practitioners.

After graduation, Vance took a position in the office of Francis R. Allen in Boston. Allen was an earlier MIT graduate who would go on to be part of the prolific firm Allen and Collens, founded in 1903. Within three years in the Allen firm, Vance was ready to supervise construction and was sent to Pittsfield to oversee the building of the Berkshire County Savings Bank, which is still in a place of prominence in downtown Pittsfield. Vance remained in Pittsfield to establish his own firm, though he maintained his professional relationship with Allen and went on to collaborate with him in 1899 on a women's hospital project in New York.

Pittsfield in 1894 offered a young architect the promise of a solid career because several of its most active architects, H. Neill Wilson and Charles T. Rathbun, were retiring, and the city was prospering and expanding. One of Vance's earliest commissions was the 1897 Renaissance Revival-style Hotel Waverly in Great Barrington, followed by a second hotel in 1898, The Nesbit, an English Renaissance Revival-style building on North Street (now gone). Through the first decade of the 1900s, Vance designed the first England Brothers Department Store in Pittsfield (NRHD), several Colonial Revival-style homes, and a number of additions and remodeling jobs. The 1903 Classical Revival-style Colonial Theater (NRHD) for Pittsfield (recently a Save America's Treasures project) was his first theater, and it led him to design two more in the region: the 1905 Mahaiwe Theater Block in Great Barrington (NRIND), and the 1910, Classical Revival Majestic Theater in Pittsfield (recently demolished). His Classical Revival style Masonic Temple (1914) on South Street (NRHD) was across the street from the Colonial Theater, and together they provide an entry to the city's commercial and institutional center. For clients like these who aimed to attract attention through their architecture, Vance worked squarely in the high style Revival idioms of his day. By 1916, Vance had also designed seven buildings for Pittsfield's main commercial center in variations on Classical and Renaissance Revival styles. Several of these buildings, including the Howard Building, are more modest versions of the Revival styles; they are reflective of their more utilitarian commercial uses, and purposely conveyed an image of reliability. The Park Square Historic District (Boundary Increase) and the North Street Historic District included six of Vance's buildings as contributing, though one (Majestic Theater at 132 North Street) has recently been demolished.

When Vance was commissioned to design the Howard Building, he was at a relatively early stage in his career, but had proven his abilities to Pittsfield residents. Frank Howard's choice of Vance as architect is a reflection of the latter's intentions to build well. Vance's design met Howard's intentions in 1916, and through extrapolation of a partial account of the construction costs of the Howard Building, it has been estimated that the total cost was approximately \$81,300. Following his work on the Howard Building, Vance went on to practice in Pittsfield and the surrounding region until his death in 1948. Among his notable designs, are the Registry of Deeds in Pittsfield (1928) and Bascom Lodge on Mount Greylock (1935, both NR).

(continued)

Frank Howard Building  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

### Preservation Plans

The Howard Building is to undergo rehabilitation as a mixed commercial/residential building. The first-floor spaces are to remain commercial and the upper two stories to become residential. The original interior decorative features, such as the marble staircases, second-floor offices, window trim, and hardware bins in the basement will be retained. On the exterior, inappropriate windows and multi-light storm window combinations will be replaced with historically appropriate sash. The signboard will be removed and the brick frieze restored. The name plate on the façade will be restored with the name "Howard," and the painted sign on the west elevation will also be restored to original condition. The storefronts retain significant original material and their overall original plan. The storefront, the opaque transom lights, and the terrazzo entrance floors will all be retained and repaired where necessary. The building owners are applying for state and federal tax credits for the rehabilitation. Their preservation and rehabilitation plan has the strong support of the Pittsfield Historical Commission and the city administration of Pittsfield.

(end)

---

### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

---

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

### *Maps and Atlases*

Barnes and Farnham. Atlas of Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Pittsfield, 1904.  
Rapp, J. E. delineator and C. Fausel. 1899 Bird's-eye view of Pittsfield Massachusetts.

### *Primary Sources*

Berkshire County Registry of Deeds, Plan 4540-C, May, 1914; Book 30 Page 371, Certificate No. 6816.  
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### *Secondary Sources*

Berkshire Athenaeum, Vertical Files. "Architects" and "Frank Howard Building."  
Berkshire County Historical Society. Images of America. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2001.  
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\_\_\_\_\_, Martin C. Langeveld, "An Architectural Appreciation".  
Smith, Joseph Edward Adams. The History of Pittsfield, Massachusetts 1734-1800. Springfield, 1800.  
\_\_\_\_\_. The History of Pittsfield, Massachusetts (Berkshire County) 1800-1876. Springfield, 1876.

Frank Howard Building  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): HPCA # 26,651**  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MHC # PIT.747

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1                             
Zone Easting Northing

3                             
Zone Easting Northing

2                             
Zone Easting Northing

4                             
Zone Easting Northing

Lat/Lon 42.449613 -73.251025 (source: Google maps)

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

The boundary follows the lot lines of parcel H090008003 as shown on the attached assessor's map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those known to be associated with the building since its construction in 1916.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Bonnie Parsons, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission with Betsy Friedberg, NR director, MHC  
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 2012  
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470  
city or town Boston State MA zip code 02125  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Frank Howard Building  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)
- 

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Photos 1, 3, 4, 8, 14, 17 taken by Kara Cicchetti, May 2011

All other photos taken by Bonnie Parsons, March 2011

- |                                      |                                     |                              |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. North and east elevations         | 2. North façade, Fenn Street        | 3. West elevation, far right |
| 4. North façade, hardware storefront | 5. Howard mosaic at entry           | 6. North façade entry        |
| 7. North façade, western storefront  | 8. Detail of transom, north façade  | 9. East elevation            |
| 10. South elevation                  | 11. Second-floor view of interior   | 12. Basement                 |
| 13. Central corridor, looking south  | 14. Ramp and Railing, looking south | 15. Interior staircase       |
| 16. Stair finishes                   | 17. Typical office interior         | 18. Second floor corridor    |
| 19. Bathroom finishes                | 20. Third floor, looking south      | 21. Third floor beams        |

Historical Photographs

- A. Howard & Morrow, 1893, ca. 1905, from Images of America.
- B. Delivery vehicles, ca. 1916
- C. South elevation, ca. 1925
- D. North and east elevations, ca. 1925

**Property Owner:**

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

name Louis E. Allegrone, AC Enterprises LLC  
street & number 273 Newell Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city 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. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Frank Howard Building  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

Historic photograph A



HOWARD & MORROW, 1893. At 59 North Street, Frank Howard (on left) and John Morrow opened their store in 1893. The store sold agricultural implements, seeds, fertilizer, lime, cement, and farming supplies. The store operated until 1960, in the later years under the name of Frank Howard alone.



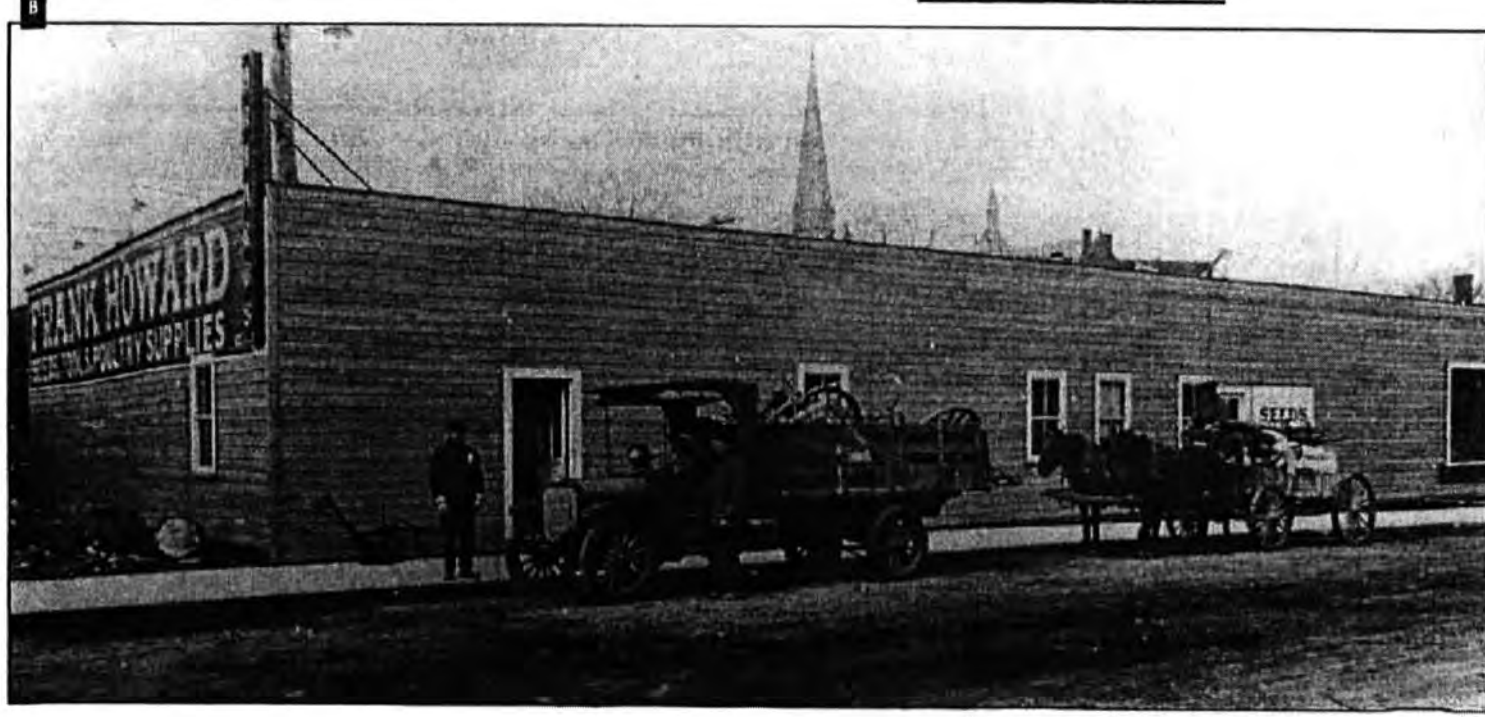
HOWARD & MORROW, c. 1905. Pictured from left to right are Fred McCarthy, Frank Howard, Frank Hudson, Lillian Simmons, and Eva Delmarter.

Frank Howard Building  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

Historic Photograph B, ca. 1916

34



Oscar S. Hutchinson (1844-1936), veteran station master at New Lenox, built aptly named Lenox trucks [A] in about 1917. Hutchinson used the vehicles to haul materials from the depot up the mountain for the construction of the Farnham dam on October Mountain in Washington. (*Berkshire Eagle* collection, courtesy Oscar Hutchinson)

Frank Howard (d. 1940) and John G. Morrow opened an agricultural supply store in Pittsfield in 1903, Howard assuming sole ownership seven years later. The merchant specialized in seeds, farm implements, dairy and poultry items, tools, cutlery, cement and lime. The store was located first on North Street, then moved to Fenn Street. During a transitional period, both horse-drawn and motorized delivery vehicles are seen near the store [B]. (*Berkshire County Historical Society collection*)

# Trucks

Historic Photograph B

**Frank Howard Building**  
Name of Property

Historic Photograph C, ca. 1925

**Berkshire, Massachusetts**  
County and State



**Frank Howard Building**  
Name of Property

**Berkshire, Massachusetts**  
County and State

Historic Photograph D, ca. 1916



124-132 Fenn Street



**Property Information**

Property ID H090008003  
 Location 124 FENN ST&71 FEDERAL  
 Owner A C ENTERPRISES LLC



**MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY  
 NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT**

The City of Pittsfield makes no claims, no representations, and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity (expressed or implied), the reliability, or the accuracy of the GIS data and GIS data products furnished by the City, including the implied validity of any uses of such data. The use of this data, in any such manner, shall not supercede any federal, state or local laws or regulations.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Howard, Frank, Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

DATE RECEIVED: 6/29/12      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/27/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/15/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000499

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

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    8-14-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

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.



FRANK HOWARD Building  
Fenn & Federal Streets  
Pittsfield MA

Kara Cicchetti  
~~March~~ 2011 MAY  
North & East elevations

Photo 1 of 21

MA-PITTSFIELD (BENKSHIRE COUNTY)-HOWARD 01.tif



MA-PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 02..tif

Frank Howard Building

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

March, 2014

View of North facade / Fern Street

Photo 2 of 21

30% of students aren't graduating  
100% (some) are



HOVARD

STETSON DRY CLEANERS

DRY CLEANERS STETSON

Top  
DRY CLEANERS



Frank Howard Building  
Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Kara Cicchetti

View of west facade for night

May, 2014

Photo 3 of 21

MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 03. tif



FENN ST



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD ST..tif

Fred Howard Benedict

P. Ho Rice

Berkshire, MA

Kara Cicchetti

View of hardware storefront,  
North facade.

May 2011

Photo 4 of 21



L D W A D D

MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD OS..tif

Frank Howard Building

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

~~Massachusetts~~ Bonnie Parsons

August  
~~March~~ 2011

View of Howard mosaic at entry

Photo 5 of 21



126

128

201

MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 06. tif

Frank Howard Building

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

August, 2011

View of main entry, north facade

Photo 6 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 07.tif

Frank Howard Building

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

August, 2011

View of westernmost storefront base,  
north facade.

Photo 7 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 08. tif

Frank Howard Building  
P: Hs Field  
Berkshire, MA  
Kara Cinchetti  
March, 2011  
Detail of entrance, north facade  
Photo 8 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 09. tif

Frank Howard Building  
Pittsfield  
Berkshire, MA  
Donnie Parsons  
March, 2011  
View of east elevation  
Photo 9 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD IO..tif

Frank Howard Bidding

P: His field

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

March, 2011

U: w of south elevation

Photo 10 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD II..tif

Frank Howard Bldg.

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

August, 2011

Second floor view of structure + open  
space.

Photo 11 of 21



WHITE ATLAS  
WHITE SAND

GRIT  
BEEF SCRAPS  
OYSTER SHELLS



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 12. tif

Frank Howard Bldg.

P: Hs field

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

March, 2011

View of Basement office

Photo 12 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 13. kf

Frank Howard Building

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

May, 2011

View of central corridor looking  
south

Photo 13 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 14.tif

Frank Howard Building

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Kara Cicchetti

March, 2011

U: w of ramp + railing looking south

Photo 14 of 21



Frank Howard Building  
Pittsfield  
Berkshire, MA  
Bonnie Parsons  
March, 2011  
Interior Staircase  
Phot 15 of 21

MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD IS.  
kf



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 16. Kf

Frank Howard Building

P: Hsfield

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

March, 204

View of stair windows

Photo 16 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 17. tif

Frank Howard Bldg.  
Pittsfield  
Berkshire, MA  
Kara Cicchetti  
May, 2011  
View of Typewrit office  
Photo 17 of 21

EXIT



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 18..tif

Frank Howard Bouldy

Pi. Hsfald

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

March, 2011

View of Corridor 2<sup>nd</sup> fl.

Photo 18 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 19.tif

Frank Howard Building  
Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

May, 2011

Bathroom finish, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Photo 19 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 20. tif

Frank Howard Buldy

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Ornie Parson

May, 2011

Third floor looking south

Photo 20 of 21



MA - PITTSFIELD (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) - HOWARD 21. tif

Frank Howard Building

Pittsfield

Berkshire, MA

Bonnie Parsons

May, 2011

Third floor plans

Photo 21 of 21

**USGS**  
U.S. Geological Survey

FRANK HOWARD BLDG. (PITTSFIELD AREA)

# Pittsfield West

MASS.-N. Y.

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

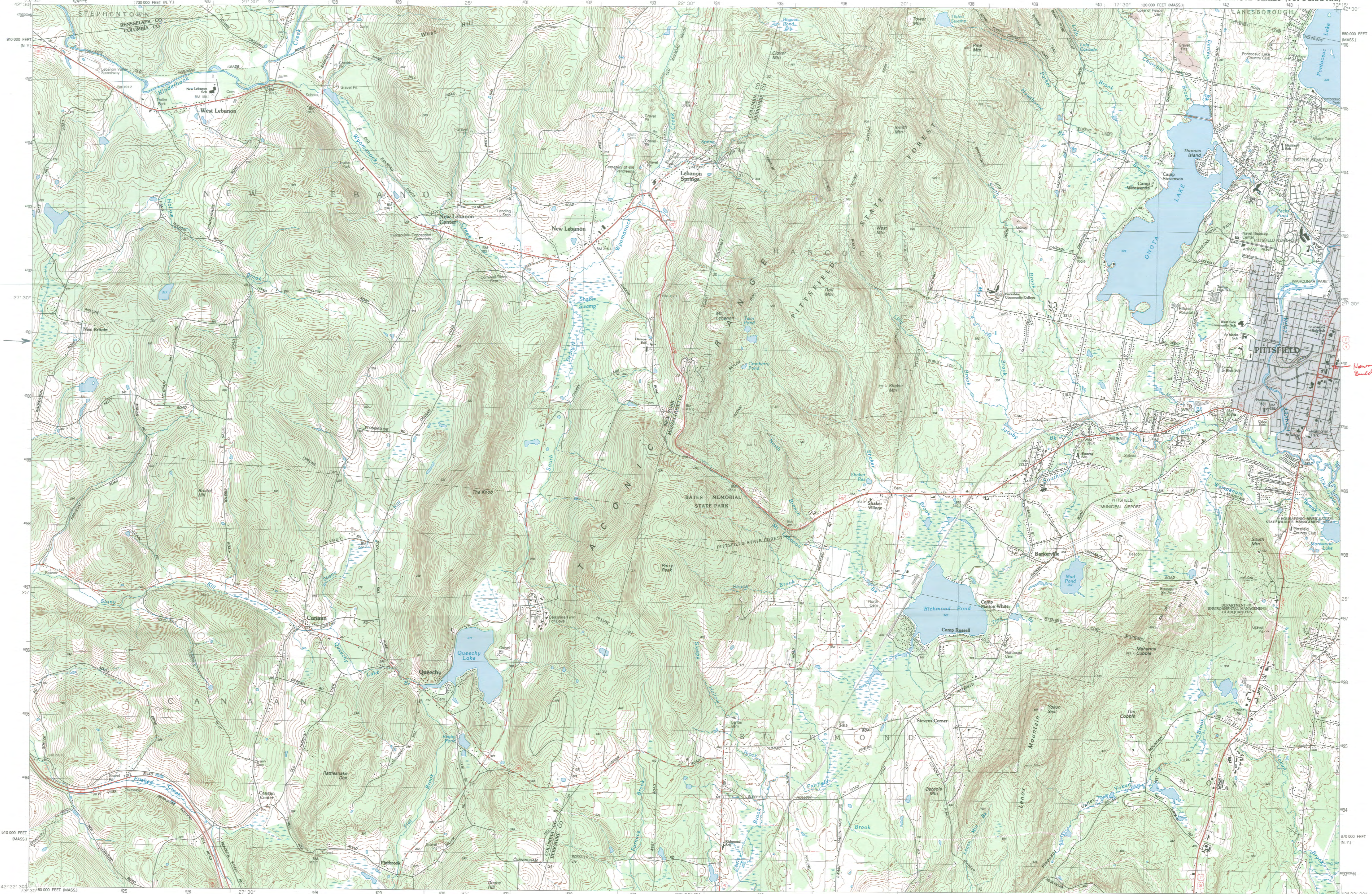
7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- 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

*Frank Howard Bldg.  
Pittsfield, MA*



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Derived from imagery taken 1981 and other sources. Photorectified 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 systems, 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  
CONTOUR 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	SEMI	TOP	1	2	3	4
1	3.2808	15.1	15.0				
2	6.5617	15.1	15.0				
3	9.8425	15.1	15.0				
4	13.1234	15.1	15.0				
5	16.4042	15.1	15.0				
6	19.6850	15.1	15.0				
7	22.9659	15.1	15.0				
8	26.2467	15.1	15.0				
9	29.5275	15.1	15.0				
10	32.8084	15.1	15.0				

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (CM) and declination (DEG) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1. Canaan (2.5)  
2. Canaan Center  
3. Canaan  
4. East Canaan (2.5)  
5. Pittsfield East  
6. Canaan (7.5)  
7. Stockbridge  
8. East Lee

ISBN 0-607-93714-9  
9 780607 937145

### 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 gauge; narrow gauge	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	Canary: grave	Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	Windmill; water well; spring	Mine shaft; prospect; salt or cave	Control: horizontal station; vertical station; elevation	Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	Rapids, 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

**Friedberg, Betsy @ SEC**

---

**From:** Will Garrison [wgarrison77@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 13, 2012 7:35 AM  
**To:** Friedberg, Betsy @ SEC  
**Subject:** Howard Block, Pittsfield - National Register

Dear Ms. Friedberg -

On behalf of the Pittsfield Historical Commission, I'm writing to support the nomination of the Howard Block, on the corner of Fenn and First Streets in Pittsfield, to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was discussed at our last public meeting, and the concensus was that this is a terrific building, with a strong history, and worthy of this designation.

Thank you, and apologies for the last minute message,  
Will Garrison, Chair  
Pittsfield Historical Commission



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

June 28, 2012

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Frank Howard Building, 124-132 Fenn Street, 67-71 Federal 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.

One electronic message of support has been received.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Louis E. Allegrone, A.C. Enterprises LLC  
Will Garrison, Pittsfield Historical Commission  
Daniel Bianchi, Mayor, City of Pittsfield  
Bonnie Parsons, PVPC, consultant  
Chair, Pittsfield Planning Board



Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS  
07/12/2012 08:15 AM

To "Friedberg, Betsy (SEC)" <betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Re: Howard Building, Berkshire County

Hi Betsy: this email is sufficient. We will correct it here with a SLR.

Patrick

Patrick W. Andrus  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
Patrick\_Andrus@nps.gov

"Friedberg, Betsy (SEC)" <betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us>

DR 6/29/12



"Friedberg, Betsy (SEC)"  
<betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us>  
07/11/2012 02:22 PM

To "Patrick\_Andrus@nps.gov" <Patrick\_Andrus@nps.gov>  
cc "Bergen, Phil (SEC)" <phil.bergen@state.ma.us>, "Stott,  
Peter @ SEC" <peter.stott@sec.state.ma.us>  
Subject Howard Building, Berkshire County

Hi Patrick, We sent the nomination for the Frank Howard Building, Pittsfield (Berkshire County) down to you a few weeks ago, and I just noticed an error on the cover page--we had MA as the county name, when it should be Berkshire. Do we need to send you a revised cover form with Brona's signature (and if so, with the same date as the original?), or a letter asking for the correction, or is this email sufficient? Sorry about the error. We'll do whatever's necessary to make the correction.

Many thanks.

Betsy

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Blvd.  
Boston, MA 02125  
ph: 617-727-8470  
fax: 617-727-5128