

PH0200093

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 8 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUL 24 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Meeting House Common; City Hall Park

75001911

AND/OR COMMON

Park Square Historic District (for publication) *use this***2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER (Multiple) at intersection of North, South, East & West Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pittsfield

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
BerkshireCODE
003**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☒ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☒ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS
☒ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Berkshire County Registry of Deeds (Middle District)

STREET & NUMBER

24 Wendell Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Pittsfield

STATE
Massachusetts 01201**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1973

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Park Square Historic District is located in the center of the city of Pittsfield and is composed of a small oval park surrounded by commercial, religious, cultural, and civic structures. Located at the convergence of four main streets — North, East, South, and West Streets — Park Square is a focal point both geographically and functionally.

The Park Square District is made up of eight buildings, ranging in age from the first quarter of the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. The district also contains several war memorials and a Civil War monument which are located on the lawn adjacent to the Court House and the Athenaeum and on the central oval park.

Five buildings face south on the park and are described below from east to west:

#1- The Berkshire County Savings Bank Building was built between 1894 and 1896, and was designed by Francis R. Allen of Boston and constructed by Dodge and Devanny of Pittsfield. Its first two stories are Indiana limestone and the upper four stories are Roman brick. The sixth floor windows are set off above the rest of the building with a wide decorative cornice band above and a decorative string course below. A decorative band vertically separates the triple window groupings on the third, fourth, and fifth floors, and the larger bays on the first and second floors are unadorned. The building is topped with a projecting cornice supported by brackets.

#2- The Congregational Church (First Church of Christ) is a Gothic Revival building designed by New York architect Leopold Eidlitz. Built in 1853, the church is constructed of grey Pittsfield limestone laid in broken ashlar and trimmed with square quoins of rock-faced Great Barrington bluestone. The frame of the building is made of chestnut from Pittsfield and nearby Lanesborough. The north-south ridge roof ends in a facade gable with stick style truss work, below which is a three-part Gothic window. The main entrance in the center of the south facade is a heavy Gothic wooden door flanked by small lancet windows. On the southeast corner of the church is a clock and bell tower topped with gables adorned with finials and wooden truss work. A three-gabled nave with Gothic windows projects slightly from the east elevation, and as a counterbalance a small two-story ridge roof ell extends on the west end.

#3- The Old Town Hall (listed in National Register in April 1972), 1832, is a two-story rectangular structure which replaced an earlier 18th century meeting house on the square. It is built of red brick with the front and back facades stuccoed. The stucco is extended around the corners and scored to give the effect of quoining. On the front and back of the ridge roof is a balustrade of alternating solid panels and groups of turned posts. There are two brick chimneys at each end of the building. In 1969-70 the Old Town Hall was restored and internally renovated to serve as a bank branch and rental offices.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Park Sq. Hist. Dist

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

#4- St. Stephen's Church was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns, and is English Gothic Revival in style. Its cornerstone was laid in 1889, and the edifice consecrated by the Right Reverend Phillips Brooks in 1892. The church is built in Longmeadow brown sandstone and is distinguished by its central buttressed and crenelated tower which is 72 feet high. The stained glass windows in St. Stephen's are by Tillinghast and Tiffany. A modern addition has been made to the rear of the structure.

#5- To the east of St. Stephen's is the D'Angelo-Bowlby Block which is a plain brick two-story commercial structure built around 1920.

Facing north on the park are the following three buildings, described east to west:

#6- The Berkshire County Court House was built in 1872 according to the design of Louis Weisbein of Boston. Executed in marble from Sheffield, the three-story building is a later example of Lombardi Romanesque architecture. A pedimented pavilion projects from the center of the north facade. Two Tuscan columns support the front entrance above which is a grouping of three elliptically arched windows topped with a large fan window with keystone. Capping the entire pavilion is a dentiled pediment supported by large brackets and containing an oculus. Flanking the pavilion on the first floor are groupings of two elliptically arched windows with keystones. Above these are similar window groupings topped by third floor fan arches containing an oculus and keystone. Side elevations are treated similarly. A parapet supported by heavy brackets encircles the top of the building, and pilasters highlight the upper two floors at each building angle. A small one-story twentieth century annex, in a similar style, is located to the rear of the Court House.

#7- The Berkshire Athenaeum, 1876, is a Venetian Gothic structure designed by William Appleton Potter of New York. Its principal material is rock-faced Great Barrington bluestone relieved by polished pillars of red Missouri granite and sculptured cornices of red Longmeadow freestone. A double hip roof central block is flanked on either side by ridge roof sections with gables facing the street. Gable edges and finials are delineated in dark stone, and the roof ridges are surmounted by iron cresting. A number of dark string courses surround the entire building. The central entrance has a Gothic arch with staggered archivolts and alternating light and dark voussoirs. The Athenaeum was enlarged in 1897 by a small addition to the rear which has been attributed to the Boston firm of Hartwell, Richardson and Driver.

#8- Also on the south side of the park is a row of brick structures erected during the third quarter of the 19th century and now occupied by stores on the ground level and apartments above.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES Multiple

BUILDER/ARCHITECT See statement of physical appearance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Park Square Historic District is significant as the center of Pittsfield's early development and as the site of the nation's first agricultural fair. The town's first meeting house was built here in 1762, and in 1790 townsman John Chandler Williams donated the nearby land for a public park known as "Meeting House Common," and now called Park Square. Originally the park was triangular, although today it has assumed an oval shape.

One of the highlights of the park was a giant elm tree beneath which Lafayette was welcomed in June 1825 as he journeyed from Albany to Boston to participate in the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument. The great elm fell in 1861 when it was 340 years old, as judged by an examination of the annular rings, but the Park Square area remained the center of the city. Here soldiers mustered to fight in the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. In 1872 a Civil War monument designed by sculptor Launt Thompson was placed in the park to honor Pittsfield men who served in the Union Army.

Park Square achieved national significance when in August 1810 the country's first agricultural fair was held. The fair had grown out of a smaller exposition in 1807 when the exhibit under the old elm of the first two Marino sheep seen in New England stimulated a group of citizens to organize a larger show of various kinds of livestock. Out of this fair grew the Berkshire Agricultural Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and Manufactures, which became the model for many similar societies throughout the United States. Exhibits by the Society stimulated the production of fine woolen broadcloth in the Berkshires, and in 1813 Elkanah Watson, the originator of the fair, sent cloth to James Madison for a suit he wore at his presidential inauguration.

The nearby Town Hall was also used for some of the agricultural fairs, although its primary function has been as the seat of local government. From 1832 to 1892 it was known as Town Hall and between 1891 and 1968 as City Hall. It is the oldest existing city building in Pittsfield and the only remaining public building of late Federal architecture. The Old Town Hall was accepted in the National Register in April 1972, and is presently used as a bank and office building.

The Old Town Hall was built and paid for by Mr. Lemuel Pomeroy, a parishioner of St. Stephen's Church. His offer was designed to satisfy the needs of the town and also to settle a controversy between the town and St. Stephen's parishioners, both of whom wanted the property on which the present church and Town Hall are located.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boltwood, E. The History of Pittsfield, 1876-1916. City of Pittsfield, 1916.
Proceedings in Commemoration of the Organization in Pittsfield, February 7,
1764, of the First Church of Christ. Pittsfield: Sun Printing Co., 1889.
Smith, J.E.A. The History of Pittsfield, 1734-1800. Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1869.
Smith, J.E.A. The History of Pittsfield, 1800-1876. Springfield: C.W. Bryan
& Co., 1876.
Willison, George F. History of Pittsfield, 1916-1955. City of Pittsfield, 1957.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 643760 4760930
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 18 643540 4700700

B 18 643700 4700680
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 18 643580 4700960

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy Dobbs, National Register Editor
ORGANIZATION

July 1, 1975
DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission
STREET & NUMBER

617-727-8470
TELEPHONE

40 Beacon Street
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE July 2, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7/24/75

ATTEST:

DATE

JUL 24 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The other church in the district, the Congregational Church, is built on the site of the original Bulfinch church (1793) which was destroyed by fire in 1851. The original clock in the Bulfinch church was saved from the fire and installed in the present church where it still operates. The Congregational Church has been served by a number of eminent pastors, five of whom later became presidents of such colleges as Dartmouth, Bowdoin, Amherst, Lafayette, and the University of Michigan.

The County Court House (1872) was built after Pittsfield was made the county seat in 1868 by an act of the state legislature. The property on which the Court House is located was the site of the home of John Chandler Williams, the donor of the park.

Next to the Court Houses stands the Berkshire Athenaeum which was financed by three prominent businessmen in the community with the provision that it be a free and public library maintained by the town in perpetuity. In 1895 the private library of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes was presented to the Athenaeum by his son Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. Among the library's prize possessions is a collection of memorabilia of Herman Melville whose Moby Dick was written in Pittsfield.

To the present day Park Square has remained the center of municipal activity. Band concerts are held in the park and the traditional Christmas tree graces the area during the holiday season. The Park Square buildings themselves, many of which have been used for over a century, continue to attract people to this vital area of Pittsfield.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 3

Significance (continued)

The Park Square Historic District is also significant as an important grouping of buildings designed by a number of outstanding nineteenth century architects. Not only are there examples of the work of Boston architectural firms, but also two buildings designed by New York architects. Among the architects represented in the district are Peabody and Stearns, Hartwell, Richardson and Driver, Louis Weisbein, Francis R. Allen, William Appleton Potter, and Leopole Eidlitz. It is significant that the Park Square buildings represent the sophisticated work of these well-known architects which was not common in other western Massachusetts towns.

#10 Verbal Boundary Description

The northern boundary of the district is the back property lines of the properties which face on Park Place and East Street. The eastern boundary is Wendell Avenue, beginning at the back property line of property #5 (sketch map), crossing East Street, and extending to the back property line of the Court House (#6 and #6A). The southern boundary is the back property lines of properties facing East Street and Bank Row. The western boundary is formed by South Street, beginning at Calvin Court, and North Street, ending at the back property line of #1.

UTM Reference (correction)

- A 18/643760/4700930
- B 18/643700/4700680
- C 18/643540/4700700
- D 18/643580/4700960

Park Square Historic District
Property Meeting House Common, City Hall Park
State Massachusetts Working Number 7.8.75.1274

Berkshire

TECHNICAL

Photos 4

Maps 2

Nothing incorrect. Incorrect
zone. Send Back

CONTROL

OK 7.11.75

Concur with B:11.

HISTORIAN

Call
E. Smith
7-16-75

OUTSTANDING DISTRICT WITH BUILDINGS DONE BY SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTS.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

HOWEVER: (DATE OF ANNEX?) NO STATEMENT OF ARCH. SIG.
NO BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION?

Call?
LEBOWITZ
7-11-75

7-16-75 Christian Building: Boundaries are near property lines. Will send continuation sheet for arch. sign, boundaries + #10

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Because the area is threatened I think we should accept as is, with the understanding that a continuation sheet is coming.

Accept
W.R. Luce
7/22/75

Name: Park Square
Historic District

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Humpo
7-23-75

KEEPER

W.R. Luce
JUL 24 1975

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

9-2-75

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

JUL 24 1975

INT:2106-74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 8 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Meeting House Common; City Hall Park

AND/OR COMMON

Park Square Historic District (for publication)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pittsfield VICINITY OF COUNTY Berkshire STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS, Pittsfield West Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1959

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield Mass.

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 8 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Meeting House Common; City Hall Park

AND/OR COMMON

Park Square Historic District (for publication)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pittsfield VICINITY OF COUNTY Berkshire STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Donald S. Smith

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Berkshire County Historical Society, 113 East Housatonic Street,
Pittsfield, MA 01201

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Looking southeast: Berkshire Athenaeum

PHOTO NO. 4

#1084

#1084

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



LEFT TO RIGHT - BERKSHIRE COUNTY SAVINGS BANK

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-73)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1975

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Meeting House Common; City Hall Park

AND/OR COMMON

Park Square Historic District (for publication)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pittsfield

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Berkshire

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Donald S. Smith

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Berkshire County Historical Society, 113 East Housatonic Street,
Pittsfield, MA 01201

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Looking northwest: Berkshire County Savings Bank,
First Congregational Church, Old Town Hall

PHOTO NO. 1

#284

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#284

Jan
Pitts

2071



Berkshire County Court House, Pittsfield Mass.

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-73)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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RECEIVED JUL 8 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Meeting House Common; City Hall Park

AND/OR COMMON Park Square Historic District (for publication)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pittsfield VICINITY OF COUNTY Berkshire STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Donald S. Smith

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Berkshire County Historical Society, 113 East Housatonic Street,
Pittsfield, MA 01201

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Looking southwest: Berkshire County Court House

PHOTO NO. 3

#304

#304

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1975

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Meeting House Common; City Hall Park

AND/OR COMMON

Park Square Historic District (for publication)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pittsfield

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Berkshire

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Joel Librizzi

DATE OF PHOTO 2 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA 01201

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

Looking southeast, left to right: Berkshire County Court House,
Berkshire Athenaeum, 19th century commercial
block

Foreground: Soldiers' Memorial

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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JUL 24 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Meeting House Common; City Hall Park

AND/OR COMMON

Park Square Historic District (for publication)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pittsfield VICINITY OF COUNTY Berkshire STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE City of Pittsfield Assessors Map

SCALE 1" = 200' DATE no date

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

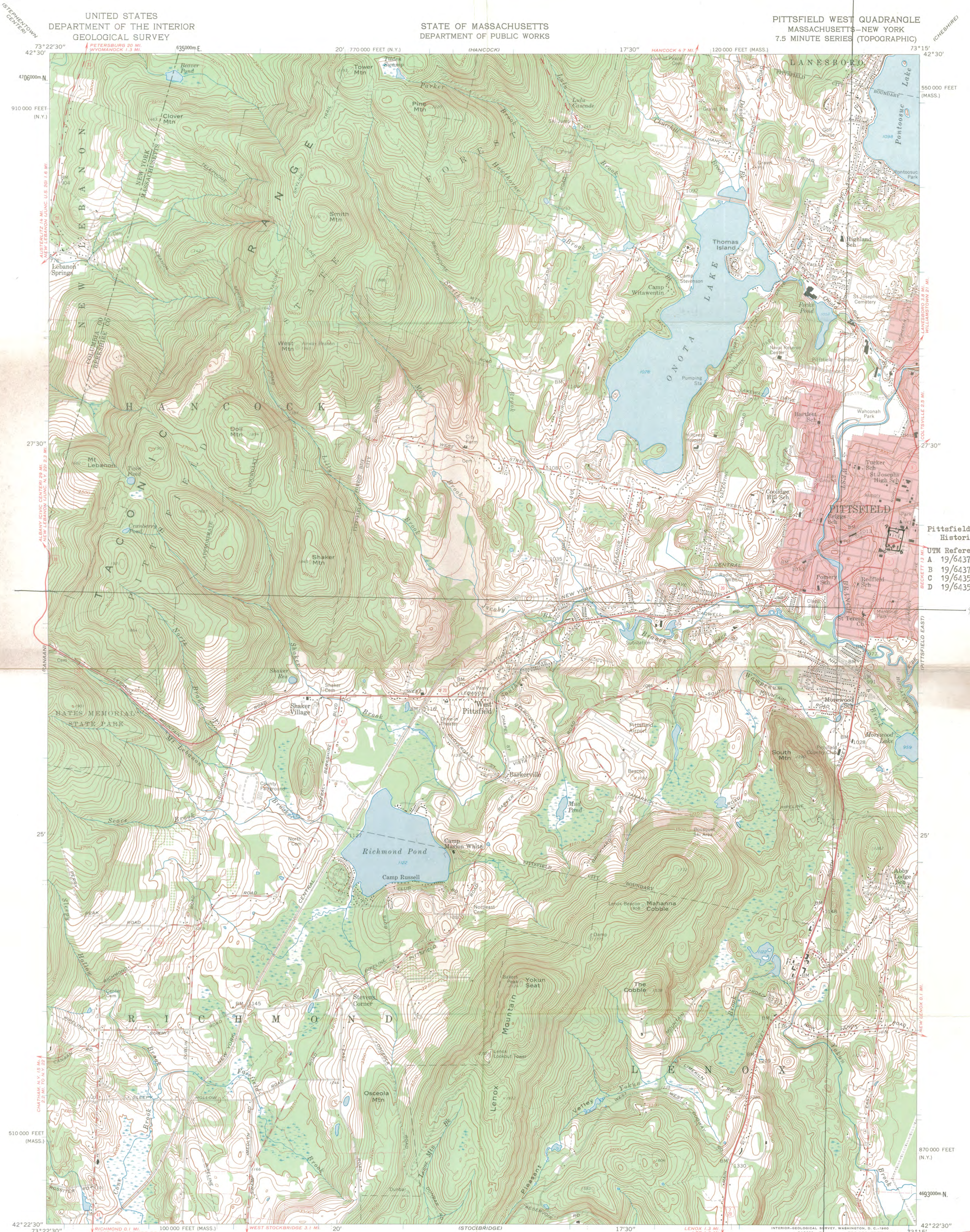
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Map of Park Square Historic District with
properties identified on accompanying key. NPS 2986-75

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PITTSFIELD WEST QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Pittsfield: Park Square
Historic District

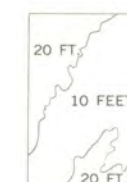
UTM Reference:
A 19/643760/470930
B 19/643700/470680
C 19/643540/470700
D 19/643580/470960

4700

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and
Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission
Topography by planetable surveys 1943-1944. Revised 1959
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New York coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1959

SCALE 1:24,000
1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVALS 10 AND 20 FEET (SEE DIAGRAM)
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



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

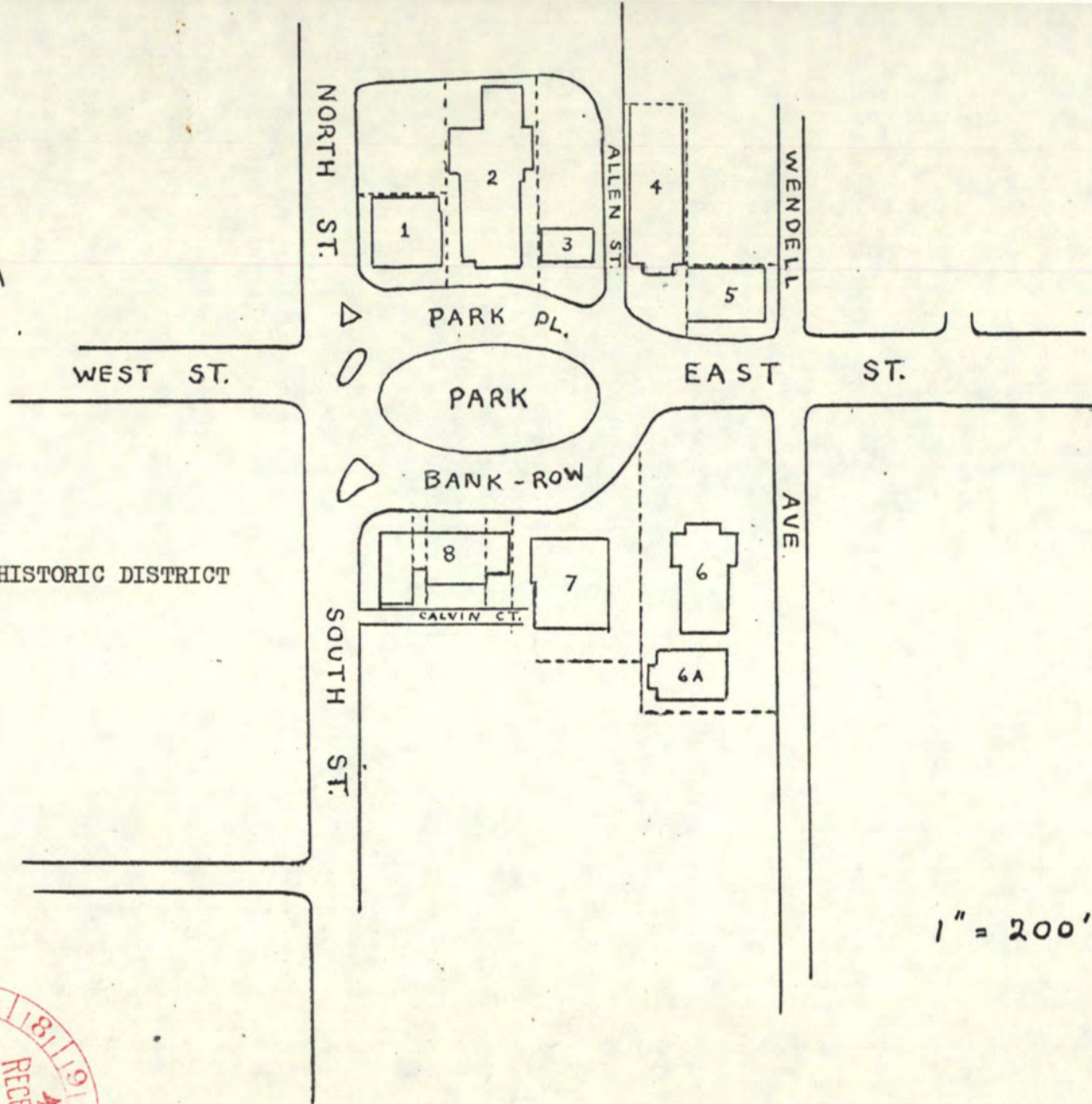
PITTSFIELD WEST, MASS.-N. Y.
N4222.5-W7315/7.5

1959





PARK SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT



PARK SQUARE , PITTSFIELD, MASS.

PARK SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Key to Map:

1. Berkshire County Savings Bank (1894-96), 24 North Street
2. Congregational Church (First Church of Christ) (1853), 27 East Street
3. Old Town Hall (1832), 43 East Street
4. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1889), 67 East Street
5. D'Angelo-Bowlby Block (c. 1920), 77-95 East Street
6. Berkshire County Court House (1872), 76 East Street
- 6A. Berkshire County Court House Annex
7. Berkshire Athenaeum (1876), 44 Bank Row
8. Commercial block (before 1876), 4-32 Bank Row



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Paul Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

727-8470

2 July 1975



Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find one National Register nomination form and one set of supplementary photographs for the following properties:

1. Pittsfield, Park Square Historic District
2. Williamstown, Robinson House (current photographs for nomination sent to you 12/6/74)

Please note that the Park Square District in Pittsfield is currently being threatened by a road widening which would take much of the lawn in from of the Court House.

I would also appreciate your amending the Robinson House nomination form with the following name and address of the new owner: Mr. and Mrs. Lennon, Bulkley Street, Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267.

Both of the above properties have been voted eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (the State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth R. Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Pat

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW:jd
Enclosures

Permanently
PLOVER BOND



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Paul Guzzi

40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Secretary of the Commonwealth

727-8470

22 July 1975

Mr. William Lebovich
Review Unit
National Register Office
Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation
National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Mr. Lebovich:

In response to your request of July 16, I am sending the attached amendments, additions, and corrections to the National Register form for the Park Square Historic District in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

If there are any further ways in which I can assist in this form, please call.

Sincerely,

Judy D. Dobbs

Judy D. Dobbs
National Register Editor
Massachusetts Historical Commission

JDD/jd

enclosure

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUL 24 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fire Station #4	New Bedford Bristol County
2 Park Square Historic District	Pittsfield Berkshire County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

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

PR

Mmott/row

7/25/75

**Advisory
Council On
Historic
Preservation**

17065-NR
BERKSHIRE CO.
MASSACHUSETTS

1522 K Street NW.
Washington D.C.
20005

JAN 3 1979

Honorable Paul E. Brindle III
Mayor of Pittsfield
City Hall
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Dear Mayor Brindle:

Thank you for your letter of December 4, 1978, requesting the comments of the Council pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320) on the City of Pittsfield's application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for an Urban Development Action Grant. The project as proposed will have an adverse effect of the North Street Commercial Block, a property that has been determined on the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Park Square Historic District, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places.

We initiated the consultation process on December 14, 1978, when Sharon Conway and John Cullinane of the Council staff participated in an on-site inspection of the project area with representatives of the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, the City of Pittsfield, the Office of State Planning, the Pittsfield Historic Commission, and the Pyramid Companies. This inspection was conducted pursuant to Section 800.5(b) of our Procedures. Following that review a meeting was held in Boston to discuss the project and its impact on cultural resources in the City of Pittsfield. At the meeting representatives of the Pyramid Companies discussed the requirements of major mall tenants for leasable floor space, adequate parking, visibility, pedestrian access, and traffic circulation. Although the plans and requirements are a composite of the Pyramid Companies experience in developing successful suburban malls, they did not appear to adequately address the special requirements of mall development in an urban setting.

The North Street Commercial Block forms a cohesive commercial and architectural unit that complements the Park Square Historic District and the commercial facades directly opposite them on North Street. Historically and presently these buildings constitute a large portion of Pittsfield's central business district and should be retained.

After review of the UDAG application it appears that the City of Pittsfield has demonstrated an economic need for the project, yet you have not fulfilled your responsibilities for environmental review as required under Section 570.456(c)(5) of the UDAG regulations and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Your application is premised on demolition of the North Street Commercial Block and does not explore alternative mall configurations that would incorporate the existing structures into a new design.

The City of Pittsfield is requesting 30.5 to 32.5 million dollars in Federal money for parking, street improvements, and other mall related actions. 8.5 million dollars of this money will be used for acquisition of the North Street Commercial Block, relocation of its occupants and demolition of the buildings. The City could use that same money for low interest loans or grants to the owners for rehabilitation of their properties or you could rehabilitate the facades and purchase protective easements. Of the 53 businesses that you propose to relocate, 24 are offices that could probably be accommodated in the existing block, were it to be rehabilitated. Many of the 60 to 80 small stores proposed for the mall could also be housed in the commercial block. The possibilities for reuse are numerous and should be pursued.

The Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer and the Massachusetts Office of State Planning have both expressed interest in assisting the City in its development of a satisfactory solution to the issues addressed in this letter and have directed their staff to work with you in attempting to formulate new plans that would retain buildings in the North Street Commercial Block. Our meeting of December 14 benefited greatly from the presence of architectural advisors, in attendance at the invitation of the State, who contributed to the discussion of alternative mall configurations that would retain the existing Commercial Block. At that same meeting the Pyramid Companies presented a new plan that retained two of the buildings in the North Street Commercial Block, demonstrating that alternative configurations can be developed.

The Council anticipates continued discussion between the State, the City of Pittsfield, and the developers concerning the formulation of plans that would retain the buildings in the North Street Commercial Block. We are confident that the project can, with the cooperation of local, state, and Federal governments, accommodate the needs of a regional shopping facility while retaining the delicate balance of an urban environment.

Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence or require additional assistance, call Sharon Conway at 202-254-3967.

Sincerely,

Myra F. Harrison
Assistant Director
Office of Review and Compliance

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/16/77
 Reviewer: INITIALS: Dwy
 NR DOE July 24, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: ¹⁰ Park Square Historic District

OTHER NAMES: Meeting House Common; City Hall Park

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: (Multiple) at Intersection of North, South, East, and West Streets
 CITY, TOWN: Pittsfield
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st
 STATE: Massachusetts
 VICINITY OF: COUNTY: Berkshire code 003

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)

~~PRIVATE~~ ~~STATE~~ ~~LOCAL GOV'T~~ ~~MUNICIPAL~~ ~~COUNTY~~ OTHER

MULTIPLE
 public/private

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
 SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
☒ Substantially intact-1 ☐ Substantially intact-2 ☐ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 4 ☐ unknown - 5 ☐ unknown - 6
☐ not applicable - 7 ☐ not applicable - 8 ☐ Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - ☒ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ UNALTERED ☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD ☐ RUINS ☐ ALTERED ☐ MOVED
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED ☐ Reconstructed ☐ Unknown
☐ Unexcavated ☐ Excavated

ACCESS - ☒ Yes-restricted ☒ Yes-unrestricted ☐ No access ☐ Unknown
 historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- Commercial, educational, government,
 park, private residence, religious
 now- Same with some variance

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION -22
 ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC ECONOMICS LAW/Gov't/politics SCIENCE
 AGRICULTURE -3 EDUCATION LITERATURE -17 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 ARCHITECTURE -4 ENGINEERING -10 MUSIC
 ART -5 EXPLORATION PHILOSOPHY
 COMMERCE -6 INDUSTRY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT -31 OTHER (SPECIFY) sculpture
 COMMUNICATIONS INVENTION

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: MIXED

architect/~~m-builder~~: Francis R. Allen (Savings Bank)
landscaper/garden designer: Leopold Eidlitz (Cong. Church)
interior decorator: Peabody + Stearns (St. Stephen's Church)
engineer:
artist/artisan:
builder/contractor: Dodge + Devanny (Savings Bank)
sculptor: Launt Thompson

ETHNIC GROUP: ② Louis Weisberg (Court House)
③ William Appleton Potter (Athenaeum)
④ Hartwell, Richardson + Driven

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal John Chandler Williams donated park land, 1790.

events First National Agricultural Fair (1810);
Site of Lafayette welcome 1825

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 18th + 19th centuries

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): ~~1790~~, 1810, 1825

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) 9

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

District containing oval park and surrounding civic structures; notable include the High Victorian Gothic Berkshire Athenaeum (1874); the North Italian Mode Renaissance Revival Berkshire County Court House (1872); and the Transitional Federal-Greek Revival Old Town Hall (1834), Pittsfield's oldest remaining civic building.
STET
XXXXXXXXXX Park was site of first National Agricultural Fair, held in Aug. 1810; district remains an impressive composition of monumental 19th C buildings.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)