

PH0005878 HB no utm

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Berkshire
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 3 1972

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Lenox Library

AND/OR HISTORIC: Second Berkshire County Court House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 18 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lenox

STATE: Massachusetts      CODE: 025      COUNTY: Berkshire      CODE: 003

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Library</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Lenox Library Association

STREET AND NUMBER: 18 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lenox      STATE: Massachusetts      CODE: 025

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Central Berkshire County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: 24 Wendell Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Pittsfield      STATE: Massachusetts      CODE: 025

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historical Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission & (Berk. Co. Hist. Soc.)

STREET AND NUMBER: Archives Museum, State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston      STATE: Massachusetts      CODE: 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

APR 9 1972

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original portion of this building is rectangular in form (48' x 62') with the long axis perpendicular to the street. It is a two-story brick structure with a low pitched hip roof surrounded by a parapet composed of alternate lattice and paneled segments. An open cupola supported by eight slender columns surmounts the front. A 1787 bell hangs on a sawbuck frame in this cupola.

The street facade is three bays wide with a slightly projecting portico which is supported by two pairs of engaged Ionic columns. These are two stories high. The frieze and architrave stop a few inches short of the corner of the building and are supported by Ionic pilasters set in somewhat from the edge of the facade. (See photo). The cornice is ornamented with dentils. This facade is symmetrical with the entrance centered. The doorway has narrow side lights and a semi-elliptical fanlight above. First floor windows are set in slightly recessed arch-topped panels.

All windows, front and side are double-hung six-over-six sash. Those on the south facade facing an adjacent building have been equipped with protective roll-down iron fire shutters. All windows have wooden shutters, louvered on the second floor, solid on the ground floor.

The foundation above the ground is sawn marble. There are eight original brick chimneys, four on each side.

In 1889 an addition considerably larger than the original court house was constructed. This two-story brick structure has a hip roof and louvered cupola. This section contains Sedgwick Hall, an auditorium which has a separate entrance with classical portico, engaged Ionic columns and fanlight somewhat similar to the original front but reduced in vertical proportions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1815-16, 1889

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The front or original portion of this building was designed by Capt. Isaac Damon (1781-1862) of Northampton and constructed in 1815-1816 to serve as Berkshire County Court House. It continued in this capacity until 1869 when the county seat was moved to Pittsfield. Damon's original drawings for the building and contract agreements are preserved in the Lenox Library which now occupies the structure. The builders were Ashbel Hill of Lenox and Rufus Wright of Northampton.

Sedgwick Hall, part of the addition built in 1889 was the scene of the annual Horticultural Ball, patriotic meetings occasioned by the Spanish-American War, high school graduations, lectures, concerts, and receptions. Mrs. Grover Cleveland danced on its floor. At one time a front room in the original building was rented to the Lenox National Bank. Several offices on the second floor were rented. Among early tenants were Senator Post and the sole village physician, Dr. E. P. Hale. In 1895 Benjamin Rogers established the first telephone exchange in Lenox in a rear office.

In short, this building has been, since its erection, a focal point of Berkshire County and Lenox activities. It continues to serve as an outstanding library, summer art gallery and concert and lecture facility.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Merrill, David "Isaac Damon and the Southwick Column Papers" Old Time New England Vol. LIV No. 2 Fall 1963, Boston: Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities pp 48-58

Wood, David H. Lenox Massachusetts Shire Town; Published by Town of Lenox, 1969 pp 115-122

Council on Arts and Humanities 1966-67 report p. 7

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 42,665 square feet

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Donald S. Smith

ORGANIZATION: Berkshire County Historical Society DATE: June 13, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 113 East Housatonic Street

CITY OR TOWN: Pittsfield STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local  ✓

Name: John F. X. Davoren  
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and Chairman, Mass. Historical Commission

Title: Commission

Date: October 17, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/3/73

ATTEST:  
Worcester  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3.26.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPERTY Lenox Library STATE Mass

Working number 10.30.72.1638

Berkshire

TECH REVIEW

Photos 2

Maps 1

5-31-73

REVIEW

1-26-73  
OK

HISTORIAN

(more local sign. than state)

Accept. AMI  
3/7/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept  
CMB  
3-14-73

ARCHITECT

Accept  
CMB  
3-14-73

BRANCH CHIEF

OK  
3/22/73

EDITORIAL REVIEW

KEEPER

W  
3/26/73

National Register write-up \_\_\_\_\_

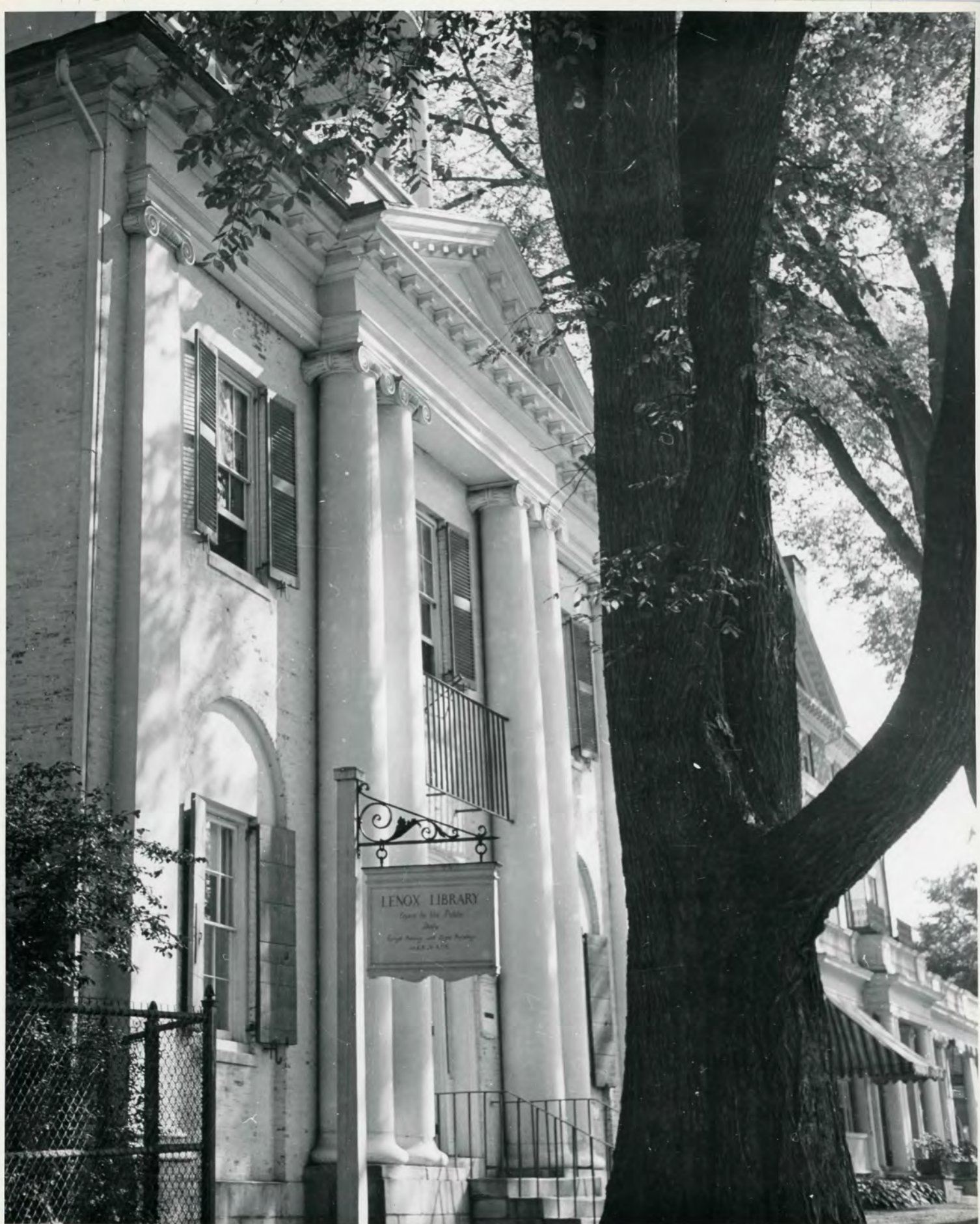
Acknowledge 11/2/72

Federal Register entry 6-5-73

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Register no. APR 8 1973



**LENOX LIBRARY**  
*Open to the Public*  
*Daily*  
*except Mondays and Legal Holidays*  
*1852-26-1876*

LENOX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

NPS Number 4/3/73

Title: LENOX LIBRARY

Loc. Beekshier, Mass.

front facade Detail

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Lili Elde  
Photographer



~~Please crop top, lower and right side of marks, leave white borders left and left~~

Lenox Library Association  
Lenox Mass.

## PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

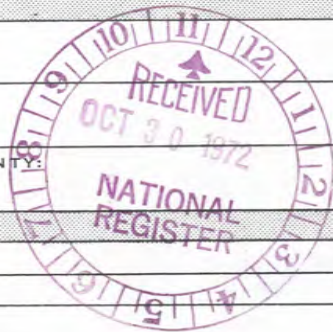
STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 3 1973	DATE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Lenox Library			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Second Berkshire County Court House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 18 Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Lenox			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY:	CODE 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Lili Elde			
DATE OF PHOTO: not dated			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Lenox Library			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Front or west facade at left. Also shows south facade and part of rear wing with its entrance.			



NPS Number:

Title: L

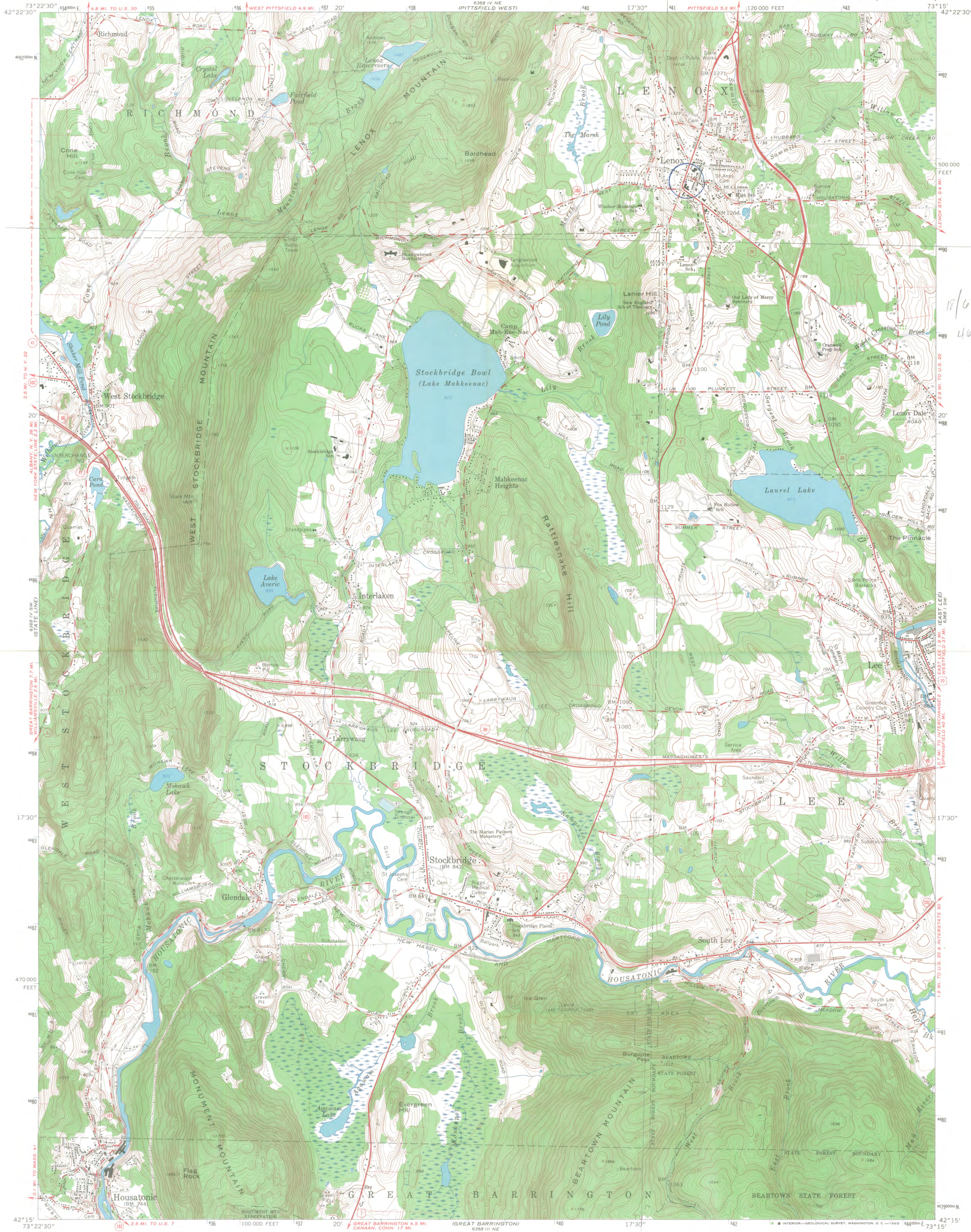
Loc. Ber

FRON

(2)

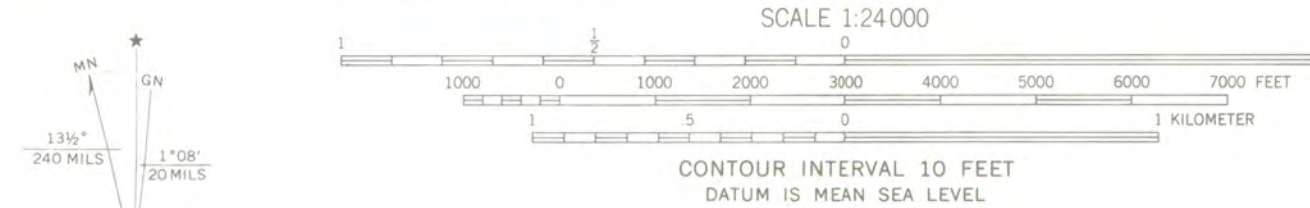
185

3

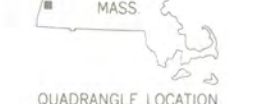


18/641 260  
4690 680  
W

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and  
Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1942. Field checked 1944. Revised 1959  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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



STOCKBRIDGE, MASS.  
N4215—W7315/7.5

1959

AMS 6368 IV SE—SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 3	1973

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1. NAME

COMMON: Lenox Library  
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STREET AND NUMBER:  
18 Main Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Lenox  
STATE: Massachusetts

CODE COUNTY:  
025 Berkshire



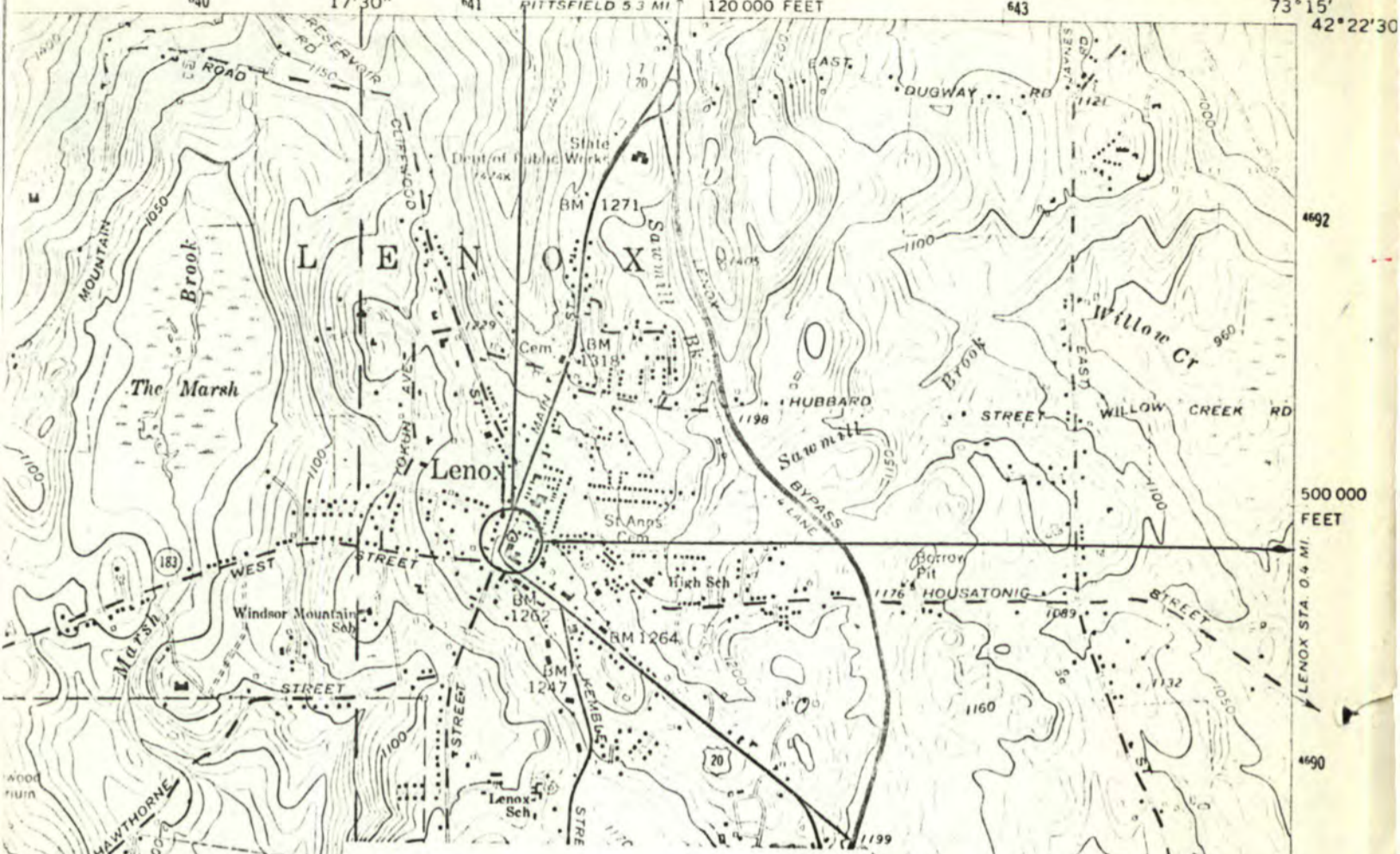
3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
U. S. G. S. Stockbridge Quadrangle  
SCALE: 1:24000  
DATE: 1959

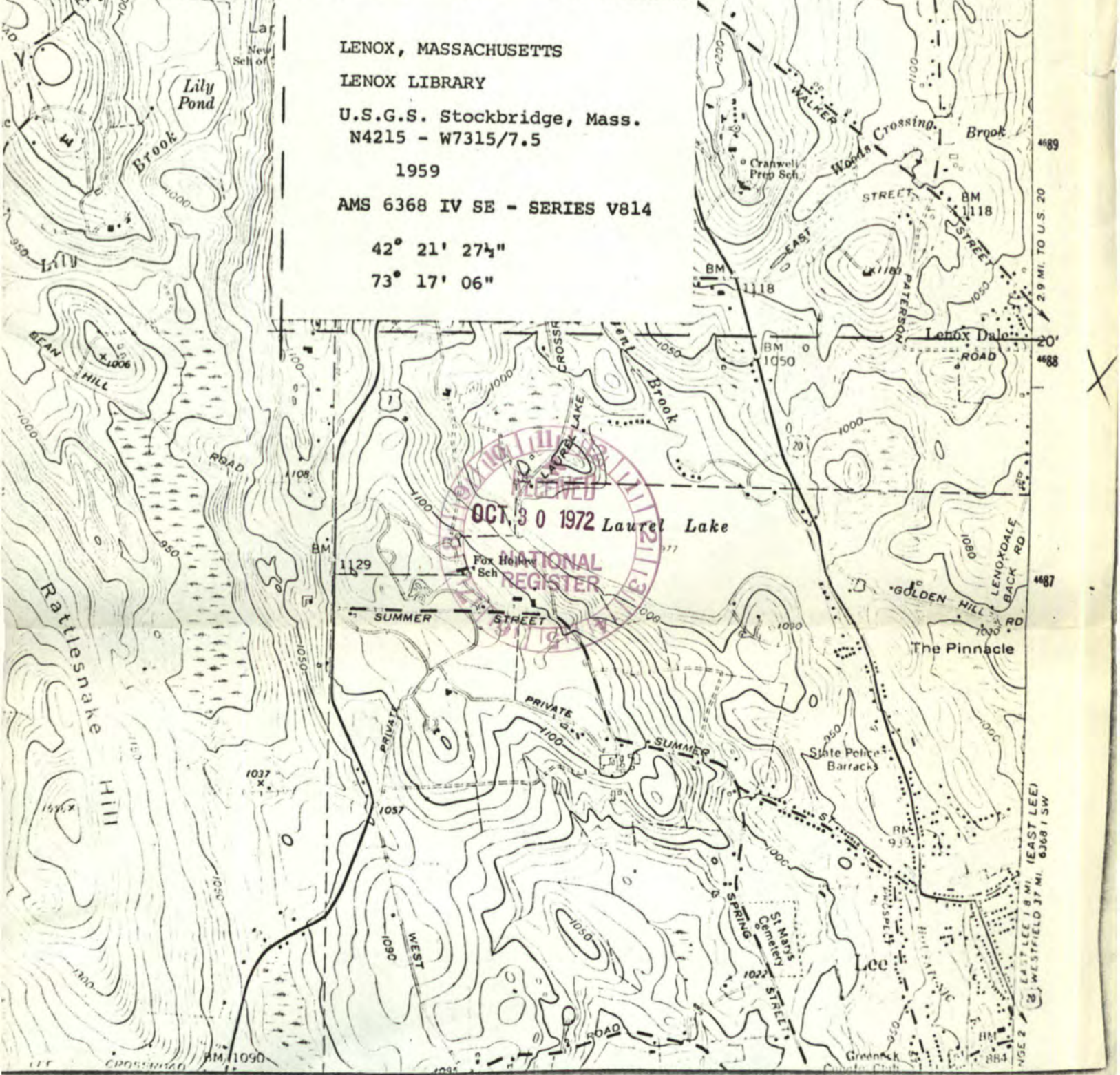
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS  
LENOX LIBRARY  
U.S.G.S. Stockbridge, Mass.  
N4215 - W7315/7.5  
1959  
AMS 6368 IV SE - SERIES V814  
42° 21' 27.4"  
73° 17' 06"



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Mass	
COUNTY Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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PHOTO CREDIT: Lili Elde			
DATE OF PHOTO: not dated			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Lenox Library			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Front facade detail showing engaged columns.			



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 3 1973

Name

Location

City Hall

Salem  
Essex County

Lenox Library

Lenox  
Berkshire County

Mechanics Block Historic District

Lawrence  
Essex County

Howe Village Historic District

Boxford  
Essex County

Claffin-Richards House

Wenham  
Essex County

Mohawk Trail

vicinities of Charlemont, Florida, and  
Savoy  
Berkshire and Franklin Counties

Fort Washington

Cambridge  
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Michael J. Harrington  
Hon. Silvio O. Conte  
Hon. Paul Cronin  
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Hon. John P. X. Davoren  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical  
Commission  
40 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

4/11/73

NRowland:mm

PHR

Director, Northeast Region