

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received AUG - 1 1983  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic ~~The~~ Allen Hotel (preferred)

and/or common The Park Hotel

2. Location

street & number Wendell Avenue Extension N/A not for publication

city, town Pittsfield N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Edward Sottile; "Allen Hotel Corporation" and Restaurant

street & number Wendell Avenue Extension

city, town Pittsfield N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Bank Row

city, town Pittsfield state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historical Assets  
title of the Commonwealth PFD.01-2023 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

## 7. Description Allen Hotel, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Allen Hotel is located on a small urban lot in downtown Pittsfield. Surrounded by a turn-of-the-century civic district, the property abuts the Park Square Historic District (NR, 1975) on its westerly side and the Central Fire Station (NR, 1977) on the northwest.

Oriented on a small 50 by 81' lot, facing easterly, the Allen Hotel was the first new building to be erected on the parcel of land on the north side of Park Square. The site had previously contained a succession of two homes belonging to the family of Pittsfield's first minister, Rev. Thomas Allen. The second Allen residence was removed in 1913, and the present hotel edifice was constructed on the site in 1914-1915. Louis Larouche and the Park Realty Company acted as developers, employing a design by Pittsfield architect Joseph McArthur Vance.

The five-story buff brick structure is rectangular in shape, with its facade located on the shorter end, and has a flat roof with widely overhanging eaves. Brick rustication defines the basement and first floor. Regular fenestration typically consists of single rectangular windows with marble sills and lintels. Major deviations occur on the facade, where a central bay of paired windows is flanked by single bays of tripartite windows. On the fifth floor, the grouped windows are separated by wood pilasters and framed by brick soldier courses. Large, segmentally arched openings on the first floor - including the recessed center entrance of the facade - are topped by brick voussoirs. Marble belt courses run above the basement, first, and fourth floors. The block is crowned by a wide metal entablature which features a wide frieze, dentils, and modillion blocks. At the time of construction, the building was noted for having the most elaborate cornice in the city.

Mr. Larouche acted as contractor and purchasing agent. The following subcontractors were involved: "Nolan & Hilbert completed the plumbing and steam fitting; L. Parrott of Adams did the tile work and plastering; the Bay State Elevator Company of Springfield installed the automatic elevator; F. D. Retallick & Co. of Pittsfield did the wiring; Turner & Co. of Springfield installed the interior telephones and switchboard; Brown and Gates of Springfield installed the light fixtures. The furniture, bedding and curtains were supplied by the Wallace Company of Pittsfield. The Blakeslee Lumber Co. furnished all the lumber. Daniel Hood of the Berkshire Sheet Metal Co. did all the flashing, skylights and the cornice. The Providence Steel Company furnished the steel and iron. The Lee Marble Co. provided the marble trim and the buff brick came from the Perry Brick Company of Boston. George H. Walsh had charge of the roofing." The interior woodwork and trim is mahogany and oak, the oak being finished in both fumed and mission styles.

The lobby and lounge are panelled in oak to eye level and the support columns are cased in similar oak. A brick fireplace and mantel is located on the south side of the lounge. Only a few changes have occurred in the interior, all above the first floor level. An iron and brass staircase provides egress to the lobby and the restaurant below street level from the street.

## 8. Significance

Allen Hotel, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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

**Specific dates** 1914-1915      **Builder/Architect** Louis Larouche, Contractor/Developer  
Joseph McArthur Vance, Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Allen Hotel possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. Constructed in 1915, it is the oldest remaining hotel in Berkshire County's largest city, and reflects that city's growth in the early 20th century. Additionally, it was designed by a prominent local architect and reveals his personal handling of the Georgian Revival style. Thus, the Allen Hotel meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Prior to the building of the Allen Hotel, this site contained the home of Pittsfield's first minister, the Rev. Thomas Allen (1733-1810). Allen, who gained the title of the "Fighting Parson" as a result of his Revolutionary War service at the Battle of Bennington, served in Pittsfield from 1764 to 1810. Three generations of the Allen family occupied the 18th century house before it was replaced by an Italianate villa in 1857; the latter house succumbed in 1913 to intensified pressures for civic and commercial redevelopment in the downtown area.

In its place was built the Park Hotel (as the building was originally called), a \$100,000 project developed by Park Realty Company and contractor Louis Larouche to cater to both tourists and local patrons. Mr. Larouche stated that "he was planning to conduct a first class American hotel." Specifically, the establishment was intended to compete with the already famous Wendell Hotel (1898), also designed by Joseph McArthur Vance. The Wendell, larger and more opulent, was demolished in 1965.

The opening of the Park Hotel was celebrated on April 1, 1915, by guests from Springfield, Boston, Worcester, and Webster, Massachusetts. The Berkshire Glee Club provided music for the day-long event, while a bus from the hotel greeted every train coming to Pittsfield.

In 1935, after a bank foreclosure on the property (due to general economic decline), Raymond, Frank and John Smith purchased the controlling stock and maintained the building as a residential hotel. The new owners also renamed the building as the Allen Hotel to reflect its nostalgic associations with the site.

Joseph McArthur Vance (1868-1948) was a well-known architect in Berkshire County, practicing out of Pittsfield for fifty years. A graduate of M.I.T. in 1891, Vance became prominent through his designs for several public buildings in Pittsfield (including the Registry of Deeds, a theater, and two churches), the fashionable Aspinwall Hotel in Lenox, Massachusetts, and the Lodge on top of Mount Greylock. While modest in concept, the

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Berkshire Eagle, March 29, 1915.  
The Berkshire Eagle, March 22, 1936.  
The Berkshire Eagle, March 15, 1939.  
The Berkshire Eagle, April 16, 1962. The Berkshire Eagle, December 8, 1962.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4050 square feet  
Quadrangle name Pittsfield, west. Mass.-N.Y. Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 167, Page 655, April 23, 1914.  
Plan No. 2, Park Square Realty Co., Pittsfield, Aug. 1913, Scale 1"=40'.  
Parcel 4050, City of Pittsfield Assessor's Map, H9, Avis Air Map, 1"=100'.  
(Continued)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			

## 11. Form Prepared By

Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with James N. Parrish,  
name/title Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 3, 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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 Peter L. Weslowski

title State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 7/29/83

For NPS use only

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

J. Delores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9/1/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only:

received:

date entered:

Continuation sheet The Allen Hotel,  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts Item number 8 and 10 Page 1

design of the Allen Hotel is representative of its period and type in Pittsfield. No significant alterations have occurred on its exterior or within the interior public spaces.

The Allen Hotel is presently being recycled for use as residential apartments, awaiting final approval under the Investment Tax Credits program.

10. Verbal Boundary Description and Justification (Continued)

Lots 11 & 12, bounded northerly by lot thirteen, 13, on a plan No. 2, Park Square Realty Company, August 1913 (Book 369, Page 630), 80.60 feet. Easterly by Wendell Avenue 50 feet, southerly by Allen Way twelve feet wide running westerly from Wendell Avenue 81 feet, and westerly by the Old Central Fire Station on said plan 50 feet.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Allen Hotel  
Berkshire County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. AUG 1 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84

Date Due: 9/1/83 - 9/15/83

Action:  ACCEPT 9/1/83

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national    \_\_\_\_ state    \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ALLEN  
HOTEL



THE ALLEN HOTEL 1915  
Wendell Avenue Extension  
Pittsfield, MA. 01201

View west of front facade.

James N. Parrish, BCRPC 9/1/82

*Photo 1 of 2*

#105-1



The Champagne of Beers

Tiffany Pub

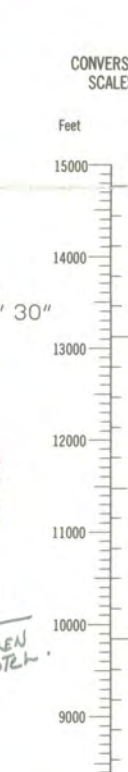
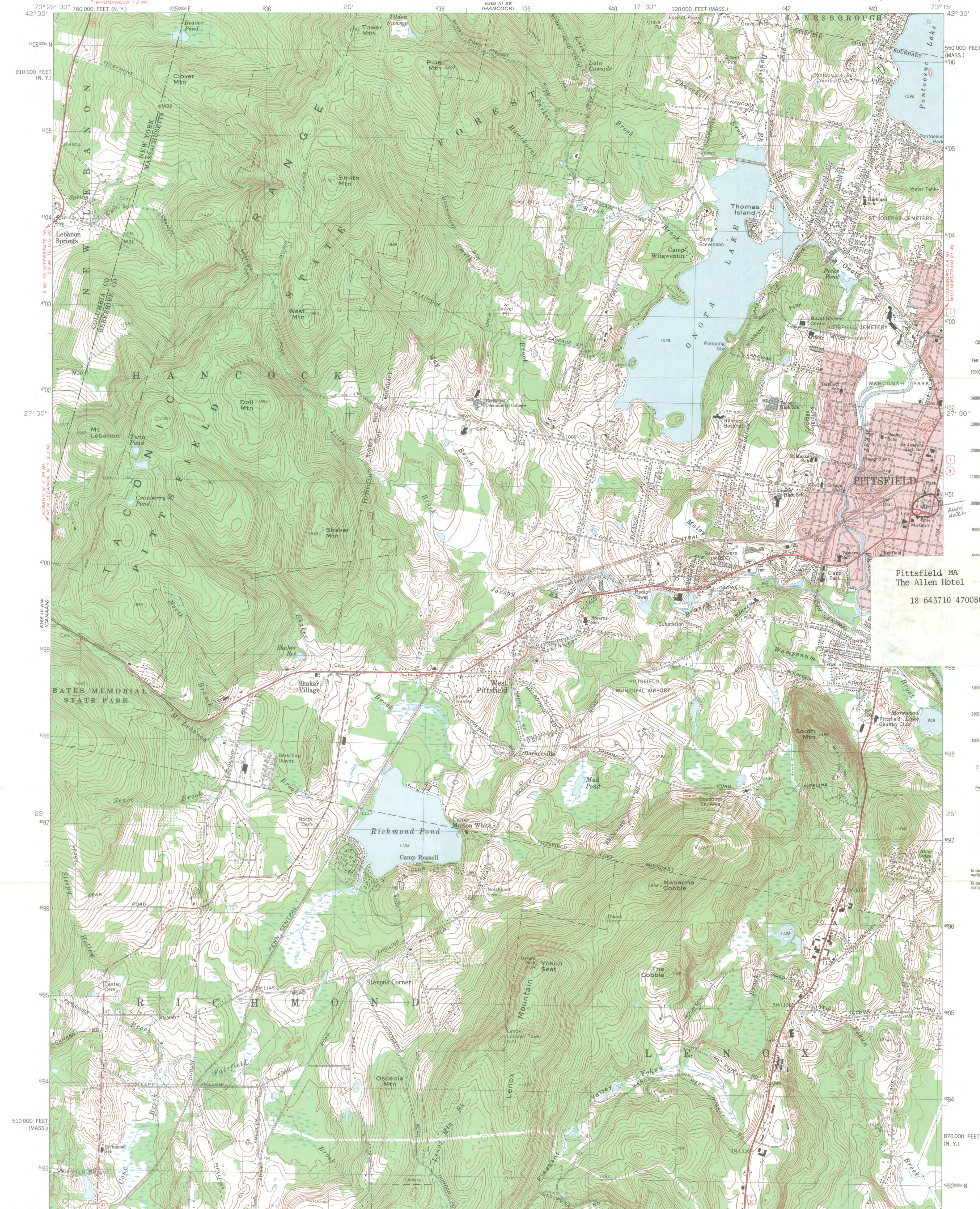
THE ALLEN HOTEL 1915  
Wendell Avenue Extension  
Pittsfield, MA. 01201

View north, northwest of southeast  
corner, east and south facades.

James N. Parrish, BCRPC 9/1/82 #105-2

*Photo 2 of 2*

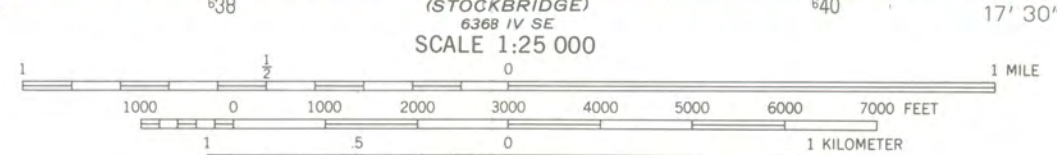
Pittsfield  
The Allen Hotel  
18 643710 4700860



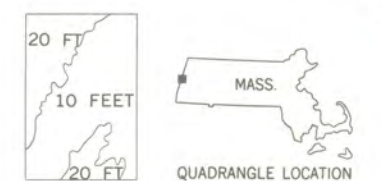
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1943-1944. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1973  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and New York coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVALS 10 AND 20 FEET (SEE DIAGRAM)  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



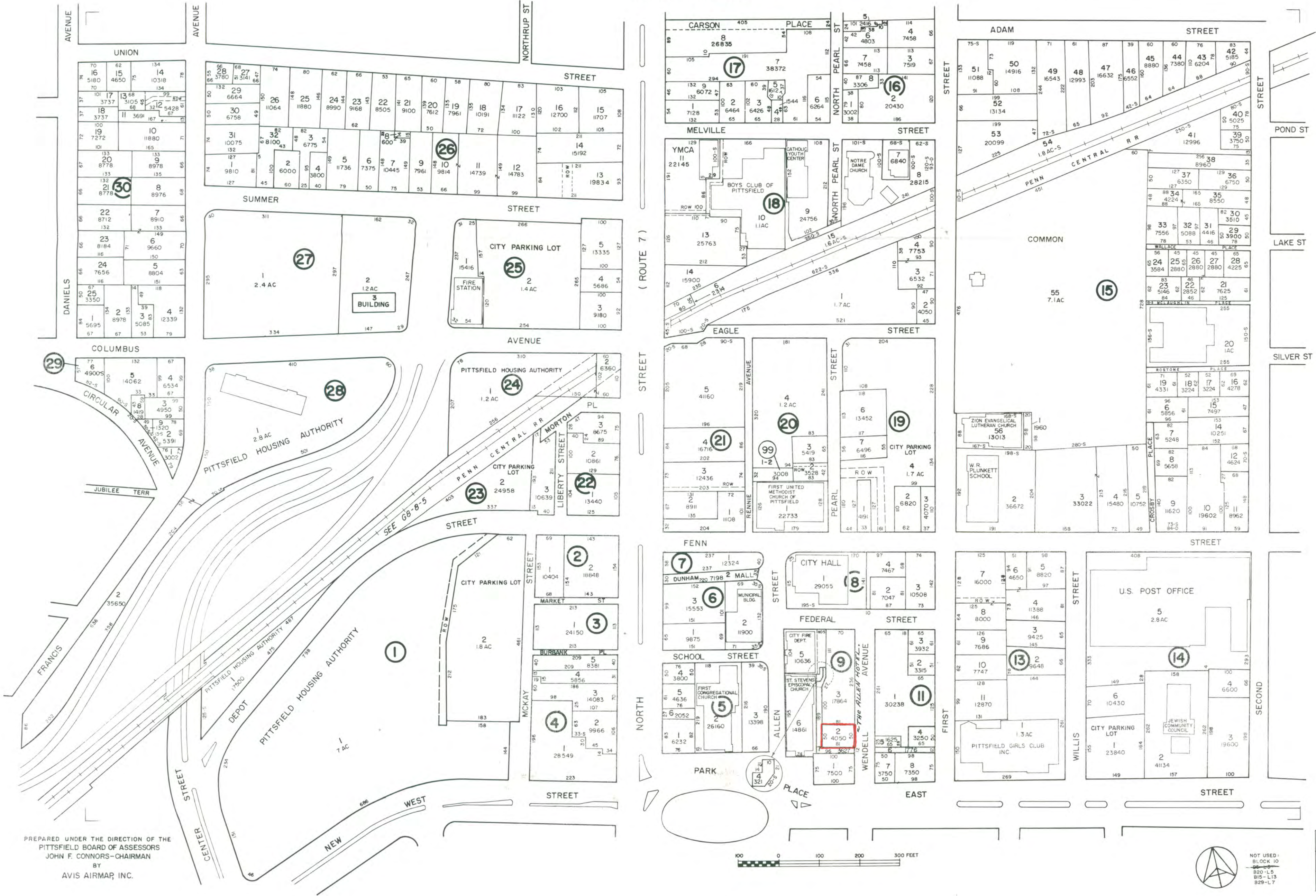
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route

PITTSFIELD WEST, MASS.-N. Y.  
N4222.5-W7315/7.5  
1973

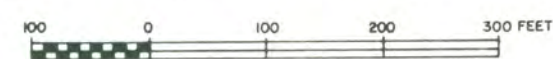
AMS 6368 IV NE-SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

# CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS ASSESSORS MAPS



PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
PITTSFIELD BOARD OF ASSESSORS  
JOHN F. CONNORS-CHAIRMAN  
BY  
AVIS AIRMAP, INC.



NOT USED -  
BLOCK 10  
850-L5  
815-L13  
829-L7

G10	H10	I10
G9	H9	I9
G8	H8	I8



**MASSACHUSETTS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts  
02108  
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY  
Secretary of State

July 20, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
18th and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston - Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church (local)

Boston - Harrison Loring House (local)

Chicopee - Valentine School (local)

Gardner - Heywood-Wakefield Complex (local)

Greenfield - Garden Theater Block (local)

Monterey - Rock Ridge (local)

Pittsfield - Allen Hotel (local)

Williamstown - Col. Benjamin Simond House (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

*Candace Jenkins*

Candace Jenkins  
Registration Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

*rec'd*

AUG - 1 1983

CJ/hi  
Enclosure