

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received AUG - 1 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic

Colonel Benjamin Simond House (preferred)

and/or common River Bend Farm

2. Location

street & number 643 Simonds Road (Route 7) N/A not for publication

city, town Williamstown N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. David J. Loomis

street & number 643 Simonds Road (Route 7)

city, town Williamstown N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts 01267

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 65 Park Street

city, town Adams state Massachusetts 01220

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Assets of the
title Commonwealth, #215

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1977 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Colonel Benjamin Simond House, Williamstown, Massachusetts

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Colonel Benjamin Simond House is a substantial, yet simple, Georgian period farmhouse located $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Williamstown Center. The property contains slightly over $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land and consists of the 18th century dwelling, and a late 19th century barn and milk house. Adjacent to the farm's southern boundary is the Boston and Maine Railroad, which dates from 1859, and the Hoosic River.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, five bay, central chimney, clapboard structure is of timber frame construction with a single story shed attached to the rear. It stands on a foundation of dry laid limestone, marble and fieldstone. Although the dwelling essentially retains its original 18th century form, alterations can be seen in the main entry and in the use of slate as a roof covering.

The principal, five-bay facade, which faces east, contains windows of 6/6 sash set in molded frames. This elevation, spare in ornamentation, is highlighted by a center entry which was enhanced early in the 19th century with flanking Tuscan pilasters.

Both the north and south elevations are identical in design and contain simple gable returns. Each is two bays deep with 6/6 windows placed symmetrically on the first and second floors. In addition, there is a single 4/4 window located at the attic level.

Attached to the northern portion of the rear facade is a simple two-bay, one-story gable roofed ell measuring approximately 20' by 40'. A simple recessed porch entry is located on the southern side of this extension.

The interior of the Colonel Simond House retains a considerable degree of original detailing. This is seen primarily in the front rooms which contain early built-in cupboards, wainscoting and chair rails. In addition, the original raised panelling on the hearth wall and crown molding continue to exist in the north parlor. The kitchen also exhibits early features as seen in the original fireplace with its beehive oven and the wide vertical plank boards which form the walls of the room.

Although the earliest outbuildings no longer exist, ones dating from the late 19th century built to replace the original ones do remain. These structures - a barn and milk house - are simple, clapboard, timber frame buildings and are located in the southwest portion of the property.

8. Significance Colonel Benjamin Simond House, Williamstown, Mass.

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/
☒ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☒ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1770 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Colonel Benjamin Simond House is significant as a fine example of rural New England Georgian architecture and as a symbol of the early development of Williamstown. It is one of three intact mid 18th century farmhouses still standing in town and is additionally important for its association with the original owner, who played a pivotal role in the community's early settlement and participated as a commanding officer in the Revolution at the Battle of Bennington and White Plains. Retaining integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and setting, the property meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Born on February 13, 1726 in Ware, Massachusetts, Benjamin Simond enlisted as a sentry in the French and Indian War at Fort Shirley, and was soon transferred to Fort Massachusetts at East Hoosic. On August 26, 1746, the fort fell to the French and Indian forces, and Simond, along with 28 other soldiers, was taken captive and sent to Quebec. Released in the spring of 1748, he returned to West Hoosic, now Williamstown, and purchased land the following year in the western section of this township. In 1752 he constructed a house and tavern on the property, but by 1769 moved to the north side of the Hoosic River where he built the farmhouse and tavern now known as River Bend Farm.

One of the community's most prominent early citizens, Benjamin Simond was instrumental in developing the young town of Williamstown in the years preceding the Revolution and assisted in its incorporation in 1765. Among his contributions to the community are the building of the block house in 1754, planning the town's first church in 1766, and helping to lay out a new burial ground adjacent to the church in 1766. After the Revolution, he continued to be active in local affairs, and in 1790 he oversaw the construction of West College, the first building of Williams College.

In addition to his wide range of civic activities, Colonel Simonds also served in the Revolution and acted as the commander of the Second Berkshire County Regiment, which was formed in May, 1776. In this position, he led his troops in the Battle of Bennington in 1777 and later fought in the battles at White Plains and Stone Arabia, New York.

Archaeological Potential

The land surrounding the Colonel Benjamin Simond House should be considered to contain discrete and scattered cultural material deposits

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brooks, Robert R. R. Williamstown, the First 200 Years. 1953, Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Brown, William B. Williamstown History.

(Continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.64

Quadrangle name Williamstown, Mass. - Vt.

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A

1	1	8
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6	4	6
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9	0	0
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4	7	3
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2	1	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification See attached Assessor Map, Plat #114, Sheet 127 and Plan of property, Kenneth G. and Edith H. Ware, Book 240G, Page 88, Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April, 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

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 Weselowski

State Historic Preservation Officer
title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 7/20/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

9/1/83

for *Delores Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only.

received:

date entered:

Continuation sheet Colonel Benjamin Simond House,
Williamstown, Mass.

Item number 8 and 9

Page 1

Item Number 8: Significance (Continued)

as well as the subsurface remains of past structures and land use features dating from the late 18th through mid 20th centuries. An archaeological testing strategy designed to locate and sample this component and the analysis and interpretation of those results may contribute important information for our understanding of past activities associated with the house and past rural lifeways in general.

In addition, the area possesses significant potential for the presence of prehistoric remains. Known historically as Hoosac Meadow, the vicinity of the house along the river has traditionally been said to contain prehistoric cultural materials. Despite disturbances produced by construction of the Fitchburg Railroad, artifacts were found as late as 1887. The site's location on the Hoosac River, probably a major transportation corridor for aboriginal populations, tends to support the accuracy of these historic assertions.

Item Number 9: Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Danforth, Judge Keyes. Boyhood Reminiscences. 1895, Gazlay Bros., N.Y.
- Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer of Berkshire County, Mass. 1885, Journal Office, N.Y.
- Moore, H. Parker. A Life of Gen. John Stark of N.H. 1949, H.P.M. Publisher, N.Y.
- Niles, Grace G. The Hoosac Valley. 1912, G. Putnam's Sons, N.Y.
- Perry, W. L. LL.D. Origins in Williamstown. 1894, Charles Scribner, N.Y.
- Perry, Bliss. Colonel Benjamin Simond 1726-1807. 1944, privately printed.
- "Inventory Analysis." Williamstown, January 1977, Massachusetts Historical Commission.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Simond, Col. Benjamin, House
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

Entered in the
National Register ☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ 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
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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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ original site
		☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Col. Benjamin Simond House, 1770
(River Bend Farm)

Simonds Road, Rte. 7, Williamstown, MA.

James N. Parrish, 6/14/82 (#101-13)

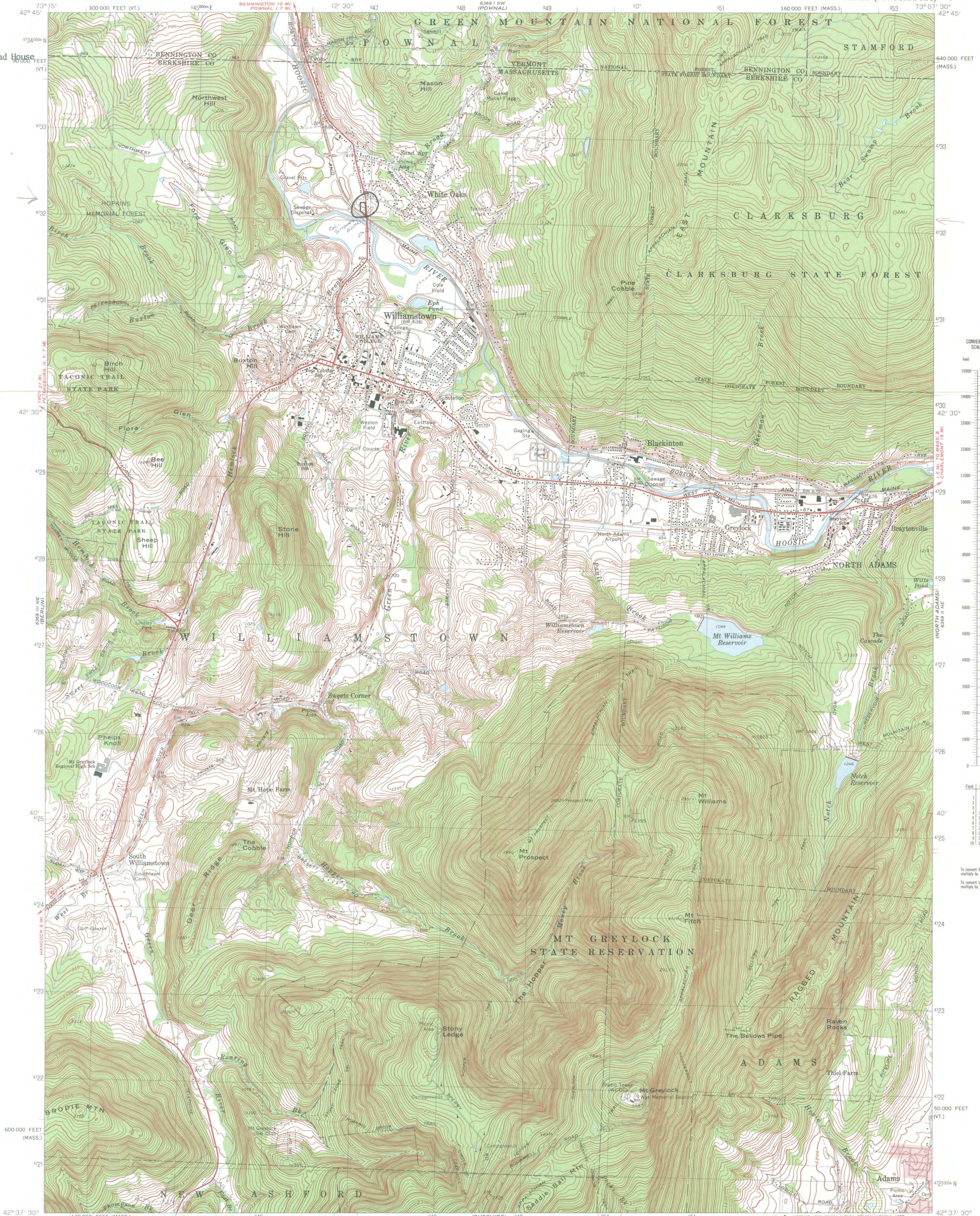
View north of south gable, Col. Benjamin
Simond House, Funeral or Tap Room door
just behind the right Lilac bush

Photo 1 of 2



Col. Benjamin Simond House, 1770
(River Bend Farm)
Simond's Road, Rte. 7, Williamstown, MA.
James N. Parrish, 6/14/82 (#101-9)
View, WSW from Simond's Road, front
facade of Col. Simond House, north
gable and rear ell. *Photo 2 of 2*

Williamstown, MA
Colonel Benjamin Simond House
18 646900 4732150



CONVERSION SCALES

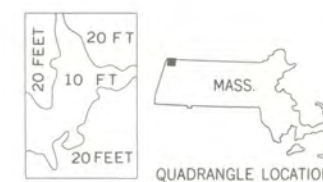
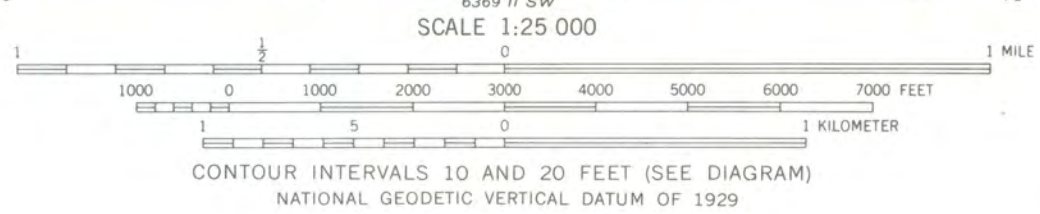
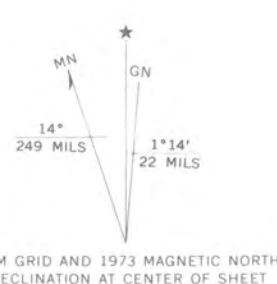
Feet	Meters
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14000	4267
13000	4000
12000	3658
11000	3353
10000	3048
9000	2743
8000	2438
7000	2134
6000	1829
5000	1524
4000	1219
3000	914
2000	609
1000	305
0	0

Feet | Meters

1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3.048
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 photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1942. Field checked 1944. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, and Vermont coordinate system
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 uncheck
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



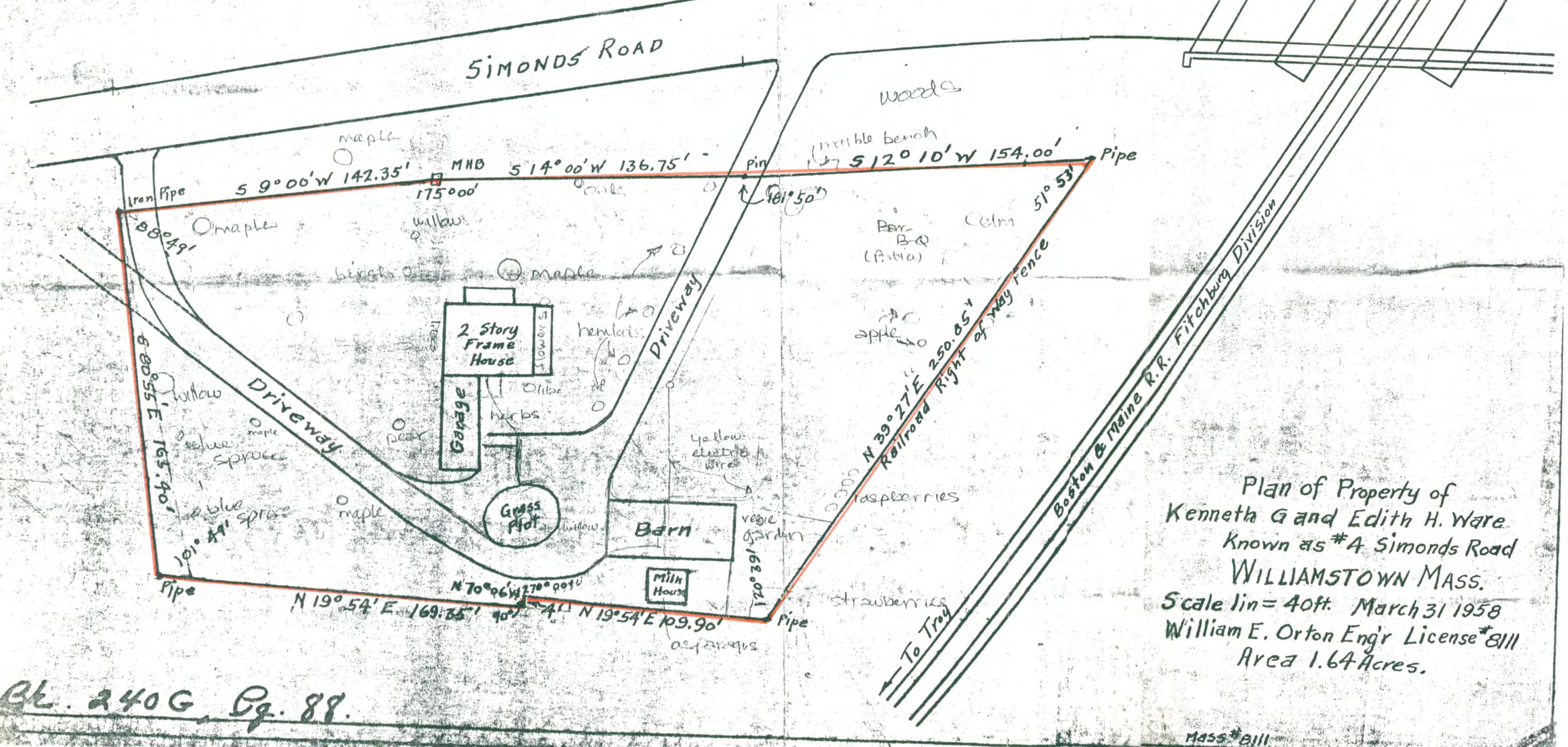
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.—VT.
N4237.5—W7307.5/7.5

1973

AMS 6369 II NW—SERIES V814





**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

CJ/hi
Enclosure

file'd

AUG - 1 1983