

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Massachusetts

COUNTY:

Berkshire

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

AUG 14 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:

South Mountain Concert Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

New South Mountain Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Pittsfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

First

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Berkshire

CODE

003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

- Public Acquisition:
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence
☒ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☒ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

South Mountain Association

STREET AND NUMBER:

Box 23

CITY OR TOWN:

Pittsfield

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Berkshire Registry of Deeds, Middle District

STREET AND NUMBER:

Wendell Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Pittsfield

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Berkshire County Regional Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972

☐ Federal☐ State☒ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Berkshire County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

113 East Housatonic Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Pittsfield

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
Mass.COUNTY:
BerkshireFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

AUG 14 1973

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The South Mountain Concert Hall is located near the center of a 200 acre tract of land and is screened on all sides by woods which provide a natural barrier against the distractions of background noise. The architectural simplicity of the Concert Hall enables it to blend harmoniously with this natural setting, which is a vital element in the successful use of the building.

The Concert Hall is a one-story building measuring 105 by 42 feet; it is constructed of wood and has a hip roof with a central cupola. The main (east) elevation is divided into five bays, each of which is set with French doors topped by paired casement windows and a flush fan light. The entrance to the building, located on the west side, is covered by a 22 by 58 foot porte-cochere above which is a row of hinged windows. These windows combine with those in the opposite elevation to take maximum advantage of the natural cooling effects of the surrounding wooded area, an important feature as the building was designed primarily for summer use.

The interior of the Concert Hall has a simple, functional design. The rows of seats are pews taken from a de-consecrated church in Vermont. The auditorium floor slopes gradually, enabling viewers in the rear to see the performers on the semi-circular stage and contributing to the sense of intimacy which is achieved despite the size of the hall. The exposed framing of the building includes massive timbers from an early nineteenth century mill in Hinsdale, Massachusetts. The wood paneling of the walls, together with these century-old timbers, provides exceptionally fine resonance, ideal for chamber music. These unusual accoustics coupled with the large expanse of windows and doors in the eastern wall enable audiences seated on the sloping lawn to enjoy the full musical quality of performances in the hall.

The boundaries of this submission include 300 feet of land on all sides of the building.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) 1918

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☒ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Mountain Concert Hall has been a center of music and educational activities in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, for more than half a century. The Concert Hall was built with funds given by Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge on land which she also provided. The building was completed in 1918 and was used for the first time in September of that year. This initial Berkshire Festival of Chamber Music became the first internationally known series of musical events to be presented in Berkshire County. Outstanding American and European musicians took part in the Berkshire Festivals, which continued annually through 1925.

By 1924, it had become apparent that the Berkshire Festival of Chamber Music had generated far more than local interest. Mr. Willem Willeke, music director of the Festivals, suggested that Washington, D. C. would be the appropriate location for an expansion of the Festivals. The success of this new concert series and the international interest which it aroused formed the basis of Mrs. Coolidge's decision to contribute funds for construction of the Coolidge Auditorium in the Library of Congress and to establish the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation to provide for performances of chamber music there. The Coolidge Foundation has maintained a continuous connection with South Mountain and sponsors concerts there.

The Elshuco Trio, which was formed at South Mountain, performed at the Concert Hall and throughout the United States from 1918 to 1933. Some two hundred compositions for chamber groups have been premiered at the South Mountain Concert Hall, among them works by Bartok, Webern, Ravel, Schoenberg and Stravinsky. The twenty-four chamber works of Johannes Brahms were first performed as a Brahms cycle at the Concert Hall in 1924. Among the internationally known artists who have appeared on the South Mountain stage are Rudolf Serkin, Leontyne Price, Leonard Bernstein, the New York Pro Musica, the Julliard Quartet, the Guarneri Quartet and the Budapest Quartet. In 1955, South Mountain organized its Young Audiences Concerts. This annual series, which now includes twenty-five concerts, is presented at the Concert Hall and in public schools throughout Berkshire County.

Both the Concert Hall and two hundred acres of surrounding open land are owned and maintained by the South Mountain Association. These extensive grounds, operated by the Association as a nature preserve, are open year-round for hiking and in winter for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Though the whole of the grounds is not included in this submission, (see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cobbett, Walter Wilson. Cyclopedic Survey of Chamber Music: Oxford Press, 1928, pp. 302, 20.
Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Vol II, fifth edition, 1954, p. 422.

Note: Library of Congress (Music Division) has a complete collection of South Mountain programs since 1918.

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	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	42° 25' 16"	73° 15' 58"				
NE	42° 25' 16"	73° 15' 49"				
SE	42° 25' 09½"	73° 15' 49"				
SW	42° 25' 09½"	73° 15' 58"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: for Eliz. R. Amadon, State Survey Dir. (617) 727-8470
Donald S. Smith, Executive Director (phone: 413-442-1793)

ORGANIZATION: Berkshire County Historical Society DATE: June 21, 1973

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
JOHN F. X. DAVOREN, Secretary of
the Commonwealth and
 Title Chairman of the Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Date July 5, 1973

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

Robert M. Wiley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/73

ATTEST:
Wm. S. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7 30 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

(Number all entries)

South Mountain Concert Hall, Pittsfield

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

they contribute to the significance of the Concert Hall since they provide valuable recreational land for the City of Pittsfield, Massachusetts.



PROPERTY

South Mountain Concert Hall

STATE

Mass

WORKING NUMBER

110-13-3280

Berkshire

TECH REVIEW

Photos

3

Maps

1

CONTROL REVIEW

CM
7-17-
73

HISTORIAN

I'm not overwhelmed by this room, but think that it might be elig. for local sign. definitely and perhaps state sign. (culture should be represented as well)

OK
Accept
AME
7/17/73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

As repres. of Berkshire
Music Fest. OK.

represented as well

Accept
KHC
7/19/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

OK 8/7/73
7/20/73

KEEPER

Wm
7/31

National Register write-up

Send-back

Federal Register entry

10-2-73

Re-submit

Entered

AUG 14 1973



NPS Number 8/4/73

Title: South Mt. Concert Hall

Loc. Berkshire, Mass

East of main facade

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	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: South Mountain Concert Hall			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Temple of Music			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
New South Mountain Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Pittsfield			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Massachusetts		025	Berkshire
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: WMSM Joel Labrizzi			
DATE OF PHOTO: October 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Photographer			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Exterior showing east or main facade and north wall, hip roof, cupola and men installing protective shutters over windows and doors. Note building protected by lightning rods.			





NPS Number 2/14/73

Title: South Mountain Concert Hall

Loc. Berkshire, Mass

West facade

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

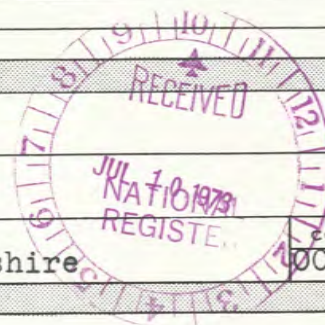
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME		
COMMON: South Mountain Concert Hall		
AND/OR HISTORIC: Temple of Music		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
New South Mountain Road		
CITY OR TOWN:		
Pittsfield		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
Massachusetts	025	Berkshire
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Joel Labrizzi		
DATE OF PHOTO: October 1972		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Photographer		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
West facade showing entrance, porch, porte-cochere and hinged windows with shutters installed.		





NPS Number 8/14/73

Title: South Mountain Concert Hall

Loc. Berkshire, Mass.

INTERIOR

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	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Berkshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME		
COMMON: South Mountain Concert Hall		
AND/OR HISTORIC: Temple of Music		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: New South Mountain Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Pittsfield		
STATE: Massachusetts		CODE: 025
COUNTY: Berkshire		CODE: 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Joel Labrizzi		
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1972		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Photographer		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Interior South Mountain Concert Hall showing massive timbers, casement and hinged windows, pews and paneling referred to in application. Photo taken during preparation for benefit auction		



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

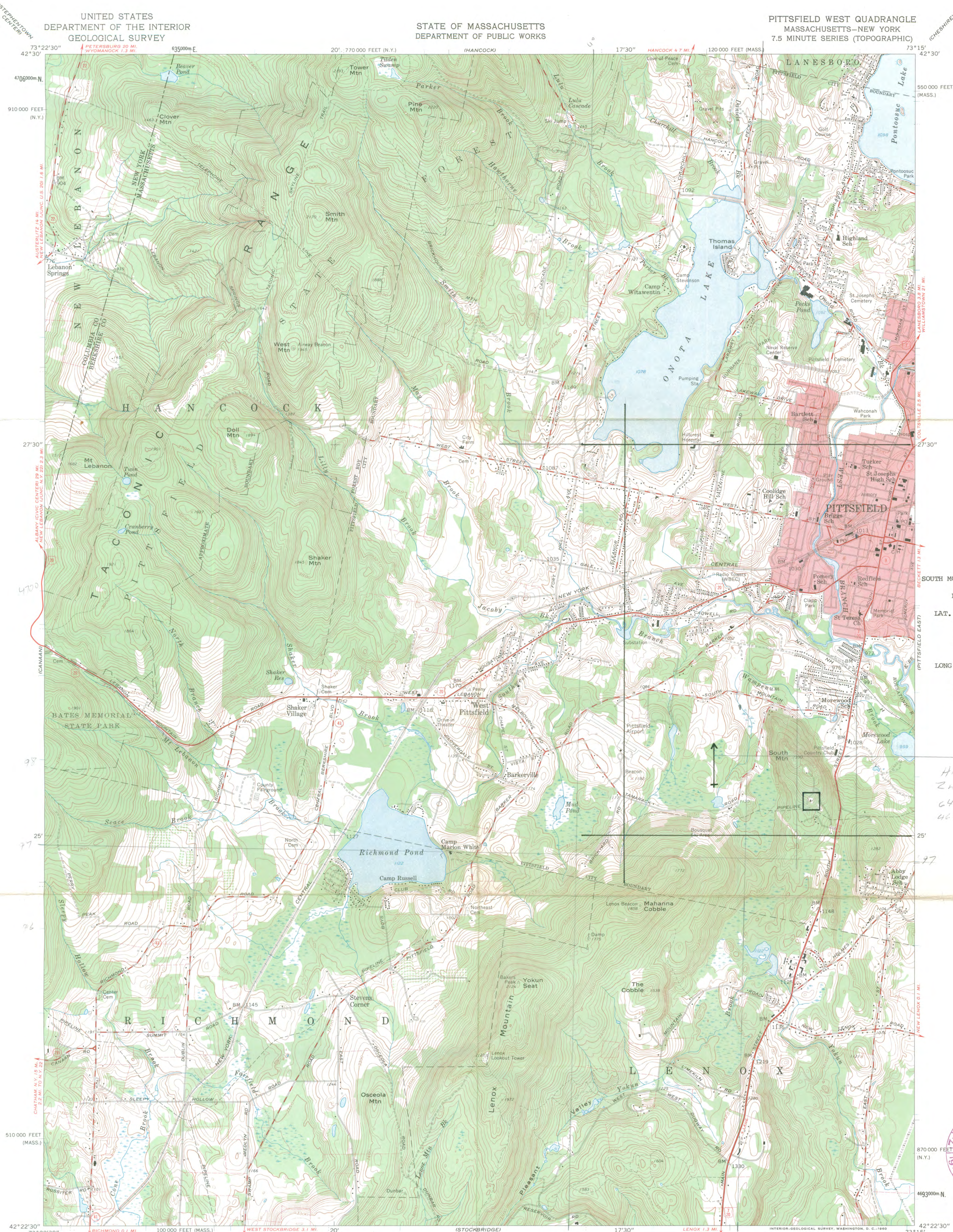
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

1. NAME		
COMMON South Mountain Concert Hall	AND/OR HISTORIC Temple of Music	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i> AUG 14 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Berkshire	TOWN Pittsfield
STREET AND NUMBER New South Mountain Road		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE U.S.G.S. Pittsfield West, Mass.	DATE 1959	SCALE 1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.





SOUTH MOUNTAIN CONCERT HALL

PITTSFIELD

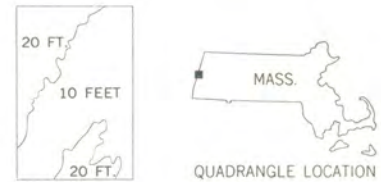
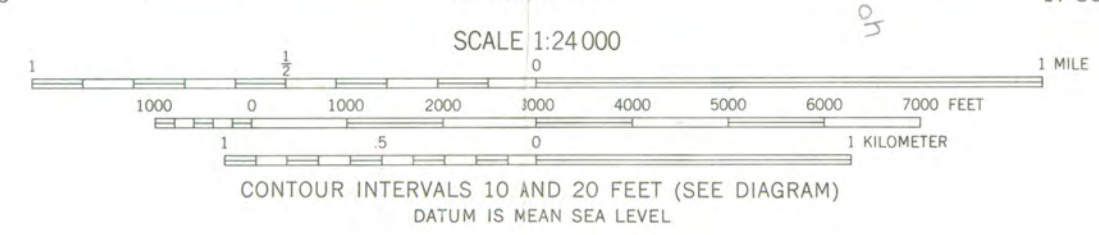
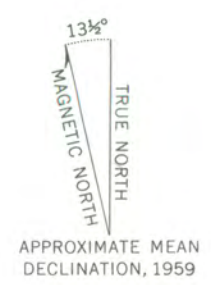
LAT.	
NW	42° 25' 16"
NE	42° 25' 16"
SE	42° 25' 09½"
SW	42° 25' 09½"

LONG.	
NW	73° 15' 58"
NE	73° 15' 49"
SE	73° 15' 49"
SW	73° 15' 58"

H13
2419
640760
4607410



Maped, 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



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

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

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered AUG 14 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
South Mountain Concert Hall	Pittsfield Berkshire County
Sabbath Day House	Billerica Middlesex County
Naval Hospital Boston	Chelsea Suffolk County
Back Bay Historic District	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Paul W. Cronin
Hon. Terbert E. MacDonald
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. John J. Moakley
Mr. Allen S. Kerr, DOD
Director, Northeast Region

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

PHR MMott:jal

8/16/73