

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 HCRS use only

received **MAR 18 1982**
date entered

1. Name

Searles Castle

historic "Kellogg Terrace", "Barrington House", "Hopkins-Searles Mansion"

and/or common "Searles Castle" (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Main Street

NA not for publication

city, town Great Barrington *NA* vicinity of congressional district First

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Searles Castle Enterprises, Inc. (Daniel Rosenfeld, Pres. and Treasurer)

street & number 10 Elba Place

city, town Scarsdale *NA* vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Main Street

city, town Great Barrington state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth
title has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date February 26, 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Searles Castle is a late-nineteenth century estate in the center of the business district of Great Barrington. The mansion stands behind high stone walls on about 64 acres of land between Main Street (Route 7) on the west and the Housatonic River on the east; at present a golf course covers most of the grounds on the west bank of the Housatonic River below the Castle.

McKim Mead and White were the architects of this imposing, forty-plus room mansion, built in the French Chateau style and said to resemble Charmord Castle in France. Work was begun in 1885--with blue dolomite for the construction brought from Mrs. Hopkins' own quarry on East Mountain--completed in 1888. A description of the house before its completion noted that the building has

"a frontage on the north of 180 feet and is 100 feet deep. Seven towers and numerous gables surmount the structure. The walls rise four stories on the north and six on the south. The massive south terrace is paved with marble and resembles a fortress from below."

The building overlooks a lagoon, fountain, Doric tea house, and a still unspoiled view of the Berkshire Hills.

The general design features walls of rock-faced coursed ashlar, articulated by narrow belt courses and by architraves and other ornamental trim of dressed ashlar. Windows are frequently paired, often with double or single transoms. The slate roof is the building's most dynamic aspect, with a variety of hipped and conical roofs. The verticality of these steep roofs is accentuated by delicate finials, narrow chimneys, gablets, and turrets.

In plan the building contains a square central mass with symmetrical pavilions on each of its four corners; those on the south are rectangular, those on the north cylindrical. The major north and south elevations are symmetrical and formal, while the east and west sides contain dissimilar appendages.

The north facade contains the main entry, flanked by three-story symmetrical towers. The formal entrance motif is composed of a recessed porch on the first floor, a recessed balcony on the second floor, and a two-story flush dormer. Entry is gained through a stilted arch supported by pairs of Ionic columns; the classical balcony above contains paired Corinthian columns.

The symmetrical south elevation, overlooking the grand terrace, contains large end pavilions with four-story corner turrets. Centered between the pavilions is a curved portico supported by eight Ionic columns and topped by a balustrade. A large flush dormer like that on the facade crowns this elevation.

On the east, an asymmetrical ell rises four stories from the basement kitchen to roof level. The north corner ends in a tower, while the south side has a two-story porch.

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APR 15 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number

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A glass-enclosed greenhouse formerly stood adjunct to the building below the kitchen wall.

Westerly, the Music Room rises three stories, having a large, tri-partite window with semi-circular transom on the north and south. Its buttressed end is also rounded. A balcony on the south side is accessed through a walk-out window.

The interior of Searles Castle is also outstanding. In the great hall, the woodwork is of hand-polished English Oak as it is in much of the rest of the house. At each side of the front entrance is a round tower room; one a reception room with a magnificent vaulted ceiling, while the other is a cloak room. A third tower room is a breakfast room near the butler's pantry and handsome Jacobean dining room. "The heart of the house is the atrium which is pillared in pink marble. Mexican onyx panels conceal electric lights which give the illusion of sunlight. Glass doors open upon a loggia above the terrace."

A Louis XIV drawing room said to have been brought from France, has a dramatically painted ceiling. The woodwork is embellished with real gold leaf. The fireplace, alone, was valued circa 1922 at \$25,000.

West of the atrium is the Music Room which originally housed a magnificent organ, now in the Congregational Church in Methuen. The room is fifty feet long and forty-two feet high, with a dome-shaped paneled ceiling and acoustically perfect. On the second and third floors are bedroom suites, a circular library finished in black walnut, and a butternut wood billiard room.

The servants were quartered on the fourth floor and the first-basement kitchen is floored and walled with white marble. The original laundry shows its line of set tubs and a copper and brick wash boiler. The laundry is flanked by a wine cellar and two walk-in ice boxes.

In the sub-basement are the twin boilers that originally heated the house and supplied steam to turn the 100 kw, Edison, bipolar generator which supplied the electricity to illuminate the building. The steam engine and generator were later removed to a separate brick powerhouse a distance from the main house. Commercial electricity now supplies this need.

The original water system from Lake Mansfield, a mile and a half away, still runs the hydraulic elevator, which, lacking today's safety features, is not in use. Its overflow supplies a fountain in the center of the lagoon on the Castle's south side.

The Carriage House, just northeast of the main entry of the Castle, is also of blue dolomite. It is asymmetrical, with a crow stepped gable and chimney on the west, balanced by a smaller gable dormer on the east.

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A center arch allowed access to the main floor, where Mrs. Searles' collection of carts and carriages were kept. Two apartments for estate workers were on the second floor under its deep roof.

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

Specific dates 1883-1888 **Builder/Architect** Architect: McKim, Mead, and White (Stanford White) Builder: Norcross Bros. Worcester, MA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Searles Castle possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship and as an accomplished work of one of America's finest architectural firms, McKim, Meade, and White, meets Criterion C. It was designed in 1885 in the Chateausque style and is one of the finest estates in the Berkshires, an area noted for its large residences. Many of its interior fittings were imported from Europe and are of exceptionally high quality. The building's association with some of the country's leading business and society figures of the late 19th century-- railroad magnate Mark Hopkins and his wife, Mary, and decorator Edward Searles of New York City--meets Criterion B.

Mark Hopkins, descendant of Great Barrington's first Congregational minister, the Reverend Samuel Hopkins, became one of the "big four" whose business acumen and audacity helped span the United States rails in 1869 as the Central Pacific Railroad. Hopkins became one of the nineteenth century's multi-millionaires. On his death in 1878, his estate was estimated at between fifteen and fifty million dollars. His wife, Mary Francis (Sherwood) Hopkins, received three-quarters of the estate. She had, also, inherited, in 1877, the property of two maiden aunts in Great Barrington.

Construction of the castle on the Great Barrington property was begun in 1885. Mrs. Hopkins met Mr. Edward P. Searles, an interior decorator for Herter Brothers of New York, NY, while the firm was decorating her Nob Hill home in San Francisco, California. They became close friends and Searles agreed to supervise the construction and decoration of the Great Barrington house which was being designed by McKim, Mead, and White. As the castle neared completion, the couple were married at Trinity Chapel in New York City, November 8, 1887. Even though she was twenty-one years older than he, they shared an interest in art and music. He was accomplished on the organ and piano. On their honeymoon in Europe, they purchased many art treasures for the castle and visited sculptor, Thomas Ball, in his studio in Venice, Italy, later commissioning several works from him.

Searles, who owned a home in Methuen, Massachusetts, extended it to create the mansion, Pine Lodge. He also bought Stillwater Manor and Highfield Farm and built Stanton-Harcourt in Windham, New Hampshire.

Mrs. Searles died at Pine Lodge, June 28, 1891. Her will left her husband everything. After her death, Edward Searles spent little time in Great Barrington. The routing of a new trolley line past the castle gate in 1902 angered him and he left to reside in Methuen until his death, August 6, 1920.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 64.A.

Quadrangle name Great Barrington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

E

Zone			Easting			Northing								

F

Zone			Easting			Northing								

G

Zone			Easting			Northing								

H

Zone			Easting			Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Continuation Sheet

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with James N. Parrish, ^{Historic Preservation Planner}

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 17, 1980

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Peterson Wislowski 12/11/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

for Shelous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date 4/15/82

**United States Department of the Interior
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Great Barrington Fire District Annual Reports, 1905-17.

Lavender, David, The Great Persuader, Doubleday and Co., Garden City, NJ, 1970.

Picturesque Berkshire, Part II, South Berkshire, Picturesque Publishing Co., Northampton,
MA, 1893.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Beginning at the intersection of the westerly bank of the Housatonic River and the northerly line of land of the Town of Great Barrington known as Olympian Meadows, being the southeasterly corner of the premises herein described;

Thence westerly along said northerly line and the northerly line of a right of way leading from said Main Street to said Meadows five hundred eighty (580) feet, more or less, to the intersection of the northerly line of said right of way and the easterly line of land now or formerly of one Ketchen, being the southwesterly corner of the premises herein described;

Thence northerly along said Ketchen's easterly line three hundred twenty-seven and six (327.6) feet, more or less, to the intersection of said easterly line with the southerly line of land now or formerly on one Hunt;

Thence easterly, northerly, and westerly in the line of said Hunt's land a total distance of three hundred twelve and eight tenths (312.8) feet, more or less, to the intersection of said northerly line of Hunt's land with the easterly line of land now or formerly of one Jackman;

Thence northerly along the easterly line of said Jackman and land now or formerly of one Leonhard one hundred fifty-seven (157) feet, more or less, to a corner of said Leonhard land;

Thence northwesterly along land of said Leonhard fifty-seven and eight tenths (57.8) feet, more or less, to the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of one Littlewood;

Thence northerly along the easterly line of land of said Littlewood one hundred eleven (111) feet, more or less, to the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of one Scholz;

Thence northerly along the easterly line of land of said Scholz and the easterly line of land now or formerly of one Carroll one hundred (100) feet, more or less, to a corner of said Carroll's land;

Thence easterly and northerly along the southerly and easterly line of land of said Carroll forty-eight (48) feet, more or less, to land now or formerly of one Cunningham;

Thence easterly along the southerly line of land of said Cunningham ninety-nine (99) feet, more or less, to the southeasterly corner thereof;

Thence northerly along the easterly line of land of said Cunningham eighty-seven (87) feet, more or less, to the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of one Peters;

Thence along the easterly line of land of said Peters in a general southeasterly and northerly direction a distance of one hundred eighty and eight tenths (180.8) feet, more or less, to the northeasterly corner of land of said Peters;

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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Thence in a general westerly direction along the northerly line of land of said Peters two hundred fifty and eight tenths (250.8) feet, more or less, to the easterly line of said Main Street;

Thence northerly along the said easterly line of Main Street one thousand three hundred thirty-five and four tenths (1335.4) feet, more or less, to the southwesterly corner of land conveyed by James J. Joyce and Margaret C. Joyce to Wheeler & Taylor Realty Company, Inc.;

Thence S. 50°E. two hundred fifty six and five tenths (256.5) feet along the southerly line of said Wheeler & Taylor Realty Company, Inc. land to a corner;

Thence N. 50°30'E. along the easterly line of said land one hundred and two (102) feet to an iron pipe;

Thence S. 49°10'E. along the southerly line of said land one hundred forty-four and three tenths (144.3) feet to a corner;

Thence northerly along the westerly line extended of an existing right of way from Bridge Street one hundred eighty-six and five tenths (186.5) feet to a land now or formerly of Harper Garage Company;

Thence continuing northerly along the easterly line of said Harper Garage Company land one hundred twenty-four (124) feet, more or less, to the southerly line of Bridge Street;

Thence easterly along said southerly line of Bridge Street thirty (30) feet to the northwesterly corner of land of one Dempsey;

Thence southerly along the westerly line of said land of Dempsey one hundred eighty-three and eight tenths (183.8) feet, more or less, to a southwesterly corner thereof;

Thence easterly, southerly, and again easterly along the line of land of said Dempsey the following distances: Ninety (90) feet, more or less; thirty and three tenths (30.3) feet, more or less; and ninety-three and one-tenth (93.1) feet, more or less, to the westerly line of land of the Town of Great Barrington known as Memorial Field;

Thence southerly along the westerly line of said land known as Memorial Field one hundred thirty-two and fifty-one hundredths (132.51) feet, more or less, to the southwesterly corner thereof;

Thence easterly along the southerly line of said Memorial Field five hundred fifty-nine and eighty four one-hundredths (559.84) feet, more or less, to the westerly bank of the Housatonic River;

Thence southerly, westerly, and again southerly along the westerly bank of said Housatonic River to the place of beginning.

Containing sixty-four acres, more or less.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

82004453

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Searles Castle
State, County: MA, Berkshire
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3-18-82-802
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-1-83
Date Due: 4-15-82 / 5-2-82

Action: ACCEPT 4/15/82
Entered in the National Register
RETURN _____
REJECT _____
photos ✓
maps ✓

____ 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	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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	____ original site
____ good	____ ruins	____ moved
____ fair	____ unexposed	____ 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 _____

USIT 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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



#2

Searles Castle. Great Barrington Ma.

View from the North, on the lawn. Main Entrance.

April 8. 1979

James N. Parrish.

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
Searles Castle

#10F2

View from the North

Photo by James Parrish,
April 1979

Negative at Berkshire
Regional Planning
Commission



#1 SEARLES. CASTLE. GREAT BARRINGTON MA.

View from the South, from the Golf course.

April 8. 1979.

James N. Parrish.

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
Searles Castle

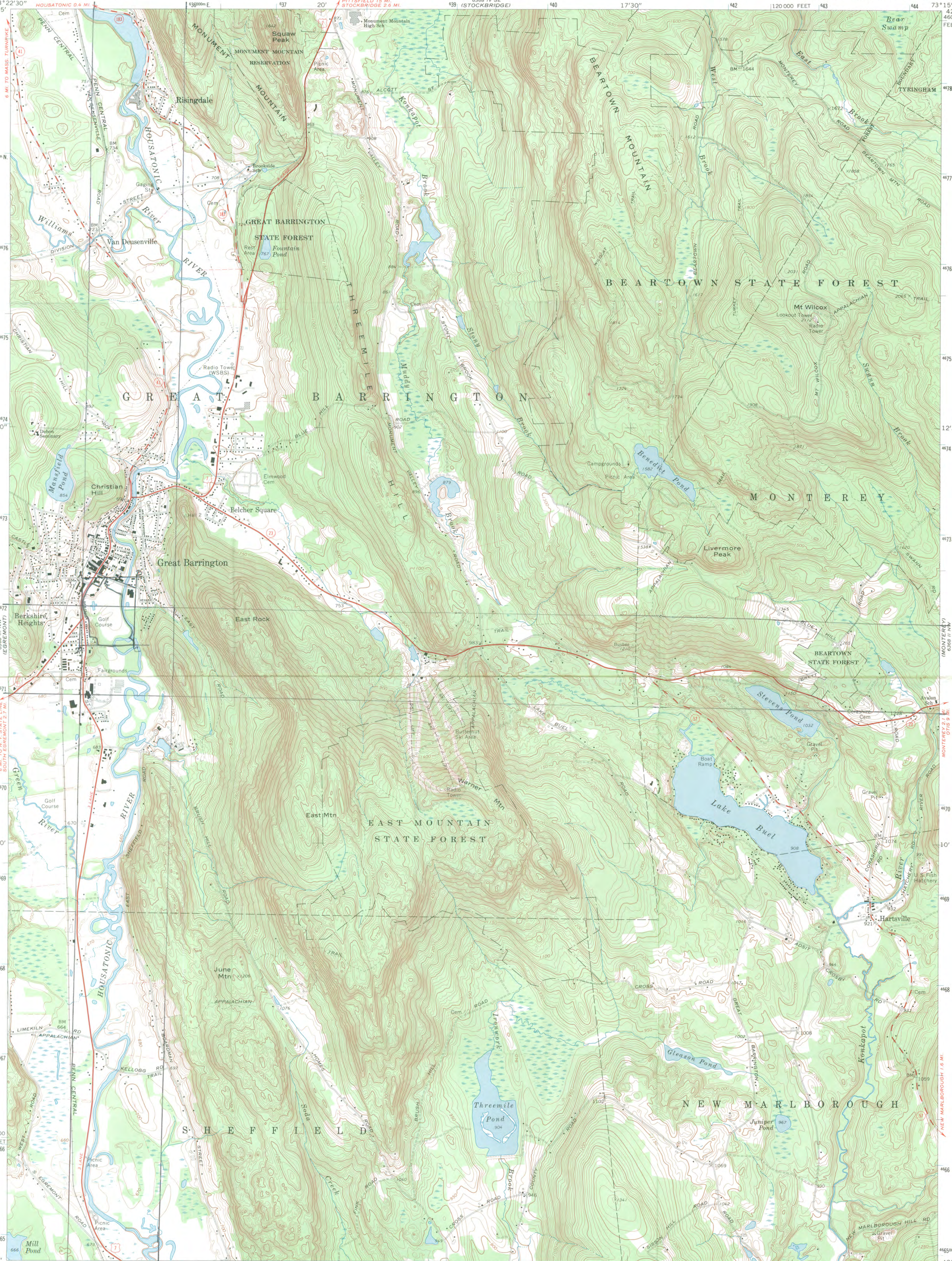
#20F2

View from the south
Photo by James Parrish,
April 1979

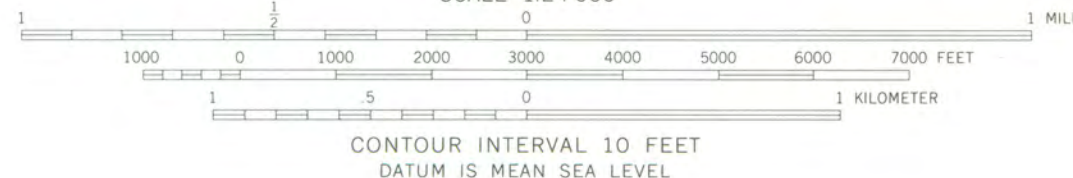
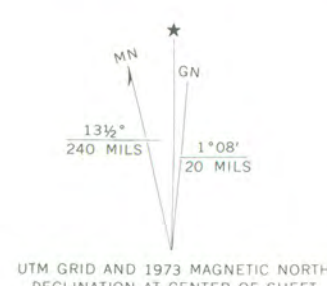
Negative at Berkshire
Regional Planning
Commission

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
Searles Castle

UTM References:
A:18/635000/4672320
B:18/635600/4672330
C:18/635580/4671560
D:18/634970/4671550



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 1946. 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
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	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS.
N4207.5-W7315/7.5

1973

AMS 6368 III NE-SERIES V814

Great Barrington 1864
Sankis Castle



searles castle enterprises, inc.

P.O. Box 210, Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230 413-528-1062

RECEIVED

November 21, 1980

NOV 21

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historic Preservation Officer
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Weslowski:

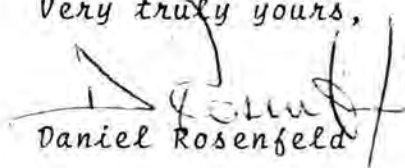
This is to confirm receipt of your letter dated November 7, 1980. Also, this is to confirm our desire that Searles Castle be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, please call our General Manager, Miss Beth Putnam.

Thanking you for your cooperation,

I remain

Very truly yours,


Daniel Rosenfeld

DR:ns



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 15, 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Goodwood	Richmond Berkshire County
Searles Castle	Great Barrington Berkshire County

Notified

Honorable Silvio O. Conte
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul E. Tsongas

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, NPS
North Atlantic Regional Office, NPS

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Searles Castle
Main Street
Great Barrington, MA

The owner was originally notified of MHC's intent to nominate on 11/7/80, and responded in favor.

The State Review Board considered the nomination on 12/10/80, and voted unanimously in favor.

The nomination was submitted to the National Register on 12/12/80; it was returned to MHC on 2/13/81.

Ownership was verified on 12/23/81, and the owner was renotified of MHC's intent to nominate on 12/14/81. No response was received.