

**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 3 1982

date entered APR 6 1982

1. Name

historic Wheatleigh

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number West Hawthorne Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Stockbridge *me*

N/A vicinity of

congressional district First

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Berkshire

code 003

3. Classification

Category

☒ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☒ public
☐ private
☐ both
Public Acquisition
☐ in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☒ commercial
☐ educational
☒ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name A. David Weisgal & Florence Brooks-Dunay

street & number West Hawthorne Road

city, town Stockbridge

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 42 Wendall Avenue

city, town Pittsfield

state Massachusetts 01201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1979

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

7. Description

STOCKBRIDGE: Wheatleigh, West Hawthorne Road

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wheatleigh is located in the northeast corner of the town of Stockbridge, placing it roughly in the center of the Berkshire Hills. Originally comprised of 250 acres, this late nineteenth century estate included a formal 33-room mainhouse, four greenhouses, a water tower, a ten car garage with two apartments above, a superintendents house, an ice house, a hay and carriage barn, and three gatehouses. Additionally, the grounds were planned as a private park and were landscaped with azaleas, rhododendrons, and mountain laurel. Today, X Wheatleigh is reduced to an extent of 22 acres which include only the main house and the water tower (see attached maps for a comparison of the bounds).

The most prominent feature of the Wheatleigh Estate is the main house which occupies a plateau of wooded hills affording a commanding view of the nearby Stockbridge Bowl (Lake Maheenac) and the surrounding countryside. Designed in 1893 by the Boston Firm of Peabody and Stearns, Wheatleigh is an early and very fine example of an "American Renaissance" Italian villa, a type which became popular for large estates at the turn of the century. It is symmetrically designed with a U-shaped plan consisting of a central block extended laterally by hyphens and end pavilion and to the rear (east) by a bedroom wing on the north and a loggia and summer house on the south. It is constructed of buff Roman brick laid up in Flemish bond and is trimmed with terra cotta both supplied by the Sayerville Quarry and Terra Cotta Company. With the exception of the one story hyphens and loggia, it rises two stories to overhanging low pitched, slate covered hip roofs.

The main block of the facade (west, facing the Stockbridge Bowl) is seven bays long and is divided horizontally by a heavy terra cotta belt course which also serves as the sill for the second story windows. At the first story, the three middle bays contain round arches carried by paired Tuscan columns; the arches have molded archivolts, scrolled keystones, and coffered soffits. Recessed within each arch are double doors headed by arched, glazed transoms. The four outer bays contain arched openings of a smaller-scale. All seven bays of the second story contain nearly square window openings with molded, splayed lintels. A tiled terrace, approached by three marble steps which are guarded by lions rampant, extends the length of the main block. The terrace is partly enclosed by two projecting quatrastyle temple fronts on raised casements which flank the central block and mask the hyphens; the southerly element has been enclosed to form a bar. The end pavilions resume the two story height and first floor window treatment of the main block and contain recessed, arcaded balconies at the second floor.

The garden elevation (east) is more loosely planned and less rigidly symmetrical than the facade. The main block is organized around a projecting central porch, called "curtained vestibule" on early plans. At the first floor it is enclosed and contains three arched openings; the flanking ones are narrower and glazed. This is covered by a decorative glass and iron canopy supported on a terra cotta balustrade. The second floor forms an open loggia supported by paired Tuscan columns with arched openings behind. To the north is a pair of elongated stained glass stair windows with arched transoms. To the south is a palladian window at the first story and a pair of standard sized windows with arched transoms at the second story. This elevation is approached by a circular drive with an elaborate marble fountain with shell, leaf, and dolphin motifs at its center.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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The other structure on the grounds dating from the 1890's is the octagonal water tower. This rises 100' in three stages from a low masonry base to a shallowly pitched roof. The first stage is constructed of ashlar blocks and contains the entry which consists of a molded architrave, pulvinated frieze, and triangular pediment on scrolled brackets. The second stage rises three stories from a wide belt course. It is wood frame construction with clap-board sheathing and quoin corner blocks. An octagonal clock is centered in this stage and near its top is a balustrade supported on heavy carved brackets. The third stage is a cupola with arched lowered openings.

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 Early 1893-1894 **Builder/Architect** Architect: Peabody & Stearns of Boston
Builder: Cutting & Bishop of Worcester

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wheatleigh possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship as well as associations with the development of the Stockbridge/Lenox portions of the Berkshires as a 19th century summer resort.

Attracted by literary and intellectual figures like Hawthorne, Holmes, Longfellow, Melville, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and Fanny Kemble, the new American Society of the nineteenth century developed rural seats in imitation of those in England in the Berkshires. By 1880, thirty-five major mansions were built and by 1900 their number had increased to seventy-five causing Lenox and Stockbridge to be nicknamed the Inland Newport. Shadowbrook, Erskin Park, and now Elm Court "a magnificent ruin" have passed from existence; of the largest estates, Bellefontaine, Blantyre, and Wheatleigh remain of the Gilded Age. In addition to its historic associations, Wheatleigh is architecturally significant as an early and very fine example of an "American Renaissance" Italian Villa designed by the prominent Boston firm of Peabody & Stearns. Thus, Wheatleigh meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Henry Harvey Cook of New York purchased 250 acres of undeveloped land from Gideon Northrop Smith for \$50,000 in 1892. He then proceeded to develop a magnificent country estate which he named Wheatleigh after the ancestral estate of the Cook family at Wheatley, England. This estate includes a 33-room main house, four greenhouses, a water tower, a ten car garage with apartments above, a superintendent's house, an ice house, a hay and carriage barn, and three gatehouses as well as formally landscaped grounds.

H.H. Cook had been responsible for the construction of the branch of the Erie Railroad running from Binghamton to Corning, New York. He projected the Buffalo, New York and Corning Road and was President, and Director of several banks and corporations including the Bank of Bath, the National Bank of North America, and the American Surety Company. Having accumulated his fortune in railroading and banking, Mr. Cook became well known both here and abroad as an art collector who had gathered many valuable paintings and statues. Upon his death, he left many of his treasures to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Boston architectural firm of Peabody & Stearns was chosen to design the estate and its grounds along with the Worcester construction firm of Cutting and Bishop. The architects, Robert Swain Peabody and John Goddard Stearns met as draftsmen in the firm of Ware and VanBrunt and worked as partners from 1870-1917. Their success together has been attributed largely to the fusion of their disparate talents. Peabody, who had formal Beaux-Arts training, was responsible for initial design and approval of their commissions, which were then fleshed out by staff. Stearns, with formal engineering training, supervised construction. During their first decade, the firm worked in a wide variety of nineteenth century styles which they began to abandon during the second decade to concentrate on the Renaissance Revival. Notable works by the firm include two buildings for the Boston Stock Exchange (1888 and 1908), the Boston Custom House Tower (1913) and the Worcester City Hall (1898).

9. Major Bibliographical References

- a. Wilson, Richard Guy School of Architecture, University of Virginia
- b. Union & Republican Newspaper of Springfield 7/18/43 p. 2 & 7/3/49
- c. New York Times 10/10/05 7 12/13/46 e. Lenox Library
- d. Berkshire Eagle 6/10/49 & 8/17/49 f. Stockbridge Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 22 acres

Quadrangle name Stockbridge

UMT References

A 18 639830 4688980
Zone Easting Northing

B 18 639830 4688980
Zone Easting Northing

C 18 639830 4688980

D 18 639830 4688980

E 18 639830 4688980

F 18 639830 4688980

G 18 639830 4688980

H 18 639830 4688980

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the Northwest corner of the parcel being conveyed, it being further identified as follows: said point of beginning is on a course of South 63° 16' East 66.00 feet from the center of square brick gate post located on the south side of first entrance drive north of Main Entrance drive and Gate House, also on a course of North 22° 54' East

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director w/ Florence Brooks-Dunay, Wheatleigh

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1981

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Potomac L. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 2/17/82

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Branham
Keeper of the National Register

date 4.6.82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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received

date entered APR 6 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Beginning their work on Wheatleigh in 1893, Peabody and Stearns wrote the following about what inspired them:

"Slight tentative sketches in various styles were made when this house was first talked of, but all interested agreed that the broad surfaces and horizontal lines found in an Italian Villa were best suited to the beautiful rolling country and the shores of the lake where the house was to be placed. The first sketch in this character was suggested by a hurried note made from a railroad station in Italy of a certain hillside villa. The first sketch thus produced was scarcely departed from and the executed work resembles it."

The house was highly esteemed in its own time and was published in the American Architect & Building News, International Edition, Vol. #76, dated April 5, 1902, p. 6, with seven photographs, and a number of sketches, and a few years later in the same magazine, Vol. #32, dated October 1912, p. 360. Charles McKim of the New York firm of McKim, Mead & White, and a leader of the American Renaissance, heavily praised the house to friends, and in a letter to Edith Wharton written in 1897, he wrote "it is one of the most successful examples of the Italian Villa type . . . adapted to modern uses." Peabody was the main designer of the house and was assisted by Julius Schweinfurth, a noted renderer of the day.

H.H. Cook died on October 10, 1905, leaving four daughters. He bequeathed each an annual income of \$15,000 for six years and at the end of that time each was to receive two and a half million dollars in cash (\$2,500,000.00). In addition, their husbands and children were liberally provided for. To his daughter, Georgie Bruce, wife of Carlos de Heredia, Mr. Cook bequeathed his country seat, Wheatleigh in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Georgie Bruce Cook married Carlos de Heredia, nobleman with the title of count on February 4, 1891. He was a native of Cuba, educated in France and England and was a member of the Lenox Club, the Lenox Horticultural Society, and the Mahkeenac Boat Club. In 1921, Mrs. Carlos de Heredia donated the use of the formal gardens at Wheatleigh for sunset services by the Trinity Church of Lenox. These vespers in the formal gardens became a tradition which lasted for 24 years. Many distinguished persons attended. Mrs. de Heredia was generous to many institutions and she usually gave anonymously. She contributed to the building of the Music Shed at Tanglewood and helped found the Berkshire Festival.

When the Countess died on December 13, 1946, her two nieces inherited the entire estate which they immediately sold to a retired real estate dealer from Chicago, a Mr. Joseph Lutske. He purchased the estate for \$70,000 on June 10, 1949 and the following month sold the main house plus 21 acres to the Boston Symphony Orchestra for \$25,000 keeping the remainder for an investment (this included the water tower as well as the main house. The tower was one of the tallest in the Berkshires when constructed. Its water was pumped from Indian Springs, a 20-acre lilly pond located on the property. It has been known as the "Poodle Tower" for Mrs. de Heredia buried her dogs there). The BSO retained possession until November 13, 1957 when it was sold to Philip Barber. The current owners acquired the property in 1976 and use it as an inn and restaurant.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

72.00 feet from a square brick column north of main entrance drive and at the south end of a brick wall which extends to first mentioned reference point; thence North $85^{\circ} 19'$ East 241.25 feet to a stake; thence South $68^{\circ} 07'$ East 233.20 feet to a stake thence south $86^{\circ} 30'$ East 369.00 feet to a stake; thence South $5^{\circ} 37'$ West 306 feet to a stake; thence South $26^{\circ} 53'$ West 200 feet to a stake; thence South $10^{\circ} 07'$ West 606 feet to a stake; thence South $74^{\circ} 07'$ West 340 feet to a stake; thence north $37^{\circ} 13'$ West 745-85 feet to a stake; thence North $0^{\circ} 17'$ East 381 feet to a stake; thence South $87^{\circ} 18'$ East 118.80 feet to a stake; thence North $11^{\circ} 24'$ East 298.5 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land be the same more or less. The courses used are magnetic as of 1949.

The above premises are shown on a plan entitled "Land in Stockbridge, Massachusetts surveyed in June 1949, Scale 1 inch equals 100 feet, E.G. Pease, Engineer, Lee, Massachusetts, Area 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres," recorded with Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 417B, page 37.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

82004956

Property: Wheatleigh
State, County: MA, Berkshire
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3/3/82-609
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.4.83
Date Due: 4-1-82 / 4-17-82
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/6/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

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

photos /
maps /

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Significant for architecture

Recom. / Criteria meets c
Reviewer TRAVERS
Discipline ARCH HISTORIAN
Date 4/1/82
☐ 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: ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ good ☐ fair
Check one: ☐ unaltered ☐ altered
Check one: ☐ original site ☐ moved date _____
☐ ruins ☐ unexposed

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

- ☒ summary paragraph
☒ completeness *Attached maps cited in pt. 7 are not included*
☒ clarity
☒ alterations/integrity *Have original outbuildings not included*
☐ dates *in this nomination been demolished, or just*
☐ boundary selection *not included?*

C. 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

*good, but unclear if
enough remains in the
boundaries to justify
landscape architecture and
social/humanitarian significance*

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS 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 _____

Site _____ Date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Jean Travers

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



46
Wheathleigh
West Hawthorne Road
Stockbridge, Mass.

James N. Parrish
Berkshire County Planning Commission
1/10/80

Northeast Elevation

MAR 3 1982

EDGE IV NW
(CANADIAN)

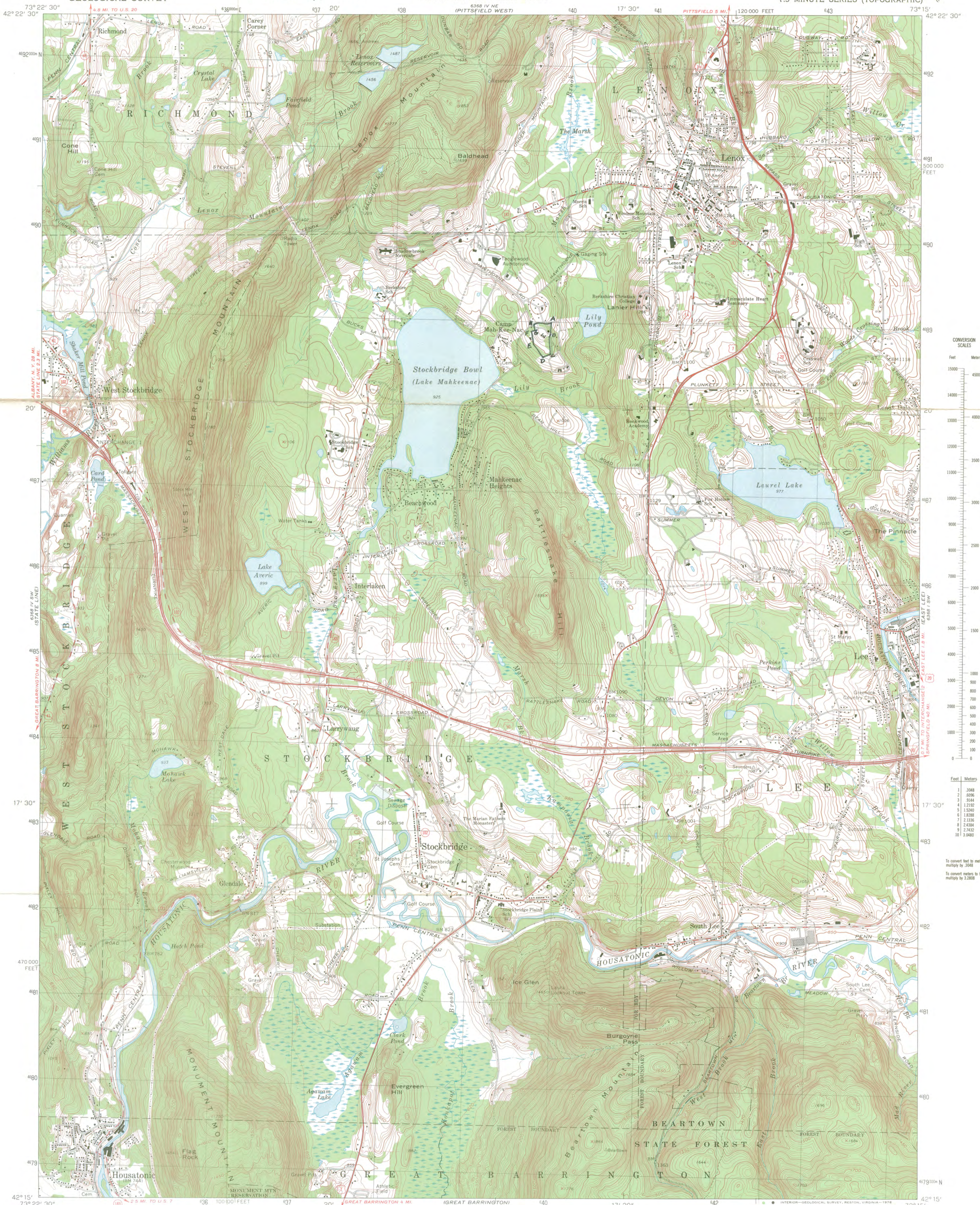
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WHEATLEIGH-STOCKBRIDGE-MA
UTM REFERENCES
A-12/639630/4688800
B-12/639630/4688850
C-12/639630/4688900
D-12/639630/4688950
E-12/639630/4689000

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

STOCKBRIDGE QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-BERKSHIRE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

EDGE IV NE
(PITTSFIELD EAST)



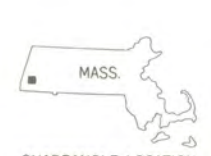
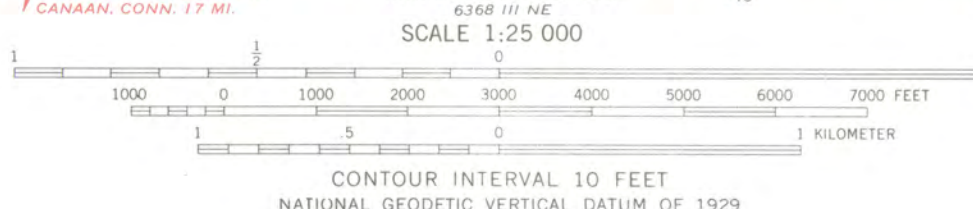
CONVERSION
SCALES



Feet	Meters
1	0.3048
2	0.6096
3	0.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

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 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,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

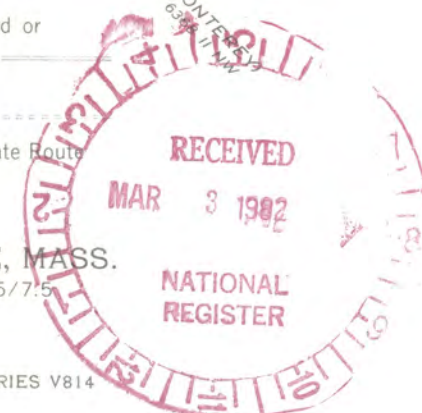


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

STOCKBRIDGE, MASS.
N4215-W7315/75

1973

AMS 6368 IV SE-SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 6, 1982

Name

Location

Wheatleigh

Stockbridge vicinity
Berkshire County

Main Street Historic District

Webster
Worcester County

Notified

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

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