

S. PARSONS COOK HOUSE
70 East Street
Hadley
Hampshire County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1281

HABS
MASS
8-HAD,
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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MASS
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Location: 70 East Street
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USGS Quadrangle: Mount Holyoke, Mass., 1:25,000
UTM Coordinates: 18.699175.4690465

Significance: This modest vernacular structure, with limited Gothic Revival and Folk Victorian detailing, typifies many of the small rural homes built during Hadley's emergence as a commercial produce center after the Civil War.

Description: Located at the southeast corner of East and Russell streets, the wood-framed, clapboard-sided house consists of two distinct parts, built in two or more stages to create a T-shaped structure with nine finished rooms. A brick-topped rubble masonry foundation supports most of the structure. The two-story cross-gabled north half, with a ridge chimney on the 14-by-31-foot east-west section, has a small door with pediment at the southwest corner of the 13-by-16-foot north section. An 1873 atlas, which shows detailed shapes for many local houses, suggests this small north section may have been built first. The side-gabled, 33-foot-long one-story south half has a ridge chimney and unfinished attic, and includes a former shop at the south end probably used originally to make brooms. From an earth-supported wood floor set below the house's first floor level, the shop's relatively wide sliding door opens east to a post-supported wagon entry. The entry shares the shed roof of a rear porch running the full east length of the finished one-story section. A similar but shorter shed roof on the west side of this section shields a small porch at what became the house's simple main entrance.

Bracketed tops distinguish most of the six-over-six- or paired two-over-two-light double-hung sash windows on the two-story north half. The six-over-six-light windows on the south half have undecorated trim, or pediments similar to that seen on the north half's lone door and the window north of that door. Although the precise sequence of house construction is not documented, the visual evidence suggests the bracket-topped windows represent a significant rebuilding of the earliest version of the house, consistent with the historic atlas data. The distribution of pedimented windows may reflect their movement and re-use from the original structure to the south half of the house. Other details include low-arched board trim on the rear porch and shop entry, plain sawn posts supporting the east shed roof, and open eaves marked at the shop end with exposed rough-sawn board purlins. Historic photographs indicate the metal roof shingles replaced wood shingles.

There is a two-door, side-gabled 17-by-23-foot frame garage southeast of the house, with a partial rear shed-roof extension.

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History:

Hadley tax and land records indicate that S. Parsons Cook, a grower and dealer in fruit and produce, built the house c1871 and owned it until 1881. By 1883, a deed to broom-maker Jonathan H. White mentions the shop, suggesting the house had reached most of its finished form. Broom manufacture was an important local industry from the very early 19th century until about the Civil War, by which time tobacco cultivation had supplanted much broom corn acreage. The shop, if used to make brooms, would be a somewhat late example of a once-widespread feature of Hadley homes. Photographic, deed, and informant data suggest the metal shingles and garage were added c1916-40. There have been no significant changes to the house since about World War II.

The S. Parsons Cook house is one of 378 contributing buildings in the Hadley Center Historic District (Boundary Increase). Easthampton Savings Bank proposes to demolish the house, presently rented, to construct a new branch office. This documentation was prepared as one condition of a Memorandum of Agreement among Easthampton Savings Bank, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Sources:

F.W. Beers. *County Atlas of Hampshire, Massachusetts*. New York, 1873.

Farmer, Gregory, Bonnie Parsons, and Betsy Friedberg. Hadley Center Historic District (Boundary Increase). National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1993.

Hadley Town Assessor's records.

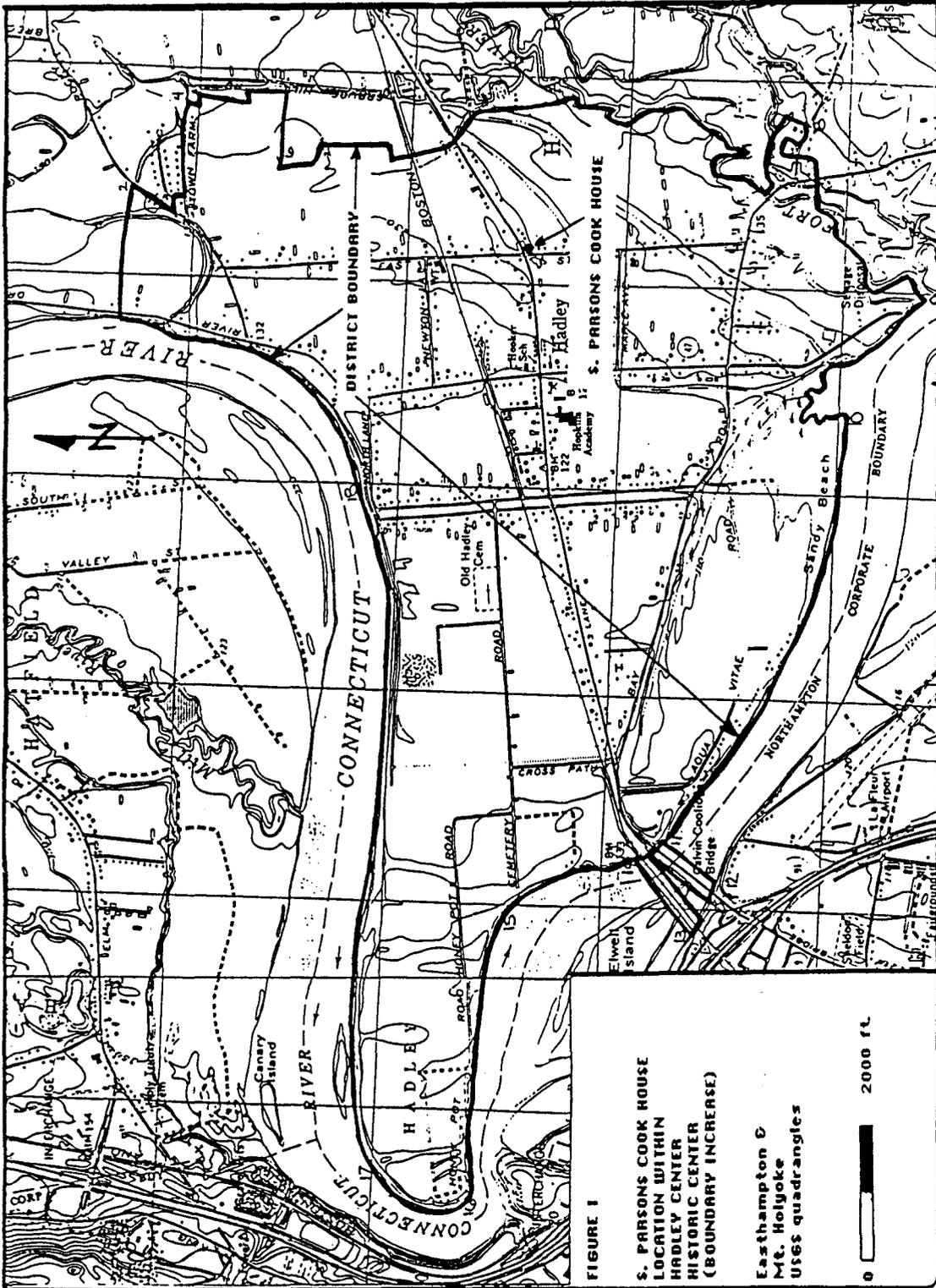
Hadley Historical Society. Howes Brothers photographs 592, 2331.

Hitchcock, M. S.P. Cook House. Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Form B - Building. 1985.

Paulson, Stanley M. (a present owner). Personal communication, January 4, 1995.

Historian:

Michael S. Raber
Raber Associates
January 1995



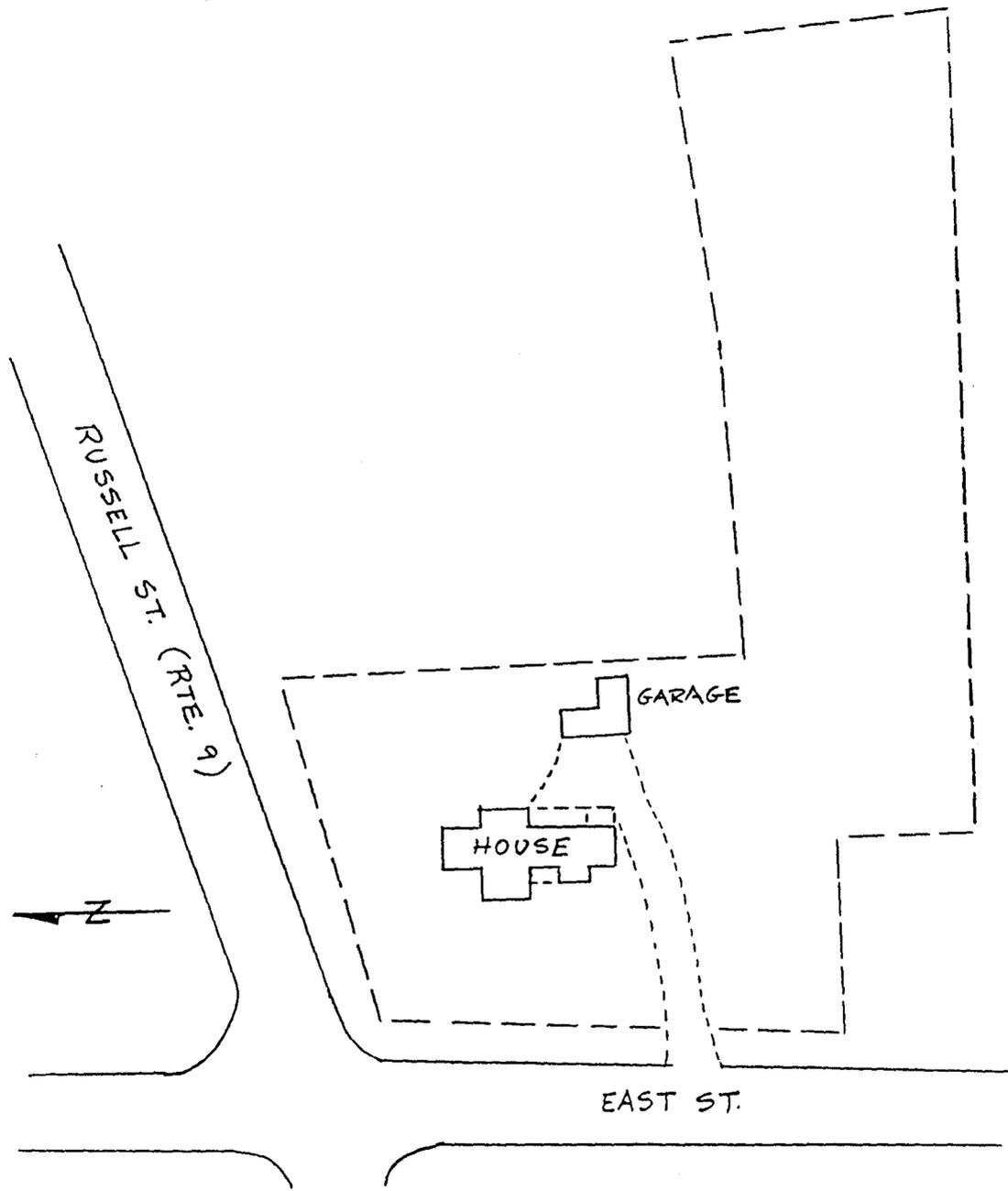
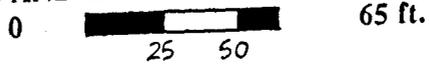
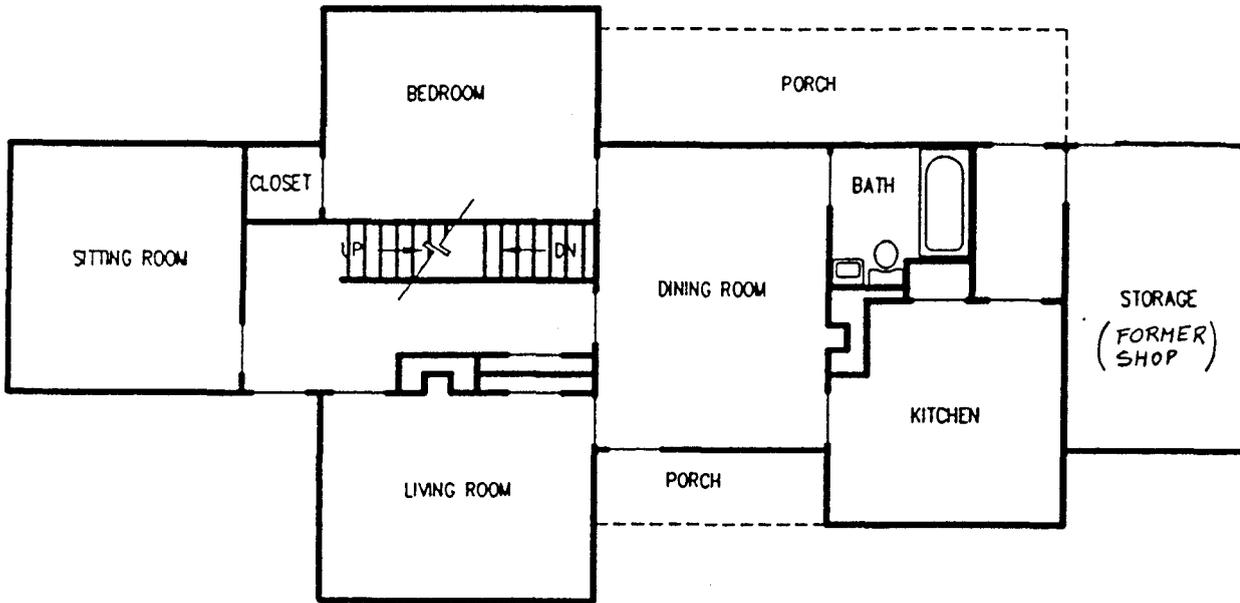
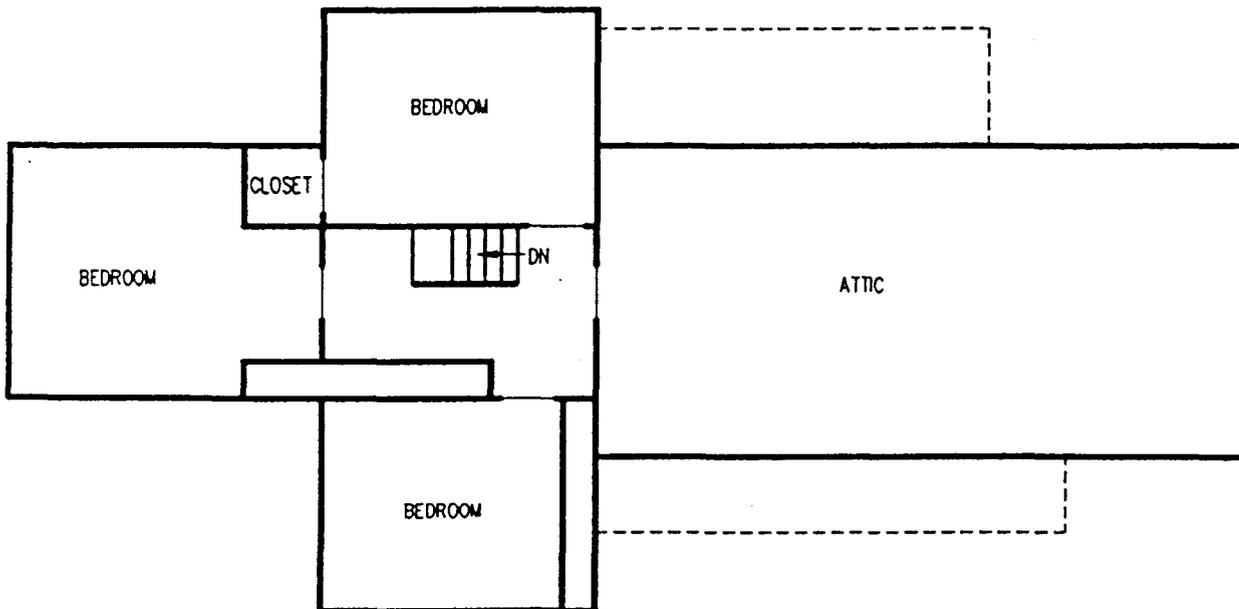


Figure 2. HOUSE AND GARAGE LOCATIONS ON PRESENT LOT





First Floor



Second Floor

Figure 3. FLOOR PLANS
0  10 ft.