

APPLICATION FOR
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT ELIGIBILITY

Date: 10/23/2020

Project Title: Chimney Repair
Name of Applicant: Melissa Aitken
Name of Organization: Country Club of Pittsfield
Address: 639 South St Pittsfield, MA 01201
Telephone: 413-447-8511
Email: maaitken@ccpittsfield.org

CPA Category (circle all that apply): **Open Space** **Historic Preservation**
 Recreation **Community Housing**

CPA Funding Requested: \$ 50,000 Total Project Cost: \$ 100,000

Please provide a brief project description below. Include a brief description of how your project accomplishes the goals of the CPA. Also include a description of how the estimated project cost was developed under "Estimated Budget". Please include supporting materials as necessary.

Project Description: see attached

Estimated Project Budget: 100,000

Where appropriate, signature of property owner (or City representative if City-owned) and/or chief executive officer of organization:
Melina Aitken

NOTE: This application enables the CPC to review the request to ensure eligibility and offer guidance. If eligible, an Application for Funding must be completed.

Project Description

The Country Club of Pittsfield is one of the most historic properties in the County being over 250 years old. The mansion was built in 1785 by one Henry Van Schaack of Kinderhook, NY and the main part of the present clubhouse is that original structure. At one time a noted hotel, the Broad Hall mansion was later owned by Thomas Melville, uncle of Herman Melville (author of Moby Dick et al). In fact, Herman Melville began writing portions of Moby Dick while in the clubhouse when it was owned by Sarah Morewood.

At various times in its history, Broad Hall had as guests President John Tyler, General Lafayette, Chief Justice Shaw and such literary giants as Henry W. Longfellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Oliver Wendell Holmes. In the 1850's it was a stopover on the "underground railroad".

As with all historic properties, maintaining the building is a constant struggle. In this regard, we are now in need of chimney repair for our five chimneys. The Board and I have a primary focus to preserve the building in an effort to maintain the integrity of the architecture of the building. In our concerted effort to maintain the history of this building, we would like to repair and restore the chimneys to their current heights versus tearing them down. The scope of work for this project would consist of erecting scaffolding for the timeframe of 30 days while each chimney is torn down, re-flashed and then rebuilt to its original state. Our initial estimates for this project are \$100,000. Being that the Country Club is a 501 © 7, we have limited funds that are used for mainly operational budgets and not much left for deferred maintenance and capital items. We greatly appreciate your time and consideration of our request. Thank you in advance and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Melissa Aitken

CEO

Country Club of Pittsfield

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: PIT.310
Historic Name: Van Schaick, Henry House
Common Name:
Address: 639 South St
City/Town: Pittsfield
Village/Neighborhood:
Local No: 08-2003
Year Constructed: c 1785
Architect(s):
Architectural Style(s): Federal
Use(s): Clubhouse; Other Recreational; Single Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance: Agriculture; Architecture; Art; Community Planning; Exploration Settlement
Area(s):
Designation(s):
Building Materials(s): Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 10:00 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

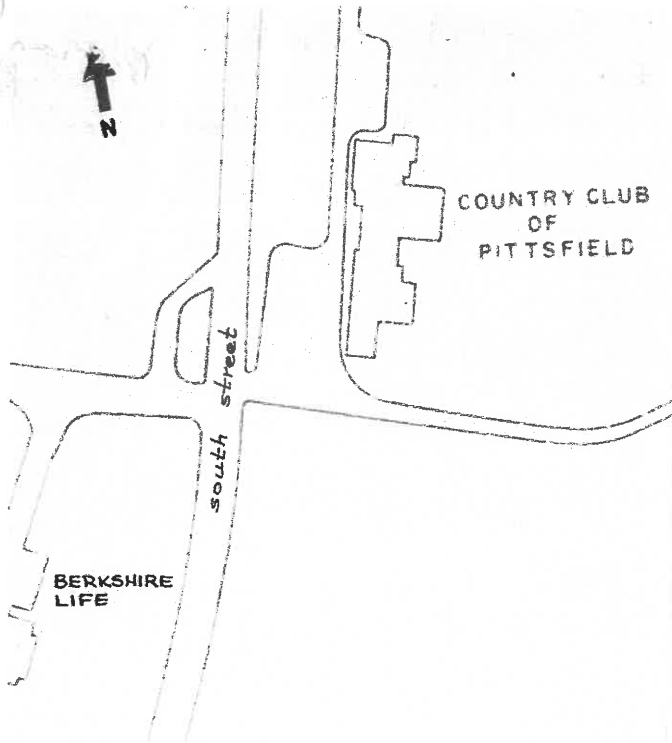
PIT. 310

In Area no.	Form no.
	08-2003



town Pittsfield
 Address 639 South Street
 Name Broadhall or Pittsfield County Club
 Present use Country Club
 Present owner Country Club of Pittsfield
 Description:
 Date c. 1875 1785
 Source Pittsfield histories
 Title Federal

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features Palladian-type window; hipped roof; excellent interior
 Chimney & balustrade removed - 19th c
 Additions - early 20th c.
 Moved NA Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre 226. A
 Approximate frontage 3600 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
50 feet
 6. Recorded by Elizabeth Fitzsimmons
 Organization Pittsfield Historical Survey and Planning Project
 Date January 29, 1981

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Henry van Schaick
 Original use Residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Summer resort from 1837 to 1850
Country Club since 1900

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> x </u>
Agricultural	<u> x </u>	Education	<u> </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> x </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> x </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> x </u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This building, one of Pittsfield's oldest extant houses, stands on the only intact lot from the original partitioning of the township which is now Pittsfield. Title in 1759 went to Col. Elisha Jones of Westfield, who in 1761 conveyed the property to his son. Elisha Jones, Jr. was a Tory during the Revolution, and the Government thus confiscated his land. It was purchased at public auction in 1785 by Henry Van Schaick of Kinderhook, New York who erected the present house which he owned until 1807. (Van Schaick wrote that he paid \$ 470 for the farm "with tolerable good house, barn, a young orchard, and a pleasant lake...") He, too, had been a Tory who had been banished from New York State but later established himself as a stalwart Federalist.

Schaick built his house well, lining the wooden walls with brick and executing the woodwork with the utmost perfection. Under Van Schaick's ownership such notable guests as John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and Philip Schuyler sojourned at the house. In 1807 Van Schaick returned to New York and sold the estate to Elkanah Watson, a retired land speculator who devoted himself to agricultural pursuits in Pittsfield. Maj. Thomas Melville, Jr. purchased the estate in 1816 and sold it to his son Robert in 1837 who opened a summer resort known as Melville Hall which hosted such literary guests as Cousin Herman, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne. In 1850 the house was sold at auction to Sarah Ann Morewood, wife of an eminent tinware manufacturer who was herself a leader of Pittsfield intellectual and literary society. She named the house "Broadhall" after its luxurious wide

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
 halls. President John Tyler stayed in the house during her ownership. In 1900 Anne C. Morewood sold the property to the County Club of Pittsfield.

Smith, J.E.F., History of Pittsfield, Vol. 2

Pittsfield Sun, January 10, 1850

Berkshire Resort Topics, July 2, 1904

"Bygone Berkshire" from the Berkshire Eagle (?), August 13, 1960

Pittsfield Assessor's Records