

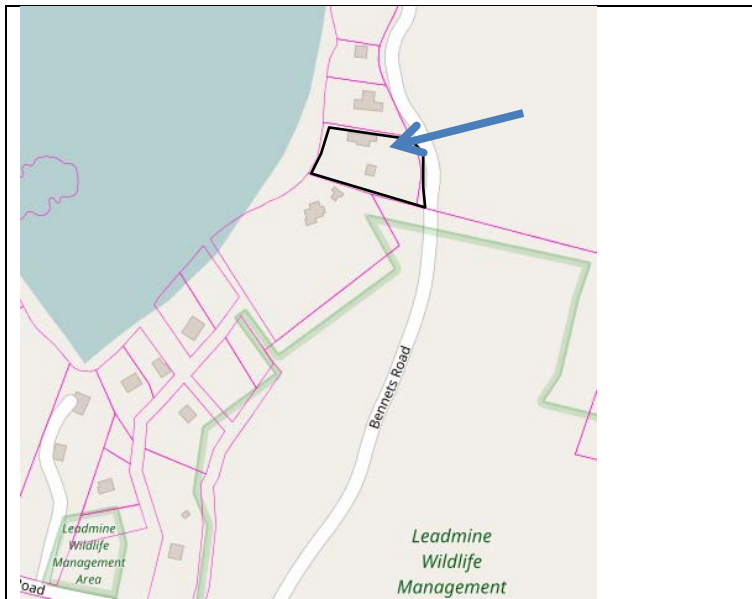
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Bonnie Parsons, PVPC

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (month / year): October/ 2017

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

145-04435-017

Southbridge

STU.221
STU.222

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Leadmine Pond

Address: 17 Bennetts Road

Historic Name: Thomas Gray Cottage

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling/Demolished 2017

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1930

Source: Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: masonry

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Addition on east side of cottage, ca. 2000.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .65 acres

Setting: Residential building faces west on to Leadmine Pond.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

17 BENNETTS ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	STU.221, STU.222
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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This lakeside building, the Thomas Gray Cottage, is west-facing and Craftsman in style. It consists of a shingled, one-story hipped roof block three bays by three bays in size to which is attached a one-and-a-half story ell under a side-gable roof. Two thirds of the north side of the ell roof extends as a shed roof to create a carport. The one-third balance of the north roof is taken up by a transverse gable. The side-gabled ell has poured concrete foundations. The foundations of the hipped roof original block are fieldstone. The use of fieldstone and wood shingles is characteristic of the Craftsman style and at the angle between the main block and the ell on the east elevation is a tall, fieldstone chimney. Fieldstone also creates a porch base, an embankment, and dock foundation along the water on the west façade. The main hipped roof block of the building is compact, being three bays wide and three bays deep. Its west façade has a center entry at each side of which are pairs of vinyl jalousie windows of four horizontal glass panels each. Roof eaves on this section are wide and boxed. The one-and-a-half story ell has a single window on its west wall where it extends beyond the width of the main block. It has a brick, through-eaves chimney on its south elevation. Through the carport the ell has a centered entry on a concrete block base.

There is a two-story, shingled garage north of the house. It has a one-story equipment wing on its west elevation where a pedestrian entry is located. Its north façade has a roll-up garage door the width of two vehicles. The second story of the front-gabled façade has two vinyl 1/1 sash windows. A concrete block chimney rises on the garage's east elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The lot on which this house was built was farmland belonging to Edwin and Marietta Wallace in the early 1900s. Edwin died in 1915 leaving the farm to Marietta. At this point in time, Sturbridge was developing as a summer/second home community around its large lakes, and Marietta took part in that development. She sold 200 acres to Clifton L. Gould who developed the land for 43 lakeside cottages beginning in 1925. Gould was a developer who lived in Springfield (on Crystal Road) with his wife Mary. He laid out the lots and took back mortgages mainly between 1925 and 1927. He sold Lots 1 and 2 in his development, which he called Crystal Heights, to Thomas Gray in 1930. Gray was also a Springfield resident and worked as an oil products salesman. Clearly these were second homes, summer cottages. Thomas was single, and it was he who would have built the cottage. He sold it in 1943 to William and Lillian Boyd. The Boyds were from Medford, and William worked as a chauffeur for the *Boston Globe*. They may have been among the cottage owners who traveled the furthest, but they were not alone in finding Sturbridge's lakes worth the distance. During this time Crystal Heights also began to be called Quassuck Heights and Leadmine Pond as Lake Quassuck in what was probably a marketing effort. This re-naming did not stick, and in deeds lots were described twice: once as part of Crystal Heights on Leadmine Pond and once as part of Quassuck Heights on Lake Quassuck. The Boyds used the cottage until 1958 when they passed it to Aime and Blanche LaRochelle who came all the way from Providence, Rhode Island. The cottage was owned by the LaRochelles until it was sold from their estate in 1967.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps

Bailey, O. H. & Co. Bird's eye view *Sturbridge and Fiskdale*, Massachusetts, 1892.

Beers, F. W. *Plan of Towns of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, 1870.

Walling, H. F. *Map of Worcester County*, Wm. E. Baker, Boston, 1857.

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17 BENNETTS ROAD

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Primary Sources

Chase, Nelly M. *Photograph Album*, Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge.

Secondary Sources

Burns, Brian. *Sturbridge: A Pictorial History*, Norfolk, 1988.

Clark, Joseph. *Historical Sketch of Sturbridge, Massachusetts*, Brookfield, Massachusetts, 1838.

Corey, Charles F. "Old Houses in Sturbridge" Quinebaug Historical Society Leaflets, vol.1, no. 5, 1900.

Davis, George. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, West Brookfield, 1856.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts*, vol. 1, Philadelphia 1889.

Izard, Holly. *Old Houses of Sturbridge*, scrapbook, n.d., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge.

Digital Resources

www.Ancestry.com for federal censuses 1790-1940 and Massachusetts State Censuses 1855, 1865.

<https://dp.la/> Digital Public Library of America

www.masslandrecords.com for deeds

Photos taken by Barbara Search, Sturbridge Historical Commission



Photo 1: Outbuilding (STU.222)