

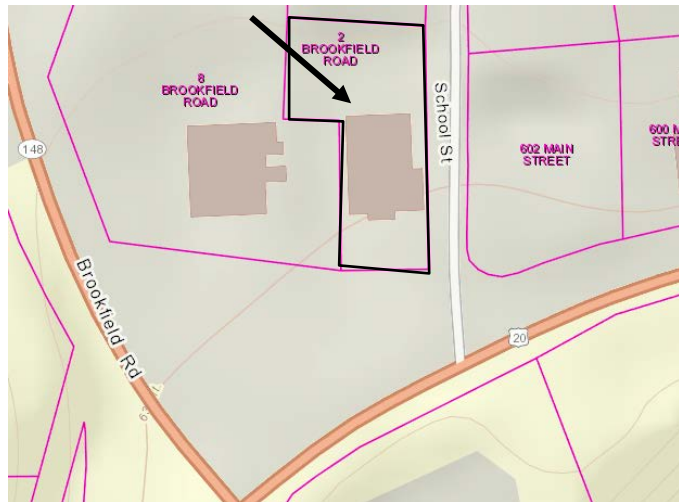
FORM B – BUILDING

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): March 2017

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

173-02327-002

Southbridge

STU.E

STU.159

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale, Cartiers' Corner

Address: 2 Brookfield Road

Historic Name: Mrs. L. Cartier Two-family House

Uses: Present: Restaurant/apartment

Original: Two-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1855

Source: map of 1857

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: mortared fieldstone, concrete

Wall/Trim: fiber cement

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Additions, ca. 1990; bay windows installed, ca. 1990; porch added, ca. 1990

Condition: fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .33 acres

Setting: Irregularly shaped corner lot parcel, facing south, at the intersection of Main Street and School Street.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

2 BROOKFIELD ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

Rovezzi's Restaurant is a large commercial building two-and-a-half stories under a side-gable roof. The south-facing building was originally a two-family house and is eight bays wide and four bays deep. There is a one-story wing on the east elevation of the main block. The south façade of the main block has an added porch on posts across the center three bays. It is reached by a double flight of stairs. The porch roof extends in a half circle at its center and shelters two side-by-side entries to the building. On the first floor at each side of the porch is a replacement, three-sided, oriel window put in place after the east wing was added. A large one-and-a-half story ell on the north is five bays long and four bays wide. On its east elevation, the ell has a full-width porch on turned posts. The ell has two dormers on the east side of its roof. On the west elevation of the ell a through-cornice dormer acts as a full-height entrance to the attic level. It is reached by a flight of wooden stairs. At first floor level this elevation has a large kitchen fan and two small windows. There are small cupolas centered on the roofs of both the main block of the building and of the ell. The foundations of the ell are poured concrete and of the main block are mortared fieldstone. Windows throughout the building are vinyl replacement and the siding is artificial clapboards of fibre cement.

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.

This building appears on the map of 1857 in the ownership of Mrs. L. Cartier (name difficult to read) and on the map of 1870 "widow Cartier" is noted as owning it. Deed research is clear from the year 1920 when Joseph and Celina Cartier bought the property from Stanislas Guillet. The relationship between Mrs. L. Cartier and Joseph and Celina is not clear, but it is clear that they had rented the property prior to that. In 1920 it was a two-family house they and their four children shared with Victoria and Charlie Gregory, the Gregory's daughter and a boarder. Joseph ran a grocery store from the building; Charles was a polisher in a dyer shop. By 1930 Joseph had built a pressed concrete garage at 8 Brookfield Road and opened a car repair shop known as Cartier's Corner Garage. The two-family house held Joseph and Celina, their daughter Irene, who worked as a truer in an optical shop (American Optical in Southbridge); their daughter Dorothy, who worked as a stitcher in a finishing mill; their son Joseph, who was manager of the auto repair shop; their daughter-in-law May; their daughter Laura Livernois, and her two children Leon and Anna.

By 1931 the Town of Sturbridge made the Cartier Corner Garage the headquarters for the fire department with Joseph, Sr. and Celina's sons John B. as fire warden and Joseph, Jr. as fire truck driver. Celina died in 1947 and in 1949 John B. Cartier had a restaurant in this building called "JBs Lunch" and Joseph, Sr. lived here as well. For years during the 1930s and 40s, John B. was the one-man fire department and according to Robert J. Briere when a call came in, he would close up his lunchroom, go out the back door to the garage, where he would get in the fire truck and drive to the fire. When one man was not enough to handle the fire, he could call on nearby mill firemen who would then come join him. Joseph, Sr. died in 1955 and the building passed to Joseph and Mae Cartier, Jr. The couple remained in the house until 1972.

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.

Primary Sources

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

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Secondary Sources

Briere, Robert J. Recalling Main Street, transcript of oral history interview, typescript, 1994.

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:



Photo 1: EAST ELEVATION

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Photo 2: NORTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS



Photo 3: WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS