

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

173-02316-055

Southbridge

STU.225-  
STU.227

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

## Photograph



**Address:** 55 Brookfield Road

**Historic Name:** Patrick and Mary Jarret House

**Uses:** Present: two-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1878-1892

**Source:** Registry of Deeds and 1892 bird's-eye-view map

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Barn (21x25) & Shop 18x16

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Windows replaced, ca. 2000.

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .98 acres

**Setting:** Facing east on Brookfield Road (Route 148), the parcel lies between Brookfield and Collette Roads. A row of wooden fence posts separate the house from the roadway.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Bonnie Parsons, PVPC

**Organization:** Sturbridge Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): March/2017

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

55 BROOKFIELD ROAD

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

The Patrick and Mary Jarret House is one of Sturbridge's more stylistically defined, two-family houses. It is also among the least altered. It is a two-and-a-half story, horizontally divided two-family house. East-facing it has a side-gable roof with a transverse gable roof on its southern end, for a T-shaped plan. The façade is five bays wide and is shaded by a stacked porch of two stories supported on turned posts with scroll-cut brackets at the eaves. Railings at both stories are jigsaw-cut in an ornamental pattern. This stacked porch is duplicated on the west elevation. There is a center entry at each story of the façade, and windows at each side of the entry have 1/1 sash. The center entry at the first story has a broken pediment lintel. Two chimneys rise slightly behind the roof ridge. The house sits on high brick foundations.

To its north are two outbuildings. The larger of the two is an eaves-front, high drive barn. And attached to the barn by its roof eaves only on the east elevation is a two-story shop. The south-facing, high drive barn is vertically sided and has an asphalt shingle roof. The shop is clapboard-sided and has a slate roof. The south-facing shop has an off-center, batten door and a small window with a fixed, six-light sash at first story, and at second story a single small window, again with a fixed, six-light sash. The east elevation of the shop has a single window at each story with double hung, 12/12 sash. The shop has low stone foundations. The door and windows are all ornamented with broken pediment lintels – a highly unusual feature on a utilitarian building. The shop is attached to the barn only at its west eaves.

### 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.*

Patrick and Mary Jarret came to Sturbridge in 1869 from Ireland. They were both in their 30s when they arrived and after nine years, in 1878, they bought a two-acre lot of land on Brookfield Road from fellow Irishman Patrick King. Patrick Jarret worked as a farm laborer. Between 1878 and when it appears on the birds-eye-view map of 1892, the Jarrets built this house, the barn and perhaps the shop. The existence of a barn on a 2-acre lot suggests that Jarret was farming for himself rather than for others as a "laborer" and by 1878 leased farmland elsewhere. In 1903 the Jarrets were each 68 years old and after 25 years of farming, they sold the property to Toussaint La Flamme and his wife Eliza, both immigrants from Canada.

The La Flammes came to the U.S. in the same year as Patrick Jarret, 1869 but Toussaint came as a child. In Sturbridge, Toussaint was a loom fixer in the Fiskdale cotton mill, and the couple had children who were to be Sturbridge residents and land owners for generations to come. Like many families who came to this mill town, the La Flammes children were closely tied to the mills along with their parents. Toussaint and Eliza's children in 1900 were: Joseph, 22, who was a fruit dealer; Nelson, 19, a stacker/helper in the cotton mill; Eli, 17, a weaver in the cotton mill; Ephraim, 13; Amelia, 11; Alfred, 8; all in school; Alphonse, 5; William, 3 at home. Toussaint's widowed, 94-year-old grandmother, Mary Julian lived with them. It is likely that the La Flammes were the owners who converted the house to a two-family. The census records for 1920 list Eli and Aimezine La Flamme as two separate families living close to each other on Brookfield Road, though there are no address numbers to confirm they are in the same house.

This property stayed in the La Flamme family until 1942 when Toussaint and Eliza's grandchildren sold it to Leo (1894-1969) and Irene Theriault (1903-1970). The Theriaults had two daughters, Beverly and Barbara, and moved to the house from nearby Bates Court in Fiskdale. Leo was a fitter in Fiskdale's Snell Auger and Bit Works, and Irene worked as a folder in the Fiskdale print works. Their daughter Barbara Theriault Noga sold the property to William and Beverly Provost in 1955. William Provost was a maintenance man at a Southbridge Hospital, likely Harrington Hospital in that town. He died in 1988 and Beverly was still in this house, so the Provosts had been here for thirty-three years.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

### Maps

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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.

### 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](http://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](http://www.masslandrecords.com) for deeds:



Photo 1: East façade of house with roadside fence posts, and barn to right



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Photo 2:View of porch on rear, west elevation



Photo 3: Barn and shop north of house.