

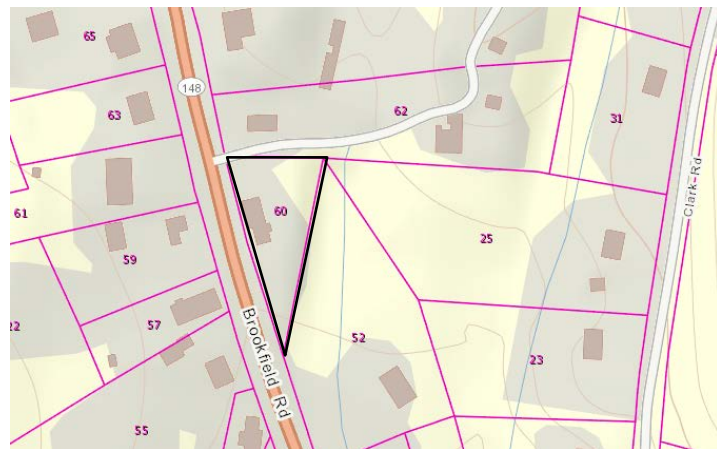
FORM B – BUILDING

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

173-02317-060

Southbridge

STU.228

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

Address: 60 Brookfield Road

Historic Name: Eliab and Fanny Marsh House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1814

Source: Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Vinyl siding added and vinyl replacement windows installed, ca. 2000; wing and garage added, ca. 1940; portico added, ca. 1900.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .44 acres

Setting: Triangular shaped parcel, residence facing west along Brookfield Road, near the intersection of Brookfield with Clark Road.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

60 BROOKFIELD ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 Eliab and Fanny Marsh House is a two-and-a-half story house. Five bays wide and two deep, it has two, narrow and tall chimneys on the ridge of its side-gable roof a practice of the Federal stylistic Period (1776-1820) that allowed a plan with a center hallway. Roof eaves are relatively wide, are boxed and make returns in Federal fashion. The west-facing house's center entry has a front-gabled portico on piers. The portico is a later addition in Colonial Revival style. The entry itself is framed with pilasters that enclose half-length sidelights. The house has a one-story wing on the south elevation followed by an attached one-car garage. The house, wing and garage are vinyl-sided and windows are vinyl replacements that are smaller than the originals, so the openings have been slightly enclosed. The main block of the house has stone foundations, the garage has brick. The wing is one bay long and appears to be contemporary with the front-gabled garage.

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.

In 1814 Eliab and Fanny Marsh were putting together a farm for themselves by purchasing land on Brookfield Road from the descendants of the Moses Allen family that had settled this part of Sturbridge in the mid- 18th century. In 1814 they bought a 10-acre tract on the east side of the road from Abner and Henry Allen for \$150 and from Eli Marsh a fifty-one acre tract on the west side of the road for \$750. Eliab and Fanny were farmers and it would have been they who built this house and developed the farm over the next seven years. In 1821 they sold the 10 acres to Perly and Hannah Allen whose relationship to the Allen family is not clear. They sold it in two lots: a ½ acre lot on which the house was located and a 9 + acre lot of land.

Perly Allen was a cordwainer and would also have farmed on the side. He was a church deacon, so was referred to as Deacon Allen, and he and Hannah kept the house and ten total acres for the next 26 years selling in 1847 to William Albro who was apparently just investing in the property, as he turned around and sold it the next year to Joseph Royce, Jr.. Massachusetts-born Joseph and Mary Royce were 28 and 30 in 1850 and had two young children, Joseph and Julia. Joseph, the father, like Perly, was a cordwainer, and the two probably worked in the boot and shoe factories that grew up in Fiskdale from the 1830s. The Royces added about two acres to the farm and in 1855 after working for seven years from this house, they moved to another farm in Wales, Massachusetts.

Patrick King, the next owner, was an Irish-born farmer and investor who bought up former Allen family farmland on Brookfield Road, selling the lot for **55 Brookfield Road** in 1878 to the Jarrets, for instance. Patrick and Mary King lived further north on Brookfield Road and rented out this house. In 1857 it was rented to Edward Philips and in 1870 to William and Mary Rice - both families were farmers. After Patrick King's death his sons sold the house and 10 acres to Margaret Black in 1901. Margaret, her sister Mary, and their father George Black came to the United States in 1870 from Scotland. In 1900 Margaret and her sister at ages 50 and 55 were working in a cotton mill in Fiskdale as weavers. Their father George at 80 had retired and the three were renting their housing. The next year they bought this house. Margaret and Mary were joined by 1910 by their younger brother Donald who had become a widower. They remained here through 1917, but Mary and Margaret then moved to Fall River to work in the mills there. In 1920 in Fall River Mary had retired but Margaret at 66 was still working as a weaver in a cotton mill and they were renting a place to live.

Meanwhile, the Blacks sold this house and 10 acres to Eli and Rosalba La Flamme and their daughter June. Eli was second generation of the large Toussaint and Eliza La Flamme family that settled in Fiskdale from Canada in 1869. His father 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 second generation of La Flammes was closely tied

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to the mills and factories of Fiskdale, along with their parents. By 1917 when Eli had married, he worked as a polisher in the Snell Auger and Bit factory in Fiskdale. They continued to occupy the house through 1974.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps

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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: