

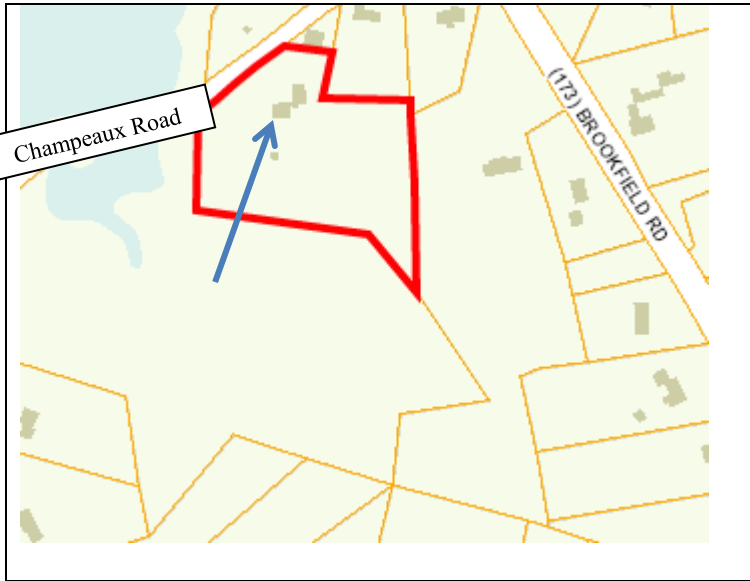
FORM B – BUILDING

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

206-01915-012

North
Brookfield

STU.241
STU.242

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 12 Champeaux Road

Historic Name: Eli and Mary Marsh House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1762

Source: Izzard, Old Houses of Sturbridge and
Massachusetts Vital Records

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Exterior chimney added, unknown date.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 3.38 acres

Setting: House is set at the edge of a large open field and wetland facing south.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

12 Champeaux Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

STU.241-242

☒ 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 Eli and Mary Marsh House, 12 Champeaux Road, is a two-and-a-half story, Georgian house with a saltbox profile roof that descends to first floor level with a very subtle break, indicating it was an added extension. This 18th century style of construction was generally used to gain additional interior room by extending the roof to first floor level which created a large room across the back of the house. The room often became the kitchen. The original house would have been a single room at each side of a center chimney. Later, houses were built with integral saltbox profiles so the fact that there is an extended version helps date the house as early as the 1760s. The south façade of the house is five bays wide and second floor windows are placed directly beneath the eaves. The eaves of the gables are clipped. Both placement of second floor windows and lack of eaves overhang in the gables are elements of the early Georgian style, as is the 12/12 configuration of window sash on the façade, though the current versions are from a later restoration. The center entry of the façade has a simple board surround and an added portico on braces. The house presents its rear elevation (north) to Champeaux Road but its façade is on the south where it is not visible from the public way. A chimney has been added to the west elevation and a center chimney at or behind the roof ridge has been lost. A one-story wing on the east elevation of the house connects to a recently added two-bay garage with a standing seam metal roof.

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.

According to Holly Izard of Old Sturbridge Village and Clifford Chamberlain, Sturbridge historian, this house was built ca. 1762 by Eli Marsh (1731-1813). Marsh was among the Sturbridge settlers who came from Medfield, Massachusetts. The marriage between Eli Marsh and Mary Puffor took place in 1751 prior to their arrival in Sturbridge, but the couple's third child Ezra was the first to be registered as a Sturbridge birth in 1767. These dates help place the house ca. 1762. At that time it was constructed facing south towards the Bay Path. The path was re-routed between 1857 and 1870, and Chapeaux Road was put in north of the house so that its original rear elevation came to face the road.

By 1851 Freeland and Mary Bemis owned the house having bought it from John W. Draper. John and Lucy Ann Draper were farmers who were active in Fiskdale buying and selling land as the factories drew new people to the village and they mortgaged purchases for many buyers. Living with the Bemises were Sophia and Frederick and Martha Underwood, Bemis family members. Freeman was a farmer, and the couple boarded teamsters in 1865.

Then in 1870 Patrick and Mary Kelly owned the farm; their sons Thomas, Edward and John were in school. Patrick and Mary were among the fairly large number of Irish immigrants who came to Sturbridge to work in industry and to farm. The house remained in the Kelly family until Anne Kelly sold it to Bartholomew Griffin prior to 1880. Bartholomew and Mary Griffin were immigrants from Ireland and came to Sturbridge to farm, though their teenaged children Mary, Katie, and Thomas all worked in a cotton mill. Mary Griffin inherited the farm and just how long she lived there is not clear, but her heirs in 1898 sold the farm to James Julian. James and Cordelia Julian continued the farm, but three of their nine children worked in the mills while the younger six were still in school. James sold the farm to their son John Julian in 1921. There were 33 acres still attached to the house at that time. John and his wife Alvina farmed, but then by 1930 John had moved into working at the auger factory as farming was less dependable as a sole income source. For 12 years John and Alvina would have both farmed and worked in the auger mill, finally in 1946 selling the farm to Ida Darling. Ida died in 1975 in Charleton, but little else is known about her.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps

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

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

12 Champeaux Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

Primary Sources

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

Secondary Sources

Burns, Brian. *Sturbridge: A Pictorial History*, Norfolk, 1988. Corey, Charles F. "Old Houses in Sturbridge" Quinebaug Historical Society Leaflets, vol.1, no. 5, 1900.

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

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

Kelly, J. Frederick. *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*, Dover, 1963.

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: Site photo showing house and barn

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s) Form No.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Bonnie Parsons

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Eli and Mary Marsh House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Its significance lies in criteria A and C.

Meeting criterion A, as one of the oldest remaining houses in Sturbridge the Marsh House represents how one of the settlers and founders of the town built and lived in about 1762. Subsequent generations of the Marsh family were to take part in town affairs and cultural life for many years. As the property changed hands during the 19th century it was continuously farmed. Ownership by Irish immigrant farming families Patrick and Mary Kelly followed by Irish immigrant owners Bartholomew and Mary Griffin and their children represent the important contribution the Irish made to the agricultural history of the town in the second half of the 19th century and well into the 20th century here on Champeaux Road. Its orientation toward the former location of an old road documents the changing route of the Bay Path from the south side of the house to its north.

The house is architecturally significant as an example of a Georgian saltbox-form house – one of the few remaining in the region. It has been well-preserved and restored so that the house's original simplicity and function is readily understood. The Eli and Mary Marsh House has local significance. It has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.