

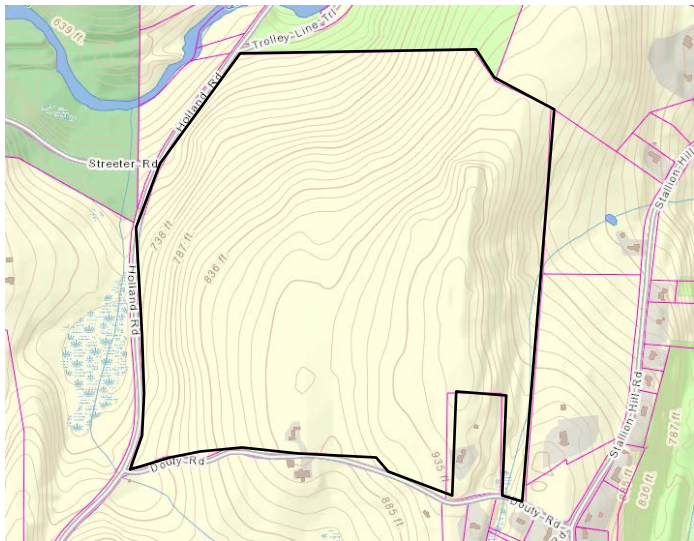
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Shannon Walsh, PVPC
Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission
Date (month / year): March 2017

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

245-02717-014

Southbridge

STU.E

STU.243
STU.244

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

Address: 14 Douty Road

Historic Name: C. G. Allen Farm

Uses: Present: Demolished (Fall 2017)

Original: Single Family Dwelling/Agricultural

Date of Construction: (late 1700s to early 1800s)

Source: Style, Deeds and Maps

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Aluminum/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Siding
Additions

Condition: Demolished

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 102.8 acres

Setting: Residence faces west along Douty Road

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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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 C. G. Allen Farm residence is a circa late eighteenth century to early nineteenth century, Georgian-style single family dwelling, which, along with a related barn outbuilding and landscape, provides an example of the early agricultural growth and residential development in the uplands of Sturbridge. The residence is comprised of a two and a half story rectangular plan central block, aligned north to south, and a two and a half story rectangular plan rear wing, aligned east to west. The building's exterior is currently aluminum and the foundation is brick. There is a side gable asphalt shingle roof on the central block, with two central, interior brick chimneys. The rear cross gabled wing has an asphalt shingle roof and another interior, brick chimney.

Georgian style colonial architecture was prevalent from 1700 through circa 1830.¹ This example's symmetrically designed central block is five bays wide and one bay deep with central chimneys, common of Georgian-style buildings of this time period. It has a side-gabled roof, which was more often seen in the northern and middle colonies.² The upper windows, which touch the cornice line, are also typical of northern variants. Additional features which support this style characterization include the double-hung, 12/12 windows with pronounced muntins, and the entablature, to include pilasters, which highlights the main entry. The fanlight above the entry is interesting as this design detail is usually present as part of later landmark examples of this type of style.

The central block's main, western facing façade has four first story and five second story double hung 12/12 windows, with exterior storm windows. The elaborate wood door surround has a decorative crown with pilaster supports and a fanlight. A paneled door with no lights is visible behind a modern glass and metal storm door.

The northern central block side elevation has single first and second story 12/12 windows with an upper half story 6/6 window, set within the gable. The eaves have minimal overhang. The southern side elevation of this block also has single first and second story 12/12 windows, with an upper half story elliptical fanlight, within the gable.

The southern facing elevation of the rear wing has a portico with a triangular pediment over a secondary, southern facing entrance. Visible second story windows are 8/8.

A one and a half story rectangular plan barn is visible off of the rear, eastern side of the building, aligned north to south and running parallel to Douty Road.

This grouping of buildings was demolished in the Fall of 2017.

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.

Settled in 1729 and incorporated in 1738, Sturbridge has origins as an agrarian community. The Sturbridge Agricultural Society was created in 1794, within two years of the formation of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, indicating the "presence of a

¹ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

² Ibid.

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group of progressive gentlemen/farmers.”³ By 1855, the South Worcester Agricultural Society was incorporated and held annual fairs and competitions, purchasing a permanent fair ground in 1868.⁴

A 1973 deed recognizes the land and property at 14 Douty Road to be known as “Allen Farm” and C. G. Allen (possibly Charles Grosvenor Allen, 1809-1891) is documented as owning property in this vicinity on an 1870 map of Worcester County.⁵ (Figure 1) The Allen family name is prominent in the history of Sturbridge and they had “extensive colonial era holdings” in this part of Sturbridge.⁶ “C. G. Allen’s Farm” is referenced again in an 1899 written account of the county.⁷ An 1898 map lists the property, in a slightly different location but presumably the same building due to its late eighteenth to early nineteenth century architectural style. This rendering now shows an addition, and lists the parcel as belonging to F. L. Chapin.⁸ (Figure 2)

Everett E. Barrett, employed as a farmer and logger, (1902-1993) and his wife, Helen Parker Barrett (died 1961) purchased the property on Douty Road from Fred E. Hall in 1941. The site was home to a dairy herd of Holstein and Jersey cows and became known as Barrett Farm.^{9 10}

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³ Massachusetts Historical Commission, “MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report, Sturbridge,” 1984, *Sec.State.MA.US*, Accessed on-line July, 2017, <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/Cent-Mass/stu.pdf>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 10054, Page 233

⁶ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, “Sturbridge Reconnaissance Report, 2007” *Mass.gov* (site). Accessed on-line July, 2017, <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/histland/recon-reports/sturbridge-with-map.pdf>

⁷ Hamilton Hurd, ed., *History of Worcester County* (“Sturbridge, Levi Chase), 1899. *Archive.org* Accessed on-line July 2017, <https://archive.org/stream/historyofworcest01hurdd#page/n275/mode/2up/search/Sturbridge>

⁸ L. J. Richards Worcester County Atlas, 1898, *Historic Map Works*.

⁹ Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2839, Page 181 (cannot access further information online)

¹⁰ “Sturbridge Reconnaissance Report Ibid.

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Worcester County Registry of Deeds. (see footnotes)

Figure 1: F. W. Beers & Co., 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, page 72, 73. *Massachusetts Real Estate Digitization Project*, accessed on-line July 2017, <http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/oversight-agencies/lib/massachusetts-real-estate-atlases.html>

Figure 2: L. J. Richards, 1898 Atlas of Worcester County, *Historic Map Works*, accessed on-line July 2017, <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/6717/Worcester+County+1898/>



Photo 1: Northwestern corner

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Photo 2: Western facing main façade



Photo 3: Barn off of the rear (eastern side) of the residence

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Photo 4: Streetscape, Douty Road, looking north with 14 Douty Road visible on the eastern side of the street

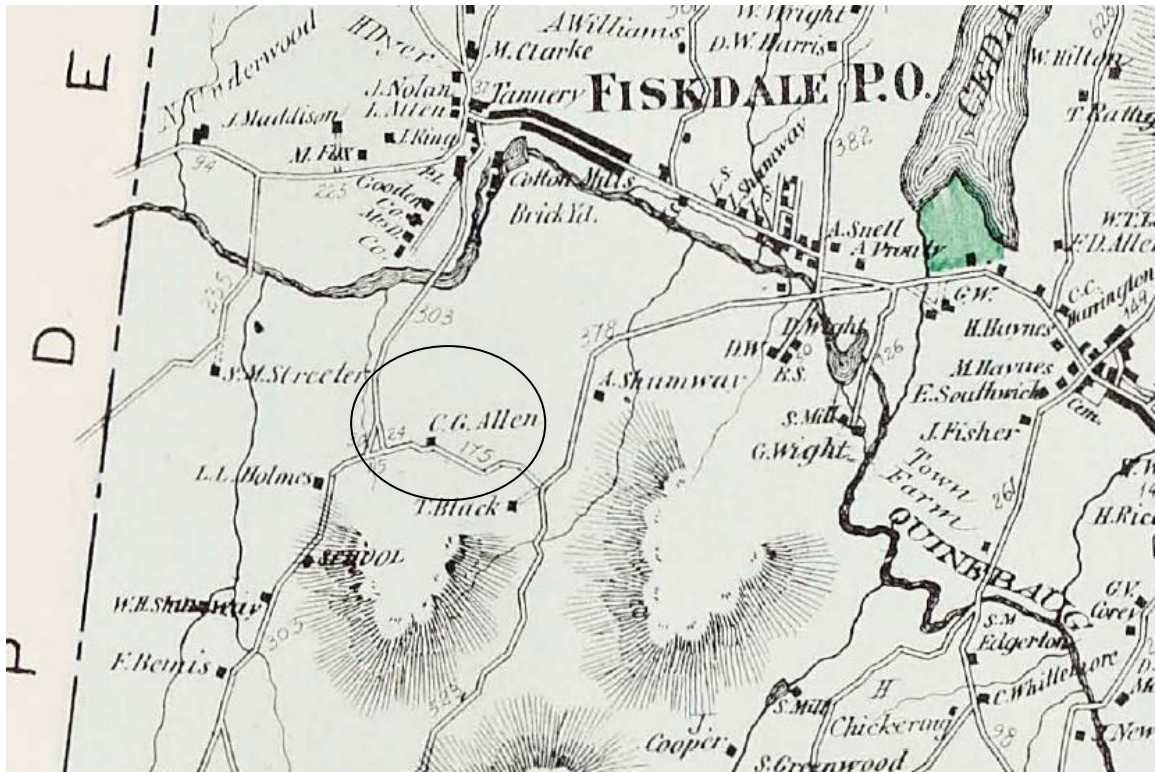


Figure 1: 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, F.W. Beers & Co. (72, 73)

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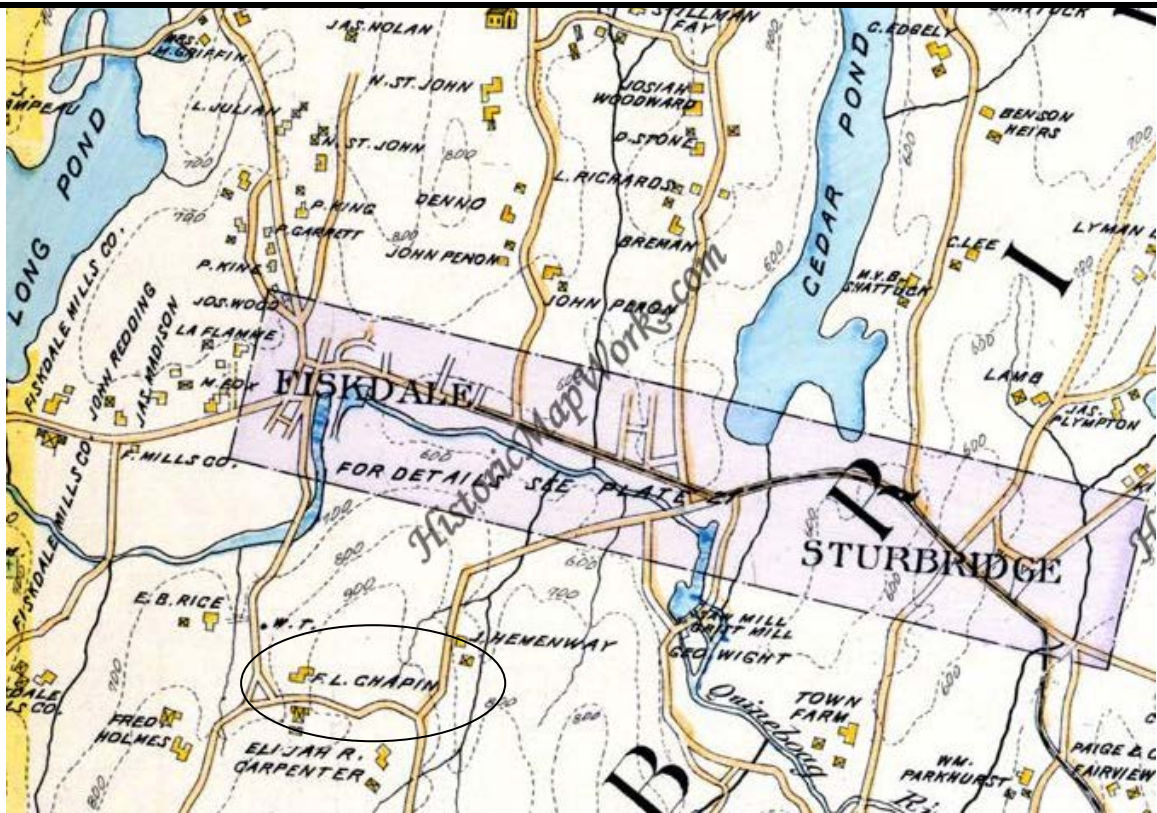


Figure 2: 1898 L.J. Richards Worcester County Atlas