

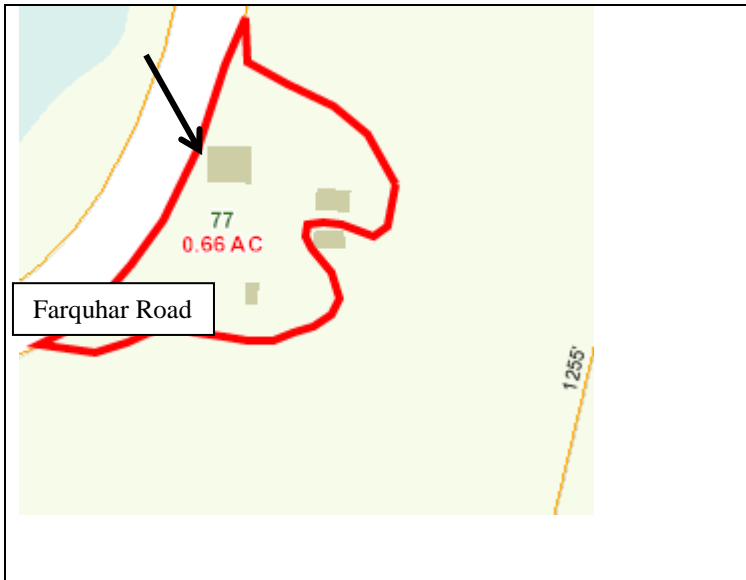
## FORM B – BUILDING

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

270-03453-077

North  
Brookfield

STU.249-  
251

**Town/City:**    Sturbridge

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

**Address:** 77 Farquhar Road

**Historic Name:** James and Elizabeth Belknap House

**Uses:** Present:    single-family dwelling

Original:    single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1864

**Source:** Registry of Deeds

**Style/Form:** raised Cape

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation:    parged stone, concrete

Wall/Trim:    clapboard

Roof:    asphalt shingles

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage, guest house

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

Window replacement on south elevation, ca. 2000.

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒    yes ☐    **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.66 acres

**Setting:** House faces west to a large pond.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

77 Farquhar Road

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

STU.249-251

☐ 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 James and Elizabeth Belknap House, 77 Farquhar Road, is a one-and-a-half story raised Cape on parged stone and concrete foundations. It is called a raised Cape for the height added above the plate of the first floor by additional studs, which made the attic floor almost a full story. Although this method of construction was used in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, it became quite popular around the time of the Civil War as a relatively inexpensive way to achieve more interior space. West-facing, the house has an added two-story ell on its east elevation. The main block of the clapboard-sided house is three bays wide, its center entry sheltered by a front-gabled portico on braces. Adjacent windows are narrow and have 6/6 sash. A replacement three-sided oriel window is on its south elevation. The ell has an open porch on its south elevation where there is a secondary entry. A small cabin/guest house and single-bay garage are on the east side of the house.

### 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 1864 James Belknap bought ten acres of plowing and tilling land from Thomas Wright, both of Sturbridge. The deed makes no mention of buildings as subsequent deeds will, so this house is attributed to Belknap, a date that accords with the style of the house. In 1870 the federal non-population schedule lists Belknap as a Sturbridge farmer but with over 200 improved acres, suggesting that this property was acquired to add to an already-established farm. The 1880 census for Sturbridge finds James and Elizabeth still farming when he was 71 and she a few years younger. By 1904 the property had gone through several ownerships and into that of John Proulx, another Farquhar Road farmer who bought it not to add to his farm, but to turn around for profit, which he did in 1904 when he sold to John and Ethelind Hall. John Hall had financed the purchase of three other properties in the early 1900s in and around Sturbridge, and in 1910 lost them to the Southbridge Bank. The bank then sold them off and this house went ultimately to Herbert Heck in 1919. Heck was a farmer and the property at 20 acres was sufficient to support farming. He remained for 20 years and when he sold, his livestock and equipment were part of the deal. He had two cows, chickens, tools, a roller and stored hay, and in the deed he made provision for his son in a timely fashion to get the dynamite that he stored in a shed. In 1941 Charles and Alice Chase took over the farm. The Chases may have farmed but in 1940 they were working in the woolen mills, Charles as a fixer, Alice as a mender, a step-son as a spinner. Their other four children were too young to work. The Chases' daughter Clara inherited the property and the farm stayed in the family until 1969.

### 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.

#### 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.

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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: Outbuildings