

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

280-03023-120

Southbridge

STU.F

STU.57

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 120 Fiske Hill Road

**Historic Name:** Capt. Simeon Fiske/Simeon F. Marsh House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling/Agricultural

**Date of Construction:** circa 1804

**Source:** Wilkin, STU.57, 1973

**Style/Form:** Georgian with alterations

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Concrete

Wall/Trim: Asbestos Shingle & Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

## Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Sections appear to all be attached

## Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Side wing removed, 1938 hurricane

Northern side wing (post 1973)

Asbestos siding (date unknown)

Windows replaced (date unknown)

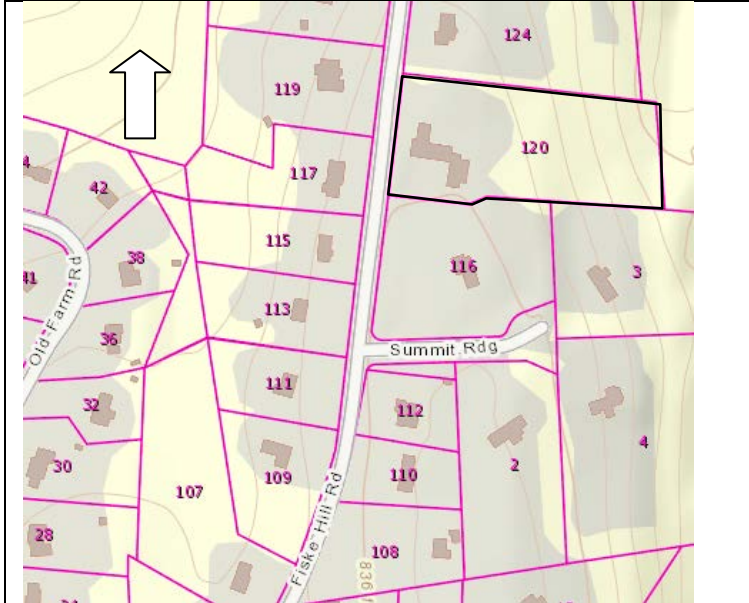
**Condition:** Fair due to alterations

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 2.84 acres

**Setting:** Rectangular shaped lot with the residence facing west along Fiske Hill Road. Near the intersection of Fiske Hill and Summit Ridge.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Shannon Walsh, PVPC

**Organization:** Sturbridge Historical Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

120 FISKE HILL ROAD

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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 Captain Simeon Fiske House, at 120 Fiske Hill Road, is an example of an early nineteenth century Georgian style residence, with later alterations, representing the residential and agricultural development along Fiske Hill Road during that time period. This single family dwelling has four distinct sections. The main, residential section faces west and is two and a half stories high and five bays wide by one bay deep with a north/south aligned rectangular plan. It has a stone foundation and the exterior is a mix of asbestos shingle and clapboard siding with wood trim. The asphalt shingle roof is steeply pitched and side gabled with a slight eave overhang and eave returns on the gable ends. There is a slightly off centered interior brick chimney on the roof ridge. An unpedimented entablature at the central entry appears original but the entry door and sidelights are probably modern alterations (pre 1973). Windows are 6/6. The northern and southern side elevations of this section each have three 6/6 windows.

A one and a half story, east/west aligned, rectangular plan rear wing is off of the eastern elevation of the main, residential section. This southern facing portion of the building appears to be at least seven bays wide, with an entry door at the southwestern corner. Windows are 6/6. An interior, brick chimney is on the roof ridge, closer to the southwestern end. A gabled dormer is off center on the southern downslope of the roof, closer to the chimney.

An additional section of the building is aligned north/south and positioned close to the southeastern corner of the previously described wing. It has a steeply pitched, gabled roof and an entry on the western facing side.

There is also a northern facing, front gabled garage off of the main residential section's northern elevation. It is two bays wide by two bays deep. There are transoms with divided lights over the two garage bays and two windows on the northern facing side elevation are divided into six lights.

### 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.*

Fiske Hill refers to the "first permanent European agricultural settlement after circa 1725" which was established in the Eastern Upland area of Sturbridge.<sup>1</sup> In 1731, brothers Henry (1707-1790) and Daniel Fiske (1709-1778) settled on the hill, prior to the 1738 incorporation of the town of Sturbridge. These men and their descendants "were important not only on the hill as farmers and founders of the Baptist church there, but also in town government and, by the 1800s, in industrial enterprises in Globe Village, Westville, and Fiskdale."<sup>2</sup> Fertile soil made this area ideal for agriculture and by the late eighteenth century, Fiske Hill had also developed as a stagecoach road with a Baptist Meeting House, School, and Inn. By the early to mid-twentieth century, development shifted from agricultural towards higher-end residential growth.

This property was originally part of the William Ward grant and was deeded to Henry Fiske (1707-1790) in 1760.<sup>3</sup>

Captain Simeon Fiske (1755-1840), son of Henry Fiske (1707-1790), was the first owner and was remembered as being "a prominent and efficient man in civil and religious concerns," and to have been "in active service about six months and received a wound in a battle, which affected him through life."<sup>4 5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984.

<sup>2</sup> Agnes S. Wilkin, "Fiske Hill," (MHC Inventory Form STU.F, 1973), <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=STU.F>, accessed October 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Agnes S. Wilkin, "120 Fiske Hill Road," (MHC Inventory Form #STU.57), 1973, <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=STU.F>, accessed October 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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Grandson Simeon F. Marsh (1807-1889) and his wife, Clarinda H. Marsh (1809-1882) were later property owners and farmed the land, between approximately 1840 and 1870.<sup>6</sup> (Figures 1 and 2)

Simeon's daughter, Jane A. Marsh (1840-1886), married farmer Jasper Lyon (1818-1891) and the Lyon family is noted as owners on an 1898 map. (Figure 3)

Between circa 1917 through 1953, this property was known as Reno Farm, related to Joseph B. Reno (born ca. 1877) and his wife, Georgiana Mary Reno (1879-1954), who married around 1907 and were both of French Canadian ancestry.<sup>7</sup> Georgiana is listed as the owner on a later land plan. (Figure 4)

In 1973, research concluded that although alterations had occurred, several interior architectural features remained intact.<sup>8</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*Ancestry.com* (see footnotes)

Davis, George. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*. West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856. *Archive.org*, <https://archive.org/details/historicalskech00davisgeo>, accessed November, 2017.

*Genealogybank.com* (see footnotes)

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984.

Wilkin, Agnes S. "120 Fiske Hill Road." (MHC Inventory #STU.57), 1973. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=STU.57>, accessed October 2017

Wilkin, Agnes S. "Fiske Hill," (MHC Inventory Form STU.F), 1973, <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=STU.F>, accessed October 2017.

Figure 1: Walling, Henry Francis. "Map of Worcester County." Boston and New York: Wm. E. Baker & Co., 1857. *Library of Congress.org* <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3763w.la000320/>

Figure 2: Atlas of Worcester County, F. W. Beers & Co. 1870  
<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:x059cb92c>

Figure 3: Richards, L.J. "Charlton-Sturbridge-Southbridge-Dudley Towns." *Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester*, 1898. *HistoricMapWorks.com* (site). Accessed on-line October 2017.  
<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas.php?cat=Maps&c=US&a=6717>

Figure 4: Land Plan 141, Page 36, 1946. *Masslandrecords.com*

Figure 5: Wilkin, Agnes S. "120 Fiske Hill Road." (MHC Inventory #STU.57), 1973. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=STU.57>, accessed October 2017

<sup>5</sup> George Davis, *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*. West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856. *Archive.org*, <https://archive.org/details/historicalskech00davisgeo>, accessed November, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Agnes S. Wilkin, "Fiske Hill," (MHC Inventory Form #STU.57), *Ibid*.

<sup>7</sup> Reno, Joseph. *United States Federal Census*, 1910. *Ancestry.com*

<sup>8</sup> Agnes S. Wilkin, *Ibid*.



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Photo 1: Western facing main façade and southern elevations



Photo 2: Western facing façade, main residential section

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Photo 3: Western façade, northern side elevations



Photo 4: View of rear wings, camera facing northeast



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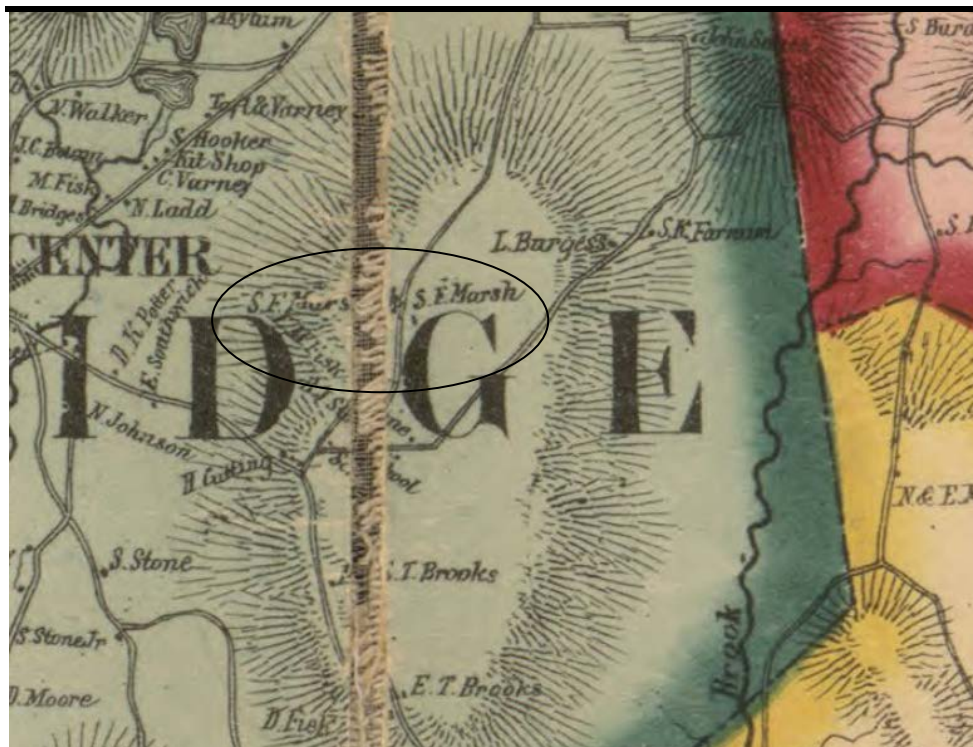


Figure 1: 1857 map showing property of S. F. Marsh

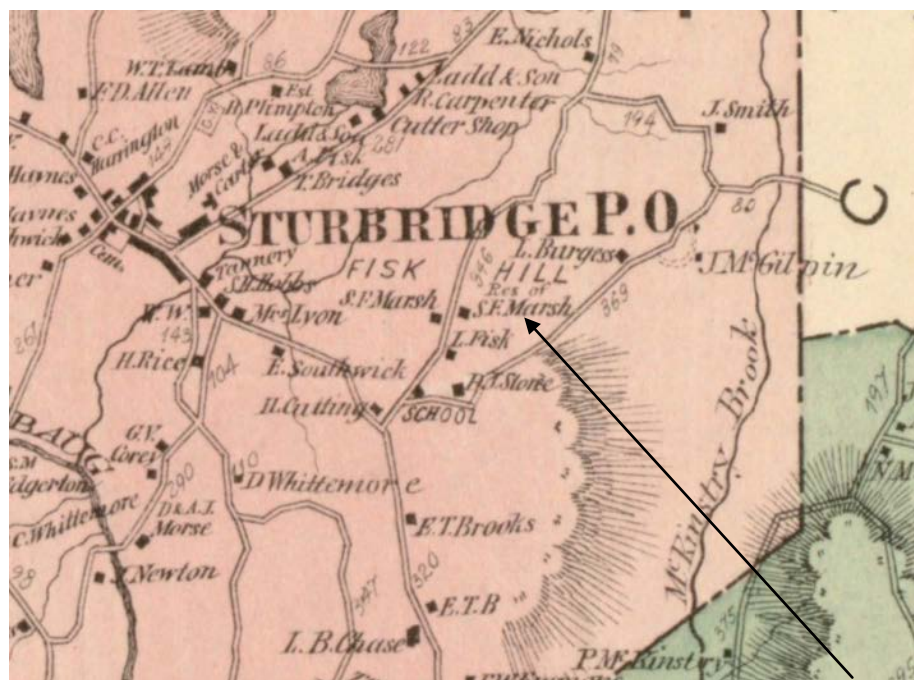


Figure 2: 1870 map showing property of S.F. Marsh

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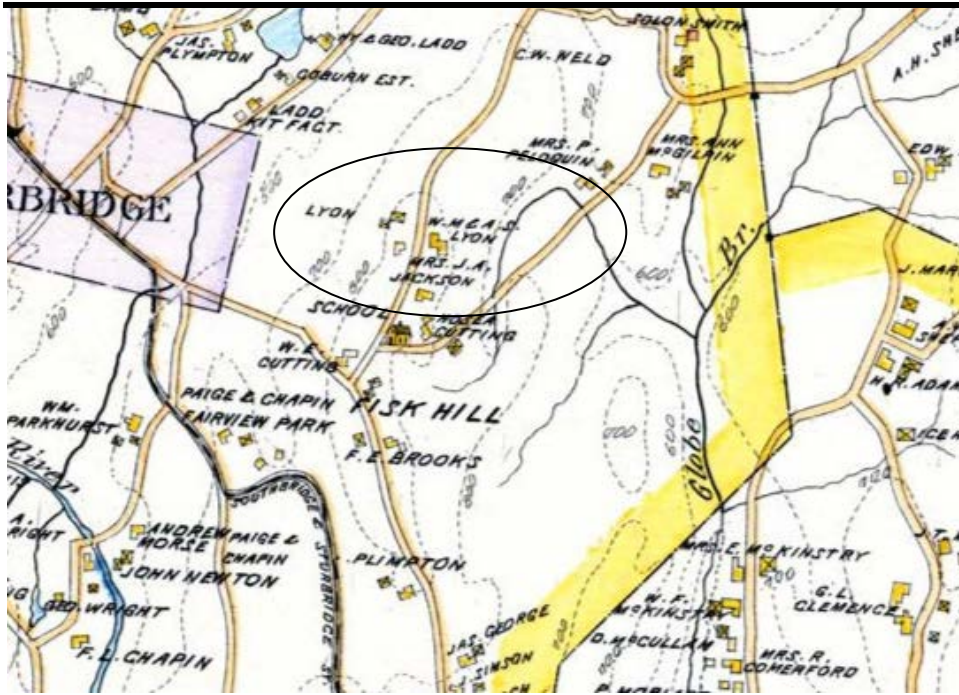


Figure 3: 1898 map showing Lyon family property

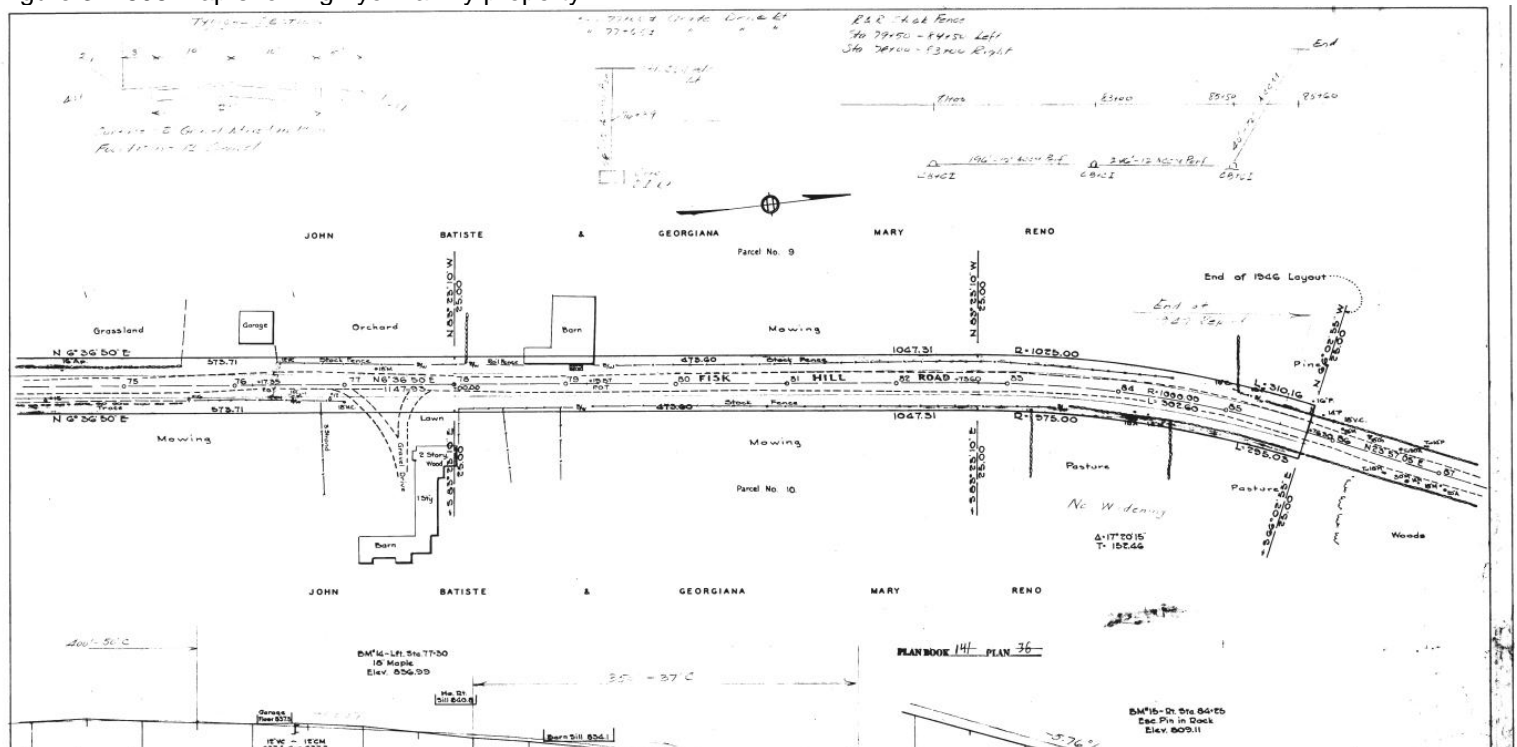


Figure 4: 1946 Land Plan Plan H, 2911

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Figure 5: 1973 Photo from previous inventory (Italianate style tower)