

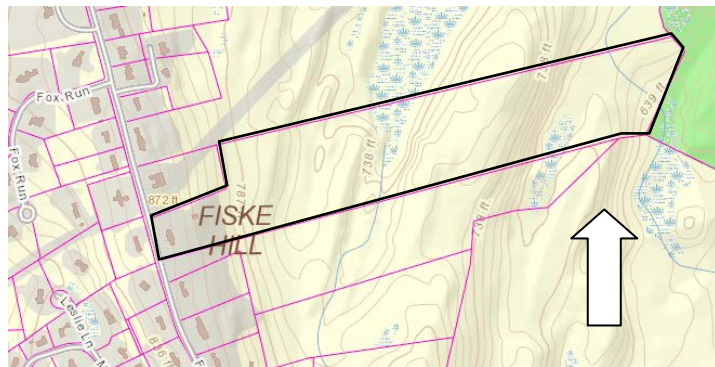
FORM B – BUILDING

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

280-03513-060

Southbridge

STU.F

STU.256-
STU.257

Town/City: Sturbridge

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

Address: 60 Fiske Hill Road

Historic Name: Raymond M. Burnham House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: 1922-1930

Source: 1922 Directory, 1930 Census

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (prior to 1938)

Major Alterations (with dates):

Unknown

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 31.43

Setting: This residence faces west along a residential stretch of Fiske Hill Road, on a long irregularly shaped parcel. It is between Fox Run and Williams Road.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

60 FISKE HILL ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

STU.F STU.256-257

☐ 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 Raymond M. Burnham House, at 60 Fiske Hill Road, is an example of early twentieth century Colonial Revival style architecture and represents the upscale residential growth and development which occurred during this time period in the Fiske Hill area of Sturbridge. This two and a half story high single family dwelling is 10 bays wide by three bays deep with a north/south aligned rectangular plan. The foundation is brick, the exterior is wood with wood trim and there is a side gable, asphalt shingle roof with pronounced overhanging eaves and eave returns on the gable ends. An interior chimney is positioned along the central block of the building, and an exterior brick chimney runs up the southern side elevation at the roof ridge.

On the main, western facing façade, first story windows are 8/8 with wood sills and lintels. The central door has an elaborate entablature, with pilasters and a pediment with dentils. The door surround has an elliptical fanlight and sidelights with ten divided lights per side. Second story windows are also 8/8, with the exception of a 9/9 window between the first and second story towards the northwestern portion of the main façade. This window is topped with a sunburst pediment. Second story casement windows, centered over the main entrance, each have eight divided lights. A first floor, secondary entrance on the southwestern section, with a pilastered entablature and French doors topped with a transom with nine divided lights. A cross gabled dormer has a large and elaborate elliptical fanlight in the upper half story. Most windows on this façade have wooden shutters.

The southern side elevation has four additional 8/8 windows, two on each floor and flanking the exterior chimney. There are two half fan lights on either side of the chimney in the upper half story.

The northern side elevation has two first story and two second story 8/8 windows and an elliptical fanlight set within the gable and similar to the one on the main, western facing façade. There is an additional entry on this elevation, with a less elaborate pedimented entablature.

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.¹ In 1731, brothers Henry and Daniel Fiske 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."² 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.

A late nineteenth century deed notes that this land was part of the "Fairview Park Tract" to Francis L. Chapin (et al).³ In 1919, insurance agent Raymond M. Burnham (1887-1944) and his wife, Marjorie N. Burnham (1887-1983), purchased the property from the Brooks family, documented as owners on an 1898 map.⁴ (Figure 1) The Burnham family, previously at Coombs Street (in 1920), was living on Fiske Hill Road by 1922 (although it is unknown if they lived in this house or an earlier residence). A

¹ Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984.

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

³ Book 1541 page 124, 1897. [Masslandrecords.com](http://masslandrecords.com)

⁴ Book 2177, page 35, April 30, 1919. [Masslandrecords.com](http://masslandrecords.com)

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portion of their land was sold off in 1927.⁵ By 1930, a census report indicates that Raymond and Marjorie, their two children, and a cook lived at this house.⁶ The Burnham's extensive land holdings, also on the western side of the road, and the house in its current configuration, are noted in a 1938 land map.⁷ (Figure 2)

The property was further subdivided after Raymond's death in 1944.⁸

In 1954, Vice President and Trustee of the American Optical Company, Walter J. Dreves (1897-1963), purchased the residence at 60 Fiske Hill Road. Walter and his wife, Elsie M. Dreves (1896-1986), lived there until about 1961, when they relocated to London, England for Walter to serve as managing director of the British-American Optical Industries, Ltd.^{9 10}

Dr. Joseph E. Silverberg (1923-2005) and his wife, Angela R. Silverberg (1924-2016), were more recent owners. Joseph was a World War II U.S. Army Air Corps veteran and also served as a Medical Officer with the U.S. Army in the Korean War.¹¹ He was on the staff at Southbridge-based Harrington Memorial Hospital for more than 30 years, and was also a past Chief of Staff.¹²

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com (see footnotes)

Genealogybank.com (see footnotes)

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

Masslandrecords.com (see footnotes)

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

Figure 1: Richards, L.J. "Charlton, Sturbridge, Southbridge, Dudley Towns." Worcester County, 1898. *HistoricMapWorks.Com* <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/6730/Charlton+++Sturbridge+++Southbridge+++Dudley+Towns/Worcester+County+1898/Massachusetts/>

Figure 2: "Fiske Hill Road," Plan Book 104, Plan 36, 1938. *MassLandRecords.com*, (site). Accessed October, 2017, <http://www.masslandrecords.com/worcester/>

⁵ Book 2452 Page 407, (1927)

⁶ "Burnham, Raymond M.," *United States Federal Census*, 1930, *Ancestry.com*

⁷ "Burnham, Raymond M." *Southbridge Directory*, 1922, *Ancestry.com*, *Masslandrecords.com*

⁸ Book 3027, Page 354 (1946); Harry C. Ray and Gertrude R. Ray, Bk 3166 Pg 474 (1949, land and buildings); and Marjorie F. Burnham, Book 3522 Page 104, (1953) *Masslandrecords.com*

⁹ "Walter J. Dreves." *Boston Record American*. March 18, 1963. *Genealogybank.com*

¹⁰ Book 4093 Page 458, (Feb. 24, 1960) *Masslandrecords.com*

¹¹ "Dr. Joseph E. Silverberg." *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*, April 15, 2005. *Genealogybank.com*

¹² *Ibid.*

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Photo 1: Western facing facade



Photo 2: Closer perspective of western facing entry

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Photo 3: Western façade and northern side elevation



Photo 4: Closer perspective of northern side entry

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Photo 5: Southern side elevation

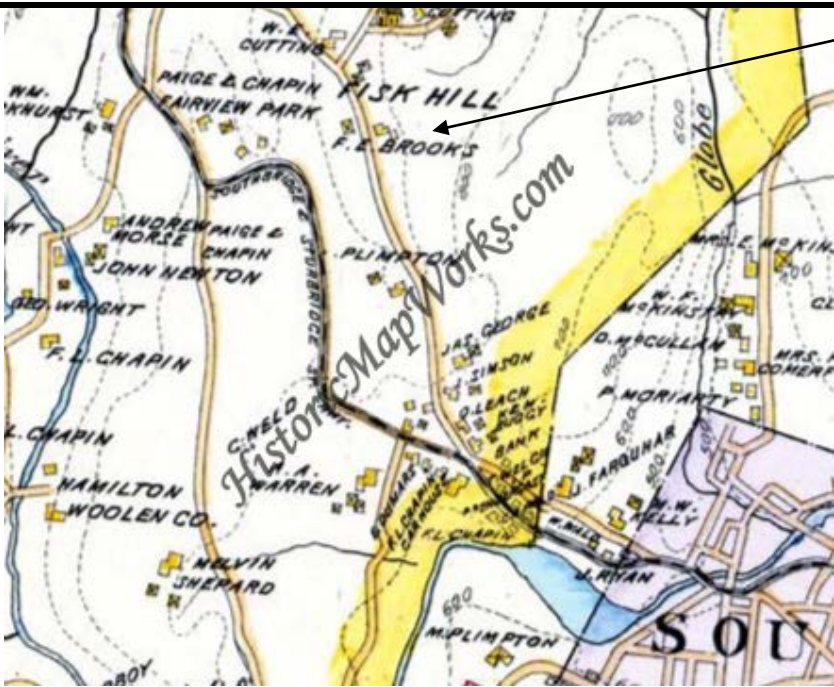


Figure 1: 1898 map showing Brooks family property and an earlier residence

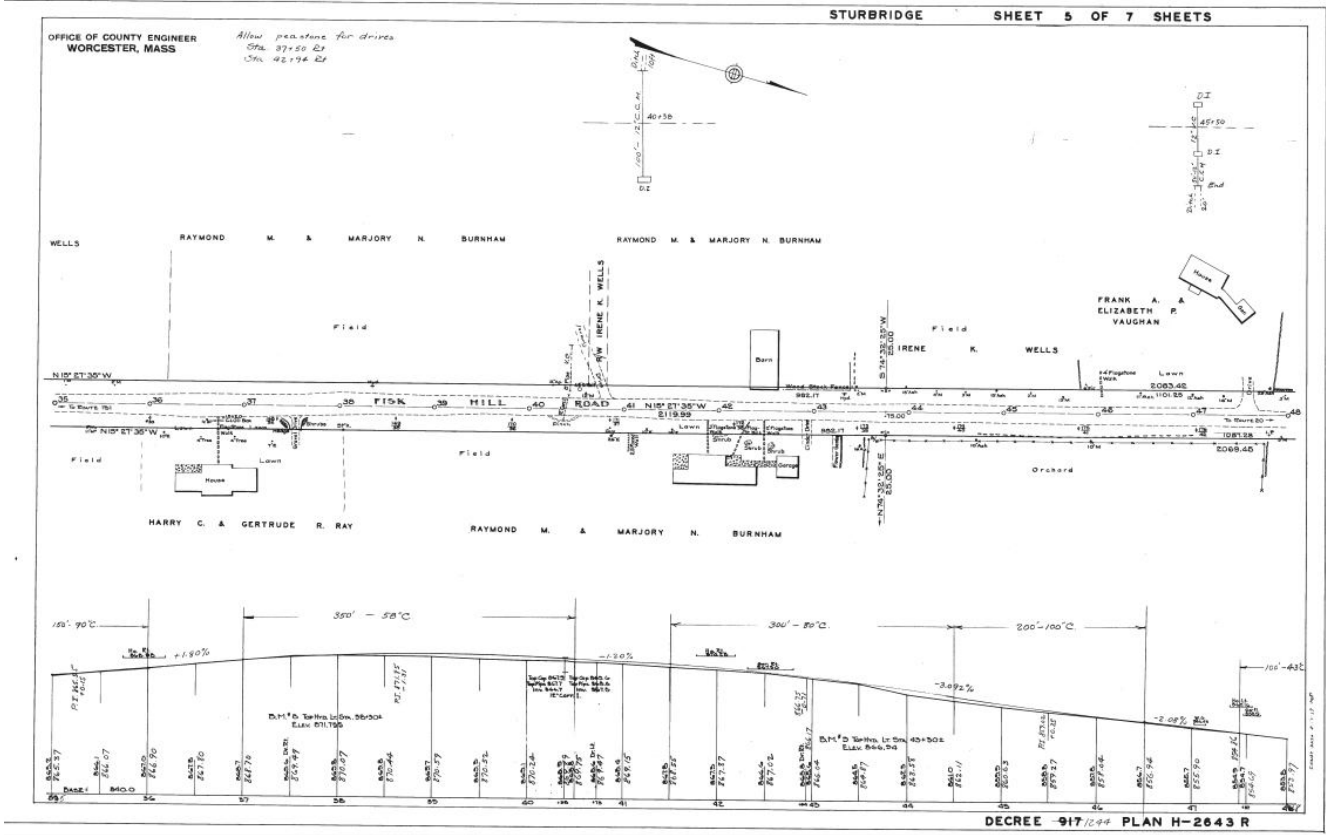


Figure 2: Fiske Hill Road land plan showing Burnham residence, 1938