

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

280-03041-085

Southbridge

STU.F

STU.55
STU.260

Town/City: Sturbridge

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

Photograph



Address: 85 Fiske Hill Road

Historic Name: Daniel Fiske II House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling/Agricultural

Date of Construction: ca. 1811

Source: Diary of Daniel Fiske III, Wilkin STU.55, 1973

Style/Form: Colonial (Georgian) with alterations

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Wood Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Former Wood Shed altered to garage (Per Wilkin STU.55)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Porch (date unknown)

1956 alterations (Wilkin, STU.55)

Replacement windows (dates unknown)

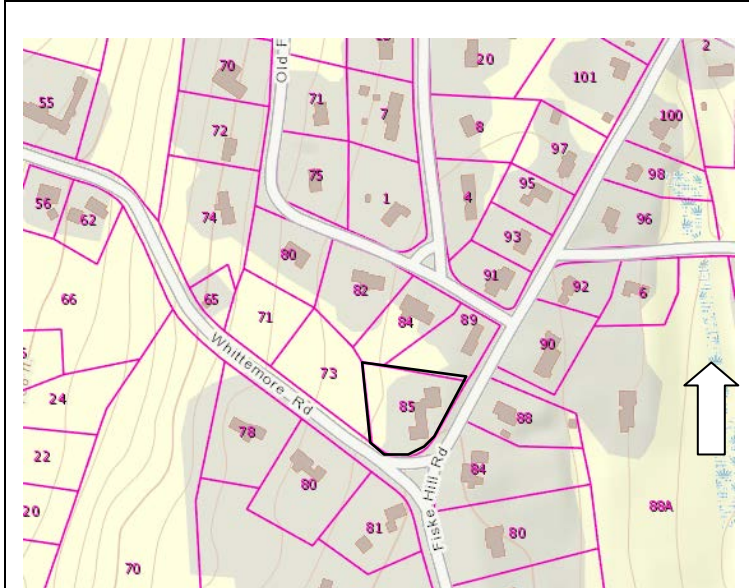
Condition: Fair due to alterations

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .77 acres

Setting: Irregularly shaped lot with residence facing south, located on the corner of Fiske Hill Road and Whittemore Road.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Shannon Walsh, PVPC

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): March 2017

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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 Daniel Fiske II House, located at 85 Fiske Hill Road, is an example of early nineteenth century Colonial architecture and represents the residential and agricultural growth and development along Fiske Hill Road in Sturbridge. This single family dwelling, with later additions and alterations, is comprised of three, distinct sections. The main, southern facing residence, presumed to be the oldest part of the building, is two and a half stories high and five bays wide by two bays deep with an east/west aligned rectangular plan. The foundation is not easily visible but the exterior is wood clapboard with wood trim. The steeply pitched wood shingle roof is side gabled, with minimal to no eave overhangs and eave returns on the gabled ends. There are two interior chimneys in close proximity towards the center of the building, along the roof ridge.

The main, southern facing façade has a later addition covered porch which runs the length of the building and has rounded support columns. The central entry has a wood paneled door with a wood surround and is topped with a transom with divided lights. Windows are 6/6 and have wood sills and lintels, as well as exterior wood shutters. The eastern facing elevation is highlighted by two story pilasters as corner boards. Four windows on this side are 6/6, with the uppermost window set at the top of the gable.

The next, connector wing section of this building is one and a half stories and five bays wide with a north/south rectangular plan. There is a single and triple 6/6 windows with a central wood paneled door with nine lights. A central, interior chimney is set on the roof ridge and a large, exterior chimney is at the rear, northern facing gabled end.

The rear section of the building connects to the connector wing and is east/west aligned, making the building's related form into an "L" shape. This section is one and a half stories high and side gabled, with a shed roof extension to the north. Windows are also generally 6/6.

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 (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."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.

Daniel Fiske II (1748-1839), son of Deacon Daniel Fiske (1709-1778), is noted to be the original owner of this property and the residence is referenced in the diary of his son, Daniel III (1786-1859), which provides an original construction date of 1811-1812.³ Previous research notes that interior floorboards have markings with earlier dates (1801 and 1806).⁴ Daniel II moved to New York and is buried in Madison County.⁵ The property was next held by the Mason family, until at least the 1850s.⁶

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

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

³ Agnes S. Wilkin, "85 Fiske Hill Road." (MHC Inventory # STU.55), 1973. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=STU.55> accessed October 2017.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ "Daniel Fiske," 1839, *FindaGrave.com*

⁶ Agnes S. Wilkin, "85 Fiske Hill Road." Ibid.

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Members of the Cutting family were connected to the property by the mid to end of the nineteenth century. Maps indicate that by 1857 through 1870, farmer Horace Cutting (1805-1882) is the owner and by 1898, farmer William E. Cutting (1870-1918) owns this land. (Figures 1, 2 and 3)

In the 1930s, Canadian born Hilaire Cournoyer (1885-1963) operated the property as a dairy farm.⁷ By 1940, ten members of the Cournoyer family lived there.⁸ Some of the Hilaire's were also farmers while other family member employment included jobs as a bakery salesman, and an inspector and a solderer in the optical field (American Optical Company).⁹ The Hilaire's continued to farm the land after the residence was sold in 1956.¹⁰

The former barn, located across the road, burned in 1957.¹¹

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com (see footnotes)

FindaGrave.com (see footnotes)

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

Wilkin, Agnes S. "85 Fiske Hill Road." (MHC Inventory # STU.55), 1973. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=STU.55> 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>

⁷ "Hilaire Cournoyer," *United States Federal Census*, 1940. *Ancestry.com*

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Agnes S. Wilkin, "85 Fiske Hill Road." (MHC Inventory # STU.55), Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

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Figure 1: 1857 Map showing H. Cutting property along Fiske Hill Road

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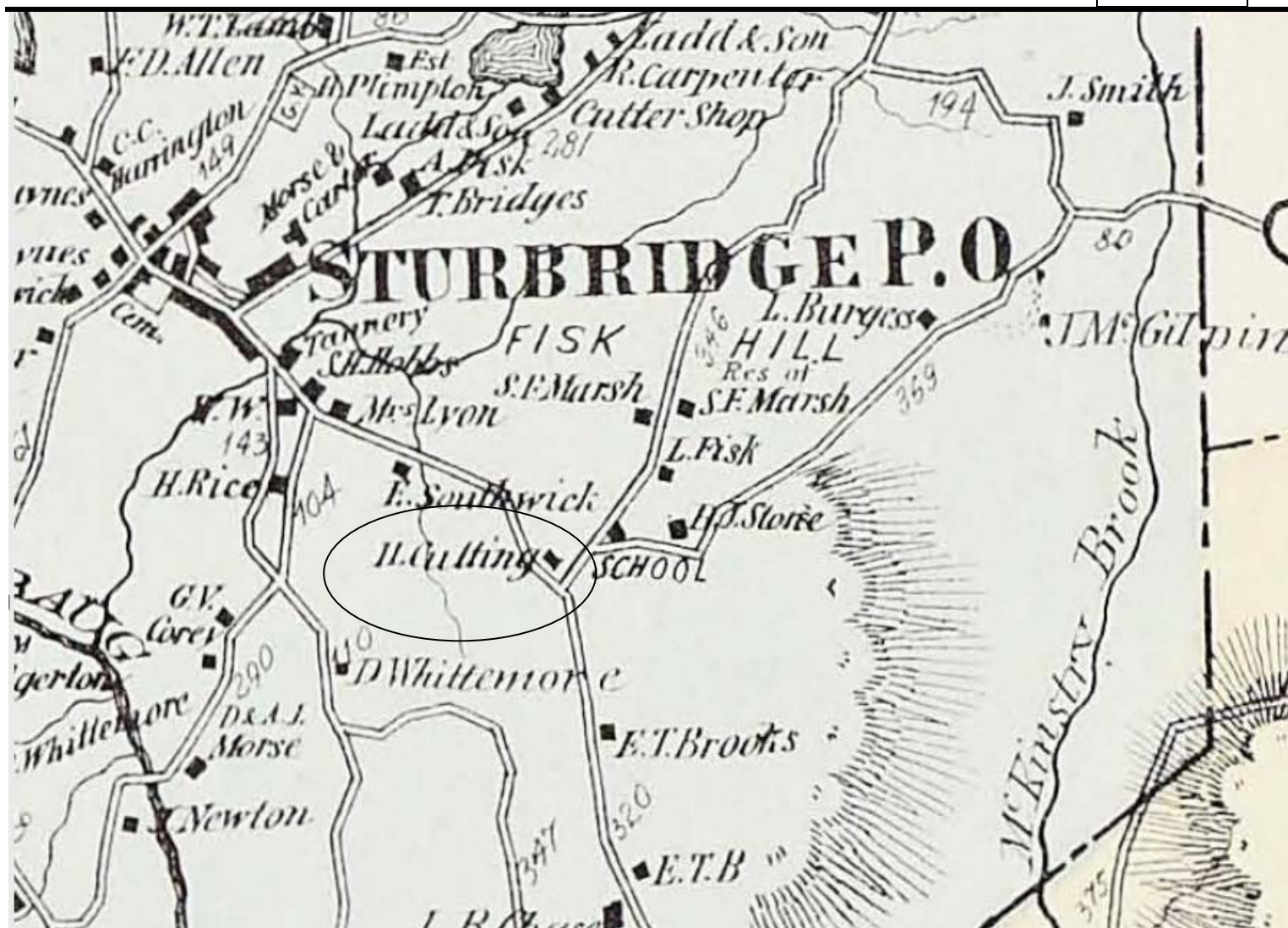
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Figure 2: 1870 Map showing H. Cutting (85 Fiske Hill Road)

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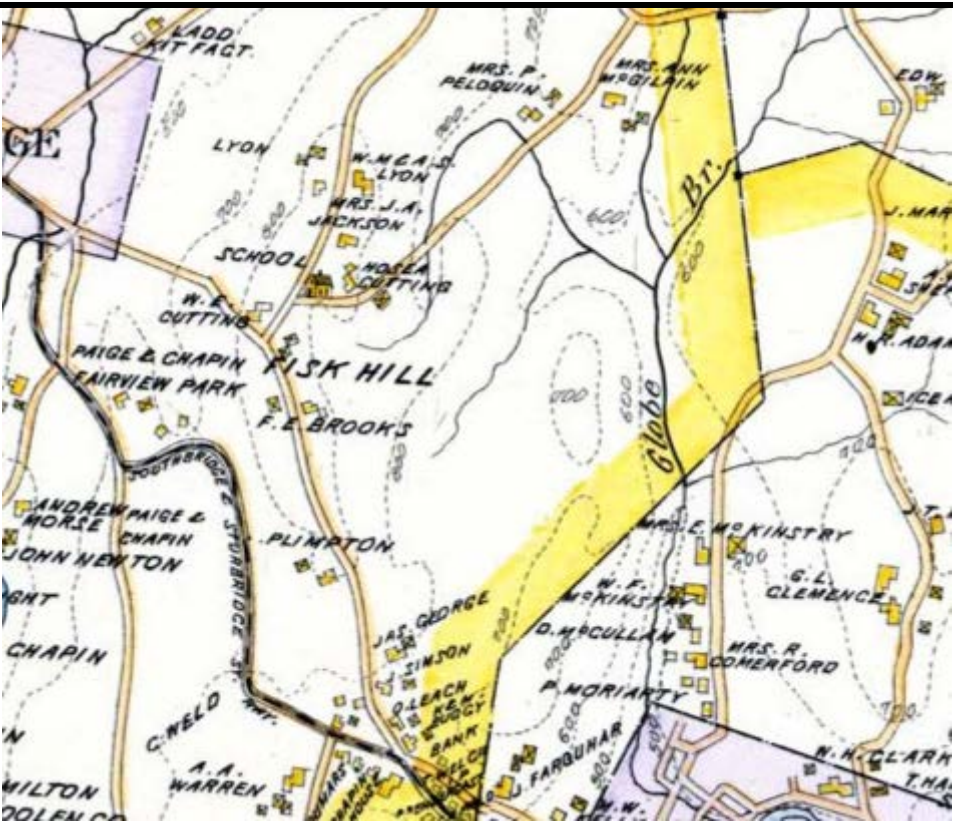


Figure 3: 1898 Cutting property