



# Sturbridge, MA Historic Resources Inventory

Final Report  
Prepared for the  
Sturbridge Historical Commission

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

December 2017



## **ABSTRACT**

The Sturbridge Historic Resources Inventory was commissioned by the Town of Sturbridge, to be administered by the Sturbridge Historical Commission (SHC), and prepared by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) throughout 2016 and 2017, supported by Sturbridge Community Preservation Act funds. This report discusses the methodology, results, and final recommendations of the four-phase project, which took place during 2016 and 2017. Phases I and II organized the research, clarified the list of historic resources to be documented, and produced representative samples of inventory forms. Phase III involved completion of field work, and researching, writing, and ultimately submitting the remaining inventory forms for review to the SHC chairperson. Data was collected through field work and site photography, as well as by using on-line access to archival databases for newspaper, map, and deed research. The Phase IV final products include a comprehensive inventory and related mapping of approximately 100 of Sturbridge's historic built resources, as well as this final report which summarizes project findings and offers recommendations for future actions. The resulting data, including National Register Criteria Statements for some of the more significant buildings and sites, will be available for public access at the Sturbridge Town Hall and through the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS).

## **METHODOLOGY STATEMENT**

- *Survey Objectives and Assessment of Previous Research*

The most recent comprehensive Sturbridge inventory was completed in the early 1970s. Around that time, a National Register District was established which focused on the town center along the Main Street corridor. This 2016/2017 survey is an effort to provide documentation which is up to current standards for some of the previously researched buildings and to thoroughly document additional significant resources, including newer buildings which may now also be considered noteworthy.

- *Selection Criteria*

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's previous Historic Preservation Planner, Elizabeth Rairigh, worked with the SHC, and in particular, chairperson Barbara Search, to formulate a list of resources to inventory. Existing forms in MACRIS were reviewed and properties were identified as the original inventory did not have building addresses. A list was compiled of properties constructed prior to 1968, most of which were not in the previous inventory. Preliminary field work included checking priority areas identified by the SHC and properties referenced in previous reconnaissance surveys. The result of these efforts was a list of more than 100 resources, plus related outbuildings and structures for potential inclusion in this inventory.

The list was narrowed to the most significant resources using the following criteria:

- Historic buildings that are potentially threatened, including some which were previously inventoried;
- Historic buildings which appear to be eligible for the National Register, either individually or related within a district
- Historic buildings with special significance to Sturbridge; and/or
- Architecturally distinguished historic buildings, or those that are an excellent example of style, with moderate to good integrity.

The preliminary list was evaluated and finalized by the Sturbridge Historical Commission and field work commenced in the Spring of 2017.

- *Survey Procedures*

The survey was initiated by previous PVPC Historic Preservation Planner, Elizabeth Rairigh, with the support of subcontractor and preservation consultant, Shannon Walsh. Due to a staffing change at the end of Phase II, the remaining work on Phase II, Phase III, and Phase IV was completed by Walsh, who was hired as the new PVPC Historic Preservation Planner, with the support of veteran historic preservation consultant Bonnie Parsons.

The survey followed MHC guidelines and utilized MHC Building and AREA form templates.<sup>1</sup> Base forms were established with assessor's numbers and USGS Topographical Quadrants, and existing MACRIS and West Springfield Assessor's database files were reviewed to get preliminary information on the buildings, sites and areas. Form locational maps were accessed through OLIVER, the MassGIS online mapping tool. Photographs were taken in March and April of 2017 from the public right of way. Primary and secondary sources were used for research to write historical narratives. Although this was outside of the original scope of work, challenges with typical avenues of research often necessitated comprehensive deed searches if the information was relevant to the history and significance of the building or if this practice proved to be the best source of elusive data. Building, Structure, and Area numbers were provided by MHC and were added to forms and cross referenced on the index within this report, and the final base maps and required corresponding information were produced by the PVPC GIS department.

- *Products and Accomplishments*

The project has resulted in a community-wide survey documenting or bolstering existing documentation of approximately 100 of Sturbridge's historic resources, as well as related National Register Criteria Statement Forms for buildings or areas which were deemed significant.

Copies of the inventory forms, base maps, and final report will be available in the Town Clerk's Office at the Sturbridge Town Hall, located at 308 Main Street. Electronic copies of the inventory forms will also be uploaded into MHC's on-line repository, MACRIS, for public access.

- *Results versus Expectations*

- Advertising in the local paper by the Sturbridge Historical Commission helped inform residents that there would be someone documenting local buildings. There were still some concerned property owners who came out to ask about the project and ensure that the photographer had good intentions.
- Buildings which were obstructed from view or set far back from the public right of way were challenging to document. Obtaining advance permission from owners with less visible properties or with multiple resources on a property would have helped to ensure better access.
- When owners were outside, greater access could sometimes be achieved, such as the visit to 13 Podunk Road (STU.289) which led to the documentation of a barn foundation which could not have been viewed from the public right of way.

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<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic Properties Survey Manual. Guidelines for the Identification of Historic and Archaeological Resources in Massachusetts*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1992.

- The wide geographic area covered in this survey made site visits and photography take longer than expected.
- Sturbridge has narrow roadways with few places to park, particularly in some of the residential areas, which made photographing some of the resources challenging.
- The inventory research from the early 1970s was very helpful in providing information on buildings which had been included in that project. Utilizing census information and town street directories was surprisingly challenging as Sturbridge did not list street numbers, and sometimes not even street names of residents on this type of documentation from the time period researched. More intensive deed searches, which were not originally planned for within the project scope or work, were often required in order to better determine building ownership and potential construction dates.

## **STREET INDEX OF INVENTORIED AREAS AND PROPERTIES**

<b>ASSESSOR NUMBER</b>	<b>MACRIS</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>HISTORIC NAME</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>STYLE/FORM</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>NATIONAL REGISTER</b>
	<b>STU.H</b>		<b>Bay Path Motel AREA</b>				
415-02344-682	STU.195	682 Main St	Bay Path Motel/ Office & Units	ca. 1948	Modern	Bldg	
415-02344-682	STU.196	682 Main St	Bay Path Motel House	ca. 1948	Cape Form	Bldg	
415-02344-682	STU.197	682 Main St	East Bldg C	ca. 1972	Modern	Bldg	
415-02344-682	STU.198	682 Main St	West Bldg D	ca. 1972	Modern	Bldg	
415-02344-682	STU.911	682 Main St	Swimming Pool	ca. 1960	In-Ground	Struct.	
415-02344-682	STU.199	682 Main St	Greenhouse	ca. 1960	Traditional	Bldg	
	<b>STU.I</b>		<b>Haynes Corner AREA</b>				
415-02913-307	STU.41	307 Main St (3 Haynes)	Haynes Family House	1830-1850	Greek Revival	Bldg	District
415-02913-307	STU.200	307 Main St (3 Haynes)	Barn	1935	Gambrel	Bldg	District
415-02913-307	STU.40	307 Main St (1 Haynes)	Daniel Plimpton House	ca. 1800	Utilitarian	Bldg	District
415-02913-307	STU.43	307 Main St	Haynes Carriage & Paint	ca. 1890	Utilitarian	Bldg	District
415-02913-315	STU.44	315 Main St	Haynes Harness & Blacksmith	ca. 1850	Utilitarian	Bldg	District
330-02913-005	STU.42	5 Haynes St	Deacon Dunton House	ca. 1780	Federal	Bldg	District
	<b>STU.J</b>		<b>Hyland Orchard AREA</b>				
123-01512-195	STU.201	195 Arnold Rd	Fruit Storage Barn	1945	Utilitarian	Bldg	
123-01512-195	STU.202	195 Arnold Rd	Maple Sugar Boiling House	ca. 1950	Utilitarian	Bldg	
123-01512-195	STU.203	195 Arnold Rd	1 <sup>st</sup> ground-level stable barn	ca. 1960	Utilitarian	Bldg	
123-01512-195	STU.204	195 Arnold Rd	2 <sup>nd</sup> ground-level stable barn	ca. 1960	Utilitarian	Bldg	
123-01512-195	STU.912	195 Arnold Rd	Greenhouse	ca. 1950	Utilitarian	Struct	

	<b>STU.K</b>		<b>Orchard Inn AREA</b>				
330-02923-012	STU.205	12 Haynes St	Orchard Inn Motel Bldg 1	1964	Modern	Bldg	
330-02923-012	STU.206	12 Haynes St	Orchard Inn Motel Bldg 2	1964	Modern	Bldg	
330-02923-012	STU.207	12 Haynes St	Orchard Inn Motel Bldg 3	1964	Modern	Bldg	
330-02923-012	STU.208	12 Haynes St	Orchard Inn Motel Bldg 4	1964	Modern	Bldg	
330-02923-012	STU.209	12 Haynes St	Orchard Inn Motel Office	1964	Modern	Bldg	
330-02923-012	STU.913	12 Haynes St	Pergola	ca. 1970	Queen Anne (revival)	Struct	
	<b>STU.L</b>		<b>Wight/Motel AREA</b>				
415-02458-371	STU.74	369-371 Main St	Oliver & Harmony Wight House	1787-89	Georgian	Bldg	
415-02458-371	STU.914	369-371 Main St	Green	1963		Landscape	
415-02458-371	STU.210	369-371 Main St	Northeast Lodge	1963	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
415-02458-371	STU.211	369-371 Main St	East Lodge	1963	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
415-02458-371	STU.212	369-371 Main St	Southeast Lodge	1963	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
415-02458-371	STU.213	369-371 Main St	Southwest Lodge	1963	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
415-02458-371	STU.214	369-371 Main St	Reeder House	1963	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
415-02458-371	STU.215	369-371 Main St	Mixed-Use Lodge	1963	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
415-02458-371	STU.216	369-371 Main St	Levi Lincoln House	1836	Greek Revival	Bldg	
415-02458-371	STU.126	369-371 Main St	Friendly's Restaurant	1973	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
			<b>Allen Road</b>				
110-00644-026	STU.217	26 Allen Rd	Joel & Martha Plimpton House	ca. 1786	Cape	Bldg	
110-00644-026	STU.218	26 Allen Rd	Carriage Barn	ca. 1880	Eaves Front	Bldg	
			<b>Auger Street</b>				
125-02435-003	STU.101	3 Auger St	Snell Auger Co. Housing	ca. 1875	Altered	Bldg	
			<b>Bates Hill Road</b>				
131-02422-008	STU.219	8 Bates Hill Rd	Simeon & Mary Drake House	1836	Federal	Bldg	
131-02422-010	STU.220	10 Bates Hill Rd	Truman & Mary Charles House	ca. 1780	Cape	Bldg	
			<b>Bennetts Road</b>				
145-04435-017	STU.221	17 Bennetts Road	Thomas Gray Cottage	1930	Craftsman	Bldg	Demolished
145-04435-017	STU.222	17 Bennetts Road	Garage	ca. 2000	Utilitarian	Bldg	
145-04415-051	STU.223	51 Bennetts Road	Eunice Maloney Cottage	1935	Front-gabled	Bldg	

			<b>Brookfield Road</b>				
173-02327-002	STU.159	2 Brookfield Rd	Mrs. Cartier Two-Family	ca. 1855	No Style	Bldg	
173-02327-029	STU.224	29 Brookfield Rd	LaFlamme's Market	1939	No Style	Bldg	
173-02316-055	STU.225	55 Brookfield Rd	Patrick & Mary Jarret House	1878-1892	Queen Anne	Bldg	
173-02316-055	STU.226	55 Brookfield Rd	Barn	ca. 1890	Eaves Front	Bldg	
173-02316-055	STU.227	55 Brookfield Rd	Shop	1878-1892	Utilitarian	Bldg	
173-02317-060	STU.228	60 Brookfield Rd	Marsh House	ca. 1814	Federal	Bldg	
173-01916-142	STU.229	142 Brookfield Rd	Joseph Marsh House	ca. 1760	Georgian	Bldg	Individual
173-01916-142	STU.230	142 Brookfield Rd	Barn	ca. 1800	English	Bldg	
173-01916-142	STU.231	142 Brookfield Rd	Barn/Shed	ca. 1850/1900	New England	Bldg	
173-01434-213	STU.232	213 Brookfield Rd	Eliab & Fanny Marsh House	ca. 1795	Georgian/Federal	Bldg	Individual
173-01434-213	STU.233	213 Brookfield Rd	Barn	ca. 1870	New England	Bldg	
173-01413-231	STU.234	231 Brookfield Rd	Jonathan P. Curtis House	ca. 1804	Altered Cape	Bldg	
173-01413-231	STU.235	231 Brookfield Rd	Garage	ca. 1920	Utilitarian	Bldg	
173-01413-231	STU.236	231 Brookfield Rd	Garage	ca. 1970	Utilitarian	Bldg	
173-01413-231	STU.237	231 Brookfield Rd	Carriage Barn	ca. 1880	Eaves Front	Bldg	
173-00953-249	STU.238	249 Brookfield Rd	George Griswold Spec. House	ca. 1913	Craftsman	Bldg	
173-00913-285	STU.239	285 Brookfield Rd	Cyrus & Bathsheba Fay House	1784-1795	Cape	Bldg	
			<b>Cedar Street</b>				
202-02056-083	STU.240	83 Cedar St	Thomas Marsh Farm Bldg	ca. 1860	Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>Champeaux Road</b>				
206-01915-012	STU.241	12 Champeaux Rd	Eli & Mary Marsh House	ca. 1762	Georgian	Bldg	Individual
206-01915-012	STU.242	12 Champeaux Rd	Barn			Bldg	
			<b>Douty Road</b>				
245-02717-014	STU.243	14 Douty Rd	C.G. Allen Farm	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /early 19 <sup>th</sup> c	Georgian	Bldg	Demolished
245-02717-014	STU.244	14 Douty Rd	Barn		Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>Farquhar Road</b>				
270-03415-026	STU.245	26 Farquhar Rd	Wardwell & Marion Edwards	ca. 1944	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
270-03435-047	STU.246	47 Farquhar Rd	Samuel & Mary Morse House	ca. 1780-1800	Georgian	Bldg	Individual

270-03435-047	STU.247	47 Farquhar Rd	Barn	ca. 1870	Eaves Front	Bldg	
270-03435-047	STU.248	47 Farquhar Rd	Barn	ca. 1860	High Drive	Bldg	
270-03435-077	STU.249	77 Farquhar Rd	James & Elizabeth Belknap	ca. 1864	Raised Cape	Bldg	
270-03435-077	STU.250	77 Farquhar Rd	Garage	ca. 2000	Utilitarian	Bldg	
270-03435-077	STU.251	77 Farquhar Rd	Guest House	ca. 1990	Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>Fiske Hill Road</b>				
280-03553-008	STU.252	8 Fiske Hill Rd	Otis E. Leach House	By 1931	Classical Revival	Bldg	
280-03553-012	STU.253	12 Fiske Hill Rd	Harry H. Pickles House	By 1931	Classical Revival	Bldg	
280-03553-015	STU.254	15 Fiske Hill Rd	Walter L. Fish Jr. House	By 1944	Classical Revival	Bldg	
280-03522-055	STU.255	55 Fiske Hill Rd	Harry G. Estabrook Hs	Ca. 1940	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
280-03513-060	STU.256	60 Fiske Hill Rd	Raymond M. Burnham Hs	By 1930	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
280-03513-060	STU.257	60 Fiske Hill Rd	Garage	Prior to 1938	Utilitarian	Bldg	
280-03511-066	STU.53	66 Fiske Hill Rd	David Fiske House	1786	Federal	Bldg	
280-03511-066	STU.258	66 Fiske Hill Rd	Outbuilding		Utilitarian	Bldg	
280-03041-077	STU.54	77 Fiske Hill Rd	Daniel Fiske III/Wells House	1832/1937	Federal/Colonial Revival	Bldg	
280-03041-077	STU.259	77 Fiske Hill Rd	Outbuilding		Colonial Revival	Bldg	
280-03041-085	STU.55	85 Fiske Hill Rd	Daniel Fiske II House	Ca. 1811	Georgian	Bldg	
280-03041-085	STU.260	85 Fiske Hill Rd	Garage (former wood shed)		Utilitarian	Bldg	
280-03023-120	STU.57	120 Fiske Hill Rd	Fiske/Marsh House	Ca. 1804	Georgian	Bldg	
280-02614-205	STU.58	205 Fiske Hill Rd	Ebenezer Cutting/Nichols	1812	Georgian	Bldg	
280-02614-205	STU.261	205 Fiske Hill Rd	Barn		Utilitarian	Bldg	
280-02614-205	STU.262	205 Fiske Hill Rd	Barn		Utilitarian	Bldg	
280-02614-205	STU.915	205 Fiske Hill	Pole Barn		Utilitarian	Struct	
			<b>Hall Road</b>				
315-02917-023	STU.48	23 Hall Road	Samuel Hobbs House	Ca. 1775	Georgian	Bldg	Individual
315-02917-023	STU.263	23 Hall Road	Barn	Ca. 1850	High Drive	Bldg	
315-02917-023	STU.264	23 Hall Road	Barn	Ca. 1890	Eaves Front	Bldg	
			<b>Holland Road</b>				
348-02744-100	STU.265	100 Holland Rd	George & Mary E. Holmes Hse	Ca. 1850	No Style	Bldg	
348-02744-100	STU.266	100 Holland Rd	Barn	Ca. 1990	Utilitarian	Bldg	
348-03214-220	STU.267	220 Holland Rd	Abijah & Ruth Shumway Hse	Ca. 1800	Federal	Bldg	
348-03234-222	STU.268	222 Holland Rd	District 4 Schoolhouse	Ca. 1850	Utilitarian	Bldg	
348-03233-224	STU.269	224 Holland Rd	N. Cheney/E Plimpton House	Ca. 1793	Federal	Bldg	

348-03233-224	STU.270	224 Holland Rd	Garage	Ca. 1920	Craftsman	Bldg	
348-03233-224	STU.271	224 Holland Rd	Barn		High Drive	Bldg	
			<b>Main Street</b>				
415-03924-012	STU.272	12 Main St	Norval & Ann Newell Hse	Ca. 1850	No Style	Bldg	
415-03552-060	STU.273	60 Main St	Arthur & Eileen Atwood Hse	1946	Minimal Traditional	Bldg	
415-03554-070	STU.274	70 Main St	Eugene Gabree Invest. Hse	Ca. 1919	Colonial Revival	Bldg	
415-03554-070	STU.275	70 Main St	Garage	Ca. 1970	Utilitarian	Bldg	
415-03551-075	STU.276	75 Main St	Andre & Lillian Pinel House	1941	Minimal Traditional	Bldg	
415-03541-082	STU.277	82 Main St	John & Eva Ryan House	1925	Craftsman	Bldg	
415-03541-082	STU.278	82 Main St	Ryan's Garage	1925	Eclectic	Bldg	
415-03427-171	STU.279	171 Main St	Sylvanus W. Stone House	Ca. 1855	No Style	Bldg	
415-03427-171	STU.280	171 Main St	Carriage Barn	Ca. 1915	Craftsman	Bldg	
415-02956-204	STU.281	204 Main St	Alfred & Etienne Berthiaume	1937	Tudor Revival	Bldg	
415-02433-480	STU.113	480 Main St	Snellville District #2 Schoolhouse	1874	Italianate	Bldg	Individual
415-02421-538	STU.141	538 Main St	Fiskdale House	Ca. 1857	Greek Revival	Bldg	
415-02421-538	STU.282	538 Main St	Barn/Shops	Ca. 2000	Utilitarian	Bldg	
415-02328-572	STU.151	572 Main St	Otis Block	Ca. 1874-1880	Gothic Revival	Bldg	Individual
415-02328-572	STU.152	572 Main St	Fiskdale Mills Fire House	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> to early 20 <sup>th</sup> c.	Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>Maple Street</b>				
417-02913-009	STU.5	9 Maple St	Thomas Lyon/J.E. Purdy House	1835-1845	Greek Revival	Bldg	
417-02914-010	STU.8	10 Maple St	Congregational Parsonage	By 1869	Greek Revival	Bldg	
417-02914-010	STU.284	10 Maple St	Barn	1883	Utilitarian	Bldg	
417-02554-014	STU.7	14 Maple St	Chester H. Walker House	By 1870	Greek Revival	Bldg	
			<b>Mashapaug Road</b>				
423-04146-005	STU.285	5 Mashapaug Rd	Penuel Plimpton House/Pine Grove Farm	1787	Georgian	Bldg	
423-04146-005	STU.286	5 Mashapaug Rd	Barn		Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>McGilpin Road</b>				
432-02657-104	STU.60	104 McGilpin Rd	Ezekiel Robbins House	1826-1857	Federal	Bldg	
432-02657-104	STU.287	104 McGilpin Rd	Garage		Utilitarian	Bldg	
432-02627-138	STU.59	138 McGilpin Rd	John Smith House	By 1857	Federal	Bldg	Individual
432-02627-138	STU.288	138 McGilpin Rd	Main Barn	By 1898	Gambrel	Bldg	
432-02627-138	STU.289	138 McGilpin Rd	Smaller Outbuilding		Utilitarian	Bldg	

			<b>McGregory Road</b>				
434-03532-014	STU.51	14 McGregory Rd	Nelson J. Fay & Roberta M. Fay House	1755, 1968	Colonial	Bldg	
			<b>New Boston Road</b>				
455-00627-340	STU.290	340 New Boston Rd	Hyde Family House	1750-1861	Altered	Bldg	
455-00627-340	STU.291	340 New Boston Rd	Garage	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>Old Stagecoach Road</b>				
487-02337-003	STU.292	3 Old Stagecoach Rd	Abner Allen House	1735-1772	Colonial	Bldg	Individual
			<b>Paradise Lane</b>				
505-09E42-068	STU.293	68 Paradise Ln	Alva L. Burroughs House	Ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival or No Style	Bldg	
			<b>Podunk Road</b>				
520-01728-013	STU.294	13 Podunk Rd	George J. and Delina D. Cloutier House	1946	Colonial Revival	Bldg	Individual
520-01728-013	STU.295	13 Podunk Rd	Barn	1912	Classical Revival	Bldg	
520-01728-013	STU.916	13 Podunk Rd	E. Nichols Barn Foundation	Pre-1898	Utilitarian	Struct	
520-00842-177	STU.296	177 Podunk Rd	Nichols Family House	Prior to 1851	Colonial	Bldg	
520-00842-177	STU.297	177 Podunk Rd	Barn	By 1898	Utilitarian	Bldg	
520-00335-248	STU.298	248 Podunk Rd	Silverberg Garage	by 1952	Utilitarian	Bldg	
520-00335-251	STU.299	251 Podunk Rd	Jonas Bemis/Silverberg Family House	By 1850	Colonial/Altered	Bldg	Individual
520-00335-251	STU.300	251 Podunk Rd	Barn	Prior to 1898	Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>Route 15</b>				
552-04456-531	STU.301	531 Rt 15	Samuel Thompson House	By 1857	Altered	Bldg	
552-04456-531	STU.302	531 Rt 15	Outbuilding			Bldg	
			<b>School Street</b>				
565-02327-008	STU.165	8 School St	Fiskdale School	1896	Italianate/Altered	Bldg	

			<b>Shepard Road</b>				
575-04321-210	STU.303	210 Shepard Rd	Hamilton Woolen Co. House	By 1805	Georgian	Bldg	Individual
575-04321-210	STU.304	210 Shepard Rd	Barn	By 1898	Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>Streeter Road</b>				
613-02733-044	STU.305	44 Streeter Rd	Lemuel L. Holmes/ Frederick Holmes House	1835	Altered	Bldg	
			<b>Summit Avenue</b>				
618-02347-011	STU.306	11 Summit Ave	Fiskdale Mill Agents House	Ca. 1875	Queen Anne	Bldg	Individual
618-02347-011	STU.307	11 Summit Ave	Garage	After 1926	Utilitarian	Bldg	
618-02317-016	STU.308	16 Summit Ave	Avery P. Taylor Farm	Prior to 1868	Altered	Bldg	
618-02317-016	STU.309	16 Summit Ave	Outbuilding		Utilitarian		
			<b>Wallace Road</b>				
665-04311-099	STU.310	99 Wallace Rd	Hamilton Woolen Co. House	Prior to 1857	Georgian	Bldg	
665-04311-116	STU.311	116 Wallace Rd	Plimpton Farm	Prior to 1857	Altered	Bldg	
			<b>Whittemore Road</b>				
680-02936-010	STU.63	10 Whittemore Rd	Rice-Simpson Barn/Gladding House	Ca. 1792 20 <sup>th</sup> c. alterations	Greek Revival/Altered	Bldg	
680-02936-010	STU.312	10 Whittemore Rd	Barn	c. 1918 and c. 1957	Utilitarian	Bldg	
			<b>Willard Road</b>				
686-02935-035	STU.283	35 Willard Rd	Hiram Rice House	By 1857	Federal/Altered	Bldg	

## **NATIONAL REGISTER**

For the purpose of this survey, National Register context was determined by applying the following criteria to a building or area:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.<sup>2</sup>

## **DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL REGISTER CONTEXTS AND PROPOSED LISTINGS**

At the beginning of this project, in the fall of 2016, it was determined that MACRIS had 214 entries for Sturbridge, to include seven areas, 194 buildings, 2 cemeteries, 10 monuments, and one boundary marker shared between Brimfield and Sturbridge.<sup>3</sup>

The town also has approximately 50 properties listed on the National Register. The prominent Sturbridge Common Historic District (STU.A), listed in 1977, includes 47 resources on Main Street between Hall Road and the Interstate 84 overpass. There is also the Sturbridge Center School (listed 1977), the Tantiusques Reservation Site (listed 1983), and the Oliver Wight House (listed 1982).<sup>4</sup>

This survey has identified buildings which are relevant within the context of Sturbridge's local history and contribute to a greater understanding of the town's eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century community growth, development, social, and industrial history, and are additionally representative of architectural styles from the periods in which they were built. The highlighted buildings and area proposed for National Register consideration were constructed in and are relevant to eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century contexts, and all have a local level of significance.

The Haynes Corner Area (ca. 1780-1912) is representative of a collection of late eighteenth to early twentieth century residential and industrial buildings, with light industrial and Federal architectural style. The area is related to the Haynes family, who supported not only local commerce and agriculture, but also contributed to town affairs.

The eighteenth century Joseph Marsh House (c. 1760) and Eliab and Fanny Marsh House (c. 1795), both on Brookfield Road, follow the pattern of the town's larger history, with family farmsteads, developed by ancestors of the first generation of Sturbridge settlers. The Joseph Marsh House is a well-preserved Georgian style residence which maintains its farmland setting. The Eliab and Fanny Marsh House has elements of both Georgian and Federal style.

<sup>2</sup> Patrick. W. Andrus and Rebecca H. Shrimpton (ed). *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Accessed on-line 2017.

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>

<sup>3</sup> Per research by Elizabeth Rairigh, 2016

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

Along Champeaux Road, there is the Eli and Mary Marsh House (ca. 1762), which represents the town's residential and agricultural growth and development from the eighteenth century onward, and is a good example of a Georgian Saltbox form residence.

The Samuel and Mary Morse House (ca. 1800) on Farquhar Road, relates to several generations of the Morse family and is an example of the town's agricultural history throughout the early nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. It is also a good example of a Georgian-style house in a rural setting, with related outbuildings.

The well-preserved Georgian-style Samuel Hobbs House (ca. 1775), on Hall Road, was home to four generations of the Hobbs family, who were active in agriculture, the local economy and government, as well as the formation of the local agricultural society.

Statements were also prepared for the Italianate style Snellville District #2 Schoolhouse (1874) and the Gothic Revival style Otis Block (ca. 174-1880), both on Main Street and related to industrial and consequent community growth and development in the Snellville and Fiskdale areas of Sturbridge. The schoolhouse inventory form and related National Register Criteria Statement were expedited due to a proposal to alter the existing windows. Both buildings relate to community planning and development, local industry and commerce, and social history, and are also significant for architectural style.

The Federal style John Smith House (constructed by 1857) and related outbuildings are relevant as examples of the early residential and agricultural growth and development of McGilpin Road, in the Fiske Hill area, and of the social history of the Smith family (ancestors of one of the first proprietors).

Another former significant residential and formerly agricultural property is found on Old Stagecoach Road. The Abner Allen House (1735-1772) is connected to multiple generations of the Allen family, who had agricultural and industrial ties to the area, and the residence provides a sense of the mid to late eighteenth century streetscape

Podunk Road has some interesting resources, to include the George J. and Delina D. Cloutier House (1946) and related, older, outbuilding and barn foundation, and the Jonas Bemis/Silverberg Family House (built by 1850) and related outbuildings. Both properties span Sturbridge history and relate to patterns of residential growth development, along with agricultural practices. The Cloutier House, among one of the newer buildings on this survey, is a very interesting style of masonry Colonial Revival architecture and there are significant agricultural-related built resources on the property as well. The Bemis/Silverberg House has ties to the community's residential and agricultural growth and development, social history (particularly through at least two generations of the Silverberg family), and architecture, as an example of Colonial architecture with later alterations and with a related, well-maintained and stylized barn on the property.

The Georgian style Hamilton Woolen Co. House (built by 1805), in Westville, and Queen Anne style Fiskdale Mill Agents House (ca. 1875), in Fiskdale, are also architecturally significant and are additionally related to local industry and the area's nineteenth century community growth and development in the mill villages.

*To summarize, the following area and buildings are recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places:*

- Haynes Corner Area District (307, 315 Main Street and 5 Haynes Street)
- Joseph Marsh House (142 Brookfield Road)
- Eliab and Fanny Marsh House (213 Brookfield Road)

- Eli and Mary Marsh House (12 Champeaux Road)
- Samuel and Mary Morse House (47 Farquhar Road)
- Samuel Hobbs House (23 Hall Road)
- Snellville District #2 Schoolhouse (480 Main Street)
- Otis Block (572 Main Street)
- John Smith House (138 McGilpin Road)
- Abner Allen House (3 Old Stagecoach Road)
- George J. and Delina D. Cloutier House (13 Podunk Road)
- Jonas Bemis/Silverberg Family House (251 Podunk Road)
- Hamilton Woolen Co. House (210 Shepherd Road)
- Fiskdale Mill Agents House (11 Summit Avenue)

National Register listing is an acknowledgement of the criteria-based significance of a building or related buildings. This listing does not place restrictions on an individual homeowner and only provides limited protection against demolition but can serve to “encourage respectful treatment through public recognition of the property.”<sup>5</sup> Individual homeowners will not face restrictions due to a listing. National Register listed commercial properties could qualify for federal rehabilitation tax credits and listed buildings owned by municipalities or non-profit entities can compete for state preservation funds.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY OR ACTIONS**

- Using the Fiskdale AREA form from the 1970s as a starting point, identify boundaries for the Fiskdale area and investigate the feasibility of a district. If there has been too much alteration to the area, consider creating individual building National Register nominations or, to provide greater protection, create Local Historic Districts (LHD) for individually significant buildings or contiguous groupings of buildings in order to protect and maintain architectural integrity.
- If Local Historic Districts are viewed as too restrictive, consider developing Neighborhood Architectural Conservation Districts (NCD) for areas (such as Fiske Hill) where there is a desire to maintain distinctive characteristics of a neighborhood or streetscape, and to focus on particular, significant details (such as key architectural elements, massing, scale, and setback), with proposed changes reviewed by a Neighborhood Architectural Conservation District Commission.<sup>6</sup>
- Reach out to owners of inventoried properties to share the history of their buildings with them. Several owners who were encountered during the field work showed interest in the results of this survey.
- Explore the possibility of securing preservation restrictions on significant buildings, in order to ensure the long-term protection of significant, character defining details.
- Consider historic landscape preservation of agricultural landscapes a priority to ensure that the town’s agricultural heritage remains intact for future generations. Conservation easements may support this endeavor. The 2007 reconnaissance report also has additional suggestions regarding the preservation of scenic roads and other approaches to preserve the historic rural nature of Sturbridge, while supporting local economic growth.<sup>7</sup>
- Bolster existing historical archives

<sup>5</sup> Greg Farmer. *Historical Resources of West Springfield, Massachusetts. Survey Report*. Prepared for the West Springfield Historical Commission, May, 1987.

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

- Copy extant town reports, which may be available at other locations such as the state library, and add to the Joshua Hyde Public Library local history collection or to the collection of more recent town reports at the Town Hall. Have a finding aid at the Hyde Library of the town materials which are located within Old Sturbridge Village archives.
- Work jointly with Old Sturbridge Village on documentation projects for the town's earliest and most significant properties and on the organization of the town's historical archives to support future research projects. For example, consider using interns on specific projects such as tracing the land deeds of the town's early significant residents who were involved with the development of Sturbridge.
- Reach out to local preservation or history programs such as the one at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst campus, for students interested in undergraduate or graduate internships on specific, short-term research projects.
- Explore other ways to increase public knowledge of the built history of Sturbridge and to support heritage tourism or eco-tourism :
  - Add wayfinding signage to significant buildings or sites, explaining what purpose these resources served in town history. Create walking or driving tours related to these resources.
  - Reach out to developers who buy or currently own important historic resources so that they are aware of their property's significance. While some buildings have had alterations and have lost some architectural integrity, many still retain interesting character-defining features and remain important to understanding the history of Sturbridge.
  - Collaborate with and utilize other local, regional and statewide organizations (such as Old Sturbridge Village, the Sturbridge Community Preservation Committee, the Sturbridge Cultural Council, the Sturbridge Conservation Commission, the Chamber of Central Mass South, the Regional Tourism Council, Preservation Massachusetts, the Trustees of Reservations, and the Massachusetts Historic Commission) to plan programming or initiatives as public outreach to work towards common goals like preservation, sustainable design, and promoting the use and understanding of the town's many cultural assets. Work with local schools to instill pride and a strong sense of place in Sturbridge youth and allow teachers to use local historic resources as teaching tools. Co-sponsored events and other shared resources would help to promote and support overall preservation endeavors.

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### Cover Photos taken 2017 (clockwise from top left)

1.213 Brookfield Road

2.251 Podunk Road

3.572 Main Street (Otis Block)

4.138 McGilpin Road (Main Barn, John Smith House)

5.14 Douty Road (C.G. Allen Farm)