

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

348-03234-222

North
Brookfield

STU.268

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

Photograph



Address: 222 Holland Road

Historic Name: District #4 Schoolhouse

Uses: Present: Single-family residence

Original: schoolhouse

Date of Construction: ca. 1855

Source: 1854 school record

Style/Form: utilitarian

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Metal barn, ca. 2010

Major Alterations (*with dates*): siding added, windows replaced, ca. 2000

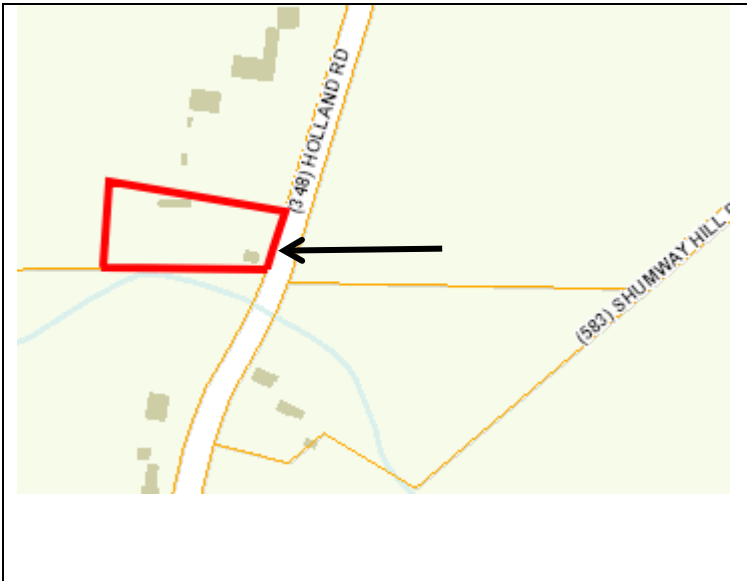
Condition: good

Moved: no ☐ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.04 acres

Setting: Set close to road in area of golf course and farmland.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Bonnie Parsons

Organization: PVPC

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

222 Holland Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 district #4 schoolhouse is a one-story building with a front-gable roof on which is a centered chimney near the ridge. Following a common 19th century schoolhouse form, the building is three bays wide with a center entry flanked by windows with 1/1 replacement vinyl sash. Vinyl-siding covers details that might have given the building stylistic definition, but what has not been covered are the fairly wide cornerboards and frieze beneath the eaves and boxed eaves make returns in the gable end - features that were part of the Greek Revival style that was current when the school was constructed.

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.

Sturbridge's schools first appear on the map of 1831 and District #4 has its school on the east side of the Holland Road. Then, an 1854 school report describes the District #4 schoolhouse as the "poorest old school house in town", which is credible as it would have been a minimum of 23 years old at that time. The next time the school appears on a map is in 1857 when the schoolhouse is in the same location - east side of the Holland Road, a position it maintained through publication of the map of 1870. Given its condition in 1854, it is likely that the old schoolhouse had been re-built or replaced on its lot and foundations by a new building. William Shumway, who lived at 220 Holland Road in 1882 signed a lease with the town for a new schoolhouse lot on his property on the west side of the road. The 1898 map of Sturbridge, indeed, shows the school as having been built on its current lot. The fact that the town leased the land for the school meant that at each sale of the farmland on which it is located an exception was made for the school to remain as long as it continued to function as a schoolhouse. The William Shumway farm of about 150 acres was sold in three parcels beginning in 1900 when he moved to California. He sold the three parcels to Otis Thayer that year. For Thayer it was an investment as he turned around and sold the three parcels, again exempting the schoolhouse, in 1904 to Louise E. Palmer and her husband Edward C. Palmer from Providence, Rhode Island. The Palmers remained in Rhode Island where Edward was an investment broker. The connection with Sturbridge may have been through Louise's father who was a wholesale cotton merchant who would likely have dealt in Sturbridge with its mills. The farm which included the schoolhouse but kept it in town use in 1919 went to David and Cornelia Lockwood. The Lockwoods were farmers and they mortgaged the farm to the federal land bank that year. The schoolhouse in that year began to be exempted from sale of the farm as long as it remained a "school or a church", suggesting that its active use as a schoolhouse was either at an end or coming to an end. The Lockwoods lost the farm to foreclosure in 1927 during the Depression. They moved to Fall River where David became a switchboard operator. Meanwhile, The federal land bank sold the farm to Thomas Ring. Ring was a real estate agent from Worcester, so he was again an investor rather than farmer and simply sold the farm to Arthur E. Morse who divided the land and in 1938 set off this parcel with the schoolhouse, which was no longer in use as a school. He died in 1959 and the schoolhouse was bought by his daughter Eva Morse French. She was a widow who worked in dry goods in Southbridge and lived in the schoolhouse converted to a residence from 1959.

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.

Richards, L. J. *Atlas of Worcester County*, 1898.

Walling, H. F. *Map of Worcester County*, Wm. E. Baker, Boston, 1857.

Primary Sources

Chase, Nelly M. *Photograph Album*, Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge.

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Secondary Sources

Briere, Robert J. *Recalling Main Street, Sturbridge*, transcript of oral history, 1994.

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.

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.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Report*, "Sturbridge", typescript, 1984

Digital Resources

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 for deeds.