

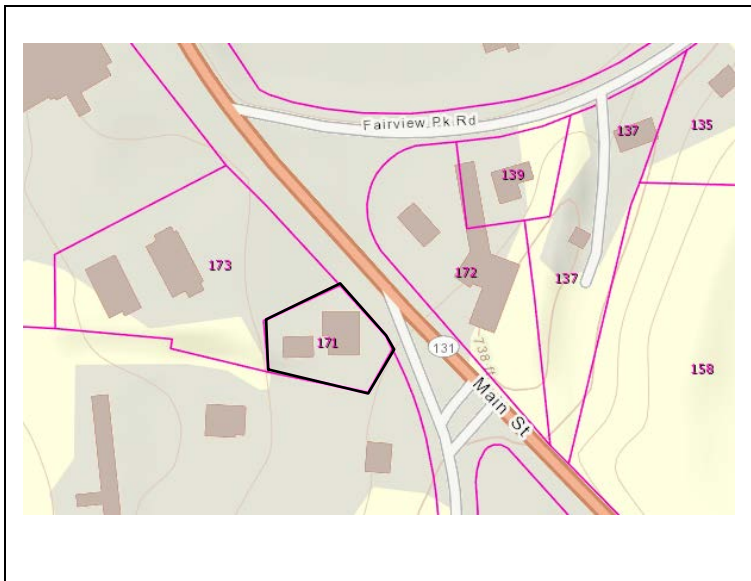
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Bonnie Parsons, PVPC
Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission
Date (*month / year*): November/2017

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

415-03427-171

Southbridge

STU.279-
STU.280

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 171 Main Street

Historic Name: Sylvanus W. Stone House

Uses: Present: Single-family residence

Original: Single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1855

Source: Assessor and Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone, concrete

Wall/Trim: clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Office bldg (1900)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

North elevation window replaced, wing added, ell extended, deck added.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .33 acres

Setting: Facing east at a curve in the road. Set close to the road.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

171 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

STU.279-280

☐ 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 Sylvanus Stone House is a simple one-and-a-half story, east-facing house with a front-gable roof to which were added a gambrel roofed wing on the south and two, one-story ells, and deck on the west. It is one of the few mid-19th century farmhouses left on Main Street in this section of Sturbridge. The clapboard-sided main block on fieldstone foundations is three bays wide with a side-hall plan entry beneath a front-gabled portico on Doric columns. It has on its north elevation a large replacement window with 20 fixed-lights in vinyl. The south wing is one-and-a-half stories and has a through-eaves chimney on its east façade. It has poured concrete foundations and is four bays long and two bays deep. The wing has a one-story, shed-roofed ell across its west elevation. The ell on the main block is three bays long and one bay wide. It has an enclosed portico entry on the west elevation.

West of the house is a one-and-a-half story barn/garage in Craftsman style, converted to commercial use. The first story is constructed of fieldstone and the attic level is asbestos shingle sided. The barn/garage is front-gabled and has two former vehicle bays now enclosed for a large glazed window and door separated by a fieldstone pier. Extending in the east as a transverse gable is a wing that is open at first floor level as a porte-cochere, and enclosed at second floor level.

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.

The Sylvanus W. Stone House was built about 1856-57. Sylvanus was living with his father in 1855 – Sylvanus, Sr. and the third of the older man's three wives, Lucy Stone. Both father and son were farmers and by 1857 when the map of that year was published Sylvanus, Jr., having bought about 17 acres from Sturbridge farmer Jacob Morse in 1856, had moved to this house from his father's which was further north on the same road. Sylvanus continued to farm here until 1865 when he sold the farm to Isaac Johnson and his wife Charlotte.

The Johnsons sold or mortgaged the farm and its 23 acres for \$1000 in 1868 to Varanes Johnson of Charlton, but remained living here until Varanes sold it to Dwight Whittemore in 1873 and the Johnsons left. Dwight Whittemore was a farmer like Isaac and was to continue living here until his death in 1894. He and his wife Adeline had five children who were raised in this house: Hiram, Dwight S., Stanley, Austin, James and William. Dwight and Adeline had retired from farming in 1880 when he was 72, and she 67. James and William Whittemore remained in Sturbridge and acted as executors of their parents' estate after Dwight's death.

The family kept the farm and it seems that William and his wife Jenny occupied the house. William farmed the land but before he died in 1924, Route 131 was becoming heavily commercialized and it is then, ca. 1915, that the carriage barn was constructed. In 1924 John and Catherine Weaver bought the property and its farming functions were over. They were among the large number of people whose work was in Southbridge but who wished to live in what was then a more rural Sturbridge. Southeastern Sturbridge then underwent a significant amount of residential development. John was an engineer at American Optical in Southbridge where their older children also worked. John died in 1954 and Catherine lived here until 1958. The house then changed hands every few years until Romaldo Roscioli and Margerie Roscioli bought it in 1960 and remained until 1965. It is likely that the Rosciolis added two wings to the house as well as the large window on the north. Romaldo ran a variety store which may have been in the carriage barn. In 1965 the property went to Arthur and Katherine Desforges who remained until 2001. Arthur Desforges was a painter with the Southbridge Paint Company.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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171 MAIN STREET

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Beers, F. W. *Plan of Towns of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, 1870.

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

Primary Sources

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Secondary Sources

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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



Photo 1: Office Building