

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-03551-075

Southbridge

STU.276

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 75 Main Street

Historic Name: Andre and Lillian Pinel House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1941

Source: Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: Minimal Traditional

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Siding applied, ca. 1960

Condition: fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .44 acres

Setting: Narrow, rectangular shaped parcel, building facing north along Main Street set close to the street.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Bonnie Parsons, PVPC

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

75 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 Andre and Lillian Pinel House is a north-facing, Minimal Traditional house of one-and-a-half stories. As its name suggests, the Minimal Traditional style aimed to modernize the well-known Colonial Revival style by paring down both size and decorative features. It was a style that lent itself to smaller, less expensive building for the suburbs and homeowners with smaller budgets. The house has a pyramidal hipped roof with a shed roof dormer on the west elevation and a transverse hipped gable on the east, extended as a one-story wing. The east wing has a secondary entry on the north. The main block of the house is three bays wide and two bays deep. It has a center entry beneath a front-gabled portico on posts. The aluminum-sided building has a high fieldstone foundation and an asphalt shingled roof with a center chimney at its peak. Windows in the house have 5 vertical/1 light sash, a common configuration of the early 20th century. The siding may cover other details.

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 Andre and Lillian Pinel House, was built in 1941 on what had been called in a deed "mowing and meadow land" of Sturbridge as late as 1934. It was part of the Martin farm that was subdivided and sold off primarily for the housing needs of the growing number of residents of the adjacent factory town of Southbridge. Eastern Sturbridge began development ca. 1920 for Southbridge, and real estate developers laid out several subdivisions that they sold off in blocks of lots to smaller investors, many of whom were workers in Southbridge who saw an opportunity to take part in the growth of this section of Sturbridge. John Ryan, who indeed worked at American Optical in Southbridge, and Eva Ryan bought four of the Martin lots as an investment in 1935 and sold them in 1941 to another American Optical Company employee, Romeo Matte and his wife Antonia. The Mattes continued to live in Southbridge but the same year of 1941 sold the two lots to Andre and Lillian Pinel who were from Southbridge, but had recently moved to Ware, Massachusetts. Andre was a tailor whose shop after their move to Sturbridge was in Southbridge. Deeds make it relatively clear that it was the Pinels who built the house in 1941. Lillian Pinel owned the house through 1989. It was long-term family ownership of houses like the Pinels at this one, the Atwoods and Santellis at 60 Main Street, and the Remians at 70 Main Street that kept Main Street a mixed use neighborhood rather than converting completely to commercial use.

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

Primary Sources

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

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.

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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