

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

415-03541-082

Southbridge

STU.277-
STU.278

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 82 Main Street

Historic Name: John and Eva Ryan House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: Single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1925

Source: Assessor and Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (with dates):
Siding added ca. 1960

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .31 acres

Setting: Large corner lot shaded by mature spruce trees.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

82 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

STU.277-278

☐ 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 Ryan House is a Craftsman style house that is unique in Sturbridge. It is located on a lot that slopes down to the east, so that it is two-and-a-half stories on that elevation, accommodating a single-bay garage at basement level. This is an early example of the integral garage that began appearing in the suburbs as cars became ubiquitous in the 1920s and 1930s. Typical of the Craftsman style, the house used local materials in its construction rather than machine-made. It used fieldstone for its foundations, porch stoop and supports and as a through-cornice chimney. The balance of the house is now aluminum-sided but would have been wood in the form of clapboards or shingles. The house is L-shaped in plan with a main block under a side-gable roof. Projecting on the south is a transverse gable that is an open porch on the first floor level and an enclosed living space at the attic level. Roof eaves are wide and have simply-shaped barge boards at their gables. Echoing that shape, three posts on fieldstone bases support a porch lintel that is shaped at each end. In the gable field of the porch is a row of three windows with louvered sash. Elsewhere in the house windows have 6/1 sash and there is a band of three windows with 6/1 sash on the east elevation. A front-gabled dormer is on the south side of the roof.

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 John and Eva Ryan House was built in 1925 on several lots of a development in Sturbridge, known as Bellevue Plat, which had been laid out in 1919 by Eagle Realty from Rhode Island. It is part of the suburban development that took place in the eastern section of town to accommodate the expanding population of Southbridge in the 1920s through the 1940s. John and Eva Ryan bought four lots for their own home, but also bought other lots on the north side of Main Street in Bellevue Plat as investments. The Ryans were typical investors, as most of those who bought into Bellevue Plat were skilled workers in the Southbridge industries, rather than real estate developers. The Ryans came to Sturbridge from Southbridge and John established Ryan's Garage on the property in the adjacent garage. Being located directly on Route 133 for a garage operation was optimal and the Ryans remained here for twenty years. In 1944 they sold to Philias J. and Marie Caron who lived here and ran Carons' Express, a delivery service, from the property. Prior to buying the property the Carons lived in Southbridge where Philias worked as a truck driver for an express company, so this move may have been to establish his own company, for which again the location was an asset. The Caron's daughter Lorraine inherited the property from Marie in 1978. Lorraine Caron Standrowicz then willed the property to her son Lee who continued family ownership through 2004 as the third generation.

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.

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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



Photo 1: Ryan's Garage