

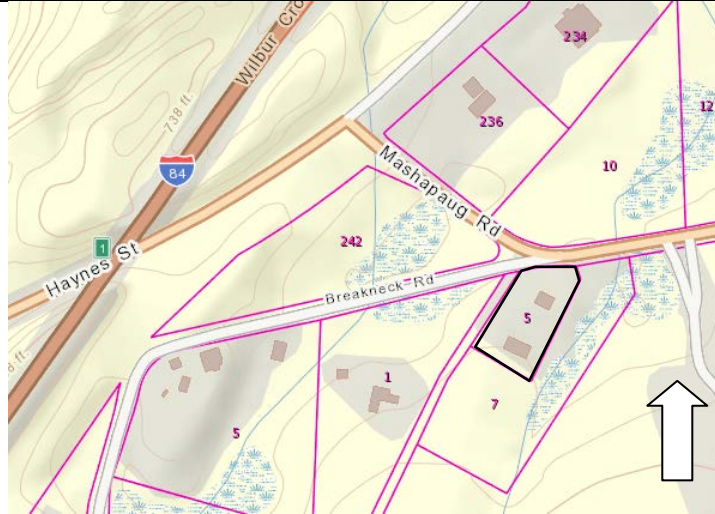
# FORM B – BUILDING

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

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Shannon Walsh, PVPC  
**Organization:** Sturbridge Historical Commission  
**Date (month / year):** March 2017

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

423-04146-005

Southbridge

STU.285  
STU.286

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Leadmine/Westville

**Address:** 5 Mashapaug Road

**Historic Name:** Penuel Plimpton House/Pine Grove Farm

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling and Agricultural

**Date of Construction:** 1787 and later alterations

**Source:** Chase's Plimpton Family History, Maps, Plaque

**Style/Form:** Georgian/Folk Victorian

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Covered (unknown)

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Barn, construction date unknown

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Dates unknown

Possible porch addition

Possible changes in windows due to mixed grid patterns

**Condition:** Appears Fairly Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.03 acres

**Setting:** Rectangular shaped parcel at the intersection of Mashapaug and Breakneck Roads. Residence faces north and is set back along Mashapaug Road.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

5 MASHAUG 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 Penuel Plimpton House, also historically known as a part of Pine Grove Farms, is located at 5 Mashapaug Road, and provides an example of the late eighteenth century and nineteenth century residential and agricultural growth and development between the Leadmine and Westville areas of Sturbridge. This single family dwelling may have originally been Georgian in design, with later alterations to add Folk Victorian detailing. It is five bays wide by two bays deep, with an east to west aligned rectangular plan and is symmetrical in appearance, except for an interior, brick chimney which is positioned along the roof ridge, towards the western side of the building. The foundation is not visible but the exterior walls are clapboard with wood trim to include sills, lintels, and corner boards. The building has a side gabled asphalt shingle roof with a minimal eave overhang and no returns.

A first story, nearly flat roofed porch runs the length of the northern facing main façade, with Queen Anne style turned support columns and flat sawn corbels, indicative of a Folk Victorian style detailing. There is a central entry door with a simple wood surround (closer inspection is needed to determine detailing). Nine first and second story windows are 2/2 sash with wood sills and lintels. A small plaque under the roof eaves reads 1787.

The western side elevation has two first and two second story windows and a single window set within the gable. These windows are a mix of 1/1, 2/2, 4/4 and a single 12/12 window (typical of Georgian style architecture) on the first story, towards this side's southwestern corner. The eastern side elevation has three windows, but closer inspection is needed to determine grid patterns. A secondary, covered entrance is at the southeastern corner of the first floor.

A one story, side gabled outbuilding is two bays wide by six bays deep with a rectangular plan and lies to the south of the residence.

### 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.*

This house was probably built by the late eighteenth century by a member of the Plimpton family, whose ancestors came to the area from Medfield and "were among the first settlers in the southern part of town."<sup>1</sup> The genealogy research is complex, as there were numerous Plimptons (last name also spelled "Plympton" and "Plymton") who settled in the area and several references to property owned under this name appears on historic maps of Sturbridge.

By the late 1800s, it is known that Penuel Plimpton (1819-1898), husband of Rebecca Sanger (ca. 1841-1879), had become the proprietor of Pine Grove Farms. He was "the largest land owner in Sturbridge" and was "considered the model farmer in the town."<sup>2 3</sup> (Figures 2 and 3) At the time, the farm had grown to 1,000 acres with "the buildings situated in a strong growth of pines, and the land watered by various streams," with water piped to the buildings and fountains from an elevated spring.<sup>4</sup> The farm's bounty included dairy products and produce, such as fruit and milk, and the items were shipped to be sold at Boston markets.<sup>5</sup> The property remained connected to the Plimpton family through the late 1970s.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> George Davis. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*. West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856.

<sup>2</sup> Book 1731, Page 124. *Worcester District Registry of Deeds*, (1902 deed reference to Penuel Plimpton)

<sup>3</sup> Richards, L.J. "Plimpton, Penuel." *Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester* (Directory 37) 1898.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Rodney F. Plimpton (1906-1992) Marth N. Plimpton (1907-2005) , 1977 Book 6118 Page 334, *Worcester District Registry of Deeds*

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By the late twentieth century, this property is affiliated with the Sturbridge Worship Center, in addition to parcels at 7 and 9 Mashapaug Rd.<sup>7</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*Ancestry.com*

Chase, Levi B. *A Geneology and Historical Notices of the Family of Plimpton or Plympton in America: and of Plumpton in England*. Hartford: Plimpton Manufacturing Co. Print, 1884. *Ancestry.com*

Davis, George. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*. West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856. *Archive.org*

*FindaGrave.com*

McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

*Worcester District Registry of Deeds* (see footnotes)

Figure 1: Walling, Henry Francis. "Map of Worcester County." Boston and New York: Wm. E. Baker & Co., 1857. *Library of Congress.org* <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3763w.la000320/>

Figure 2: Atlas of Worcester County, F. W. Beers & Co. 1870  
<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:x059cb92c>

Figure 3: Richards, L.J. "Charlton-Sturbridge-Southbridge-Dudley Towns." *Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester*, 1898. *HistoricMapWorks.com* (site). Accessed on-line October 2017.  
<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas.php?cat=Maps&c=US&a=6717>



Photo 1: Northern facing main façade

<sup>7</sup> Book 7144 Page 331 1980, *Worcester District Registry of Deeds*



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Photo 2: Northern façade and eastern elevation, with a view of the rear outbuilding to the south



Photo 3: Northern façade and western elevation



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Photo 4:Western elevation



Photo 5: Outbuilding to the southwest of the residence



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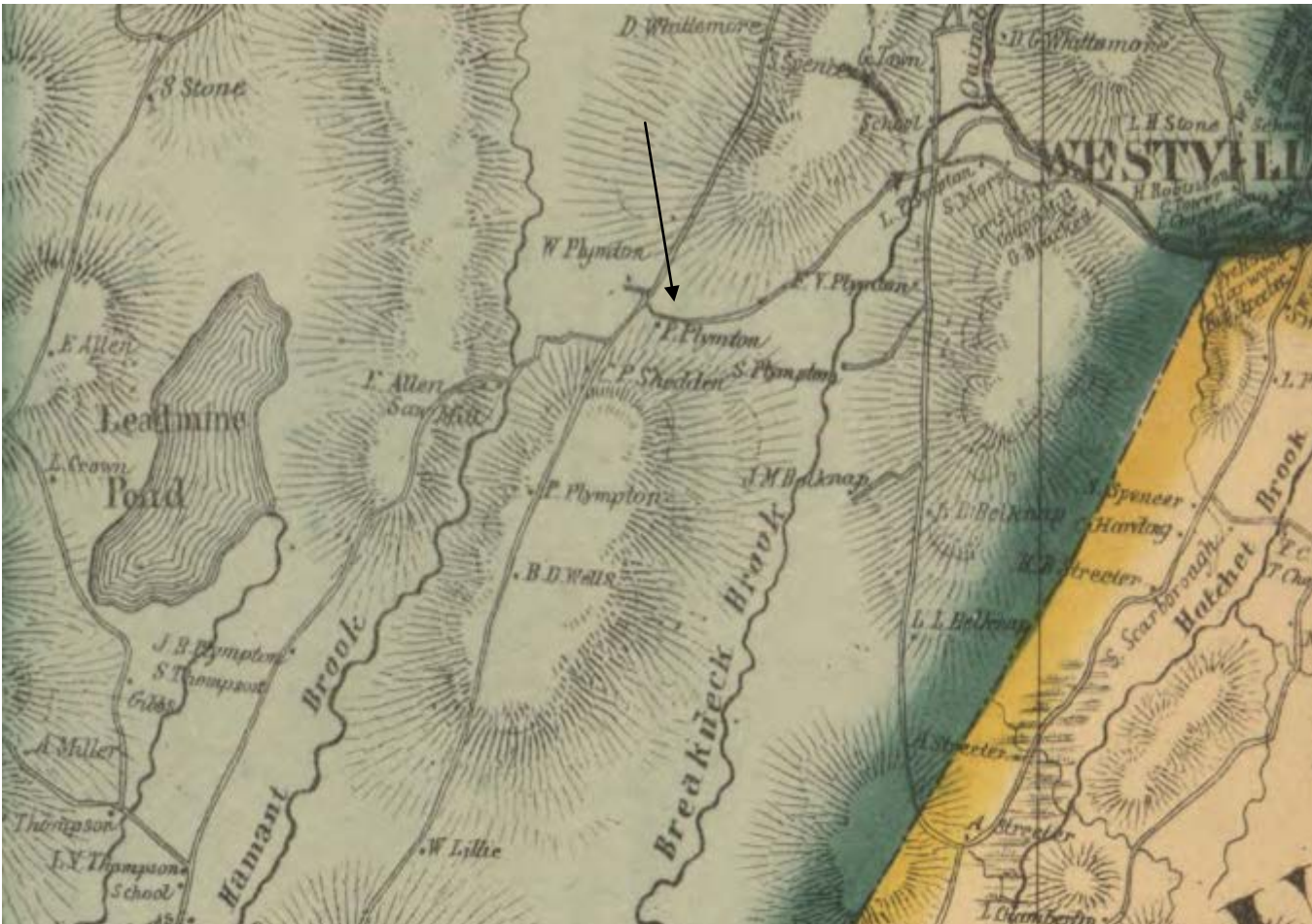


Figure 1: 1857 Map showing Penue Plimpton's property and residence (note spelling of Plymton and Plympton) on map

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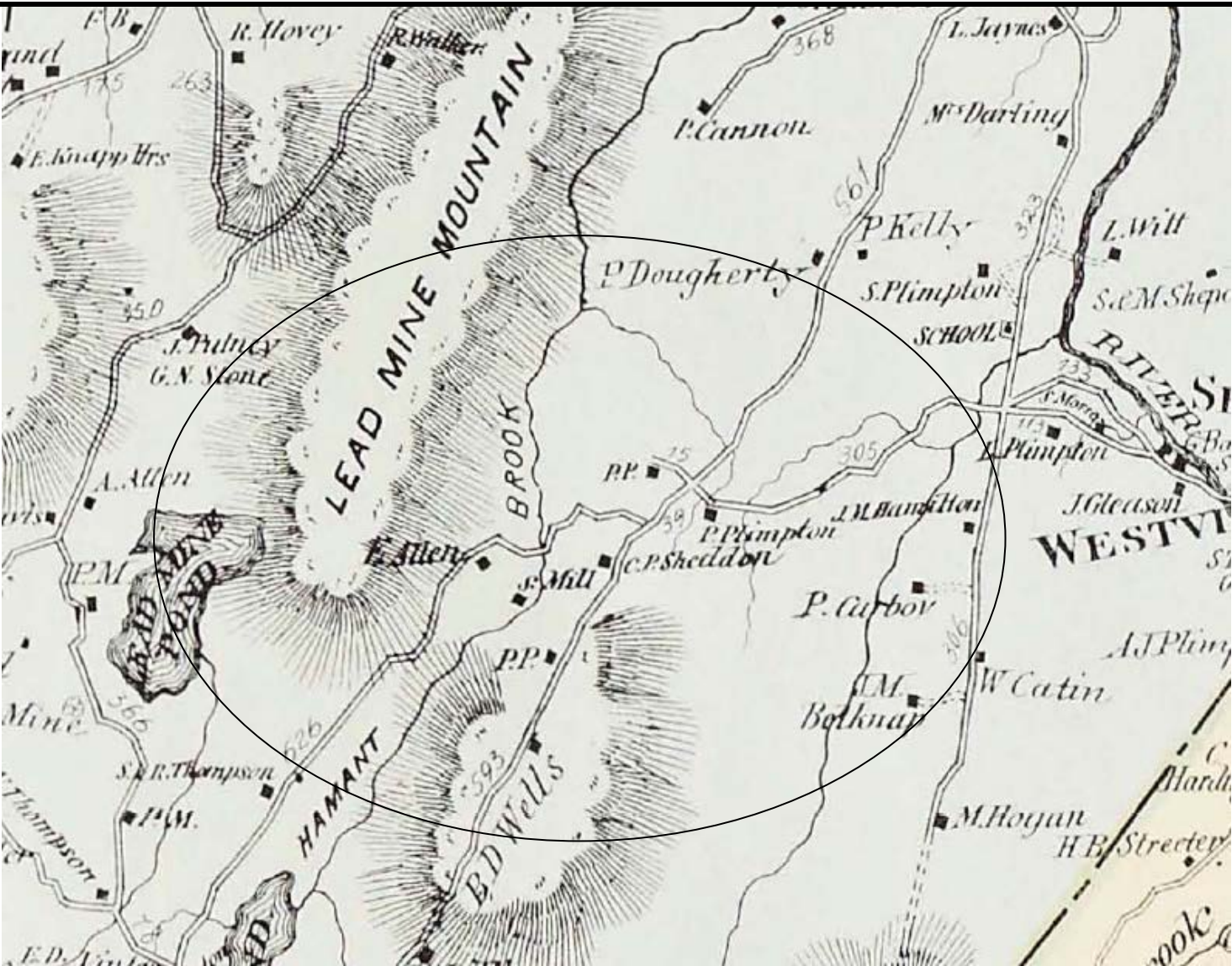


Figure 2: 1870 Map showing property of Penuel Plimpton. Note other Plimptons in this area as well.



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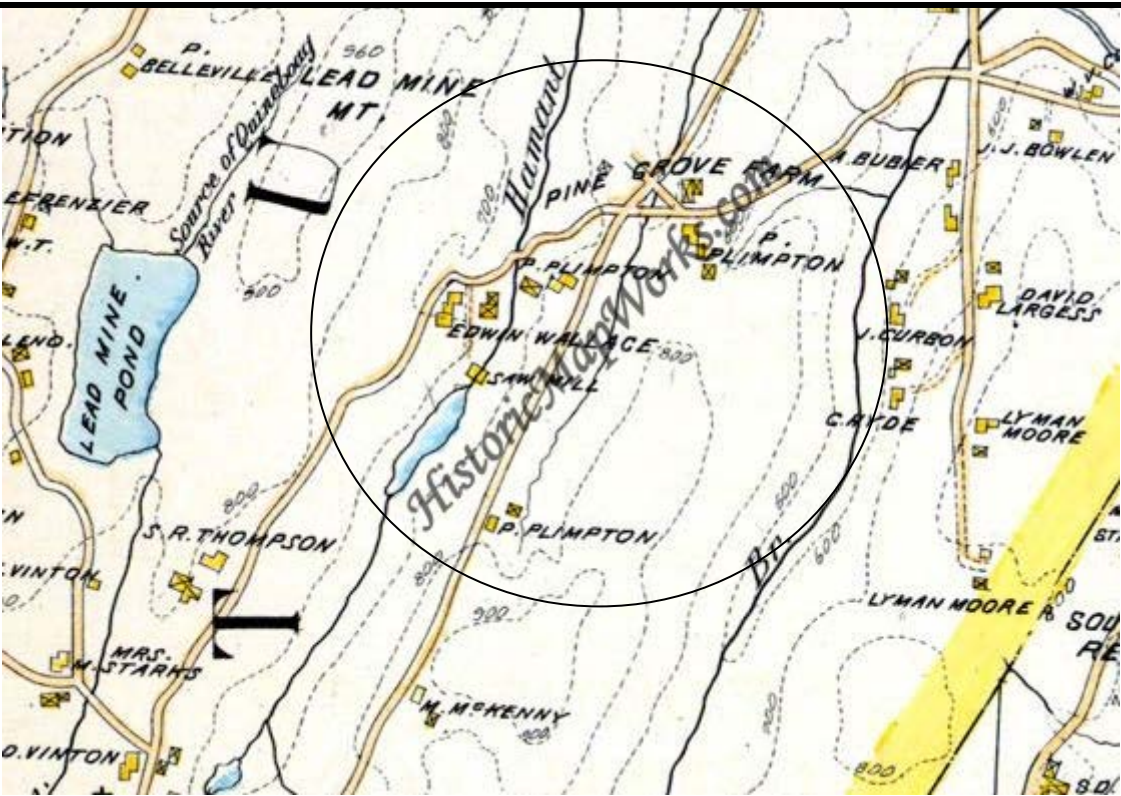


Figure 3: 1898 Map showing Penuel Plimpton's property, "Pine Grove Farm."