

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

434-03532-014

Southbridge

STU.F

STU.51

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiske Hill

Address: 14 McGregory Road

Historic Name: Nelson J. Fay and Roberta M. Fay House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: 1755 (NH); 1947; ca. 1968

Source: Wilkin, STU.51

Style/Form: Colonial with alterations

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Wood Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Shed

Major Alterations (with dates):

1947 and later

Former breezeway converted to family room (ca. 1968)

Condition: Appears Good

Moved: no ☐ yes ☒ **Date:** 1947

Acreage: 1.22 acres

Setting: Residential building is located towards the center of the rectangular shaped parcel, facing west towards McGregory Road. Located near the intersection of McGregory with Newton Place, and just off of Fiske Hill Road.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

14 MCGREGORY ROAD

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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 Nelson J. and Roberta M. Fay House, at 14 McGregory Road, retains elements which make it a good example of mid-eighteenth century Colonial style architecture. As it was moved to Sturbridge from New Boston, New Hampshire in 1947, it does not have historical significance to the area related to its construction date, but it does relate to the mid-twentieth century residential development of the Fiske Hill area.¹ This single family dwelling is one and a half stories high and five bays wide by two days deep with a rectangular plan and two, attached, one story wings. It has a clapboard exterior, wood trim to include corner boards, and a side gabled, steeply pitched wood shingle roof with a slight overhang and eave returns. A large, central chimney is aligned on the roof ridge of the main building.

The main, western facing façade has a central, board and batten door with 2/3rd length sidelights, each with four divided lights, flanked by two 9/9 windows on either side, with wood sills and lintels which meet the frieze board.

The northern side elevation has two 9/9 first story windows and two 6/6 second story windows set within the gable. The roof has a slight overhang and an eave return. The southern side elevation has the same window configuration.

Two later addition wings extend to the south, connected at the southeastern corner of the main building. This newer construction is compatible with the original building and has clapboard siding with steeply pitched, wood shingle, side gable rooflines. A second chimney is positioned off of the eastern downslope of the center wing (former breezeway) roof. The southernmost wing contains two southern-facing garage doors and was probably constructed in 1947, at a time period when attached garages had become popular.²

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.

Fiske Hill refers to the "first permanent European agricultural settlement after circa 1725" which was established in the Eastern Upland area of Sturbridge.³ In 1731, brothers Henry and Daniel Fiske settled on the hill, prior to the 1738 incorporation of the town of Sturbridge. These men and their descendants "were important not only on the hill as farmers and founders of the Baptist church there, but also in town government and, by the 1800s, in industrial enterprises in Globe Village, Westville, and Fiskdale."⁴ Fertile soil made this area ideal for agriculture and by the late eighteenth century, Fiske Hill had also developed as a stagecoach road with a Baptist Meeting House, School, and Inn. By the early to mid-twentieth century, development shifted from agricultural towards higher-end residential growth.

This mid-eighteenth century building was moved in 1947 from New Boston, New Hampshire to the Fiske Hill area of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, by Nelson J. Fay (1896-1954) and Roberta M. Fay (1895-1984) and relates to this area's mid-twentieth century increased residential development. Nelson was employed as the assistant to the General Manager of the Southbridge-based American Optical Company.⁵ Roberta sold the house in 1955, after Nelson's death.⁶

¹ Agnes S. Wilkin, "14 McGregory" (MHC# STU.51), 1974. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=STU.51>, accessed November 2017.

² Virginia S. McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

³ Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984.

⁴ Agnes S. Wilkins, "Fiske Hill," (MHC Inventory Form STU.F, 1973), <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=STU.F>, accessed October 2017.

⁵ "Fay, Nelson J." Southbridge Massachusetts City Directory, 1949. *Ancestry.com* and 1940 United States Federal Census, *Ancestry.com*

⁶ Roberta M. Fay to Vira F. Wescott Book 3688, 555 (1955), *Masslandrecords.com*

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com (see footnotes)

Genealogybank.com (see footnotes)

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984.

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Wilkin, Agnes S. "14 McGregory" (MHC# STU.51)," 1974. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=STU.51> , accessed November 2017.

Wilkins, Agnes S. "Fiske Hill," (MHC Inventory Form STU.F, 1973), <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=STU.F> , accessed October 2017.



Photo 1: Main, western facing façade

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Photo 2: Southern side elevation