

## 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

575-04321-210

Southbridge

STU.303  
STU.304

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

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

**Address:** 210 Shepard Road

**Historic Name:** Hamilton Woolen Co. House and Barn

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling/Agricultural

**Date of Construction:** 1805

**Source:** Sign on exterior

**Style/Form:** Georgian

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Barn (by 1898)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
Unknown

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .85 acres

**Setting:** Irregularly shaped parcel with residential building facing north along Shepard Road. Near the intersection of Shepard with Grand Trunk Trail. A stone retention wall borders the property along Shepard Road.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

210 SHEPARD 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 Hamilton Woolen Company House and Barn, at 210 Shepard Road, are examples of an early nineteenth century Georgian style single family dwelling and related outbuilding, demonstrating the residential and agricultural growth and development in the Westville area of Sturbridge during that time period, as well as later when it was connected to the growth of the Hamilton Woolen Company. This single family dwelling is one and a half stories high and five bays wide by two bays deep with rear additions. It has a stone foundation, a clapboard exterior with wood trim, and a steeply pitched, side gable asphalt shingle roof with minimal eave overhang and eave returns on the gable ends. The brick, interior chimney is centered on the roof ridge.

The northern facing main exterior has a centered entry with an entablature which includes paneled side lights, each with three divided lights in the upper half. There are two, 12/12 windows on either side of the entry. Corner boards and a cornice are also present on this façade. A sign above the entry reads 1805.

On the western and eastern side elevations, there are a seven 12/12 lights, and one, possibly casement window with each side divided into six lights (on the eastern elevation first story). A cross gable wing is off of the rear, southern elevation of the main residence. There is an exterior brick chimney on the western downslope of the roof of this wing.

A gambrel roof barn is to the southwest of the residence. It has a wood exterior and an asphalt shingle roof. The eastern side of the gambrel continues on to form a saltbox style extension of the building's main form. A square cupola with louvered vents and a weather vane is positioned on the roof ridge.

### 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 Globe Village waterfront area in Southbridge (bordering the Westville section of Sturbridge) was first utilized beginning in 1750 to power mills, and by the early nineteenth century, by various enterprises which led to the formal incorporation of the James Wolcott Woolen Company in 1819, operated by James Wolcott, Jr., Perez B. Wolcott (agent in 1820) and Samuel A. Groves.<sup>1 2</sup>

The growth of this industry led to the development of worker housing on Wallace and Shepherd Roads in Westville during the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup>

A dam, constructed by the company in 1827, broke in 1829, and the loss caused the Wolcotts to sell the business. New owners were Boston-based Tiffany, (Willard) Sayles and (Samuel A.) Hitchcock who formed the Hamilton Woolen Company in 1831, proclaimed to be "one of the most successful establishments in the country" by 1856.<sup>4 5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> E. Woodward and S. Ceccacci. "Hamilton Woolen Company District." (MHC Inventory # SBD.W), 1986. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=SBD.W>, accessed November 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Hamilton Hurd, ed. "Early Manufacturers and Extinct Corporations and Companies." *History of Worcester County* ("Sturbridge, Levi Chase), 1899. *Archive.org* Accessed on-line July 2017, <https://archive.org/stream/historyofworcest01hurdd#page/n275/mode/2up/search/Sturbridge>

<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984. <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/Cent-Mass/stu.pdf>, accessed October 2017.

<sup>4</sup> E. Woodward and S. Ceccacci, *Ibid*.

<sup>5</sup> George Davis. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*. West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856. *Archive.org*, <https://archive.org/details/historicalskech00davisgeo>, accessed November, 2017.

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This particular residential property may have originally been related to D. Jones (not researched) and to J.A. Saunders Shoe Shop, in Westville, if it is the same parcel shown on 1857 and 1870 maps. (Figures 1 and 2) By 1898, the property is connected to the Hamilton Woolen Company.<sup>6</sup> (Figure 3) The barn appears on the 1898 map, although it may be older as outbuildings were not shown on earlier maps.

For more than 100 years, the Hamilton Woolen Company was dominant in Southbridge and competitive "on the world market by updating machinery" and its product line.<sup>7</sup> An employee strike in December of 1934 led to closure of the mill and a liquidation of assets the following month.<sup>8</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*Ancestry.com* (see footnotes)

Davis, George. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*. West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856. *Archive.org*, <https://archive.org/details/historicalsearch00davisgeo>, accessed November, 2017.

Hurd, Hamilton ed., *History of Worcester County* ("Sturbridge, Levi Chase), 1899. *Archive.org* Accessed on-line July 2017, <https://archive.org/stream/historyofworcest01hurdd#page/n275/mode/2up/search/Sturbridge>

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984. <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/Cent-Mass/stu.pdf> , accessed October 2017.

*Masslandrecords.com* (see footnotes)

Woodward, E. and S. Ceccacci. "Hamilton Woolen Company District." (MHC Inventory # SBD.W), 1986. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=SBD.W>, accessed November 2017.

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>

<sup>6</sup> Plan of land Hamilton Woolen Company Village of Westville No. A-182, *Masslandrecords.com*

<sup>7</sup> E. Woodward. and S. Ceccacci. "Hamilton Woolen Company District." (MHC Inventory # SBD.W), 1986. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=SBD.W>, accessed November 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.



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Photo 1: Northern facing main facade



Photo 2: Northeastern corner perspective



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Photo 3: Eastern side elevation



Photo 4: Northern facing main façade and western side elevation, view of rear ell



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Photo 5: Northern facing façade of barn

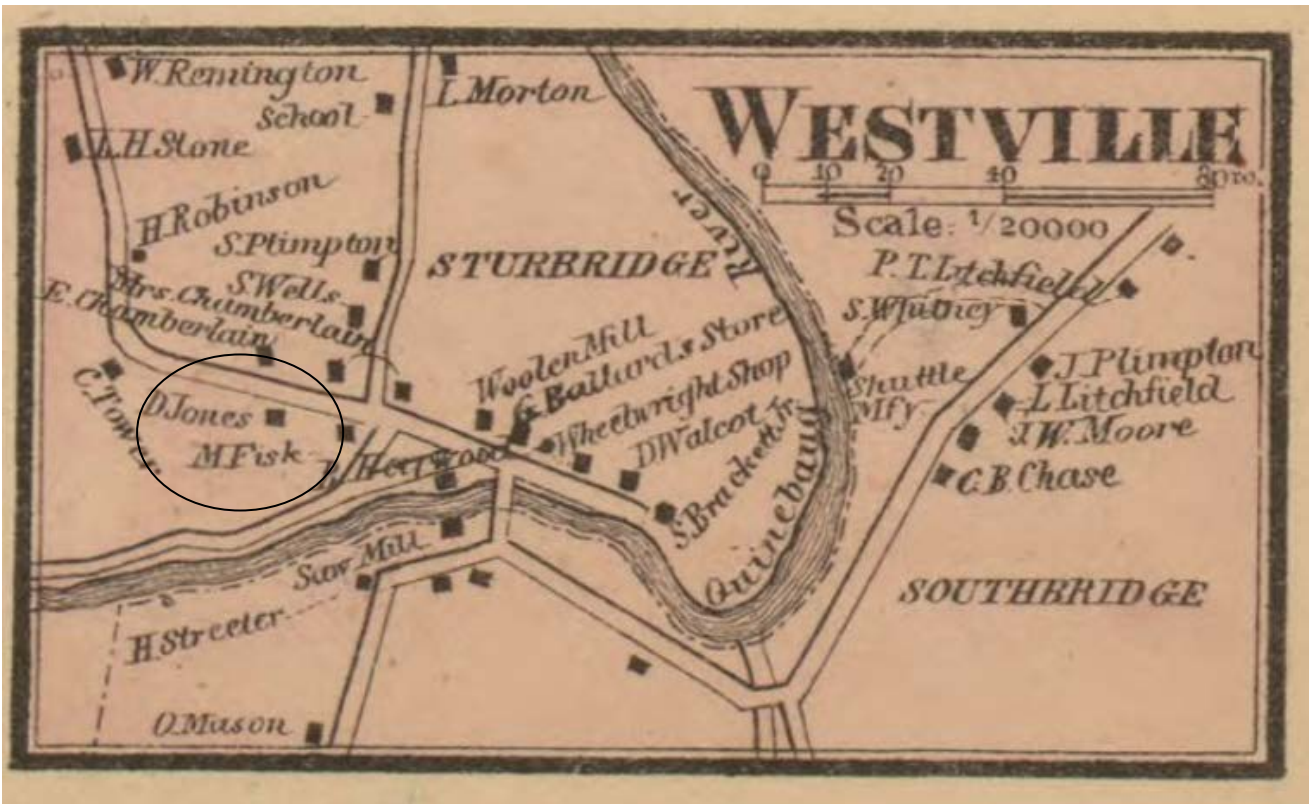


Figure 1: 1857 Map (possibly D. Jones)



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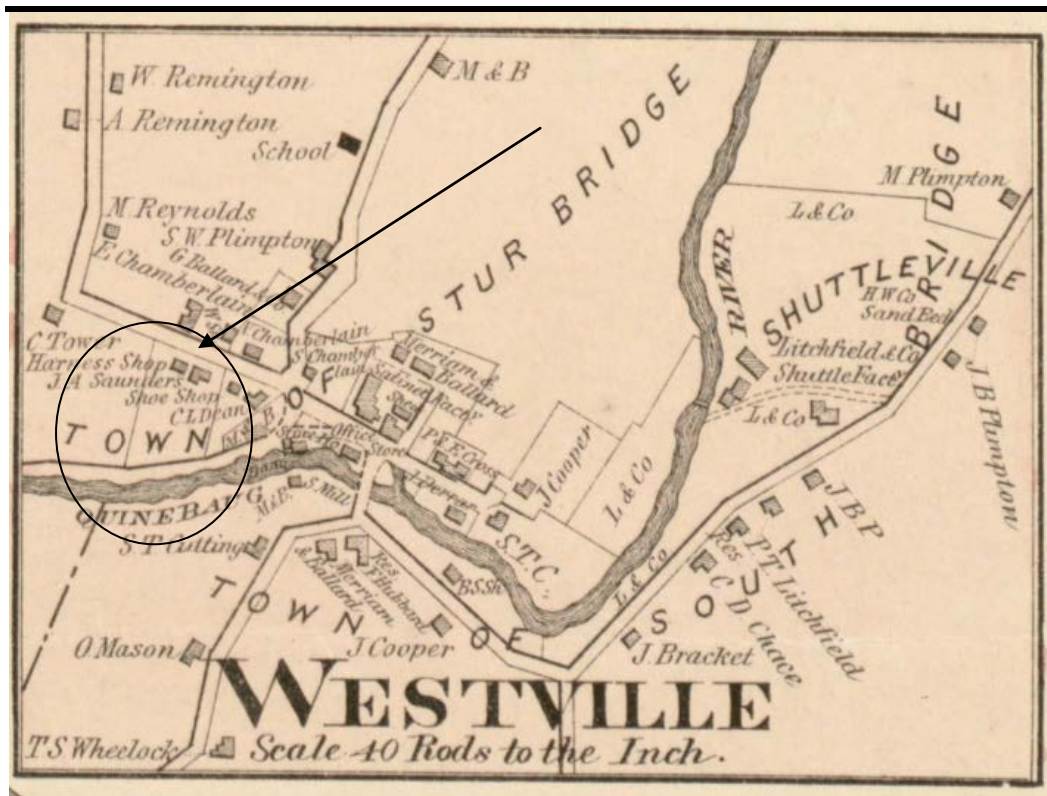


Figure 2: 1870 Map of Westville, J. A. Saunders Shoe Shop

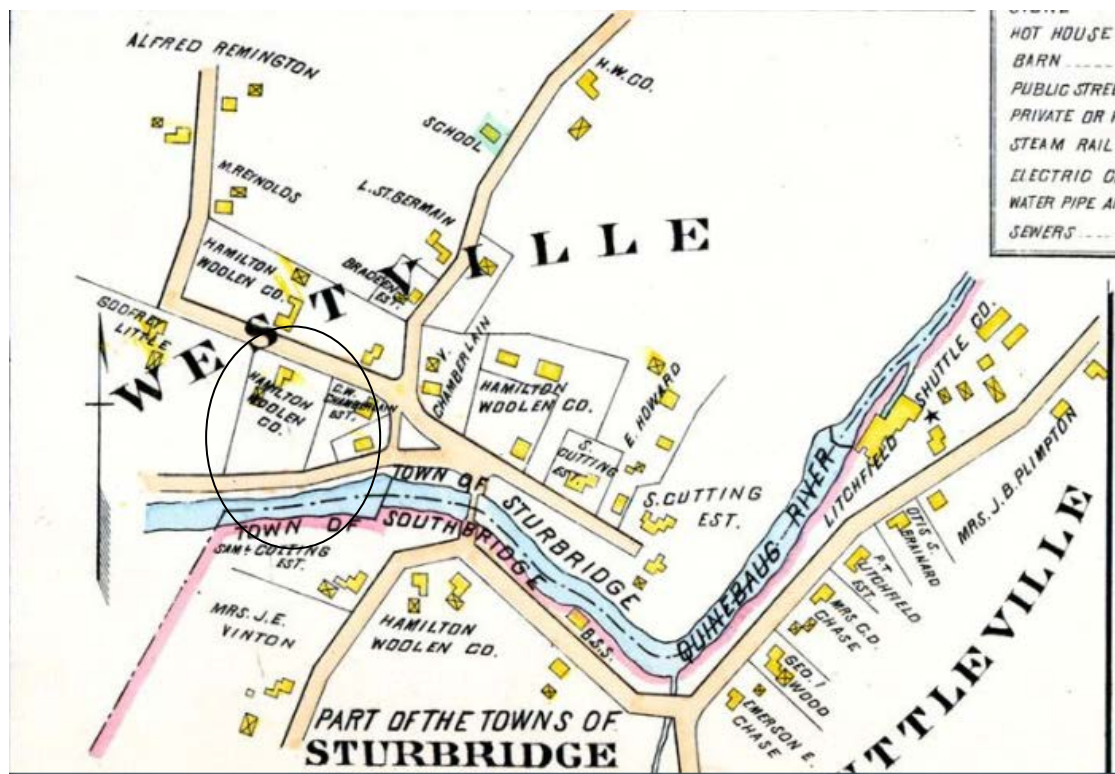


Figure 3: 1898 Westville map, showing house and barn owned by Hamilton Woolen Co.

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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible      ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district      ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:    ☒ **A**    ☐ **B**    ☒ **C**    ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations:    ☐ **A**    ☐ **B**    ☐ **C**    ☐ **D**    ☐ **E**    ☐ **F**    ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Shannon Walsh, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Hamilton Woolen Company House and Barn, at 210 Shepard Road, are recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, with a local level of significance, and a period of significance from 1805 through 1967 (arbitrary fifty year threshold).

This property meets Criteria A in the category of Community Planning and Development, as an early nineteenth century residence (and possibly commercial establishment), and related agricultural outbuilding, in the residential and industrial Westville section of Sturbridge. The property is further tied to local Industry, as it was used by the Southbridge-based Hamilton Woolen Company, possibly for worker housing.

The residence and large barn are also significant under Criteria C for Architecture, as well-maintained examples of nineteenth century buildings.

In conclusion, the Hamilton Woolen Company House and Barn are locally significant and eligible for National Register listing as they relate to community planning and development with the growth of Westville, possibly to commerce if the property was used as a shoe shop, and to industry through a connection with the Hamilton Woolen Company. They are also significant as evidence of nineteenth century style architecture. The buildings appear to retain a good degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.