

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

## Photograph



## Locus Map



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

665-04311-099

Southbridge

STU.310

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

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

**Address:** 99 Wallace Road

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

**Uses:** Present: Zoned as Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** prior to 1857

**Source:** 1857 Map

**Style/Form:** Georgian

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick, Concrete

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

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

Windows (date unknown)

Door and sidelights (date unknown)

**Condition:** Fair due to alterations

**Moved:** no ☒    yes ☐    **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.03 acres

**Setting:** Multi-family residential building faces south on a roughly square shaped parcel along Wallace Road. Near the intersection of Wallace Road and Shepard Road and to the west of Grand Trunk Trail and the Westville Lake Recreational Area.

**Recorded by:** Shannon Walsh, PVPC

**Organization:** Sturbridge Historical Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

99 WALLACE 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, at 99 Wallace Road, is an example of a mid-nineteenth century (or earlier), Georgian style single family dwelling, which provides evidence of the residential growth and development, as well as the local industrial growth in Westville during this time period. This building has a brick foundation, and a clapboard exterior with wood trim, to include cornerboards and a cornice. The side gable, asphalt shingle roof has a slight eave overhang and eave returns on the gable ends. It is five bays wide by two bays deep with an east/west aligned rectangular plan and a north/south aligned rectangular rear, two story ell. An interior, brick chimney is towards the building's center and near the roof ridge, set on the southern facing downward slope of the roof. There is a second, interior brick chimney set at the roof ridge, near the eastern side elevation. Windows all appear to be replacements.

The main, southern facing façade has a central entry with an unpedimented entablature and side pilasters. The door, which is not original, has a paneled entry and sidelights. First story windows, two on either side of the entry, are 6/1. The second story has five, 1/1 windows. The western side elevation has two, first story and two, second story 6/1 windows, and a 6/1 upper half story window set within the gable.

The rear, two bay by two bay ell has a cross gable roof and additional 6/1 windows (confirm).

### 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>

This house may have originally belonged to farmer Lorenzo Morton (1819-1891), as it is in the approximate location of a residence marked on an 1857 map of this area and the Georgian-style architecture is from that time period or earlier. (Figure 1) An 1855 census lists the Morton family, along with their neighbors the Plimptons and the Chamberlains.<sup>6</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/mhcupdf/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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An 1870 map shows a house near this location, owned by "M & B." (not researched, Figure 2)

By 1898, and confirmed by deed research, the property was later owned by the Hamilton Woolen Company, although the building form is slightly different.<sup>7</sup> (Figure 3) If this is the second tract referred to in a 1921 deed, it was granted to Charles C. French (1859-1947), husband of Anna E. French (1861-1934). A 1920 census lists French's occupation as molder in a shuttle shop, and his residence is listed as "free" so perhaps he was living at this property as worker housing prior to purchasing it from the company.<sup>8 9</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.

*FindaGrave.com*

Hurd, Hamilton, 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>

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, H.F. *Map of Worcester County*, Boston: Wm. E. Baker, 1857, <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> "Lorenzo Morton," *Massachusetts State Census*, 1855. *Ancestry.com*

<sup>7</sup> Book 2302 Page 330, 1923. *Masslandrecords.com*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>9</sup> "Charles C. French," *United States Federal Census*, 1920. *Ancestry.com*



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Photo 1: Western and northern elevations



Photo 2: Northern rear elevation



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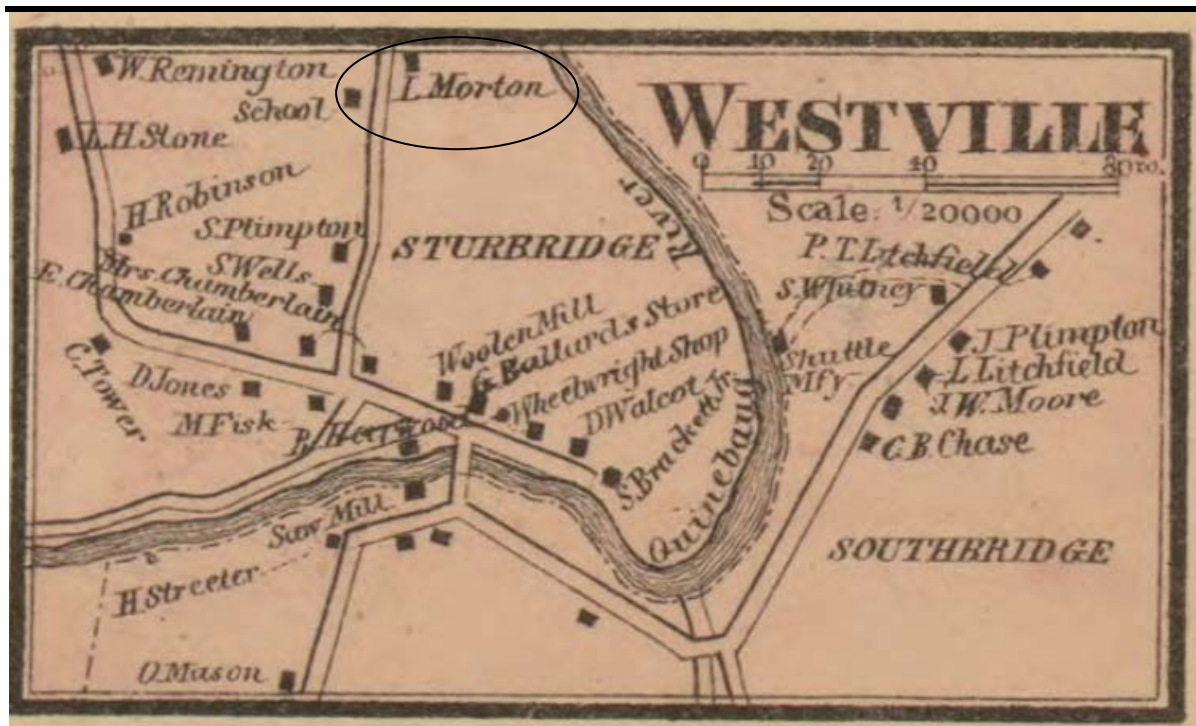


Figure 1: 1857 Map

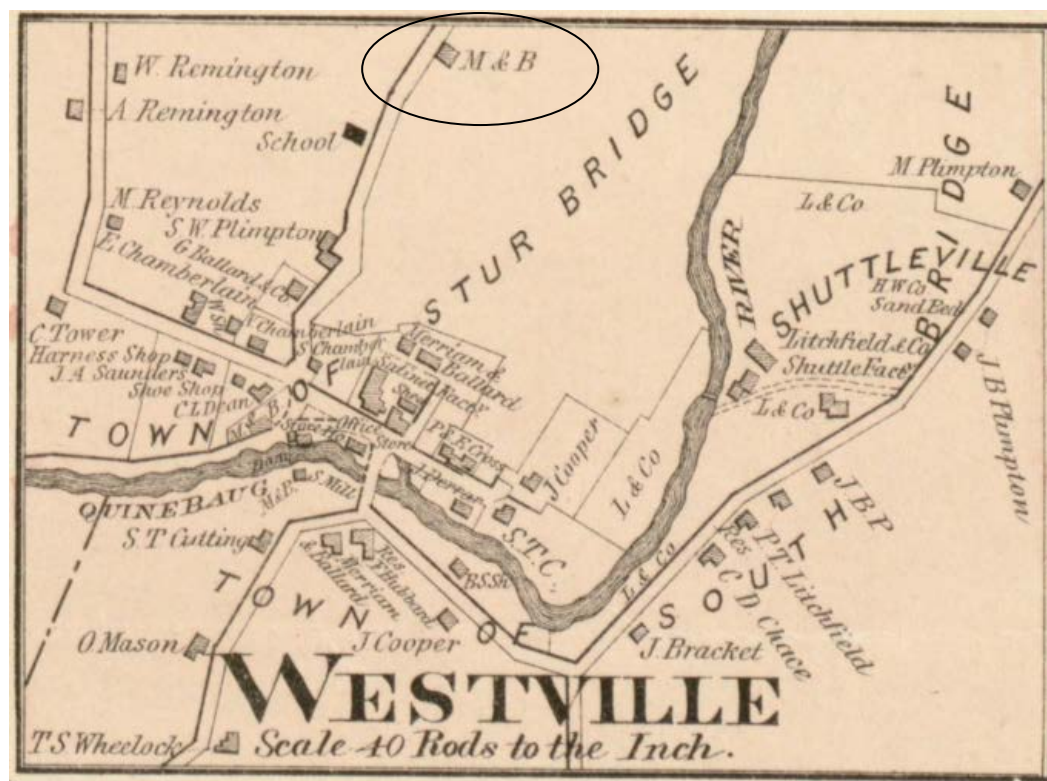


Figure 2: 1870 Map

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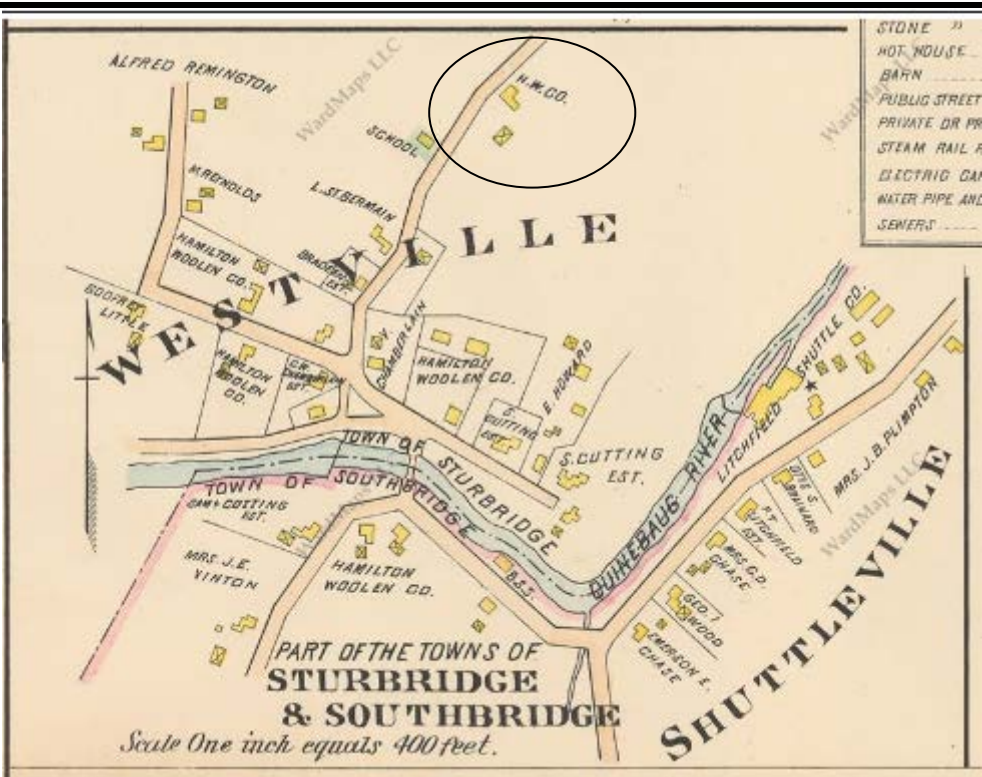


Figure 3: 1898 H.W. Co.