

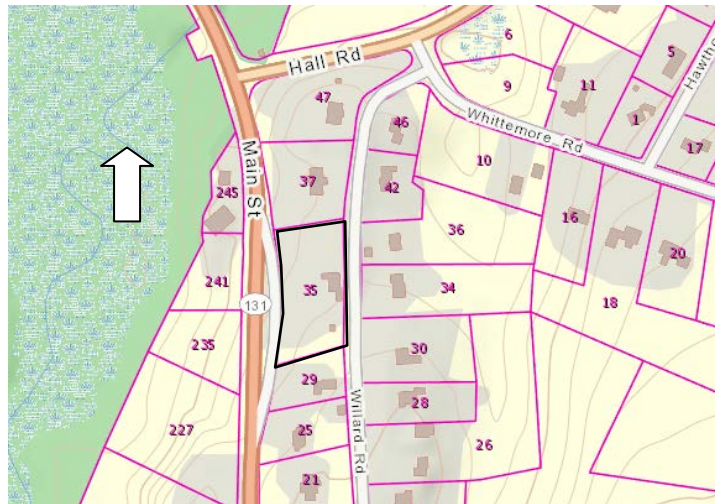
FORM B – BUILDING

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

686-02935-035

Southbridge

STU.283

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Near Town Center

Address: 35 Willard Road

Historic Name: Hiram Rice House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: by 1857

Source: 1857 Map

Style/Form: Altered

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone/Concrete

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Chimneys removed (date unknown)

Windows altered (date unknown)

Condition: Fair due to alterations

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.14 acres

Setting: Large, rectangular shaped parcel with residence facing east along Willard Road. Near the intersection of Willard and Whittemore Roads with Main Street (Rout 131).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

35 WILLARD ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

STU.283

☐ 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 Hiram Rice House, at 35 Willard Road, was constructed by the mid-nineteenth century, and has features of Georgian and Federal Style, with overall alterations, obscuring its original design. It provides an example of the residential growth and development near the town center during that time period. The main façade faces east, with a minimal setback from Willard Road. It is four bays wide by one bay deep with a north/south aligned rectangular plan. The foundation appears to be stone and concrete and the exterior walls are clapboard and wood planks, with wood trim. The asphalt shingle roof is steeply pitched and side gabled over the main, roadside section of the building, and flat on a two story wing, which extends to the west.

The eastern facing side of this building has three, first story 6/6 windows and three, second story 6/6 windows, between a belt course and touching the frieze board beneath the roof eaves. There is also a one bay wide shed roof ell off of this elevation's southeastern corner. A one story, gable roof ell is two bays by one bay and has two windows, each divided into nine lights, on the eastern facing elevation and a single door on the southern gable side.

The northern side elevation has a one story, north/south aligned rectangular shaped ell with a flat roof, which is the most ornate feature of the building. It is one bay wide by multiple, closely set bays deep. The main, eastern facing entry has sidelights and is topped with an elliptical fanlight. The northern side of this ell has several fanlights, topping windows. This elevation also provides a perspective of an east/west aligned, two story, two bay, cross gable roof wing. An exterior chimney is present on the western facing elevation.

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.

By 1765, the population of Sturbridge had reached 899 residents, and grew to 1,374 in 1776.¹ By the latter part of that century, the Sturbridge town center had begun to develop, "stimulated by turnpike traffic" between neighboring communities.² What is now known as Willard Street was established prior to 1857 just off of and parallel to Main Street and in proximity to the Town Common. This road was named for portrait painter of "national reputation" William Willard (1819-1904), whose house along this stretch burned in 1903.^{3 4} (Figures 2 and 3) Willard was also a co-founder of the Massachusetts Academy of Fine Arts, and was an instructor at the Boston-based School of Fine Arts.⁵

From 1870 through 1898, the property at 35 Willard Road was owned by blacksmith Hiram Rice (1825-1907).⁶ (Figures 2 and 3) Hiram never married and in 1900, was the sole occupant of this residence.⁷ It is possible that he was related to Reverend Rice, one of the first three Congregational Ministers of Sturbridge.⁸

¹ Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984. *Secretary of the Commonwealth* (site). Accessed July 2017. <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhpdf/townreports/Cent-Mass/stu.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ "His Years are Eighty-Five." *Worcester Daily Spy*, October 27, 1903. *Genealogybank.com*

⁴ "William Willard," *Springfield Republican*, November 3, 1904. *Genealogybank.com*

⁵ "The Late William Willard, Two of his Paintings, and the Sturbridge House in Which He Lived For Years." *Boston Herald*, November 6, 1904. *Genealogybank.com*

⁶ "Hiram Rice," *Massachusetts State Census*, 1865. *Ancestry.com*

⁷ "Hiram Rice," *United States Federal Census*, 1900

⁸ 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.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

35 WILLARD ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

STU.283

Two chimneys along the roof ridge of the main section of the residence were removed by the late twentieth/early twenty-first century. (Figure 4)

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/historicalskech00davisgeo>, accessed November, 2017.

Hurd, Duane Hamilton. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of the Pioneers and Prominent Men, Volume 1*. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1889. *Archive.org*, accessed on-line November 2017, <https://archive.org/details/historyofworcest01hurdd>

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Sturbridge." 1984. *Secretary of the Commonwealth* (site). Accessed July 2017, <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/Cent-Mass/stu.pdf>

Masslandrecords.com (see footnotes)

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

Wilkin, Agnes S. "Sturbridge Common Historic District" (MHC Inventory AREA STU.A), NR District 1977. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=STU.A>, 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>

Figure 4: "35 Willard Road," *Vision Government Solutions*, <http://gis.vgsi.com/sturbridgema/Parcel.aspx?Pid=4052>, accessed October 2017.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

35 WILLARD ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
	STU.283



Photo 1: Eastern facing main façade and southern side elevation.



Photo 2: Northern side elevation

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

35 WILLARD ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
	STU.283

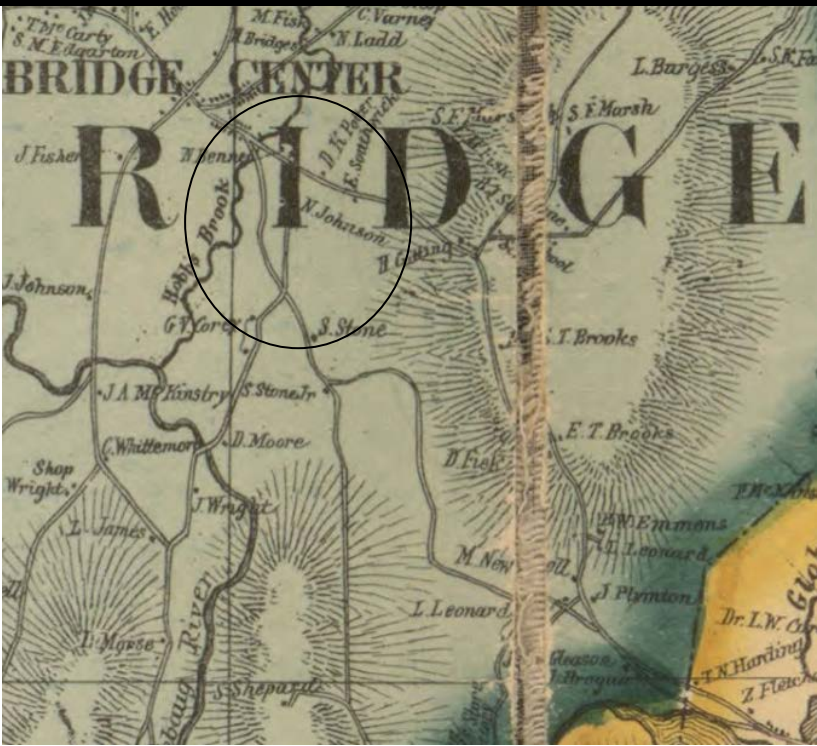


Figure 1: 1857 Map, property not shown



Figure 2: 1870 Hiram Rice

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

35 WILLARD ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
	STU.283

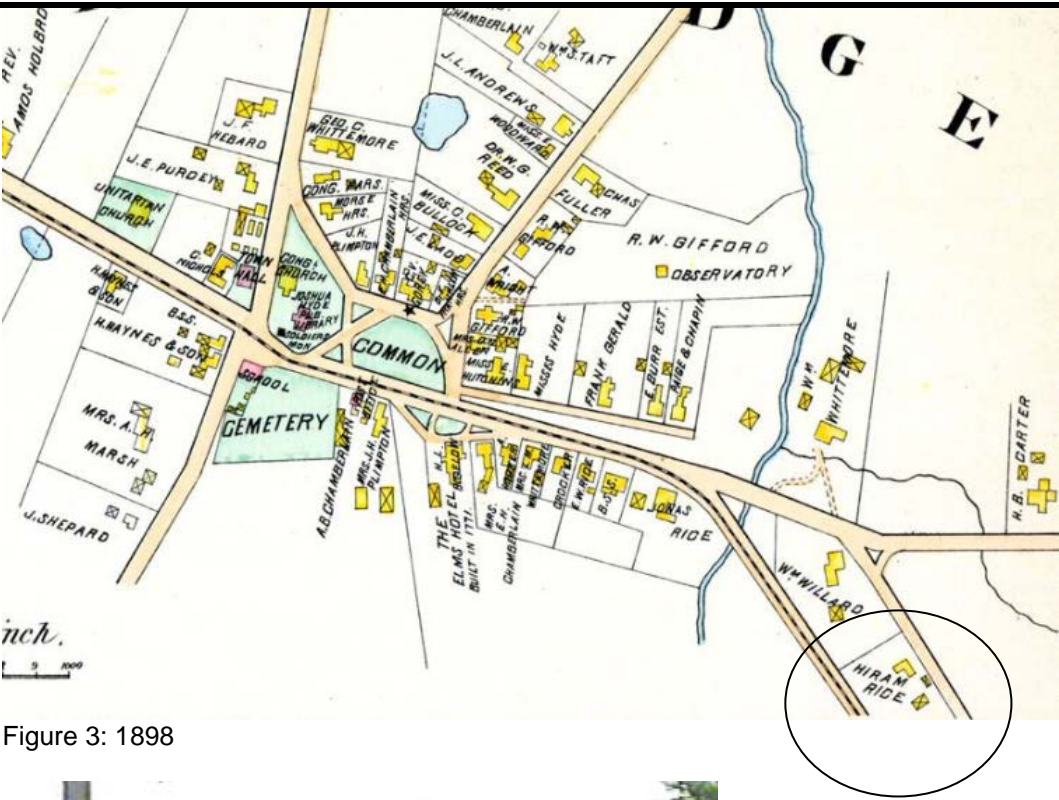


Figure 3: 1898



Figure 4: Assessor's photo, late twentieth, early twenty-first century