

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

204-02914-010 Southbridge STU.A STU.13
NRDIS 11/9/1977

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Sturbridge Center

Photograph



Address: 10 Chamberlain Avenue

Historic Name: Simeon Allen House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1820

Source: Levine 1971

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Ashlar Granite, Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding/Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*): vinyl siding, after 1970

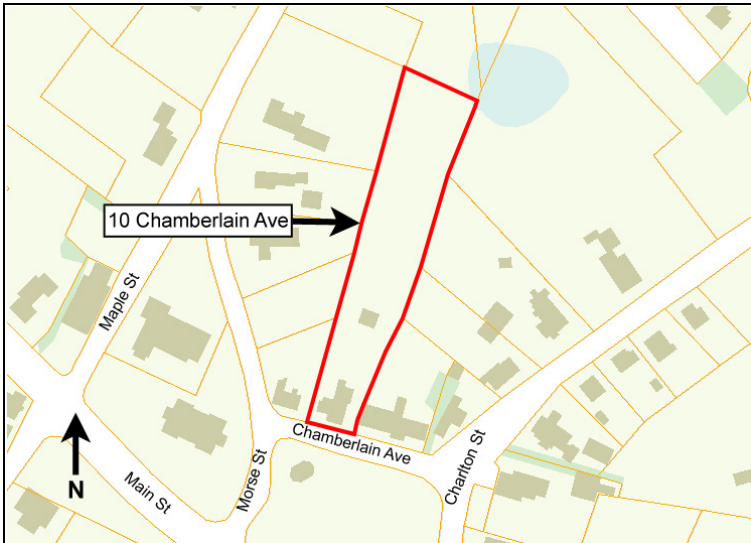
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.26 acres

Setting: The building occupies a long rectangular lot on the north side of Chamberlain Avenue across from the Sturbridge Town Common. The house is situated at the south end of the parcel and set close to the road.

Locus Map



Recorded by: L. Kline, G. Pineo, E. Giacomarra; PAL

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): May 2018

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

10 CHAMBERLAIN AVENUE

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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Simeon Allen House (ca. 1820, STU.13) is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, three-bay side-hall, wood-frame building with a one-story, two-bay side ell on the west elevation and a one-story addition on the north elevation. The building has an ashlar granite foundation and an end-gable roof. The west ell has a side-gable roof. Brick chimneys pierce the center of the ridgeline on the main block and the west end of the ridgeline on the ell. The walls are covered with vinyl siding, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The main entrance is in the east bay of the south (facade) elevation and contains a modern, six-paneled door beneath a fanlight with projecting door surrounds. A Palladian window is in the pedimented peak of the front gable. Fenestration consists of regularly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

In the late twentieth century, the house was clad with vinyl siding and the windows were replaced with vinyl units.

Northwest of the house is a Garage (early 20th century), which is a one-story, hip-roof building with two double vertical-board doors and a one-story, shed-roof addition on the west elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Simeon Allen House (ca. 1820, STU.13) is in the center of Sturbridge and faces the Sturbridge Town Common. The area was settled ca. 1725 by residents of Medfield, and Sturbridge was incorporated as a town in 1738 (MHC 1984:3–4). The house was likely built about 1820 by Simeon Allen (1786–1844), a cordwainer. It was owned by Allen until ca. 1845, at which time it was owned by Elisha Southwick (Levine 1971). The earliest published map that shows the building is the 1857 Walling map, which shows it as owned by N. Chamberlain (Walling 1857). N. Chamberlain likely referred to John N. Chamberlain (1813–1880), who owned the property by 1870; his father's name was Abiel. John Chamberlain worked as a grocer and lived with his wife, Persis, in 1870 (Ancestry.com 2010, US Census 1870, Beers 1870).

The property remained in the Chamberlain family until 2004, first passing to John Chamberlain's son, Edwin H. Chamberlain (1851–1893), after John's death in 1880. In 1880, Edwin Chamberlain worked as a farmer and lived with his wife, Clara C. Chamberlain, and their two children, Bertram N. and Eva. T. (US Census 1880). Bertram Chamberlain (1878–1957) inherited the property after Edwin's death. He worked as a farmer through 1910 but by 1920 worked as a bookkeeper at the American Optical Company in Southbridge. He lived with his wife, Ethel, and their four children, Dorothy, Edwin H., Bertram H. J., and Ruth W. (US Census 1910, US Census 1920, Manning 1930:294, Find a Grave 2016). Ruth W. Chamberlain (1921–2006) married Walter Howard in 1940 and acquired the property by 1958. The Howards sold the property in 2004, and ownership has changed several times since then (Ancestry.com 2013, Wilkin 1970, Ancestry.com 2013).

The property is currently owned by James Brissette, who purchased it in 2014, and is occupied as a single-family home (Sturbridge Assessor 2013).

The Simeon Allen House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 9, 1977, as part of the Sturbridge Common Historic District.

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