

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

204-02914-012 Southbridge STU.A STU.12

NRDIS 11/9/1977

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 12 Chamberlain Avenue

**Historic Name:** Allen-Bachellor House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Lawyer Office/Specialty Store/Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1800

**Source:** Newcomb and Wilken 1970

**Style/Form:** Federal

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): side ell expanded, after 1892; north shed-roof addition, 20<sup>th</sup> century

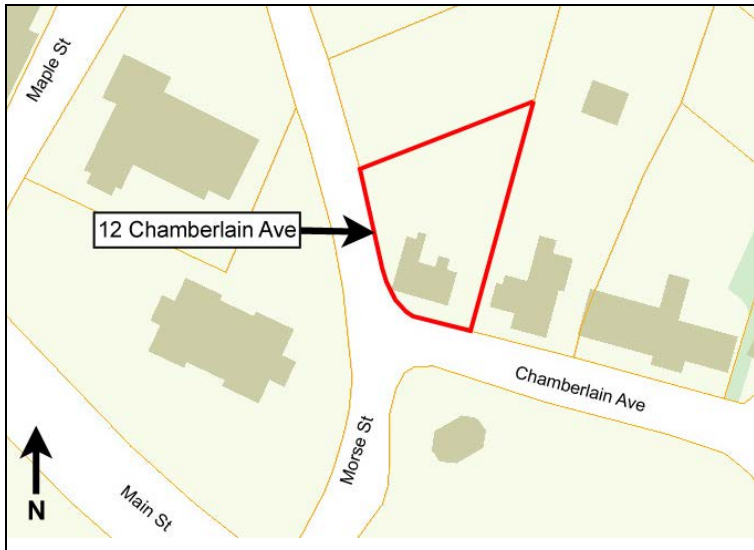
**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** .24 acres

**Setting:** The building occupies a roughly triangular lot at the northeast corner of Chamberlain Avenue and Morse Street and faces the Sturbridge Town Common to the south.

## 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

12 CHAMBERLAIN AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

STU.A

STU.12

 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 Allen-Bachellor House (ca. 1800, STU.12) is a south-facing, Federal-style, two-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a cross-gable roof. A two-story, two-bay-by-two-bay rear ell projects from the west side of the north elevation, and a two-story, shed-roof addition with an enclosed porch on the second story extends along the north elevation. A brick chimney pierces the center of the side-gable ridgeline. The foundation is not visible but is likely stone. The house is clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The historic main entrance is in the second bay from the west of the facade (south) elevation and contains a vertical-board storm door and transom within a projecting pilastered door surround. The building is likely accessed via a secondary entrance in the north elevation, at the end of a driveway that runs north along the east side of the property. A bay window projects from the west bay of the south elevation, and two large, multi-light picture windows are in the north bay of both stories of the west elevation. Fenestration consists of regularly spaced six-over-six, double-hung wood sash in the main block and irregularly spaced windows in the additions.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Allen-Bachellor House (ca. 1800, STU.12) 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).

According to deed research undertaken by Old Sturbridge Village scholar Herbert Levine in 1971, the Allen-Bachellor House was built by 1825 and belonged to Simeon Allen (1786–1844), a cordwainer (Levine 1971). The building has previously been referred to as the Bachellor-Davis House but is more accurately called the Allen-Bachellor House (Walling 1857; Newcomb and Wilken 1970). In 1825, Abijah Prouty sold the land containing the present houses at 10 Chamberlain Avenue (STU.13) and 12 Chamberlain Avenue to Captain Simeon Allen, who subsequently occupied one of the houses (WCRD 1825). According to a leaflet published by the Quinebaug Historical Society (Corey 1910), James Bachellor (1807–1892), a wagon-maker, who lived at 4 Charlton Street (STU.25), operated his shop on the site of the subject property, followed by Charles N. Allen, who operated a shoe shop on the same. However, the 1857 map identifies a C. Shop (possibly carpenter shop) south of James Bachellor's house, which could indicate that the shop was located south of the present 4 Charlton Street or that Bachellor had relocated his business there by 1857 (Corey 1910:231–233; Walling 1857). Charles N. Allen (1815–1892) operated his shoe shop from approximately 1865 to 1875 with Wells Draper; little is known about Draper beyond his involvement with Allen. Evidently, the shop was subsequently sold and moved to Fiskdale for use as a two-tenement dwelling, although the only discussion of this is in the Quinebaug Historical Society's leaflet. Allen owned 16 Charlton Street (STU.21) in 1870, according to the 1870 Beers map, and it is unclear whether he rented a shop at 12 Chamberlain Avenue or operated his shoe shop at 16 Charlton Street (Corey 1910:231–233; Find A Grave 2014; Beers 1870; Ammidown 1874:118).

The building at 12 Chamberlain Avenue appears on the 1857 Walling map with the label E. Southwick (Izard 1994; Walling 1857). In 1845, Charles Allen sold the property to Elisha Southwick, who sold it the following year to John N. Chamberlain (WCRD 1845, 1846). Chamberlain (1813–1880) owned both 10 and 12 Chamberlain Avenue in 1870; he worked as a grocer and lived with his wife, Persis (Ancestry.com 2010; US Census 1870; Beers 1870). After Chamberlain's death in 1880, Persis Chamberlain sold a 1-acre portion of the property containing the present 12 Chamberlain Avenue to Oliver B. Wight, and Wight's heirs sold it to Elizabeth F. Plimpton in 1886 (WCRD 1882, 1886). Elizabeth Plimpton was married to a farmer, James H. Plimpton (1835–1924). In 1900, the Plimptons lived on the property with their widowed mothers and a servant (US Census 1900; Ancestry.com 2011).

Elizabeth Plimpton sold the property in 1913 to Peter Corley of Shirley, Massachusetts. Corley sold the property in 1921 to George S. Ladd, who sold it the following year to Henry B. Russell. Henry Russell (1866–1934) worked with the boring machines at the Snell Manufacturing Company Auger Shop (see Wight-Snell Manufacturing Area, STU.N) and was married to Alice M.

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Russell. Their son, Charles S. Russell (b. 1898), was an accountant for the American Optical Company in Southbridge. He and his wife, Lorraine, lived at the property with their daughter, brother, and sister-in-law by 1940. The Russell family owned the property through 1960, when Lorraine (Myrtle) Russell sold it to William S. and Janice M. Fairchild (WCRD 1913, 1921, 1960; US Census 1940; Find a Grave 2013).

The property remains in the ownership of the Fairchilds and is currently owned by William S. Fairchild III (Sturbridge Assessor 2013).

The Allen-Bachellor 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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**PHOTOGRAPH**



Photo 2. 12 Chamberlain Avenue, looking southeast.