

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

204-02914-006 Southbridge STU.A STU.14
NRDIS 11/9/1977

Town/City: Sturbridge

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

Photograph



Address: 2–8 Chamberlain Avenue

Historic Name: Jared Lamb Building

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling, General Retail Store

Date of Construction: 1815–1825

Source: Levine 1971

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Ashlar Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood Trim

Roof: Slate Shingle, Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): west end added, late nineteenth century; converted to multi-family residence, ca. 1910

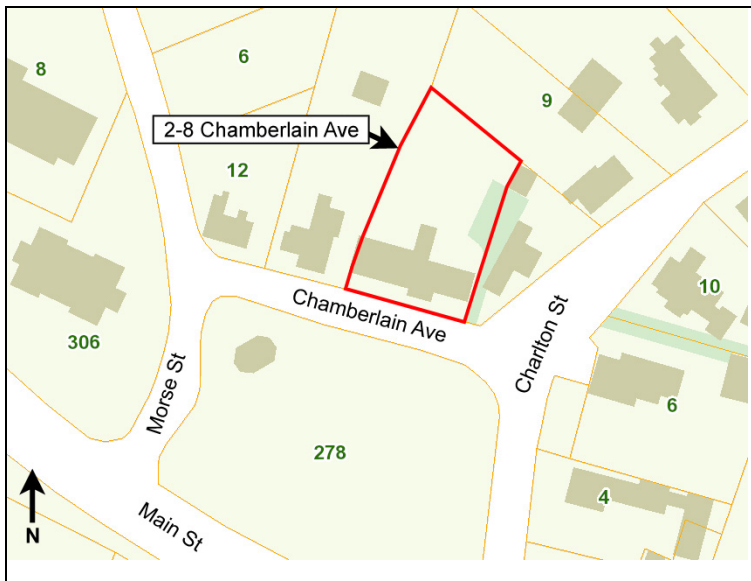
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .41 acres

Setting: The building occupies a roughly rectangular lot on the north side of Chamberlain Avenue across from the Sturbridge Town Common. It is located 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

2-8 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 Jared Lamb Building (1815-1825, altered late nineteenth century and ca. 1910, STU.14) is a south-facing, Federal-style, wood-frame, 15-bay-by-3-bay building with an ashlar granite foundation and wood clapboard walls. The L-shaped east end of the building was likely constructed first, and the west end was likely added in the late nineteenth century. The east end is a mirror image of the Jared Lamb House, 5 Charlton Street (1815-1825, STU.15). It has a pedimented cross-gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. Brick chimneys pierce the center ridge of the front gable and the south slope of the side gable near the east end. The west end of the building has a slate-shingled hip roof. A one-story, one-bay-deep, shed-roof addition spans the entire rear (north) elevation. About 1910, the building was converted into four two-story apartments. It has two entrances in the east block and two in the west block. The east block has a half-light, multi-panel door protected by a glass and aluminum storm door in the third bay from the east end. A multi-panel wood door in the west bay of the front-gable section has a fanlight and a projecting molded cornice and is flanked by engaged pilasters. Wide, one-story, flat-roof porches supported by simple Ionic columns shelter the two entrances in the west block, which are filled with multi-panel wood doors protected by glass and aluminum storm doors. Fenestration consists of regularly spaced, two-over-one, double-hung wood sash. The west block also has smaller two-light second-story windows over the entrances.

One of the largest buildings surrounding Sturbridge Common, the Lamb House is a good example of a Federal-style house that was later expanded with a visually compatible addition.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Jared Lamb Building (1815-1825, altered late nineteenth century and ca. 1910, STU.14) is in the center of Sturbridge and faces south toward 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 building at 2-8 Chamberlain Avenue was constructed between 1815 and 1825 for Jared Lamb (1780-1845) (Levine 1971). Lamb, a tailor born in Charlton, married Lavinia Willard (1784-1868) of Sturbridge in 1800, and they had at least six children by 1814 (Find a Grave 2014a). Previous documentation referred to the building as the Corey-Merrick Block, after subsequent owners (Newcomb et al. 1970). Jared Lamb's widow, Lavinia, sold the building in 1846 to her son-in-law Alfred M. Merrick (b. 1810), who was married to her daughter Lavinia (1814-1889). At that time, the property contained a dwelling house, a store, and a shed (WCRD 415/622). Alfred, a trader, was postmaster of Sturbridge from 1841 to 1850 (Find a Grave 2014b; US Census 1850, 1870, 1880). The 1857 Walling map indicates a tailor shop in the west end of the building and a store in the east end; the Merricks may have lived on the second story (Walling 1857). The current west end of the building may have been extant by 1870, when the Beers map shows the property with a long, rectangular building and a post office (Beers 1870).

By 1880, Charles V. Corey (1838-1913) and his wife Martha (b. 1844) also lived in the building with the Merricks (US Census 1880; Find a Grave 2014c). Corey was postmaster of Sturbridge from 1881 to 1897 and operated a general store and post office on the property. By 1899, he and his son Henry (1871-1910) ran the C. V. Corey & Son store together (Meek 1899; O.H. Bailey 1892). After Henry's death, Charles closed the store and converted the building into multiple residences (US Census 1910; Burns 1984; Newcomb et al. 1970). In 1914, the property was acquired by Clifford F. Chamberlain, who may have purchased it as an investment property (WCRD 2064/479). Winifred Tillyer inherited the property and sold it to Susan Chamberlain Blair, the town clerk, in 1993 (WCRD 14973/5). The property remains in the Blair family and continues to be used as a multi-family residence (Sturbridge Assessor 2018).

The Jared Lamb Building 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. Jared Lamb Building, 2-8 Chamberlain Avenue, looking northeast.