

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

209-02915-018 Southbridge STU.A STU.20
NRDIS 11/9/1977

Town/City: Sturbridge

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

Photograph



Address: 18 Charlton Street

Historic Name: Lewis Pelton House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1834

Source: Visual inspection; marriage date

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): vinyl windows, late 20th century; one-story addition, mid-to-late 20th century

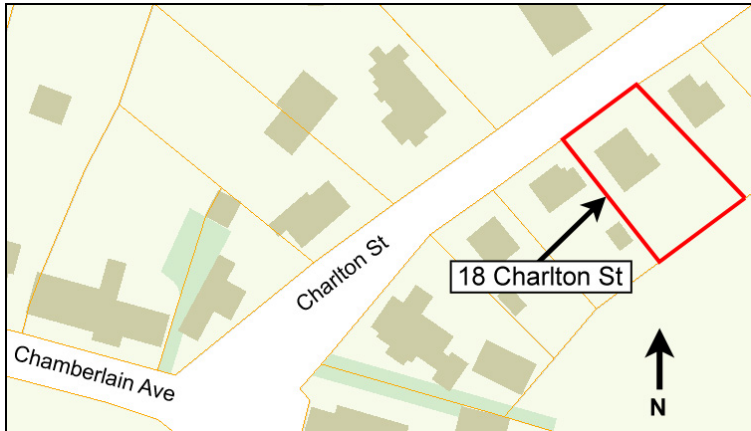
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .17 acres

Setting: The house is on a rectangular lot on the east side of Charlton Street. It is set close to the street in a residential neighborhood adjacent to the Sturbridge Town Common.

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

18 CHARLTON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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 Lewis Pelton House (ca. 1834, STU.20) is a west-facing, Greek-Revival-style, one-and-one-half story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a mid-to-late twentieth-century, one-story, shed-roof addition on the east elevation. The house has a fieldstone foundation and a side-gable roof pierced by a central brick chimney. The walls are clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The facade (west) elevation has a wide entablature and corner pilasters. The main entrance is in the center of the west elevation and consists of a six-panel modern door flanked by narrow sidelights. The entrance is surrounded by engaged pilasters supporting a wide entablature with a projecting molded cornice. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash in the first story and six-light vinyl casement windows in the second story, all with wide board surrounds.

The Lewis Pelton House is a well-preserved example of a one-and-one-half story, side-gable Greek Revival-style building in Sturbridge.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Lewis Pelton House (ca. 1834, STU.20) is in the center of Sturbridge, northeast of 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). Charlton Street runs northeast from the Common to the town of Charlton and was built in 1810 as part of the Worcester-Stafford Turnpike. The routing of the turnpike through the center of Sturbridge, near the meetinghouse (no longer extant), was an important stimulus for the nineteenth-century growth of the town as it was part of a major overland stage route from Boston to New York.

The house was likely constructed ca. 1834 for, or possibly by, Lewis Pelton (1804–1888), a house carpenter from Sturbridge who married Charlotte Hooker (1810–1904) in 1834 (Levine 1971; SHS 1972; US Census 1850). The couple had two sons. Pelton acquired a parcel of land to the north (likely the current location of 20 Charlton Street [STU.46]) from Otis Warner in 1841 and one to the south (possibly the current location of 16 Charlton Street) from Cyrus Fay in 1867 (WCRD 1258/439, 1258/440). The 1857 Walling map does not attribute an owner to the house at 18 Charlton Street but indicates a blacksmith shop to the south (16 Charlton Street [STU.21]) and an unlabeled shop to the northeast (Walling 1857). The 1870 Beers map labels the house, which has a roughly Z-shaped footprint, as owned by Pelton and the shop to the northeast as a carpenter shop; the shop to the south is no longer extant by 1870 (Beers 1870).

In 1888, Pelton sold a 1-acre parcel containing the lots currently designated 16, 18, and 20 Charlton Street to Elias M. Gifford (WCRD 1258/441). Elias Mann Gifford (1817–1895) was a brick mason; after his death, his son Rufus W. Gifford inherited the former Pelton property and the Alvan Bond House, 6 Charlton Street (ca. 1814, STU.24). Rufus Gifford (1846–1921), an iron worker, likely resided at 6 Charlton Street with his wife, Emma, and rented the houses at 16 and 18 Charlton Street to tenants. He is shown on an 1898 map as owning both properties and a large parcel to the east (Richards 1898; Find a Grave 2014).

In 1913, Charlotte R. F. Ladd (b. 1875), wife of George S. Ladd (b. 1858), purchased the north portion of Rufus Gifford's property corresponding to the current 18 and 20 Charlton Street (WCRD 2167/400). Albert Freeman (b. 1881), a farmer, and his wife, Linda Freeman (b. 1881), acquired the property in 1920 from the estate of Charlotte Ladd (WCRD 2211/338). Stuart Woodman (1917–1981) and his wife Joyce (1920–2008) acquired the property from Linda Freeman in 1946 and subsequently subdivided it. The Woodmans sold 20 Charlton Street to Victor and Maude Fortier in 1949 (Ancestry.com 2014; WCRD 3033/411, 3194/223). After Stuart Woodman's death, Joyce married Robert MacWilliams, who inherited 18 Charlton Street when Joyce died in 2008. MacWilliams sold the property to the present owners—Rita N. Alba, James P. Navarro, and Wanda M. Navarro—in 2012 (Sturbridge Assessor 2018).

The Lewis Pelton 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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