

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

209-02914-005 Southbridge STU.A STU.15  
NRDIS 11/9/1977

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 5–7 Charlton Street

**Historic Name:** Jared Lamb House

**Uses:** Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1821

**Source:** WCRD 1822

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl/Vinyl

Roof: Slate Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): converted to two-family house, ca. 1921; vinyl siding and replacement windows, late 20<sup>th</sup> c.

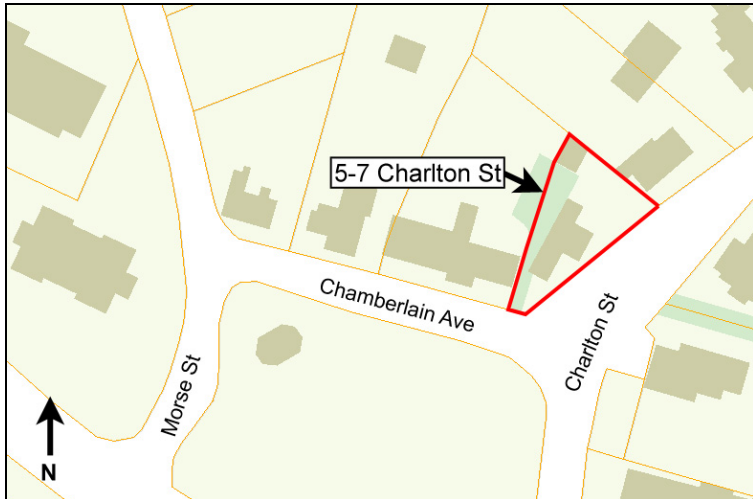
**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** .17 acres

**Setting:** The building occupies a triangular lot at the northwest corner of Charlton Street and Chamberlain Avenue. It faces Charlton Street and is 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

5-7 CHARLTON STREET

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 House (ca. 1821, STU.15) is a Greek Revival-style, east-facing, two-story, L-shaped, wood-frame building with a three-bay-by-two-bay main section and a four-bay-by-two-bay side ell on the south elevation. A one-story, two-bay-by-one-bay, side-gable addition projects from the back of the north elevation. The building has a stone foundation and a cross-gable roof pierced by two brick chimneys: one each at the center of the ridgeline of the main house and of the ell. The walls are covered with vinyl siding, and the roof is clad with slate shingles. The building has been divided into two dwellings and has two entrances in the east elevation. The entrance for 5 Charlton Street is in the east elevation of the ell and consists of a multi-panel wood door protected by a metal storm door and sheltered by a gabled hood. The entrance for 7 Charlton Street is in the north bay of the east elevation of the main block and consists of a multi-panel wood door with a fanlight and a projecting door surround. The door is protected by a metal storm door. Fenestration consists of symmetrically placed, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

The building was converted into a two-family property ca. 1921. Vinyl siding and replacement windows were added in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A Garage (late 19<sup>th</sup> century) north of the house, accessed via a driveway on the west side of the house, is a one-story, hip-roof building on a stone foundation. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two modern, vertical-lift doors are evenly spaced in the south elevation.

The Lamb house is a representative example of a Greek Revival-style house constructed in Sturbridge in the early nineteenth century. In the early twentieth century the building was converted into a two-family residence, but major stylistic architectural elements were unaltered.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Jared Lamb House (ca. 1821, STU.15) is in the center of Sturbridge and faces Sturbridge Town Common.<sup>1</sup> 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 constructed ca. 1821 for tailor Jared Lamb, who purchased the land from Jonas Rice in the same year and built 6 Chamberlain Avenue (STU.14) (WCRD 227/593; Corey 1910:230). Jared Lamb (1780-1845) married Lavinia Willard (1784-1868) in 1800 in the town of Charlton. By 1810, the couple lived in Sturbridge (US Census 1810). Lamb operated a custom tailor business out of his home before running a store with his son-in-law Benjamin Bullock (1798-1845). Lavinia inherited the property after Jared's death and in 1850 lived there with her widowed daughter Louisa Bullock and Louisa's son (Find a Grave 2014; US Census 1850; Corey 1910:230).

In 1865, Lyman E. Weeks (1840-1914) purchased the property from Lavinia Lamb and lived there with his wife and four children. Weeks was a soldier in the Civil War and worked at a shoe shop in Sturbridge after the war (WCRD 721/20; Find a Grave 2013; US Census 1870; Beers 1870). In 1880, carpenter Benjamin H. Franklin (1808-1893) acquired the property from Francis Bullard (WCRD 1085/222). Franklin's first wife, Selina, died in 1889; he married Mary E. Collins (1865-1916), a governess from England, that same year (ancestry.com 2013, 2011a). Mary inherited the property in 1893 and in 1896 married

<sup>1</sup> In previous documentation, the house was referred to as the Benjamin Franklin House after a subsequent owner, but it is more accurately called the Jared Lamb House after its first occupant (Holley and Wilkin 1970).

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provisions dealer Jonathan B. Severance (1845–1905), with whom she lived at 199 Sumner Avenue in Reading, Massachusetts, by 1900 (Richards 1898; US Census 1880, 1900). Mary killed Jonathan with an ax in 1905 after he came home later than she wanted and was subsequently committed to Danvers State Hospital, where she died in 1916 from tuberculosis (*Boston Daily Globe* 1905).

The chain of title for the subject property is unknown between Mary Franklin's inheritance of it in 1893 and 1921, when Eugene A. Simpson acquired and immediately sold it to Clifford F. Chamberlain (1879–1967) (WCRD 2241/424, 2241/461). Chamberlain converted the house into two apartments and likely used it for rental income, while his family resided at 6 Charlton Street (STU.24). He worked as a clerk and merchant at his father's general store (283 Main Street, STU.38) and was married to Ethel E. Chamberlain (1884–1974). Clifford and Ethel's daughter, Winifred Chamberlain Tillyer (1909–2001), acquired the property from her parents and in 1993 transferred it to her daughter, Deborah T. Flavia (Ancestry.com 2011b, 2014; US Census 1930; WCRD 14973/8).

The house is currently a two-family residence owned by Kevin Hughes of Springfield, Massachusetts, who purchased the property from Laurie Paflumi in 2013 (Sturbridge Assessor 2013).

The Jared Lamb 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. Garage, 5-7 Charlton Street, looking northwest.