

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

209-02915-006 Southbridge STU.A STU.24
NRDIS 11/9/1977 STU.337

Town/City: Sturbridge

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

Photograph



Address: 6 Charlton Street

Historic Name: Alvan Bond House and Gifford Barn

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1821

Source: Levine 1971

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*): front and side porches with Doric columns and wings and rear addition, ca. 1840; rear addition, ca. 1868; remodeling including rear sunporch, 1969–1970; two-story barn addition, mid-20th century; vertical lift garage doors in barn, late 20th c.

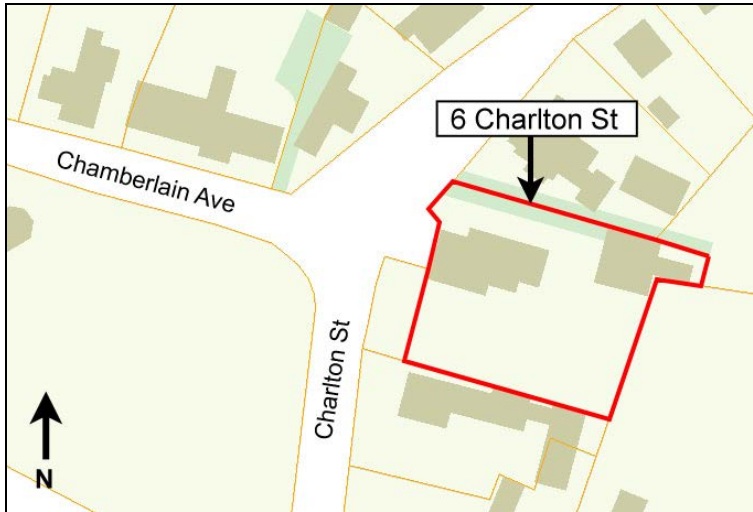
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .47 acres

Setting: The building occupies an approximately square lot on the east side of Charlton Street at the intersection of 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

6 CHARLTON STREET

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

STU.A

STU.24
STU.337 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 Alvan Bond House (ca. 1821, STU.24) is a west-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, three-bay, side-hall, wood-frame building with one-story, shed-roof rear additions on the north and south elevations and a one-story, gable-roof rear ell (constructed ca. 1840 and expanded ca. 1868) on the east elevation. A sunporch (1969–1970) is on the east elevation. The house has a stone foundation and a pedimented end-gable roof pierced by a wide rectangular brick chimney at the center of the ridgeline. A second brick chimney pierces the ridgeline of the rear ell. The walls are clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story, hip-roof porch, constructed ca. 1840, wraps around the west (facade) elevation and two bays of the north and south side elevations. The porch roof is supported by fluted Doric columns and has a wide entablature. The porch shelters the main entrance in the south bay of the facade, which has wood surrounds and a fanlight above a two-paneled, three-quarter-light door behind a storm door. A fan-shaped louvered opening is in the gable peak of the facade. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

The building was partially remodeled in 1969–1970, with work consisting primarily of interior alterations and the addition of a rear sunporch (Newcomb and Wilkin 1970).

Northeast of the house is the Gifford Barn (late 19th century, STU.337), accessed via a driveway on the north side of the house. The barn is a west-facing, astylistic, two-and-one-half-story, end-gable building with a full-width, two-story, shed-roof addition on the south elevation. The barn is clad with wood clapboards, has an asphalt-shingled roof, and contains two vertical-lift garage doors in the west elevation, likely installed in the late twentieth century. Fenestration consists of irregularly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash and eight-light fixed sash.

The Alvan Bond House is an excellent example of a Greek Revival-style house in Sturbridge.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Alvan Bond House (ca. 1821, STU.24) is in the center of Sturbridge and faces 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.

In 1821, trader Elisha Griswold sold trader Eli Wheelock the property, which at the time consisted of one-third of an acre with a new dwelling house and appurtenances (WCRD 223/516). Concurrently, Wheelock acquired 17 acres of adjoining land (WCRD 223/515, 519). The house may have been constructed for Alvan Bond, the town's minister at the time, who acquired the entire property from Wheelock two years later, in 1823 (WCRD 233/12). Bond resided at the property with his first wife, Sarah, who he married in 1821 (Levine 1971). He graduated from Andover seminary in 1819 and was called to serve as pastor at the Congregational Church in Sturbridge that same year. He left Sturbridge in 1831 to teach Sacred Literature at the Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine (Congregational Library & Archives 2018; Haynes 1910:269–30). Andover graduate Joseph S. Clark acquired the Charlton Street property from Bond (Levine 1971; Haynes 1910:30).

Joseph S. Clark (1801–1861) served as pastor of the Congregational Church in Sturbridge from 1831 to 1838. He gave the centennial address for the town's history, published in 1838 as *An Historical Sketch of Sturbridge, Mass.* After his dismissal from the church in 1838 due to ill health, Clark sold the property and three acres of land the following year to the Congregational Church's next pastor, David R. Austin. Austin (b. 1804) was married to Lucinda Austin, and the couple had two children. He served as pastor from 1839 to 1851, when he relocated to Norwalk, Connecticut (Amidown 1874:94–95; WCRD 42/463; US Census 1850; Haynes 1910:22).

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Elias Mann Gifford (1817–1895), a brick mason, acquired the property in 1855 (WCRD 55/129). He had married Caroline Hooker (1817–1894) in 1838, and the couple had three children: Elias Mann Jr., Rufus W., and Frederick (Find a Grave 2014; US Census 1860). After Elias Gifford's death, his son Rufus (1846–1921) acquired the property. Elias and Rufus Gifford are indicated as owners on the 1870 and 1898 maps, respectively. Rufus Gifford was an iron worker and married Emma Staples (1851–1919) in 1890; they did not have any children (Beers 1870; Richards 1898; Find a Grave 2014; US Census 1910).

Rufus Gifford sold the property in 1920 to Ethel Chamberlain (1884–1974), wife of Clifford F. Chamberlain (1879–1967). While the Chamberlains also owned 5 Charlton Street (STU.15), it is likely that 6 Charlton Street was their primary residence. Clifford Chamberlain was the son of Alvin B. Chamberlain, who owned a general store across the Common (283 Main Street, STU.38), and worked as a clerk and merchant at his father's store. Clifford and Ethel had one daughter, Winifred Chamberlain Tillyer (1909–2001), who was married to Richard L. Tillyer, an employee at Old Sturbridge Village in 1965 (Ancestry.com 2014; US Census 1930; WCRD 1920; Polk 1965:218).

The property was granted to Deborah T. Flavia, daughter of Richard and Winifred, in 1993 and remains in the Chamberlain-Tillyer family under a trust owned by Brian R. Flavia. The house is likely used as a rental unit (Sturbridge Assessor 2018).

The Alvan Bond House and Gifford Barn 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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Worcester County Registry of Deeds (WCRD). Book/Page (Year). 223/516 (1821); 223/515 (1821); 223/519 (1821); 233/12 (1823); 42/463 (1839); 553/129 (1855); 2234/107 (1920).

PHOTOGRAPH



Photo 2. Gifford Barn, 6 Charlton Street, looking southeast.