

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

209-02914-009 Southbridge STU.A STU.16
STU.336

NRDIS 11/9/1977

Town/City: Sturbridge

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

Photograph



Address: 9 Charlton Street

Historic Name: Merrick House and Cooper Barn

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: 1815–1825

Source: Levine 1971

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick, Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*): None

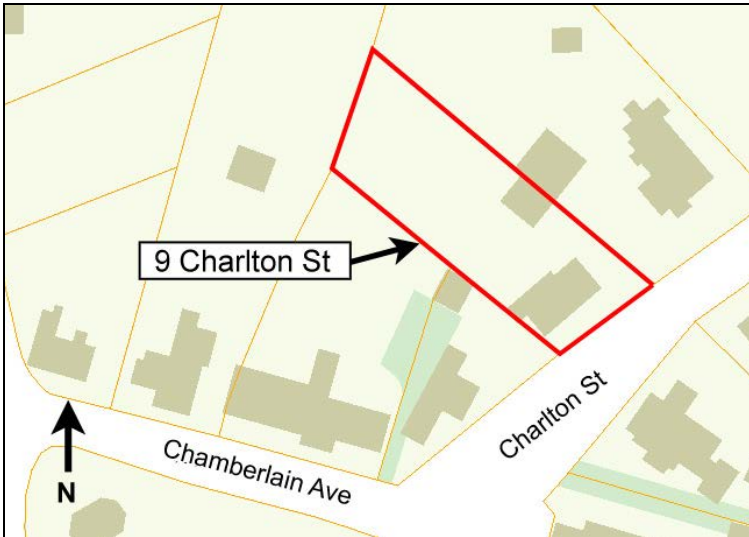
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .39 acres

Setting: The buildings occupy a roughly rectangular lot on the west side of Charlton Street. It is set slightly back from the street on a slight slope 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

9 CHARLTON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

STU.A

STU.16
STU.336 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 Merrick House (1815–1825, STU.16) is an east-facing, Federal-style, two-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a one-story, two-bay-by-two-bay side ell extending from the north elevation and a one-story, shed-roof addition along the west elevation. The building has a brick foundation and a side-gable roof. The ell has an exposed basement, slightly below the grade of the main house with evenly spaced windows in the east elevation and a secondary entrance in the west bay of the north elevation. A brick chimney pierces the ridgeline of the main block at the north end. A dry-laid stone retaining wall aligned with the junction between the main block and ell separates the grades of the front lawn. The walls are clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The entrance is in the center of the east elevation with wood door surrounds and a vertical board storm door. Fenestration consists of symmetrically spaced, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash.

The Cooper Barn (late nineteenth century, STU.336) is a one-story, side-gable building located northwest of the house. It is clad in vertical boards, covered with an asphalt-shingled roof, and has two overhead doors in the east elevation.

The Merrick House is a well-preserved example of a Federal-style house in Sturbridge.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Merrick House (1815–1825, STU.16) is in the center of Sturbridge and faces east onto Charlton Street, just north 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 Merrick House was constructed on land owned by Simeon Burt and Cyrus Merrick in 1822; the house, along with a barn to the southwest, was extant by 1825 (WCRD 216/44; Levine 1971). Burt and Merrick, both from Worcester, Massachusetts, also acquired a stagecoach line through Sturbridge in 1822 from David K. Porter (1784–1868), and the subject property may be associated with the stage line business (Nott 1918:1098). In 1825, the property was sold to Loren Merrick (1793–1859), Cyrus' first cousin once removed, who owned it until 1836, when Cyrus Merrick again owned it. The barn was no longer extant by 1836 (Levine 1971; WCRD 311/623). Merrick may have later used the property as a rental, as an 1845 deed from Cyrus Merrick to Charles N. Allen indicates it was leased to Melvin Haynes through April 1, 1846 (WCRD 406/104). Charles Allen (1815–1892) was a shoemaker who had learned the trade from his father, Simeon Allen (see Allen-Bachelor House, 12 Chamberlain Ave [STU.12]). He worked as a manager for the shoe factory on the Town Common owned by Elisha Southwick before opening his own shoe shop, likely located immediately south of 4 Charlton Street. Charles Allen lived at the property in 1850 with his first wife, Elizabeth Hooker (1816–1859), and their four children. By 1860 he had married Fidelia Maria White (1828–1903), sold 9 Charlton Street, and moved across the Common to the James Bachelor House, 4 Charlton Street (ca. 1836, STU.25) (US Census 1850, 1860; Corey 1910:231–233; Find a Grave 2014a). Francis A. Cooper (b. 1832) purchased 9 Charlton Street from Allen in 1858. Cooper was a shoe maker and lived at the property in 1860 and 1870 with his wife, Rebecca; daughter; and two boarders (WCRD 592/343; Beers 1870; US Census 1860).

Previous documentation indicated the property was owned and occupied by George S. Ladd, but deeds and historic maps indicate that Ladd's brother, John Edward Ladd, and sister-in-law, Sarah Elizabeth Ladd, owned and occupied it from 1896 to 1930, while George Ladd lived farther north on Charlton Street in what is now a Flood Management Area (Otten and Wilkin 1970; WCRD 1524/70; Richards 1898). John Ladd (1852–1908) owned and operated a die manufacturing shop, N. D. Ladd's Sons, with his brothers, George S. and Henry J., by 1899 (Meek 1899:301). Sarah Ladd (1855–1930) lived at 9 Charlton Street

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until her death, when her estate sold the property to Clifford Chamberlain, who then immediately sold it to Beatrice Williams (Find a Grave 2014b; WCRD 2528/434).

Beatrice Williams (1892–1962) was married to Charles T. Williams (b. 1889), the Sturbridge Town Clerk, and lived at the property until her death in 1962. Charles Williams subsequently sold the house in 1966 to Robert Chase. Vernon and June Otten purchased the property in 1968 from Chase, who by that time lived in Dover, New Hampshire (US Census 1940; WCRD 4674/509, 4864/17).

The property is currently owned through a trust by the Celluza family. Anthony and Janet Celluza purchased the property from the Ottens in 1975 (Sturbridge Assessor 2018).

The Merrick House and Cooper Barn were listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 9, 1977, as part of the Sturbridge Common Historic District.

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