

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

270-03415	North Brookfield		STU.245
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**Town/City:** Sturbridge

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 26 Farquhar Road

**Historic Name:** William R. Farquhar/ W. and M. Edwards House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1880, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century alterations

**Source:** Current owner, maps, deed research

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** 1940-1943, Old Sturbridge Corp.

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Fieldstone with brick above grade

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Horse and Cow Barns (mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, 28 Farquhar Rd)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

See Historical Narrative

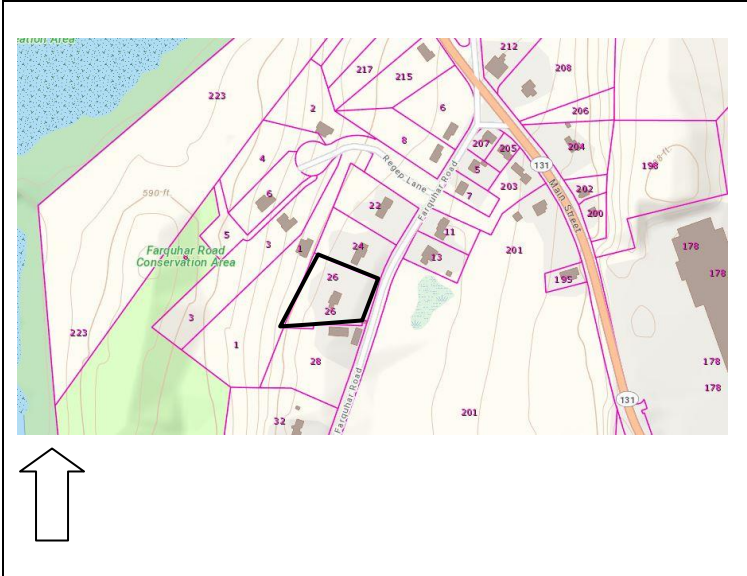
**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 1.29 acres

**Setting:** East-facing house is set back from the road and shaded by mature maple trees.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Bonnie Parsons, Shannon Walsh PVPC

**Organization:** Sturbridge Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): Oct. 2017 with corrections Dec. 2019

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

26 FARQUHAR ROAD

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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.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The *Farquhar/Edwards House* at 26 Farquhar Road (ca. 1880, STU.245) is a single family dwelling which was constructed around 1880 with substantial renovations around 1940, resulting in the current form and Colonial Revival style. It is two-and-a-half stories in height with a side-gabled, slate roof. It has clapboard siding and wood trim with two exterior, end-wall chimneys that rise through one-story wings at each side elevation. The main block of the house is three bays wide and proportions are large. There are 12/12 sash windows with cap lintels which fenestrate the façade. A centered entry surround has a dentilled pediment above a full entablature, resting on broad pilasters. The side-gabled wing on the south is a secondary entry wing with a door and single window with 12/12 sash on its façade. The north wing is a one-story, glass-enclosed porch with a shed roof.

Two former agricultural outbuildings related to this residence, the *George V. Corey Horse Barn* and the *George V. Corey Cow Barn*, built ca. 1850, remain in situ but are now part of an adjacent parcel, 28 Farquhar Road. (Photo 1, Figure 3) They have been heavily altered and were not researched further as part of this inventory form.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

### PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

This area previously contained the ca. 1790 residence of Dr. Jacob Corey Sr. (1754-1837), a physician and farmer, and his wife, Matilda W. Corey (1760-1835). Dr. Corey is referenced in an 1856 *Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge* as a dedicated physician who traveled to see patients on horseback, as well as being "very busy on his farm, among his workmen, in the garden, or among his fruit trees."<sup>1</sup> The Coreys are buried along with other family members in the *North Cemetery 44 Maple Street, (1790, STU.800)* in Sturbridge. The property was later owned by their son, George V. Corey (1800-1887) and his wife, Martha Corey (1813-1893) as illustrated by area maps of 1857 and 1870 which show a house owned by Corey on what was to become Farquhar Road and deeds that mention buildings on the property. (Figures 1, 2) Property ownership along Farquhar Road was not represented on labeled maps beyond 1870 as it is just outside of the town center and off of Main Street.

The *Farquhar/Edwards House* at 26 Farquhar Road, (1880, STU.245) was constructed within the 140 acres that William R. Farquhar (1821-1881) bought in 1879 from George and Martha Corey to create his own farm. At the time of the sale, the Dr. Jacob Corey Sr. House (valued at \$100) remained standing and a Horse Barn and Cow Barn erected circa 1850 by George V. Corey were also part of the property. By 1883, when the house was owned by William's wife, Janette I. Farquhar (born ca. 1824), the value is listed as \$1,200.<sup>2</sup>

William and Janette I. Farquhar, along with their children Isabella, William, Janette and Jane all resided on this property. William and his family had come to Southbridge from Scotland so that he could work as a supervisor at the Hamilton Woolen Mills. The economic depression, resulting from the Panic of 1873, led him to retire from the mill and purchase the Corey Farm to run with his son, William. William Farquhar, Sr. died in 1881. William Jr. ran the farm until his death in 1932. The farm remained in the family until 1933 and was known in town and in official records as the Farquhar Farm.

<sup>1</sup> "Dr. Jacob Corey," *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856. *Archive.org*, <https://archive.org/details/historicalskech00indavi/page/n3> accessed December 2019

<sup>2</sup> Based on research by current homeowner, Charles Blanchard, December 2019

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In 1933 Jane Farquhar sold the property to Dosithee Proulx (1873-1956) and Hermine N. Proulx (1870-1940). In the early 1900s, Dosithee was listed as a "spectacle maker" who was employed by the American Optical Company.<sup>3</sup> Dosithee and Hermine, both French Canadian emigrants, were living in Southbridge prior to purchasing this residence which became known as "Proulx Farm."

Property ownership changed hands again in 1939 when it was sold to Louis L. Gagnon (1898-1985), a patent attorney for the American Optical Company as well as an attorney for the Old Sturbridge Corporation, owned by Richard C. Paige (1907-1998). In 1940, Gagnon sold the property to the Old Sturbridge Corporation, which had also purchased the *Erasmus Babbit Inn* 277 Main Street (1772, STU.36, within STU.O and part of STU.A Sturbridge Common National Register Historic District). The Corporation bought up 514 total acres in Sturbridge that year and began dividing it off for sale.

In 1944, Paige moved to California and sold the *Erasmus Babbit Inn* (by then known as *The Publick House*) to the Treadway Corporation and the Farquhar property to his cousin, Wardwell Edwards (1881-1949) of Southbridge. Wardwell, owner of the Southbridge Coal Company, moved here with his wife Marion C. Edwards (born 1884). In 1967 Marion Edwards conveyed the property to her son, Jacob Edwards and his wife, Shirley Edwards.

### ALTERATIONS

In 1929, while the Farquhar family maintained ownership, alterations included the addition of central heat and the installation of a new chimney on the south end of the house. The *Farquhar/Edwards House* was substantially renovated between 1940 and 1943 to its current form, massing, and style by the Old Sturbridge Corporation. The alterations were done around the same time as those to the *Erasmus Babbit Inn*, which had become known as the *Elms Hotel* before it was purchased by Paige's corporation in 1938 and remodeled to become the *Publick House*. Many of the same materials and features used in the work on the *Publick House* were also used on the *Farquhar House*. Work completed around 1940 to this residence included the 12/12 sash windows with cap lintels, new clapboard siding, crown molding and trim, and the same front entry used for the *Publick House*. A south wing was added with a new kitchen, slate shingles were installed over the original wood shingled roof, and interior chimneys were removed. Additionally, an interior wall was removed to create a front to back living room with fireplace, an end wall chimney was added to match the one that was installed in 1929, and a back porch added. In 1949, a north wing sunporch was added to the residence along with a picture window at the rear of the living room. In 1959, the Edwards' son Jacob converted the horse barn (now at 28 Farquhar Road) into a single family dwelling and the cow barn (also at 28 Farquhar Road) into a nursing home which was run by his wife, Shirley. The former horse barn was later converted into a two family residence and the nursing home was turned into apartments. Recent alterations to the *Farquhar/Edwards House* include 2012 vinyl replacement windows on the sunporch and sides of the picture window and a covered upper deck and open lower deck in 2013, replacing the 1940s back porch.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

#### Maps

L. J. Richards & Co. "Charlton & Dudley & Southbridge & Sturbridge." Plate 021, *New Topographical Atlas of Worcester County Massachusetts*. 1898. *Ward Maps LLC* (site). Accessed July 2017, <http://www.wardmaps.com/viewasset.php?aid=12391>

Bailey, O. H. & Co. Bird's eye view *Sturbridge and Fiskdale*, Massachusetts, 1892.

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/116152>

Beers, F. W. *Plan of Towns of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, 1870.

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Walling, H. F. *Map of Worcester County*, Wm. E. Baker, Boston, 1857.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2012592355/>

#### Primary Sources and Secondary Sources

Chase, Nelly M. *Photograph Album*, Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge.

Blanchard, Charles (current owner of 26 Farquhar Road) via email October through December 2019.

<sup>3</sup> "Proulx, Dosithe," *United States Federal Census*, 1900 and *Southbridge Directory*, 1912, *Ancestry.com*

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Burns, Brian. *Sturbridge: A Pictorial History*, Norfolk, 1988.  
Clark, Joseph. *Historical Sketch of Sturbridge, Massachusetts*, Brookfield, Massachusetts, 1838.  
Corey, Charles F. "Old Houses in Sturbridge" Quinebaug Historical Society Leaflets, vol.1, no. 5, 1900.  
Davis, George. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, West Brookfield, 1856.  
Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts*, vol. 1, Philadelphia 1889.  
Izard, Holly. *Old Houses of Sturbridge*, scrapbook, n.d., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge.  
Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Report, "Sturbridge"*, typescript, 1984  
Sturbridge Archived Building Records (researched December 2019 by Charles Blanchard)

## Digital Resources

[www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) for federal censuses 1790-1940 and Massachusetts State Censuses 1855, 1865.

*Archive.org* (see footnotes)

<https://dp.la/> Digital Public Library of America

*FindaGrave.com*

*Genealogybank.com*

[www.masslandrecords.com](http://www.masslandrecords.com) for deeds



Photo 1: Eastern portion of 26 Farquhar Road showing the two former barn outbuildings (now at 28 Farquhar Road). Camera facing south.

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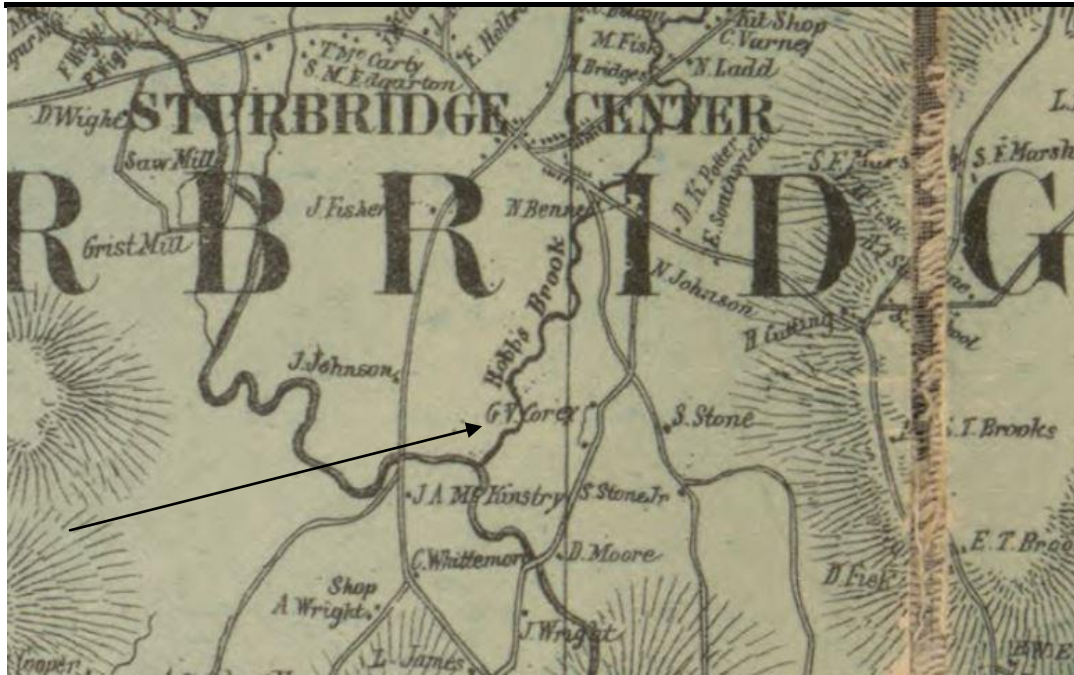


Figure 1: 1857 Map showing G. V. Corey Property

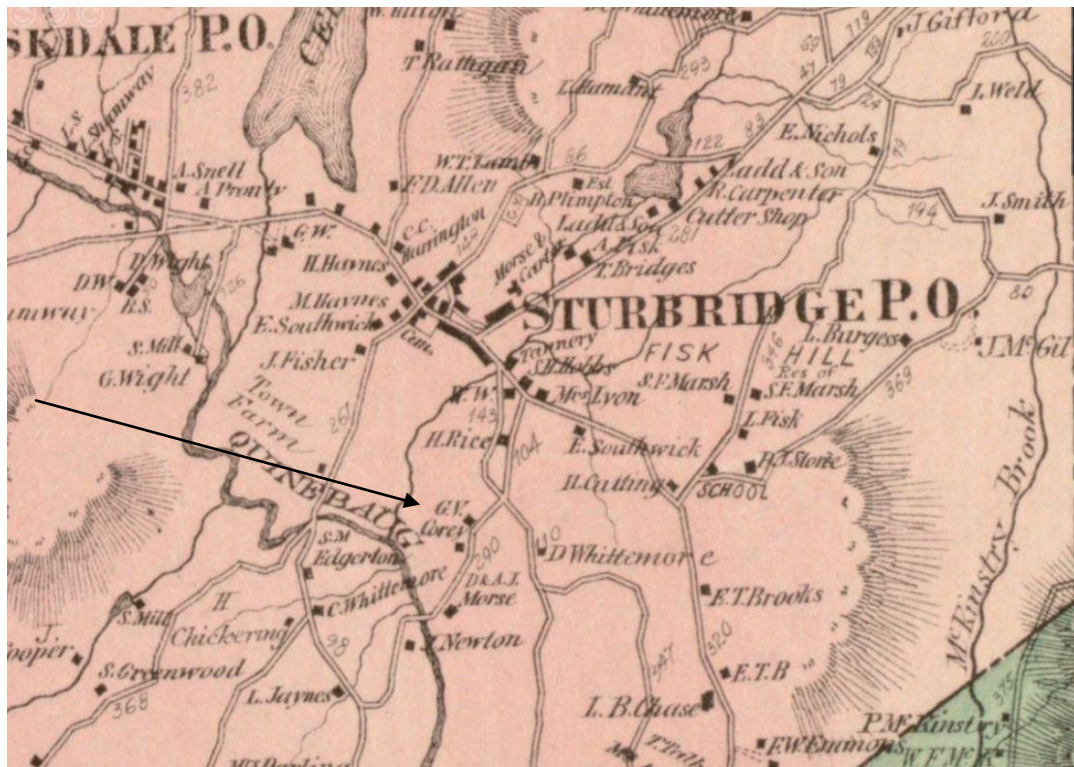


Figure 2: 1870 Map showing G. V. Corey property

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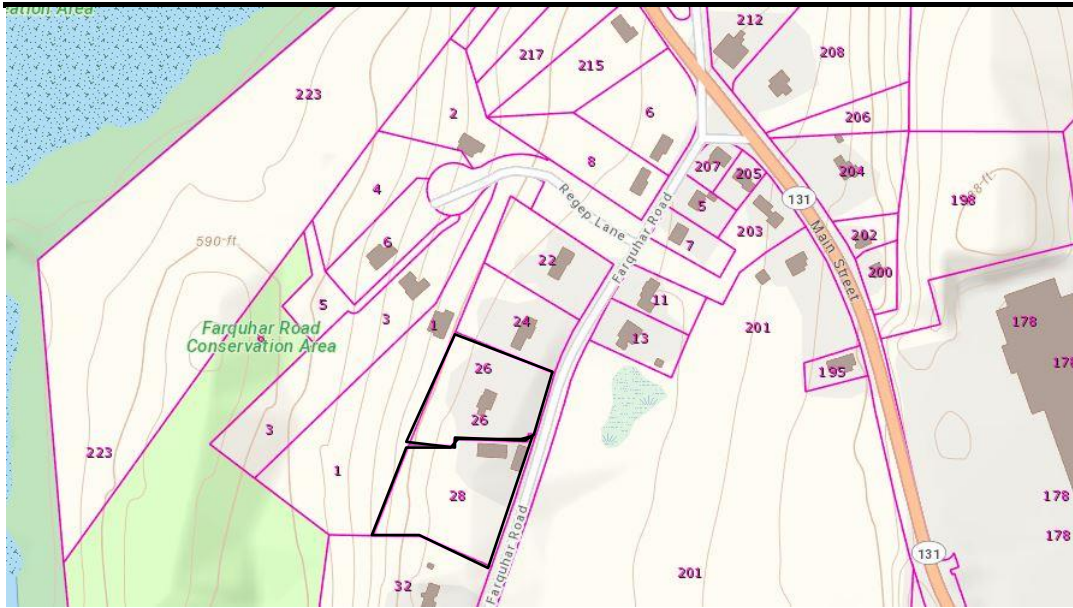


Figure 3: Map of current parcels with residence at 26 Farquhar Road and former outbuildings at 28 Farquhar Road.