

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02925-260 Southbridge STU.A STU.30
NRDIS 11/9/1977

Town/City: Sturbridge

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

Photograph



Address: 260 Main Street

Historic Name: Dr. Jacob Corey House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling
Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: 1805–1815

Source: Levine 1971

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Asbestos Shingle/Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Attached Barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*): asbestos siding, early 20th century; vinyl sash, late 20th century

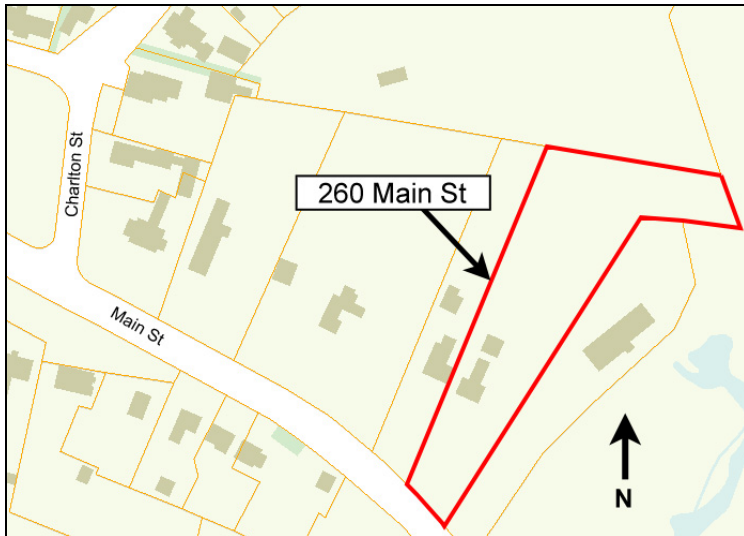
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.7 acres

Setting: The building occupies a large, roughly rectangular lot on the north side of Main Street in a mostly residential neighborhood east of the Sturbridge Town Common. It is on a sand bluff in the southern half of the parcel, overlooking Main Street.

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

260 MAIN STREET

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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 Dr. Jacob Corey House (1805–1815, STU.30) is a south-facing, Federal-style, two-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a one-and-one-half-story rear ell and attached barn on the north elevation that are not visible from the public way. The house has a stone foundation and a side-gable roof with a molded cornice and cornice returns. The roof is pierced by a brick chimney at the east end. The walls are clad with asbestos shingles, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story, full-width porch with a hip roof supported by round columns and carved brackets shelters a center entrance that contains a 12-light wood door. A bay window is west of the entrance. Fenestration consists of symmetrically spaced, six-over-six, double-hung wood and vinyl replacement windows.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Dr. Jacob Corey House (1805–1815, STU.30) is in the center of Sturbridge, east 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).

Dr. Jacob A. Corey (1754–1837) was a physician in Sturbridge for over 60 years and studied under Dr. John Frink of Rutland, Vermont. He married Matilda Walker (1760–1830) in 1779, and the couple had nine children (Find a Grave 2014a, Davis 1856:55). In 1801, Corey purchased approximately 23 acres of land from three Roxbury, Massachusetts, men: Joseph and Nathaniel Ruggles and Benjamin Quick (WCRD 143/171). According to Old Sturbridge Village scholar Hebert Levine, Dr. Corey did not immediately build a house on the land but a house (presumably 260 Main Street) was extant by 1815. By 1825, Corey had subdivided most of the property into smaller lots, including 262 and 272 Main Street (STU.29 and 27, respectively) (Levine 1971).

Dr. Jacob Corey Jr. (1788–1841) inherited the property from his father. In 1813, he married Mary Haines Bullock (1781–1871), the widow of Benjamin Bullock (d. 1812). The couple had three children: Eliza, Jacob A., and Charlotte (Find a Grave 2014b, Corey 1900:64). The 1857 and 1870 maps show Mrs. Corey, Dr. Corey Jr.'s widow, at both 260 Main Street and the current 266 Main Street, two houses to the west. In 1870, Mrs. Corey lived on Main Street with her daughter from her first marriage, Mary Bullock (b. 1810), and Rebecca Walton (b. 1857) (Walling 1857; Beers 1870; US Census 1870).

In 1897, the house was owned by Francis L. Chapin and Calvin D. Paige of Southbridge, who improved the house during their ownership (Richards 1898; Corey 1900:64). Phoebe Maria Lee of Wayland, Massachusetts, purchased the property from Paige and Chapin in 1898. In March 1910, Lee left the property to the Congregational Home Missionary Society, which sold it to Solon Smith of Sturbridge in November 1910 (Ancestry.com 2011; WCRD 1594/608, 1948/169).

Solon Smith (1845–1925) likely rented the property in 1910 before purchasing it. He worked as a farm laborer and lived with his wife, Cora (1862–1938), and their two children, Mabel F. and Homer T. (US Census 1910; Ancestry.com 2014). After Solon's death, Cora remained in the house and rented a portion of it to Robert Edmonson, an automobile salesman from England, and his family (US Census 1930). The property passed to the Smith's children after Cora's death. By 1940, Homer Smith (1900–1988) and his family lived at 260 Main Street, and Mabel Smith Edgar (1894–1946) lived with her husband, Robert Edgar, in Springfield. Homer Smith worked for the Snell Manufacturing Company; he and his wife, Viola, had four children (US Census 1940, Manning 1949). In 1948, Mabel's widower, Robert, transferred his share of the Sturbridge property to Homer and Viola Smith (Find a Grave 2014c; WCRD 3103/56). The Smiths and their heirs owned the property until 1994, when Linda Wright acquired it. The present owners—Juanita, David, and Richard Kenderian—purchased the property from Wright in 2013 (Sturbridge Assessor 2018).

The Dr. Jacob Corey 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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