

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02925-262 Southbridge STU.A STU.29  
NRDIS 11/9/1977

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 262 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Deacon George Davis House

**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: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage, built 1989

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): enclosed porch, mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> c; vinyl windows, late 20<sup>th</sup> c.

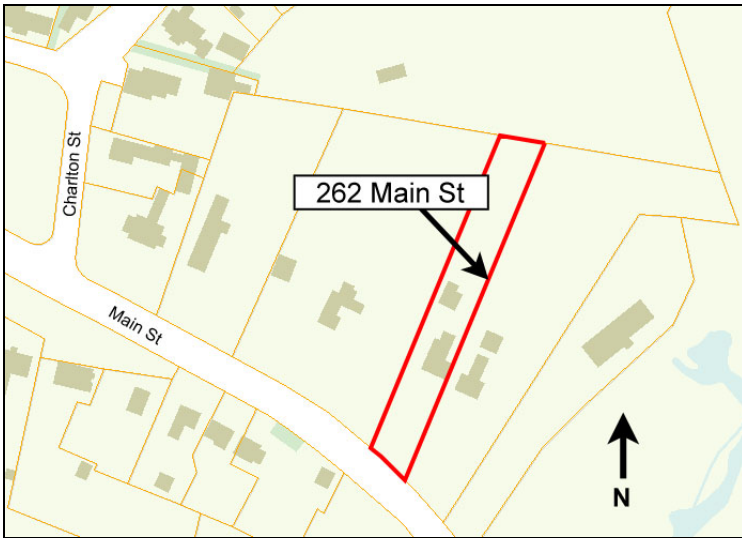
**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .63 acres

**Setting:** The building occupies a long 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

262 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 Deacon George Davis House (1815–1825, STU.29) is a south-facing, Federal-style, two-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a one-story ell on the north elevation. The house has a stone foundation and a hip roof with a rectangular brick center chimney. The walls are clad with wood clapboard, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has a molded cornice and wood corner boards with low pilasters that have decorative urn moldings on the south (facade) elevation. The main entrance is in the center of the south elevation and consists of a six-panel wood door beneath a four-light transom flanked by wood pilasters like those on the corner boards. A one-story, enclosed porch runs along the west elevation of the rear ell and shelters a secondary entrance. Fenestration consists of symmetrically spaced, 12-over-8, double-hung, vinyl replacement sash with projecting sills and moldings.

A non-historic garage (1989) northwest of the house is a one-story, three-bay building with an asphalt-shingled, side-gable roof and vertical board walls.

The Deacon George Davis House is a well-preserved example of a Federal-style house in Sturbridge.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Deacon George Davis House (1815–1825, 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).

In 1801, Dr. Jacob A. Corey purchased approximately 23 acres of vacant land, including the site of 262 Main Street, from three Roxbury, Massachusetts, men: Joseph and Nathaniel Ruggles and Benjamin Quick (see Dr. Jacob Corey House, 260 Main Street [1805–1815, STU.30]) (WCRD 143/171). Between 1815 and 1825, Deacon George Davis (1782–ca. 1870) had the house at 262 Main Street constructed; no deed was located for the sale of the property to Davis (Levine 1971). Prior to living at the subject property, Davis and his wife lived at 10 Charlton Street (STU.23). Davis was a deacon of the Congregational Church, a lawyer, and a judge in the petty courts. He had a small office in front of the barn at 266 Main Street (STU.28), which was moved to the rear of the barn by 1900. Davis wrote *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, published in 1856. He and his wife, Sophia, died by 1870 (Burns 1984:21; Corey 1900:65; Newcomb and Wilkin 1970).

By 1870, Ephraim Burr (1814–1888) owned the house (Beers 1870). Burr worked at a shoe factory (likely the one on the Common owned by Elisha Southwick; see Joshua Hyde Public Library, 306 Main Street [STU.11]) and was married to Celia Burr (b. 1814). The couple lived with their son, George W. Burr; their daughter, Eliza A. Jaynes (1836–1908); and her husband, George A. Jaynes (1840–1902) (alternately spelled Janes). George Burr and George Jaynes also worked at a shoe factory (US Census 1870; Ancestry.com 2011; Find a Grave 2013, 2014). By 1900, George and Eliza Jaynes had moved to Somerville, Massachusetts, with their daughter Flora (b. 1870) and her husband, Franklin Plimpton (b. 1867), and rented the Sturbridge property to Clarinda Allen (US Census 1900). In 1911, the heirs of Ephraim Burr, including Flora Plimpton, sold the property to Charlotte R. F. Ladd, wife of George S. Ladd (WCRD 1988/443; Find a Grave 2014). The Ladds appear to have continued to use it as a rental property. The 1920 federal census lists Ohio University professor Charles Sheard (b. 1884) and his family as tenants (US Census 1920).

Harold R. Moulton (b. 1897) and his wife, Ruth (b. 1897), purchased the property from Albert Freeman in 1927 (WCRD 2453/295). Moulton, a chemist at the American Optical Company, lived at the property in 1930 with his wife, son, and a foster child (US Census 1930). James O'Hara (b. 1875), a finisher at a print company, and his wife, Evelyn O'Hara (b. 1886), purchased the property from the Moultons in 1934 (WCRD 2618/225). In 1940, the O'Haras lived at the property with their daughter, Margie Knight; her husband, Howard Knight; and the Knights' daughter Nancy (US Census 1940).

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In 1972, Emma G. Doyle inherited the property from Evelyn O'Hara. In 1980, Doyle sold the property to John L. Hanson (WCRD 7027/273). The Hanson family currently owns the property through a trust (Sturbridge Assessor 2018).

The Deacon George Davis 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, 262 Main Street, looking northeast.