

(Attach photo here)

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

AK
3630
24 (39)

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Town Sturbridge

Street address Main St. (Route 131)

1. Is this building historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Name Publick House; formerly "The Elms"

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

Use: original & present Inn

- Scholar
- Agriculture
- Art/Sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Commerce/industry
- Science/invention
- Travel/communication
- Military Affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Other

Present owner Restaurant Associates of N.Y.C.

Open to public Yes

Date 1772 Style Colonial

Source of date Records of Worcester Co.

Development of town/city
Architectural reason for inventorying:

Architect Unknown - Restorer; James Britten

B 1, 5, 12, 14

OR part of Area # A 1-2 (Common)

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Stone

WALL COVER: Wood Clapboard Brick Stone Other

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Old bar, now connected to main bldg;

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 at side entrance PORTICO 3-storey New bldg, attached to w. side of barn Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament

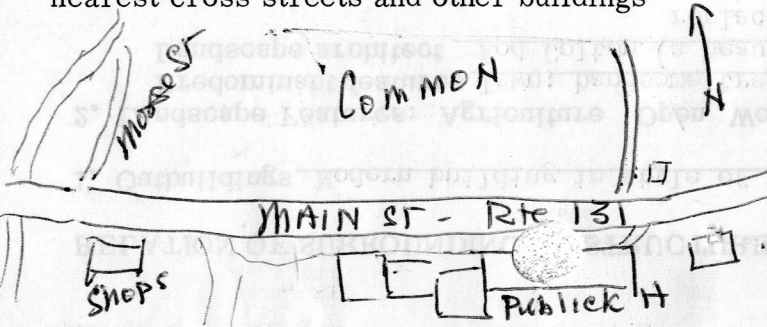
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: Door front, with moulding & pediment

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 12x12, main bldg

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street
Property has _____ feet frontage on street



Recorder Henry S. Wilken
For Sturbridge Historical Commission

Photo # 36 Date Feb. 6, 1971

2 extra photos: 36bzc-
SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

- 1. Outbuildings Modern building in style of the inn (for 2 shops) by parking lot behind
- 2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
 Predominant features lawn; handsome trees; tall clipped hedges & lilac edging bldg.
 Landscape architect Rod Colton (a beautiful job, c. 1939, since well kept up --
replacement of dying elms by good-size transplants, etc.)
- 3. Neighboring Structures
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern (c. 1905, replacement of old house)

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form) This building dominating south side of Common (front lawn actually is Common) is of prime importance because of:

- 1. Age. ^{Center} Chimney says 1771, a rel. recent marking. Mrs. ^{Haynes} Keeney, who has done re-search in Worcester and here for bicentennial of the inn, has established date of 1772.
- 2. Architectural excellence, brilliantly restored and enhanced, late 30's, after long period of deterioration following stage-coach days. Interior includes panelling, wide floor-boards, ceiling beams, fireplaces (notably very large brick one in Tap Room, presumably original kitchen). Panelling in Pumpkin Room (now a shop) to r. of entrance came from Schumway House on Holland Rd., which also contributed panelling to Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Ballroom, arched ceiling, 2nd floor
- 3. Historical Associations a. Most famous proprietor: Col. Ebenezer Crafts (1740-1810), Revolutionary soldier & prominent citizen; founder of Leicester Academy and, in later life, of Craftsbury Common and of academy there.
 b. Most famous guest: Lafayette
- 4. Economic importance a. In early days as coach stop en route from Boston to Springfield, also to Hartford & N.Y. Also, as center for sale of produce. (2)
 b. Now, as major tourist attraction. Not many rooms, but very heavily attended restaurants, bar, & shops.

Provere. H. of Boston
Interior decorated

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Chase, Nellie M., "Sturbridge of the Past," Sturbridge, 1738 - 1938, Bicentennial Souvenir Program.

Cochran, John M., "Col. Ebenezer Crafts," Quinabaug Historical Society Leaflets, vol. 1, no. 14, 1900.

Corey, Charles V. "Old Houses in Sturbridge," Ibid, no. 5

Holmes, Phila P. "Old Inns and Taverns in Sturbridge," Ibid., vol. III, no. 4, 1914.

Davis, George, A Historical Sketch of Southbridge and Sturbridge, 1855 (Ch. on Centre Village, also section on Col. Crafts)

For old photographs, see Joshua Hyde Public Library (albums of Miss Emily Haynes); also private owners as Mrs. Samuel Sheard, Frank Haynes, etc.

RESTRICTIONS

Zoning Law of April, 1965

Original Owner: Erasmus Babbit (& see survey form, no. 17 Sheard House)

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds



North facade, main building.
10/24/70

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town

STURBRIDGE

Property Address

MAIN ST

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

Area(s)

A

Form No.

36

