

P1 8
USGS SOUTH
SECTION A

101

In Area no. <u>(F)</u>	Form no. <u>102</u>
---------------------------	------------------------

SSION
ston



1. Town Sturbridge

Address Off Fiske Hill Road

Name Westwell Residence

Present use Residence - for Mrs W,
also for daughter & son-in-law,
Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Mangold of Worcester

Present owner Gertrude Westwell
(Mrs. James)

3. Description:

Date c. 1815-17 like the Brogans' ?? ^{or ?} 1846

Source Tradition / Mrs Chase - May 20
1938 in Southbridge
Press

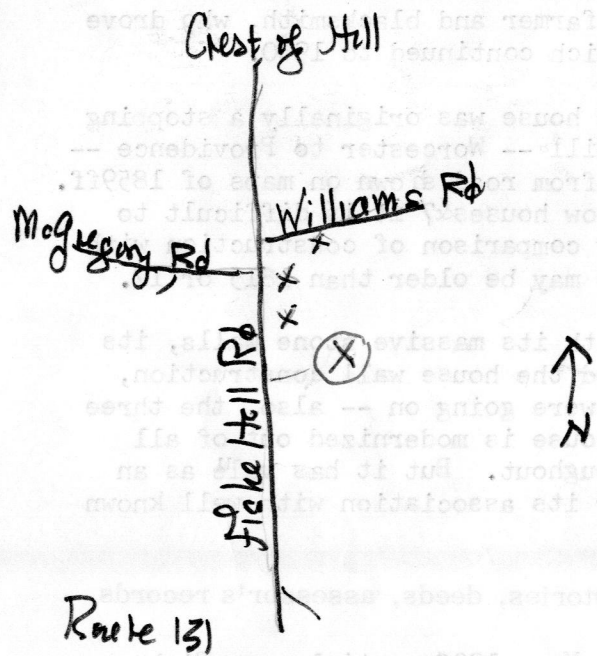
Style Federal - rural - ridge roof, center
Philemon Shepherd, son of chimney type

Architect built by Jack Shepherd, a
carpenter

Exterior wall fabric clapboard, veneer
brick front

Outbuildings (describe) taken down or fallen
down -- barn, chicken coops, etc.

Other features _____



over the years &
Altered V. extensively Date 1973

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre 24 ACRES X

Approximate frontage No frontage on st, but
entrance drive from F. Hill Rd

Approximate distance of building from street
500 ft. ?

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Helen S. Within

Organization Sturbridge Historical Com.

Date Nov. 24, 1973

RECEIVED

(over)

JUN 7 1974

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) Philemon Shepard :

Original use Farmhouse

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence, c. 1923 ff

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural x	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u>x</u>
Architectural x	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	<u>x</u>
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This place, though not farmed under present ownership of 50 years, until only a few years ago had over a hundred acres. It was perhaps originally one of the Leonard Places. (Zenas Leonard, an early minister at Baptist Meeting House on the hill, died c. 1840.) Joseph Elvin thought so, but 1857 county map shows Emmons here with a house very nearby marked Leonard. Certainly the Emmons family long lived here; the father was a retired minister called "Priest" Emmons, and his wife was a daughter of the Zenas Leonard mentioned above. Later, the house was owned by Jim George, a farmer and blacksmith, who drove stage -- Southbridge to Palmer, a service which continued to 1900.

The family of present owner believe the house was originally a stopping place for the old stages that ran over the hill -- Worcester to Providence -- but, admittedly too small for an inn and far from road shown on maps of 1859ff. (Earlier maps, as of 1795 and 1831 do not show houses & it is difficult to judge placing of road.) They also think, by comparison of construction with that of buildings in other areas, that house may be older than 1815 or 17.

Certainly now, except for the cellar with its massive stone walls, its hand-hewn beams, and its chimney support, and the house wall construction, as ^{wide}pegged studding visible when alterations were going on -- also, the three fireplaces around a center chimney -- this house is modernized out of all recognition, put in excellent condition throughout. But it has value as an example of sturdy early construction and for its association with well known local families.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- Chase, Nellie, article in Southbridge Press, May, 1938: articles on Fiske Hill History
- Hurd, D. Hamilton - compiler - History of Worcester County, Mass., pub'd 1889; "Sturbridge," Ch. XVI, by Levi B. Chase
- Elvin, Joseph B. Brooks Family of Fisk Hill, typescript in library at O.S.V. See map and scattered comments.

County Maps: 1857, 1875, 1898

Mrs Chase says Emmons bought the house from Philemon Shepard (like his father Jacob, a carpenter who had built it but sold to move to Ohio.