

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sturbridge Center

AND/OR COMMON

Sturbridge Common Historic District (use for publication)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street (Route 131) between Hall Road and I-86 overpass

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sturbridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Massachusetts

VICINITY OF  
CODE

01566

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE

027

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☒ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Multiple

CITY, TOWN

Sturbridge

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts, 01566

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

STATE

Massachusetts, 01608

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1970 and 1971

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts, 02116

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT      ☐ DETERIORATED  
☒ GOOD            ☐ RUINS  
☐ FAIR             ☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☒ MOVED      DATE 1860s

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sturbridge Common District comprises 138.15 acres of property surrounding and leading up to the town common. The district's east-west axis runs along Main Street (Route 131) from Hall Road to the overpass of I-86. The properties on the west side of Haynes Street are included, and along both sides of Maple Street. Along Charlton Street, all properties are included up to Taft Street. The eastern boundary is the westerly side of Hall Road. The north-south boundaries coincide with the properties involved. The proposed district's surrounding neighborhood consists of I-86 to the west, a modern hotel and restaurant to the southwest, marshland on both sides of Hobbs Brook to the south and east, contemporary housing and a large cemetery to the north.

At the time the town was incorporated in 1738, the Common became the site of the Meeting House and burying ground. The Common later developed into a center of commerce because of the roads which converge here. The original six acre site of the Town Common remains intact.

The district is composed of 47 buildings which include public buildings such as the Town Hall (1838), and Joshua Hyde Library (1896), the Federated Church (1922), the Publick House (1722), residences, commercial structures, and five intrusions. All of the houses within the proposed historic district are of clapboard or shingle construction, except the town-owned properties (Center Office Building, Town Hall, and Joshua Hyde Library) which are built of brick. There are examples of a wide range of compatible styles in the area, although the largest periods of construction occurred during the Federal and Greek Revival periods.

The Oliver B. Wight House (#3) faces southeast on Main Street toward the Common. It is a 2-story Greek Revival double house built c.1835. Between the two houses is a connecting shed which has been converted to a kitchen. The two houses are ridge roofed and of clapboard, painted blue. Each house has a center chimney. The foundation is fieldstone. The present entrance is a porch between the two houses. There is also a porch on the rear of the south house. The gable pediment of the south house contains an oval with molding. Fenestration is 6/6 in the north house, and large replacement panes in the south house. An original shed is now used as a two car garage.

The Town Hall (#4) faces south toward Main Street. It is a red brick building built in 1838 and enlarged in 1859 by a second story and addition of 16 feet to the rear. The 2-story, slate ridge roof structure was altered to its present appearance in 1910. The foundation is granite. A wide molded entablature crowns the building. The gable end facade has a full portico with 4 Ionic columns supporting the triangular pediment with a round window at its center. Four flat pilasters define the three bays. Double entrance doors are flanked by blind arched 8/8 windows. Above the door is a triple window flanked by two double 6/6 windows. The second story windows are tied together by a granite stringcourse. The east and west elevations show 6/6 fenestration, with 8 regularly placed windows on each elevation. The rear entrance is covered by a porch.

The Purdey House (#5) faces southeast on Maple Street. The 1½ story farmhouse was built in 1835-45, with an extension to the rear added sometime later. The ridge roof, end

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chimney structure sits on a stone foundation. The house was recently sheathed with aluminum siding. Fenestration is 8/8 throughout. The two bay wide assymetrical facade shows a wide entablature and two 8/8 gable dormers. A center entrance is flanked by two windows on each side. Both gable end elevations have open cornice returns. The attached barn is now used as a garage. The house is a guest house.

The Dr. H.M. Locke House (#6) faces southeast on Maple Street. Built c.1830-40, the 1½ story ridge roof structure has an end chimney and sits on a stone foundation. It is sheathed in white clapboards. Fenestration is 6/6. There is a projecting enclosed entry porch on the facade flanked by two windows on each side. The south elevation has a one story wing and a large flat-roofed enclosed porch with windows. An ell to the rear connects with a large three story barn and attached shed.

The D.P. Wight House (#7) faces northwest toward Maple Street. It is a two story, gable roof center chimney house built in 1868. The foundation is brick. The white clapboard house has wide corner boards and a wide, flat entablature with overhanging cornice and gable end returns. The facade includes a flat roof open entry porch supported by two columns and flanked by two bay windows. The second story windows are framed by their architraves alone. The north elevation has a bay window in the east end, a flat roof two story ell with an entry porch at the first story, and a series of six windows in the overhanging second story. The ell connects to a barn with an attached shed.

The Parsonage (#8) faces west toward Maple Street. Built in 1869, the structure resembles its neighbor to the north. It too has a two bay wide facade, a wide entablature and wide corner boards, and a double arched window in the gable. The exterior walls of the two story center chimney house are of clapboards painted white. The symmetrical facade has a north end open entry porch with two pilasters supporting the triangular pedimented roof. The 6/6 windows are framed by a protruding flat lintel and molded cornice. The southern elevation has two 6/6 windows on each floor and a one story enclosed entry porch to the rear with a flat roof and triple windows. There is a barn with triangular pedimented gables to the rear. The main building has always been used as the parsonage for the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale.

The Morse House (#9) faces west and is the only house on Morse Street. Built c. 1870, its style is an example of the transition between Greek Revival and Italianate. The two story, L-shaped clapboarded house has a cross gable roof and center brick chimney. Each gable contains an arched window. Fenestration is 2/2 throughout. The foundation is of stone and brick. Three wooden steps lead to a flat roofed enclosed entry porch. The front door contains oval glass inserts. Original gingerbread has been removed from the facade gable, and a wing was added to the rear of the structure in 1975.

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The Federated Church (#10) sits on a rise and acts as a visual focal point for its portion of the Common. Facing south toward Main Street, the present church was built in 1922. It replaced a 1784 Congregational Church which burned to the ground in 1908. The Classical Revival Federated Church is white clapboarded with a ridge roof and concrete foundation. The three bay facade has a triangularly pedimented portico supported by four Corinthian columns. In the center of the clapboarded pediment is a circular, 9 paned window. Stone steps lead to double six panel doors headed by a wide entablature and broken pediment. The entrance is flanked by 12/12 windows with wide entablature and protruding cornice. The three second story windows are 8/8 framed by molded architraves. The west elevation has a circular window with nine lights in the intersecting gable. The south end bay contains one 12/12 and three 8/8 windows, each with a continuous panel beneath. The protruding center bay contains 6/9 single and double windows on the first floor, and single and double 8/12 windows on the second. A one story wing on the eastern elevation has double 8/12 windows and a steeply pitched roof. There is a rear entrance porch. The church spire rests on an octagonal louvered bell tower containing a carillon and a Paul Revere bell. Each of the four sides of the steeple beneath the belfry contains a clock framed by Doric pilasters and headed by a triangular pediment.

The Joshua Hyde Library (#11) is located at a right angle to the Federated Church and faces west. It completes the group of public buildings in the northern hilly section of the Common. The yellow brick building with granite foundation was built in 1896 in the Georgian Revival style. The slate tiled hip roof is topped by a copper covered octagonal cupola with arched, louvered openings and a balustrade. A dentiled entablature and modillioned cornice ornament the eaves. Fenestration is arched windows with flat granite lintels and granite arches with a connecting granite band above. The entrance portico is supported by two Tuscan end columns, and two freestanding Doric columns with a round boss in the entablature above each column. The projecting triangular pediment is richly ornamented with Baroque molding around the oculus. The interior of the library retains beautifully panelled wainscoting, turned balusters along the balcony on 2½ walls, ceilings bordered by molded oak beams, and fine light oak finish work.

Facing south onto Chamberlain Street is the Bachelor-Davis House (#12). This 2 story brown clapboarded house has a gable roof and two chimneys. Built c.1800, the original one-room house had two ells added c.1830. The foundation is stone. Fenestration is 6/6 throughout. The southern facade entrance is a four panel door headed by five lights and framed by fluted pilasters and a dentiled cornice. A two story porch has been added to the rear.



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Chamberlain House (#13) is a Federal style house built in the 1820's. It is a two story clapboarded building distinguished by a Palladian window in the triangular pedimented gable of the facade. The east end entrance is framed by flat pilasters and a projecting cornice over a delicate fanlight. A one story ridge roofed ell with an end chimney extends from the western elevation and contains a summer kitchen. Fenestration is 6/6 throughout.

Corey Block (#14) is a series of connected buildings, the core of which is an 1825 Federal house. This center portion has a round window in the triangularly pedimented gable and a fanlight above the door. The two story block is sheathed in clapboards and has a slate tile ridge roof with four chimneys. There are two one story open porches with balusters on the west end facade. The block originally contained stores. It now houses four apartments.

The following face east toward Charlton Street:

Franklin House (#15) was originally built in approximately 1790 as a one family house, and has been owned by the Chamberlain family continuously. It is a white clapboarded late Federal building with a slate ridge roof and two chimneys. There is a round window in the gable on the facade. The entrance to the original house is a door with fan above, framed by pilasters and a protruding cornice. The center entrance in the southern wing is of a later period and is covered by a triangular pediment supported by brackets. The building presently houses two apartments.

Ladd House (#16) is a red clapboarded Federal style structure built c.1800 with a red barn c.1820. The two story ridge roof house has a north end chimney, a shed roof ell to the north and a shed attached to the southern elevation. The main entrance is in the center of the simple and symmetrical facade. There are entrances to the shed and to the ell. Fenestration is 6/6.

Corey House (#17) stands on the site of the Corey-Bullock House (c.1820) which burned in 1929. The extant barn is marked 1800. The present house, built in 1929, is a white clapboard 2½ story "Dutch Colonial" with gambrel roof. The foundation is field-stone. There are entry porches on the facade and on the southern elevation. Both entrances have double French doors.

Warner House (#18) is a two story white clapboard Federal style farmhouse built in 1810. The five bay facade has a center door with fanlight and projecting cornice. There are entrances on both the north and south elevations and a louvered fan in both elevation

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gables. Fenestration in the main house is 6/6 on the second story, 1/1 on the first. A 1½ story ell extends from the rear and includes a shed and barn. The interior is of special interest; it has murals depicting scenes of ships, houses, a windmill, trees. These monochrome scenes have deteriorated with age. At one time they were covered by wallpaper. The interior corner posts are indicative of plank construction.

Isaac Childs House (#19) faces east on Taft Street. Built in 1792-93, the house originally sat in the midsection of the new part of North Cemetery. Moved to its present location during the 1860's, it remains one of the oldest houses in Sturbridge. The 1½ story red clapboard house has a gambrel roof and central chimney. Fenestration is 6/6. A porch was added to the rear c.1933.

The following face west on Charlton Street:

Pelton House (#21) was built c.1830 and has been little altered. It is a two story ridge roof green clapboard structure with a central chimney. The five bay facade shows 6/6 lights on the first floor and 3/3 on the second. Four of the five upstairs windows have been clapboarded over. The front door shows sidelights and a molded cornice.

*Otis Weimer*  
Alvin Chamberlain House (#22) was originally built as a shop in the early 19th century. The entire building was extended in the mid 1900's, and since that time it has been remodeled so that it retains none of its original appearance. It is a 1½ story grey shingled structure with a center chimney, as well as a large chimney added to the facade. The basement, which was once a shoe shop, contains small wooden rooms and large exposed beams.

V.L. Jackson House (#24) is a white clapboard Greek Revival house built c.1839. There is a round window in the gable on the facade, and a large enclosed three bay wide porch with a south end entrance. The south elevation has a one story shed at its eastern end. The northern elevation has a wing, and an ell to the rear. Fenestration is 6/6 throughout.

Clifford Chamberlain House (#25) is a large two story Greek Revival house c.1820. The exterior walls are yellow clapboard. The ridge roof is slate. There is a large fan window in the facade gable. A Doric columned one story porch, continuous along the facade and the west end of the southern elevation, was added c.1820. There is a fan window over the entrance which is in the southern end of the facade. The structure includes a small wing, an ell and a shed which has been converted to a sitting room, all added between 1840 and 1868. A sunporch was added in 1969. There is a barn on the property.

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James Bachellor House (#26) is a Greek Revival country building constructed in 1836. The slate covered ridge roof contains one chimney. The facade wall covering is matched boards. The other elevations are clapboarded. A recessed porch runs around the front three sides and is ornamented by six Tuscan columns, four across the facade, one on each elevation. The northern end front door is framed by side lights. Two floor to ceiling French windows occupy the northern bays of the first floor facade. There are double 6/6 windows in the full second story pediment. A one story ell with chimney extends at the rear. The house retains all its original interior wooden moldings and floors and its original plaster walls.

Facing south onto Main Street (Route 131) is the Hutchins House (#27), a two story white clapboard Federal style house built in 1795. The building's fine proportions and simplicity give it an imposing appearance. This second oldest house in the area has a ridge roof, center chimney, and stone foundation. The five bay facade has 6/6 windows with molded cornices on the first floor and 12/12 windows on the second. The front door is framed by molded pilasters and headed by five lights and a dentiled entablature. Both the east and west elevations have a one story screened porch.

Benjamin D. Hyde House (#28) was built in 1843 in a transitional style between Greek and Gothic Revival. The two story house with wide entablature and corner boards is sheathed with horizontal planks on the facade and clapboards elsewhere. It is painted yellow with red trim. The roof is covered with asbestos shingles and contains three chimneys. The one story entrance portico on the facade is supported by four Doric fluted columns. The portico's wide dentiled entablature acts as a base for a balcony directly above. This second story porch is shaped in a Gothic arch recessed into the gable, with a delicate balustrade. The facade windows are headed by louvered Gothic arches. The two on the first story have a continuous louvered panel running from the base of the window architrave to the porch floor. The six panel west end doorway is flanked by wide sidelights and headed by a Greek Revival motif. The four bay east elevation has two gable dormers ornamented by imbricated shingles over the 4/4 double windows. An L-shaped ell extends from the rear and terminates in a three sided series of twelve light windows. Much of the original interior woodwork as well as window glass has been retained.

Gerold House (#29) is a two story grey Federal style building constructed during the early 1800's. The house is sheathed in clapboards, has a mansard roof (added later), and two chimneys. Fenestration is 6/6. The east end five lights doorway on the facade is framed by flat pilasters and a dentiled cornice. There is a large vertical planked grey barn to the west of the house. An east wing and an upstairs porch were added in the early 1970's.

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Deacon Davis House (#30) is an 1814 Federal style two story building similar in appearance to its neighbor, the Gerold House (#29). It is a hip roof clapboard house with two chimneys, 12/12 fenestration, a screened porch added later, and an original shed which now serves as a one car garage.

Lee House (#31) is a two story Federal style country home built in the 1810's. It is of wide clapboard construction with a ridge roof and interior chimneys on each gable. The five bay facade has a bay window on the west end and a one story flat roofed open porch continuous along the facade. The original small window panes have been replaced.

Samuel Hobbs House (#33) is a beautifully maintained two story Federal style home built in 1780. It is set on spacious, well landscaped grounds facing southeast toward Hall Road. There are two barns on the property. The clapboarded structure has a cedar shingled ridge roof with center chimney on the main block, and a full story chimney on the eastern ell. The five bay facade shows 12/12 fenestration with protruding molded cornices. The main entrance is framed by fluted pilasters and triglyphs on the frieze.

East Schoolhouse (#34) was built in 1832. It has been altered almost beyond recognition by the addition of a second story and porches with balustrades on both floors of the western elevation. The clapboarded house has 2/2 fenestration, a center entry, and center chimney.

Pettibone House (#35) was built c.1825 to house a shop, but it has been altered greatly from its original appearance. The two story house has an intersecting ridge roof and two chimneys. The original wall covering has been shingled over. The exterior has been modernized by wings, a new door, and a long horizontal modern window on the facade.

Whitemore House (#36) is a white clapboard farm house built in 1790 with a ridge roof, center chimney, a wide entablature and wide corner boards. The 1½ story structure has an exposed basement on the two bay wide east elevation with double 2/2 windows and a hooded entrance on the east end bay of the facade. The facade entrance to the first floor is framed by sidelights and a wide entablature with triangular cornice molding. Except in the basement, fenestration is 6/6. A porch has been added to the rear elevation.



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Vinton House (#37) was built in 1918 on the foundation of the Aretus Hooker House which burned earlier that year. It is a two story yellow clapboard bungalow with a bay window on the east end of the facade and a hip roof, partially enclosed entry porch on the west end. There is a large gable dormer on the east elevation and a porch on the rear.

Chamberlain House (#38) is a large two story house built in 1918. Its front lawn is the Common. The white clapboard house has a hip roof with a gablet on the east elevation and two chimneys. There is a wide entablature. Each window is headed by a protruding molded cornice. Chamberlain House is a double house with an entrance in the center of the north and south facades. Each entrance is covered by an open, columned porch with twisted balusters. Each porch has a triangular pediment in the roof above the door and latticework shielding the underside of the porch floor. There is a bay window on the east elevation.

Publick House (#39) faces the Common and is the visual focal point of the south side of the green. The inn, built in 1772, has been extensively restored, as well as remodeled, and enlarged in the late 1930's and again the early 1970's. The main building is white clapboard with ridge roof, a center chimney and 12/12 fenestration. The seven bay facade has a center door framed by flat pilasters, wide molded entablature and a dentiled triangular pediment. The old barn with two gable dormers is connected to the main building's west elevation, and a more recent three story building is attached to the barn's west elevation. A beautiful fanlight heads the double entry doors to this L-shaped addition. The main building's interior retains its original panelling, wide floorboards, ceiling beams, and large brick fireplaces.

Chamberlain Barn (#40) was built by A.B. Chamberlain in the early 1900's as a storage barn for grain and feed. It is sited on a slope behind the Ted and Henry Market Block. As a result, the stone foundation is high on the eastern elevation. The white clapboarded structure has a ridge roof and center chimney. It is now used as a garage.

Chamberlain and Barnes Market Block (#41) is an amalgamation of three Greek Revival houses of c.1830. The Block now consists of two stores and one house containing three apartments. All three buildings are attractive, white clapboard, ridge roofed structures which lend charm and harmony to the area.

Center School Building (#42) is an imposing red brick two story former schoolhouse built in 1855. The symmetrical building now has a center chimney; originally it had

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two chimneys, one at each end. Fenestration is 12/12 throughout, with granite sills and lintels. The six bay facade is ornamented by six brick pilasters, one flanking each side of the three entrance doors. The gable frieze on each elevation is decorated by sawtoothed brick. The building now houses offices.

Deacon Plimpton House (#43) is a two story Federal style white clapboard house built c.1805 on the corner of Main and Haynes Street. The five bay facade has a triangular pedimented hood above the center door. The building originally housed a school and a harness shop. It is now four apartments.

Haynes House (#44) is a grey shingled two story ridge roofed house built c.1855. The house was damaged by fire and much altered as a result. The wide foundation is stone. The ridge roof is covered with cedar shingles and has two chimneys. The wall covering is partially wood, partially asbestos shingle. Fenestration is 6/6. The house has been converted to a double dwelling, with two facade entrances facing Haynes Street. A large gambrel roofed barn in the rear replaces the original barn, destroyed by fire in 1935.

Deacon Dunton House (#45) is a two story white clapboard farmhouse built c.1805 with shingled roof and center chimney. Fenestration is 12/12. Original glass remains in most of the panes. The eastern five bay facade faces Haynes Street. The center entrance is headed by 6 lights, a wide entablature, and protruding cornice. A barn and shed are attached to the north elevation.

The following face north on Main Street:

Haynes Shop (#46) was built c.1850 as a carriage and paint shop. It is a two story white clapboard structure which now houses two apartments.

Frank Haynes House (#47) is a c.1912 grey shingle house built around the core of an 1850 blacksmith shop.

Tonner House site (#48) was demolished by the Department of Public Works in 1972 in conjunction with the widening of I-86.

Other properties not of the same architectural and historical integrity include:

Sturbridge Candy and Gift Shoppe (#1) which faces south on Main Street. It is a two story Colonial Revival building of c.1955.

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U.S. Post Office(#2) is a red one story Colonial Revival structure built in 1959, facing south on Main Street.

Fortier House (#20) is a green shingled, one story house rebuilt during the mid 1950's. It faces west on Charlton Street.

Rockwood House (#23) is a 1935 clapboard house facing west on Charlton Street.

Sturbridge Professional Center (#32) is a two story Federal Revival style office building constructed in 1970. It is set back on Main Street and faces south.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sturbridge Common Historic District is significant as the center of town activities since the town's incorporation in 1738. The district has remained a hub of commerce, religion, political activity, education, and industry since its origin. The first meetinghouse was constructed in 1738 on the site of the present Public House (#39), and a hundred years later the present Town Hall was built. The houses bordering the Common remain in very good condition, and blend harmoniously with the setting of the original Common. Both the Federal and Greek Revival styles are well represented among the Common buildings. The Federal style buildings date from the construction of the Worcester-Stafford Turnpike (Charlton Street) in 1812. The Greek Revival structures are of the 1830's period. Most of the original buildings have survived.

Many of the individual buildings included in the district are of individual interest because of their historical significance, as well as their architectural importance.

The Sturbridge Unitarian Church stood at site #1 until it was dismantled in 1940 and replaced by the Candy and Gift Shoppe in 1955.

The Town Hall (#4) at one time housed the Worcester South Agricultural Society and displayed agricultural exhibits until 1868 when the town became the owner of the building. Since then it has been used primarily for town affairs.

Purdey House (#5) was long occupied by J.E. Purdey, a blacksmith who lived there all his life and ran a shop for shoeing horses on the site. William Willard, a famous New England portrait painter lived in the house with his family from 1865-67 before he bought the General Timothy Newell House, also in Sturbridge. The vestry of the Congregational Church stood on the southeast corner of the property. It was the location of many town meetings and social events. The vestry was moved across the street behind the church, and soon after burned in the fire of 1908, which also consumed the old church.

Houses #7,8,9, were built c.1868-70 making them the latest additions to the old houses within the historic district. The parsonage (#8) has been in use since 1869. The Morse House (#9) was once the home of Nellie Chase, a local historian and devoted Sturbridge school teacher for many years.

The Federated Church (#10) which stands on the site of the Congregational Church (1784-1908) has had close association with the life and history of Sturbridge, as has the Joshua Hyde Library (#11), situated in front of the church. The library was built by bequest of George B. Hyde, a Boston schoolteacher born and raised in Sturbridge. It is a memorial to his father, Joshua Hyde, one of the 239 men from Sturbridge who served in



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the Revolutionary War. The library was dedicated on July 22, 1897. It originally held 4,000 volumes, but today has more than 12,500.

Corey Block (#14) originally contained the C.V. Corey General Store, which was in business until 1910. Since then the building has housed apartments exclusively.

The Ladd House (#16) once belonged to Mr. George S. Ladd, son of Noah Ladd, also of Charlton Street. Noah Ladd ran for Republican representative to the General Court from the 18th District. He ran a "cutters' shop" in town. George Ladd inherited the business from his father. He was master of the Sturbridge Grange and the Mass. State Grange, a Justice of the Peace in town, and the owner of considerable property in the area. George Ladd died in 1926.

The Corey House (#17) stands on the site of the Benjamin Bullock Jr. House and store of 1825. Mrs. Bullock and her family held the property until 1898.

The Warner House (#18) was built in 1818 by John S. Warner, blacksmith and constable of the town.

The Isaac Childs House (#19), built in 1792, originally sat in what is now a section of the town's North Cemetery, and was moved to its present location during the mid 1860's when the town extended the Cemetery boundaries. The builder of the house, Isaac Childs, Jr, sold it to Jared Lamb, tailor and carpenter. During the early 19th century the house was owned by Cheney Allen, a local horse trader. The house's present location is significant, as it is the last remaining old house in an area which once held many. The house is the district's sole reminder of early gambrel roof construction once so common.

*Otis Werner*  
Alvin Chamberlain House (#22) once housed a shoe shop, later a paint shop, and still later a bakeshop. The first floor was a "candies and notions" store during the 1920's and 1930's.

The Clifford Chamberlain House (#25) dates back to 1822. It was the home of Clifford Chamberlain who served as town clerk for 30 years, as did his father, Alvin Chamberlain, before him. Clifford Chamberlain was state representative from Sturbridge in 1925-26.

The James Bachellor House (#26) was built in 1836 by James Bachellor who operated a carriage and wagon making shop on the site.

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The Hutchins House (#27) was built in 1795 by John Coburn. It is the second oldest building remaining on the Common. The house was purchased in 1804 by Erasmus Babbit, a Sturbridge lawyer whose granddaughter, Charlotte Cushman (1818-1876) was a famous actress who visited the house as a child.

The Benjamin Hyde House (#28) was built in 1843 by Benjamin D. Hyde. Mr. Hyde had his law office in a separate building nearby. The house remained in the Hyde family's possession until the 1920's. The present owner, Samuel Sheard, has been active as selectman and town moderator for many years. Mr. Sheard, past chairman of the Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission, was instrumental in bringing about the extensive dam system and flood control areas protecting the Quinebaug Valley, including Sturbridge.

The Samuel Hobbs House (#33) was built in 1781 by Samuel Hobbs, a member of the Boston Tea Party in December 1773. Mr. Hobbs operated a tannery on the property until his death in 1823. Mr. William Whitmore, a Sturbridge selectman, lived in the house from the latter part of the 19th century until the 1920's.

East Schoolhouse (#34) was voted by the town in 1832. It was first altered to a dwelling by Timothy Corey in 1854.

The Whitmore House (#36) originally stood across the street on the site of the Sheard House and from 1827-1833 served as a country store, Wheelock and Corey. Prior to the establishment of the store, the first known horse corn planters were manufactured in the building.

Chamberlain House (#38) stands on the foundation of an earlier structure which was a replica of the Publick House. This building was a house and store. The house was later a farm which included extensive property in back for the cattle.

The Publick House (#39) is the oldest structure still standing on the Common. It was opened as an inn in 1772. The first owner, Col. Ebenezer Crafts, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, and an influential civic leader in town. He was a graduate of Yale, the founder of Leicester Academy, Leicester, Mass. and of an academy in Craftsburg Common, Vermont. In 1824, General Lafayette stopped here during his tour of the U.S. During World War II, the inn was used for U.S. Army training programs. Since its beginning, the Publick House has stood at the crossroads of major commercial traffic.

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The Chamberlain and Barnes Block (#41) was built during the 1830's for both commercial and residential purposes. The east building, long known as the Griswold House, was purchased by Clifford Chamberlain before 1910 and connected with the store, Chamberlain and Barnes, now Ted and Henry's. The center building, before becoming a store, was a Post Office. The west building was the home of Chamberlain.

The Center School Building (#42) was built in 1855 as the Center School, which replaced two center district schools. It served as a school for 100 years. The structure stands on the site of the first Meeting House (1736-1784) and of the Baptist Meeting House (1832-1838), which now stands at the head of the Common in Old Sturbridge Village. The town library was housed in the building until 1896. It is now used as a police station and meeting place for civic groups.

Deacon Plimpton House (#43) was built in the early 1800's by Deacon Daniel Plimpton, who kept a store there. Deacon Plimpton's sister ran a "select private school for girls" upstairs. In 1834, the Haynes family acquired the house. They operated a harness and carriage shop there until the end of the 19th century.

The Haynes House (#44) was built by Henry Haynes Jr. in the 1840's. The house was occupied by Miss Emily Haynes until September 1975 when she died at the age of 95. In earlier years her parents lived in the south half of the house, her grandparents in the north half. The three generations of Haynes had a strong connection with the development of the town in religion, government and in education, especially through their work with the library.

The Deacon Dunton House (#45) was built c.1805 by Timothy Johnson, who managed a blacksmithing business there for many years.

The Haynes Shop (#46) dates back to the 1850's when it was used as a carriage and paint shop, and at times as a storehouse for the Haynes harness and carriage business which existed until about 1900. Emplacement for machinery for the production of wagon wheels can still be traced by blocks added to the flooring on the ground floor.

Frank Haynes House (#47) had at its core a blacksmith shop of c.1850. In 1912 this structure was extensively remodeled by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Haynes, both of whom have always been leaders in church and town affairs.

Tonner House site (#48) was once the site of the West Schoolhouse built by the town in 1822.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Ammidown, Holmes, Historical Collections, Vol. II, The Histories of Seven Towns  
New York, 1874.  
Clark, Joseph, Historical Sketch of Sturbridge, Mass., Brookfield, Mass., 1838.  
Davis, George. A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge, West  
Brookfield, Mass., 1856.  
Sturbridge Bicentennial, Souvenir Program, June 18, 1938.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 138.15 acres

### UTM REFERENCES

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 18	741590	4665930
B 18	741690	4665810
C 18	741680	4665570
D 18	742010	4665530

 cont.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the west corner of Hall Road and Main St., and Continuing along Hall Road to the northern property line of property #33 (Hall Rd.), then westerly along rear property lines of properties #32, #31, #30, #29, #28 (258 to 272 Main St.) to the northern property line of property #25 (66 Charlton St.), then northeasterly along rear property lines of properties #24, #23, #22, #21 (10 to 18 Charlton St.), then easterly to rear property line of property #20, then westerly across Charlton St. to southwest corner of (cont.)

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor.  
(Wolfgang Lowy, Sturbridge Historical Commission.)

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Massachusetts Historical Commission</u>	<u>December 21, 1976</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>294 Washington Street</u>	<u>617-727-8470</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Boston</u>	<u>Mass., 02116</u>

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☒

LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth Reed Amador*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1/3/77

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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UTM References:

E 18 741/770 4665/340

F 18 741/140 4665/480

G 18 741/240 4665/910

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Charlton and Taft Streets, then northeasterly along Charlton St. to rear property line of property #19 (Taft St.), then westerly along rear property line of #19, then southerly along western property line of #19, then westerly to rear property line of property #18 (17 Charlton St.), then southerly along rear property line of Property #18, then westerly along northern property line of property #7 (14 Maple St.), continuing across Maple St. and along northern property line of property #6 (17 Maple St.) to I-86, then southerly along I-86 to southern property line of property #45 (10 Haynes St.) and across Haynes St., then northeasterly along Haynes St. to cemetery, then along southern boundary line of cemetery to southern property line of property #41 (283-291 Main St.), then southerly along western property line of property #40 (Main St.), then northerly along eastern property line of property #40, then easterly along rear property line of property #39 (277 Main St.), then southerly along eastern property line of #39, then easterly along rear property lines of properties #38, #37, #36, #35, #34 (273-265 Main St.) to southern corner of Main St., then northerly across Main St. to starting point.

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Sturbridge Common Historic District

Key to map

- (1) Sturbridge Candy and Gift Shoppe, c.1955, 320 Main Street
- (2) U.S. Post Office, 1959, Main Street
- (3) Oliver B. Wight House, c.1835, 310 Main Street
- (4) Town Hall, 1838, Main Street
- (5) Purdey House, 1835-45, 9 Maple Street
- (6) D.r H.M. Locke House, 1830-40, 17 Maple Street
- (7) D.P. Wight House, 1868, 14 Maple Street
- (8) The Parsonage, 1869, Maple Street
- (9) Morse House, c.1870, 6 Morse Street
- (10) Federated Church, 1922, Main Street
- (11) Joshua Hyde Library, 1896, Main Street
- (12) Bachellor-Davis House, c.1800, 12 Chamberlain Street
- (13) Chamberlain House, 1820's, 10 Chamberlain Street
- (14) Corey Block, 1825, 2-8 Chamberlain Street
- (15) Franklin House, c.1790, 5-7 Charlton Street
- (16) Ladd House, c.1820, 9 Charlton Street
- (17) Corey House, 1800, 13 Charlton Street
- (18) Warner House, 1810, 17 Charlton Street
- (19) Isaac Childs House, 1792-93, Taft Street
- (20) Fortier House, mid 1950's, 20 Charlton Street
- (21) Pelton House, c.1830, 18 Charlton Street
- (22) ~~Alvin Chamberlain House~~, early 19th c., 16 Charlton Street
- (23) Rockwood House, 1935, 14 Charlton Street
- (24) V.L. Jackson House, c.1839, 10 Charlton Street
- (25) Clifford Chamberlain House, c.1820, 6 Charlton Street
- (26) James Bachellor House, 1836, 4 Charlton Street
- (27) Hutchins House, 1795, 274 Main Street
- (28) Benjamin D. Hyde House, 1843, 272 Main Street
- (29) Gerold House, early 1800's, 266 Main Street
- (30) Deacon Davis House, 1814, 262 Main Street
- (31) Lee House, 1810's, 260 Main Street
- (32) Sturbridge Professional Center, 1970, 258 Main Street
- (33) Samuel Hobbs House, 1780, Hall Road
- (34) East Schoolhouse, 1832, 265 Main Street
- (35) Pettibone House, c.1825, 267 Main Street
- (36) Whitmore House, 1790, 269 Main Street
- (37) Vinton House, 1918, 271 Main Street
- (38) Chamberlain House, 1918, 273-275 Main Street

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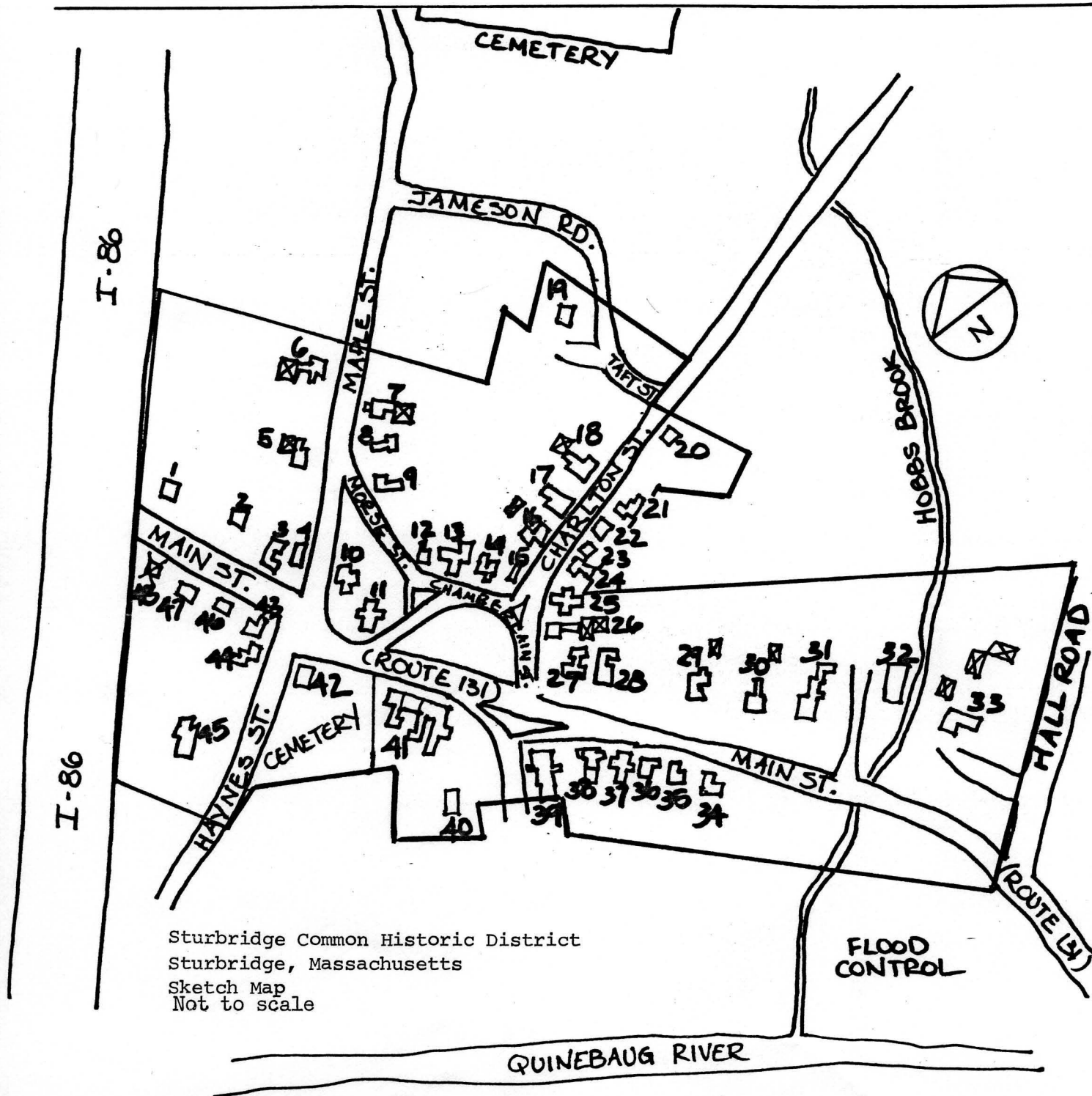
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- (39) Publick House, 1772, 277 Main Street
  - (40) Chamberlain Barn, early 1900's, 283-291 Main Street
  - (41) Chamberlain and Barnes Block, c.1830, 283-291 Main Street
  - (42) Center School Building, 1855, Main Street
  - (43) Deacon Plimpton House, c.1805, 307-309 Main Street
  - (44) Haynes House, c.1855, 2-4 Haynes Street
  - (45) Deacon Dunton House, c.1805, 10 Haynes Street
  - (46) Haynes Shop, c.1850, 311 Main Street
  - (47) Frank Haynes House, c.1912, 315 Main Street
  - (48) Tonner House Site, Main Street





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Sturbridge Common

CONTINUATION SHEET Historic District ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

<u>Number on sketch map</u>	<u>Property owner and address</u>
1	Clarence & Beatrice Robida, 320 Main St., Sturbridge
2	Mr. Richard S. Willis, 115 Arnold Rd., Newton Center, MA
3	Mrs. Gertrude Farland, 310 Main St., Sturbridge
4	Board of Selectmen, Town of Sturbridge
5	Flora Farland, 9 Maple St., Sturbridge
6	Mr. John F. Kennedy, 17 Maple St., Sturbridge
7	Miss E. May Blakely, 14 Maple St., Sturbridge
8	Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, PO Box 193, Sturbridge
9	John E. & Judith Taylor, 6 Morse St., Sturbridge
10	Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, PO Box 193, Sturbridge
11	Trustees Joshua Hyde Public Library, Town of Sturbridge
12	Mr. William Fairchild, 12 Chamberlain St., Sturbridge
13	Walter and Ruth Howard, 10 Chamberlain St., Sturbridge
14	Clifford Chamberlain, c/o Winifred Tillyer ex, 6 Charlton St., Sturbridge
15	Clifford Chamberlain, c/o Winifred Tillyer ex, 6 Charlton St., Sturbridge
16	Vernon & June Otten, 9 Charlton St., Sturbridge
17	Clarence & Sarah Drew, 13 Charlton St., Sturbridge
18	Arthur & Edith Suominen, 17 Charlton St., Sturbridge
19	Albert & Sally Mach, Taft St., Sturbridge
20	Mrs. Maude Fortier, 20 Charlton St., Sturbridge
21	Stuart & Joyce Woodman, 18 Charlton St., Sturbridge
22	Gladys Jackson, 16 Charlton St., Sturbridge
23	Mr. Claire Rockwood, 14 Charlton St., Sturbridge
24	Vernon & Vivian Jackson, 10 Charlton St., Sturbridge
25	Richard & Winifred Tillyer, 6 Charlton St., Sturbridge
26	Richard & Jane Nylander, 4 Charlton St., Sturbridge
27	Mrs. Harriet Benoit, 6 Sunrise Lane, Sturbridge
28	Samuel & Elfrida Sheard, 272 Main St., Sturbridge
29	Dr. Carl K. & Ora Aselton, 266 Main St., Sturbridge
30	Emma G. Doyle, 262 Main St., Sturbridge
31	Homer & Viola F. Smith, 260 Main St., Sturbridge
32	Dr. John & Ellen Rigatti, 45 Wells Park Rd., Sturbridge
33	Ernest W. & Jennie Hall, Hall Rd., Sturbridge
34	Robert S. & Blanche Provost, 265 Main St., Sturbridge
35	Paul J. & Jane Corriveau, Drawer F, Palmer, MA
36	Emma G. Doyle, 269 Main St., Sturbridge
37	Mr. Charles F. Clarke, 271 Main St., Sturbridge

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Sturbridge Common  
CONTINUATION SHEET Historic District ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

<u>Number on sketch map</u>	<u>Property owner and address</u>
38	Mrs. Dorothy Barrett (Alvin Chamberlain Estate), Douty Rd., Sturbridge
39	Publick House, Inc., 277 Main St., Sturbridge
40	Clifford Chamberlain, c/o Winifred Tillyer, 6 Charlton St., Sturbridge
41	Clifford Chamberlain, c/o Winifred Tillyer, 6 Charlton St., Sturbridge
42	Board of Selectmen, Town of Sturbridge
43	Mr. Frank T. Haynes, 315 Main St., Sturbridge
44	Mr. Frank T. Haynes, 315 Main St., Sturbridge
45	Mr. Frank T. and Harriet J. Haynes, 315 Main St., Sturbridge
46	Mr. Frank T. Haynes, 315 Main St., Sturbridge
47	Mr. Frank T. Haynes, 315 Main St., Sturbridge
48	4,150 square feet taken by D.P.W. in 1972

Sturbridge Zip Code: 01566



UNITED STATES  
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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

6568 11 NW  
(WARREN)

72°07'30"  
42°07'30"

770 000 FEET (CONN.)

739 000 m. E.

740

741 5'

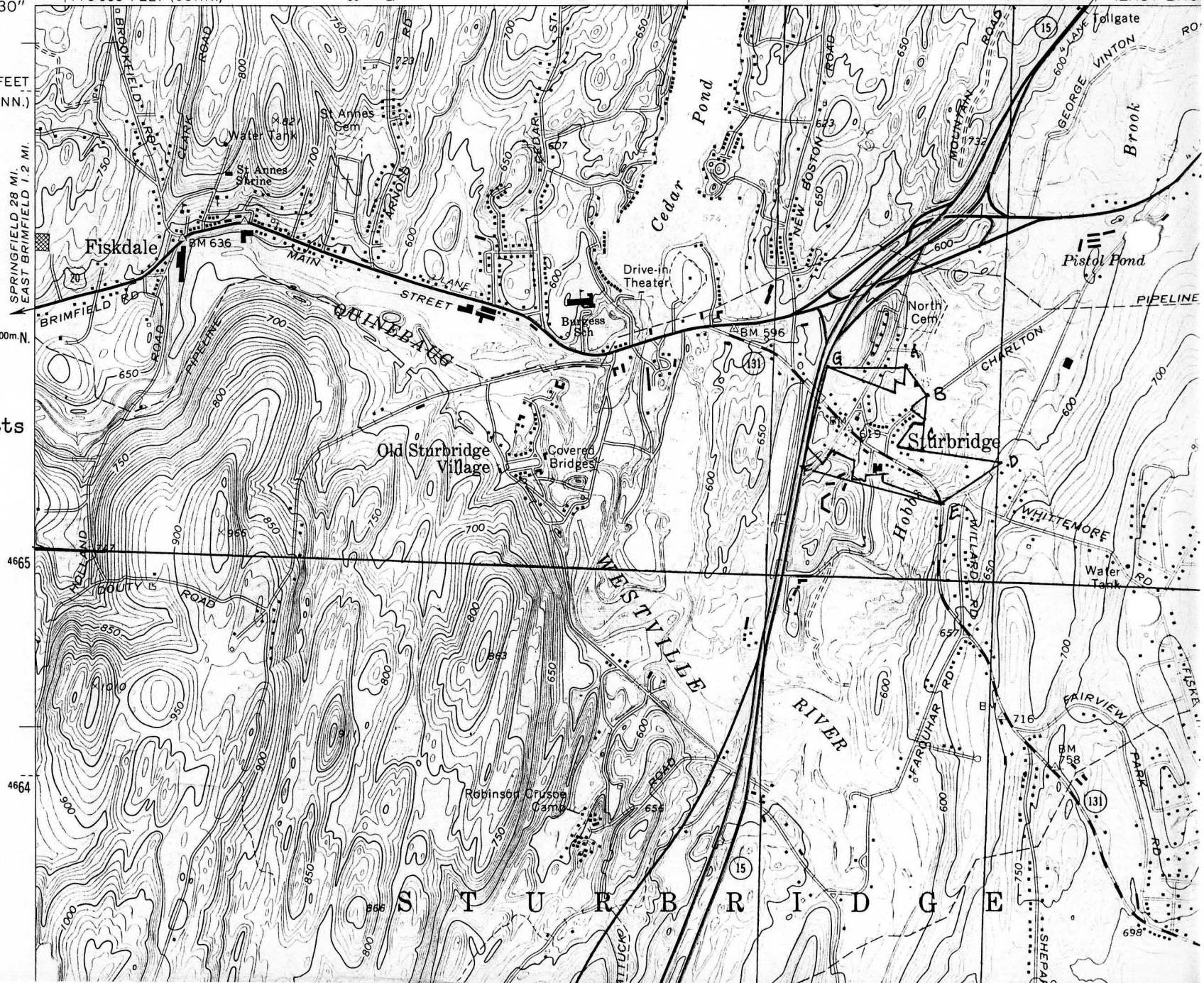
INT. 90 (INTERCHANGE 9) 0.6 MI. (EAST BRO.)

470 000 FEET  
(CONN.)

SPRINGFIELD 28 MI.  
EAST BRIMFIELD 1.2 MI.  
4666000 m. N.

Sturbridge Common  
Historic District  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
UTM Coordinates:

A 18 741/590 4665/930  
B 18 741/690 4665/810  
C 18 741/680 4665/570  
D 18 742/010 4665/530  
E 18 741/770 4665/340  
F 18 741/140 4665/480  
G 18 741/240 4665/910



# Sturbridge Common Historic District, Sturbridge (Worcester County), MA



1. Sturbridge Candy and Gift Shoppe (#1), facing northwest



2. U.S. Post Office (#2), facing northeast



3. Fortier House (#20), facing northeast



5. Facing north towards the Sturbridge Professional Center (#32)

*All photographs: Wolfgang Lowy, July 1976*



## Sturbridge Common Historic District, Sturbridge (Worcester County), MA



4. Rockwood House (#23), facing northeast  
Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, July 1976



6. Facing north toward Maple Street showing Purdey House (#5) and Dr. H.M. Locke House (#6) (Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, March 1975)



7. Facing east toward D.P. Wight House (#7), The Parsonage (#8), and Morse House (#9)  
(Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, March 1975)



8. Facing east toward the Federated Church (#10). (Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, March 1975)





9. Facing north toward Bachellor-Davis House (#12), Chamberlain House (#13), Corey Block (#14), Franklin House (#15).  
(Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, December 1974)





10. Facing north toward Ladd House (#16), Corey House (#17), and Warner House (#18).  
(Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, December 1974)



11. Facing northwest toward the doorway of the Warner House (#18).  
(Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, December 1974)



12. Facing east toward V.L. Jackson House (#24), Clifford Chamberlain House (#25), and James Bachellor House (#26)  
(Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, March 1975)





13. Facing north toward Hutchins House (#27) and Benjamin D. Hyde House (#28).  
(Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, December 1974)



14. Facing east toward the Samuel Hobbs property. (Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, December 1974)





15. Facing south toward Publick House (#39) and Chamberlain and Barnes Block (#41).  
(Photocopy of an original photograph by Wolfgang Lowy, March 1975)



16. Facing south toward Center School Building (#42) (Photograph: Wolfgang Lowy, March 1975)