

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Bonnie Parsons, PVPC

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (month / year): October/ 2017

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

125-02435-003

Southbridge

STU.101

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Snellville

Address: 3 Auger Street

Historic Name: Increase and Lucinda Sykes House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1855

Source: Registry of Deeds; map of 1857

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: parged stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Vinyl replacement windows installed, ca. 2000; vinyl siding applied, ca. 2000; porches added, ca. 2010; aluminum awning added ca. 1950. Multi-family house converted to single-family at unknown date.

Condition: fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .56 acres

Setting: Facing east on Auger Street, just off of Snell Street and within close proximity to Main Street.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

3 AUGER STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

3 Auger Street is a two-and-a-half story house under a side-gable roof. It originally was one of Sturbridge's multi-family, workers' houses and follows one of the more common layouts being divided horizontally. The vinyl-sided house has low, parged foundations and an asphalt-shingled roof. East-facing, it has an asymmetrical, five-bay façade. An off-center entry, sheltered by an aluminum awning, is flanked by two windows: on the north is a full-size window with 1/1 sash, and on its south side is a half-sized window with 1/1 vinyl sash. At second story level, these bays are repeated with the exception of an entry bay, which at the second story is a full-sized window asymmetrically placed. The southern-most bay of the east façade at both stories has a single full-sized window with 1/1 sash. Arrangement of the windows and door on the façade may indicate that there originally was a porch separating the two stories. The south elevation has an added two-story porch and the north elevation is simply three bays wide. Its center bays at first and second stories have vinyl replacement casement sash. In the gable end at attic level are two windows, of which one contains what appears to be original 6/6 sash. Elsewhere in the house, vinyl 1/1 sash appears. On the roof behind the ridge is a center chimney.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Snell & Brothers Company came to Sturbridge in 1852 from Ware. They bought an extant grist mill, a canal and dam and on the site built a large factory for making carding machines for local textile mills. In Ware in 1841 the company had been known as Towne and Snell Company, formed by Melville Snell to make augers and bits. Between 1841 in Ware and 1862 in Sturbridge members of the Snell family joined and traded their company manufacturing augers and bits, along the way making innovations in their machining. In 1862 the company was sold to J. Clark Wilson and E. L. Bates and was re-named the Snell Manufacturing Company. From 1852 the company built housing for its workers and the area in Sturbridge in which they were built was called Snellville where this house is located. The map of 1857 indicates that this house at that point was privately owned by J. (I.?) Sykes. Increase and Lucinda Sykes bought a lot in Snellville in 1854 and it is likely that this is the house that they built. As they lived in Belchertown and were farmers between 1855 and 1865 it would appear that they built the house as an investment for rental purposes when Snell and Brothers moved to Sturbridge.

Eventually the company bought the building and used it for their workers' housing. The company lasted into the early 1940s when it closed and trustees began selling off its housing stock. This house was among the first sales on what was then called Snell Flat Road and near where, until it was demolished in 1964, was the Octagon House, built by Snell as workers' housing. In 1941 Fred and Maude Hall bought this residence. Fred was a lumberman and contractor and may have been the one to make some of the alterations to the building such as the irregular fenestration. In 1952 the couple was living in Southbridge so it doesn't seem likely they lived here, rather that they rented it out. Roger and Ruth LaRiviere bought the house in 1960 from the Halls. Roger was part of the tourist economy in Sturbridge working as the night manager at Ovide's restaurant in town. In 1965, Roger and Ruth were sharing this residence with Ronald and Beverly LaRiviere. Ronald was a mechanic at Goodhall's Garbage Company in Union Connecticut. The same year, the LaRivieres sold the house to Phyllis and Thomas Olszka who were also current residents.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps

Bailey, O. H. & Co. Bird's eye view *Sturbridge and Fiskdale*, Massachusetts, 1892.

Beers, F. W. *Plan of Towns of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, 1870.

Walling, H. F. *Map of Worcester County*, Wm. E. Baker, Boston, 1857.

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Primary Sources

Chase, Nelly M. *Photograph Album*, Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge.

Secondary Sources

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Clark, Joseph. *Historical Sketch of Sturbridge, Massachusetts*, Brookfield, Massachusetts, 1838.

Corey, Charles F. "Old Houses in Sturbridge" Quinebaug Historical Society Leaflets, vol.1, no. 5, 1900.

Davis, George. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*, West Brookfield, 1856.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts*, vol. 1, Philadelphia 1889.

Izard, Holly. *Old Houses of Sturbridge*, scrapbook, n.d., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge.

Digital Resources

www.Ancestry.com for federal censuses 1790-1940 and Massachusetts State Censuses 1855, 1865.

<https://dp.la/> Digital Public Library of America

www.masslandrecords.com for deeds: