

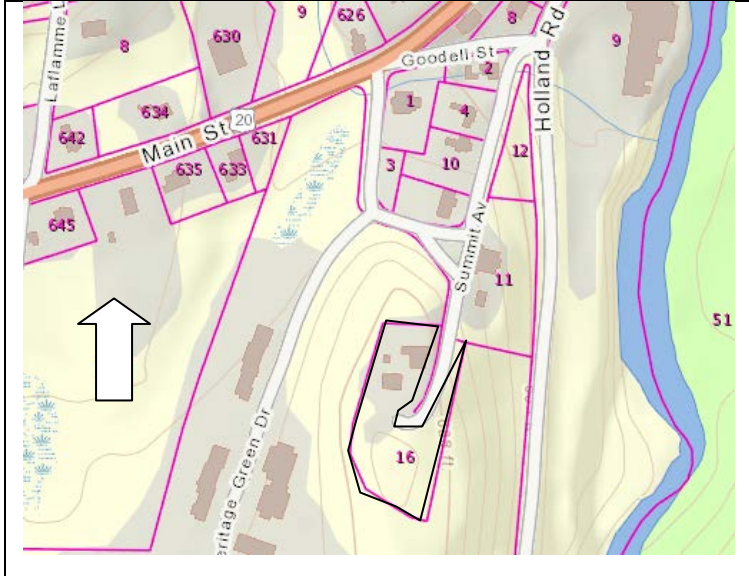
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Shannon Walsh, PVPC

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (month / year): March 2017

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

618-02317-016

Southbridge

STU.E

STU.308
STU.309

Town/City: Sturbridge (Fiskdale)

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

Address: 16 Summit Avenue

Historic Name: Fiskdale Mills Co. Farm House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling, Agricultural

Date of Construction: Early to late nineteenth century

Source: 1868 Deed, 1898 Map

Style/Form: Altered

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick, Concrete Blocks

Wall/Trim: Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Outbuilding

Major Alterations (with dates):

Unknown

Condition: Fair (altered)

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.34 acres

Setting: Parcel located at the end of Summit Avenue, near the intersection of Summit with Goodell Street and Holland Road. Residence faces north.

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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.

The Fiskdale Mills Co. Farm House, at 16 Summit Avenue, is an example of a nineteenth century residence and outbuilding which show the residential growth and development of the Fiskdale section of Sturbridge and are further related to Fiskdale's industrial growth. The residence has undergone alterations and its original form is obscured. It is approximately seven bays wide by five bays deep, to include presumed additions to the main, original residence. The foundation is brick and concrete, and the exterior is clapboard with wood trim. There is a side gable, asphalt shingle roof on the central, residential section. All windows appear to be 1/1 replacements.

The northern facing front façade has a two and a half story, five bay wide central section. Windows are 1/1. A centered entry is covered by a modern, shed roof covered deck, accessed by stairs. A two story flat roof side wing, off of the eastern side of the central section has an additional entry at the northeastern corner, and a single 1/1 first story window and a grouping of three 1/1 windows on the second story. The eastern side of the wing has two sets of paired, 1/1 windows on the first and second story. This section of the building has a crawl space beneath, rather than a foundation and is elevated by concrete blocks and posts, serving as footers. An additional north/south aligned wing has a gabled roof and a shed roof dormer on the eastern elevation. The southern facing, gabled end of this wing has an additional entrance.

An additional outbuilding on the property, located to the south of the residence, has clapboard siding and wood trim, and a side gable roof with overhanging eaves. (Photo 4) The northern facing side elevation is most easily viewed and has a first story entry and window, and an upper half story entry set within the gable. A shed roof and support posts, similar in style to the exterior feature on the northern facing main façade, provides shade off of the western side elevation.

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.

This area was formerly the heart of Sturbridge industry. It is in proximity to the site of an early grist mill, which was developed by Captain Jacob Allen, descendent of first settler Moses Allen, and his progeny, and further advanced by the Hon. Josiah.J. Fiske (1786-1838), and later members of the Fiske family. A new, brick cotton mill was finished by 1829 and a stone mill was added by 1835, along with the formal incorporation of the Sturbridge Cotton Mills.¹ A post office was opened in 1842 and the village was named Fiskdale.² The Fiskdale Mills Agent's House Property, constructed between 1870 and 1898, is to the north of this residence, also on Summit Avenue. (STU.301) (Figure 4)

Farmer Avery P. Taylor, Esq. (1795-1881), husband of Anna D. Taylor (1799-1871), is noted on an 1855 census, near an entry for William B. Whiting (1818-1894), who is listed on an 1857 map as owning property near the cotton mills in Fiskdale and was the mill agent after 1854.^{3 4} (Figure1) In 1868, Taylor sold land related to this property to the Sturbridge Cotton Mills, but as his name does not show up on the 1857 map, it is unknown if there were buildings on the site at that time.⁵ (Figures 1 and 2)

There is also no notation regarding these buildings on an 1870 map of this area (Figure 3). By 1898, this property is connected to the Fiskdale Mills Company, as a Farm House, with related agricultural outbuildings. (Figure 4) With changes of ownership, it

¹ George Davis. *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*. West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856. *Archive.org*, <https://archive.org/details/historicalskech00davisgeo>, accessed November, 2017.

² Helen G. Holley, "Fiskdale," (MHC Inventory AREA STU.E), 1973. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=STU.E>, accessed November 2017.

³ "Avery P. Taylor," *Massachusetts State Census*, 1855. *Ancestry.com*

⁴ George Davis, *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge*. West Brookfield: Power Press of O.S. Cooke and Co., 1856. *Archive.org*, <https://archive.org/details/historicalskech00davisgeo>, accessed November, 2017.

⁵ Book 770 Page 86, *Masslandrecords.com*

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was later passed on to the Fiskdale Finishing Company, the Golding Brothers Company, and the Sturbridge Printing and Finishing Company.⁶

By the mid-twentieth century, owners were Philias V. (1897-1958) and Gertrude M. Ledoux (1898-1990). Around that time period, Gertrude is noted to be proprietor of the "Hilltop Guest House"^{7 8}

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Ancestry.com (see footnotes)

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Figures 1 and 2: Walling, H.F. *Map of Worcester County*, Boston: Wm. E. Baker, 1857, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3763w.la000320/>

Figure 3: Atlas of Worcester County, F. W. Beers & Co. 1870, <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:x059cb92c>

Figure 4: Richards, L.J. "Charlton-Sturbridge-Southbridge-Dudley Towns." *Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester*, 1898. *HistoricMapWorks.com* (site). Accessed on-line October 2017. <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas.php?cat=Maps&c=US&a=6717>

⁶ Warren S. Shepard et als Trustees Bankruptcy Fiskdale Finishing Co., Golding Bros Company Inc (1926); Book 2423, Page 125 plus Book 256 Page 436 (1926); Book 2923, Page 281, 1944 (Sturbridge Printing and Finishing Company), Plan book 47 Plan 44 Fiskdale Finishing Company. *Masslandrecords.com*

⁷ Book 4610 Page 139, 1965. *Masslandrecords.com*

⁸ "Ledoux, Gertrude M." *Manning's Sturbridge Directory*, 1949 (page 278) and 1952 (page 275). *Ancestry.com*

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Photo 1: Eastern facing elevation



Photo 2: Western facing elevation

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Photo 3: Outbuilding

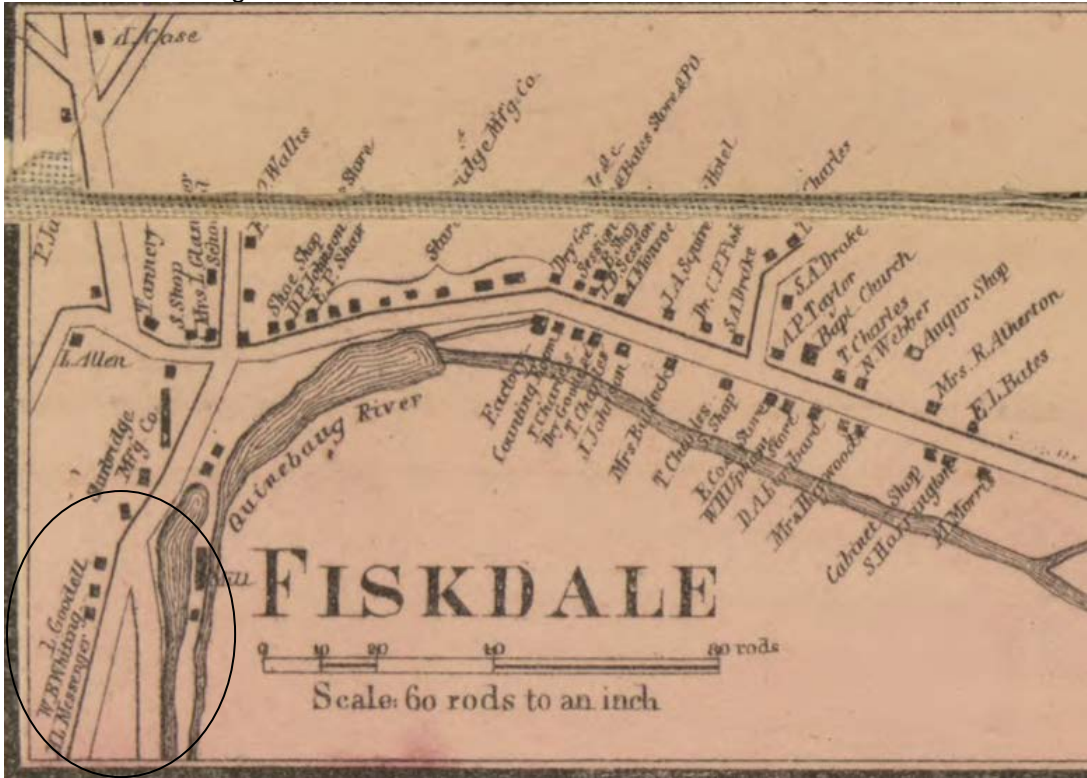


Figure 1: 1857 Map with Fiskdale Inset

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Figure 2: 1857 Larger view of Fiskdale

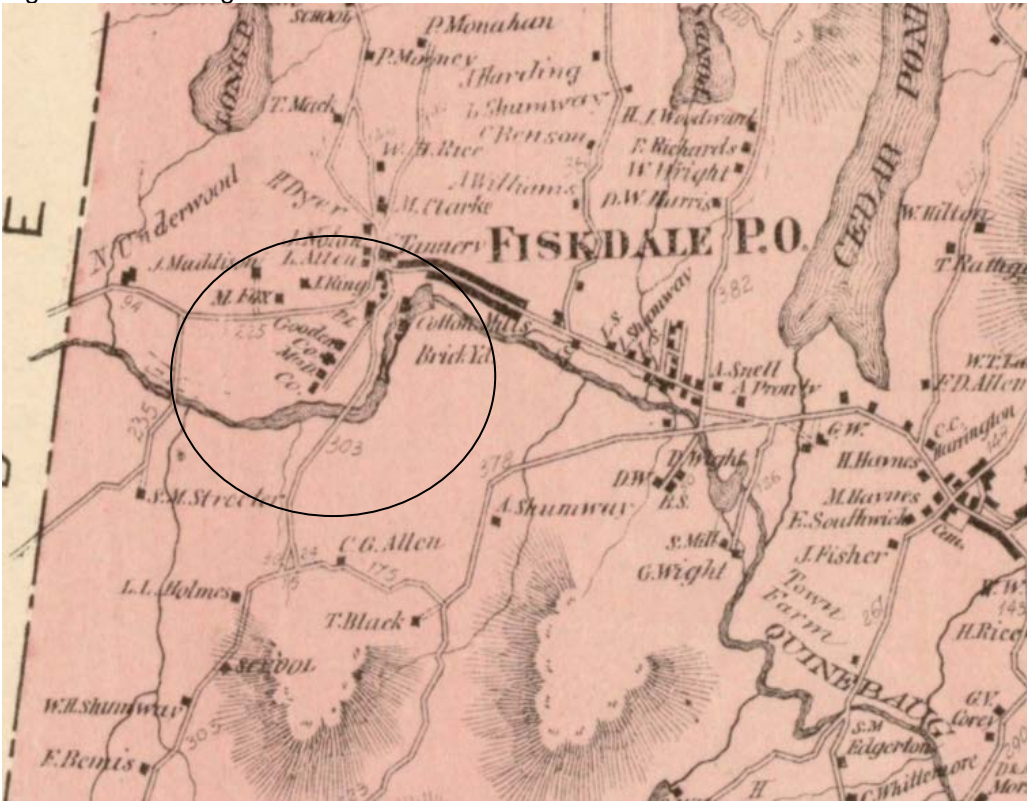


Figure 3: 1870 Map

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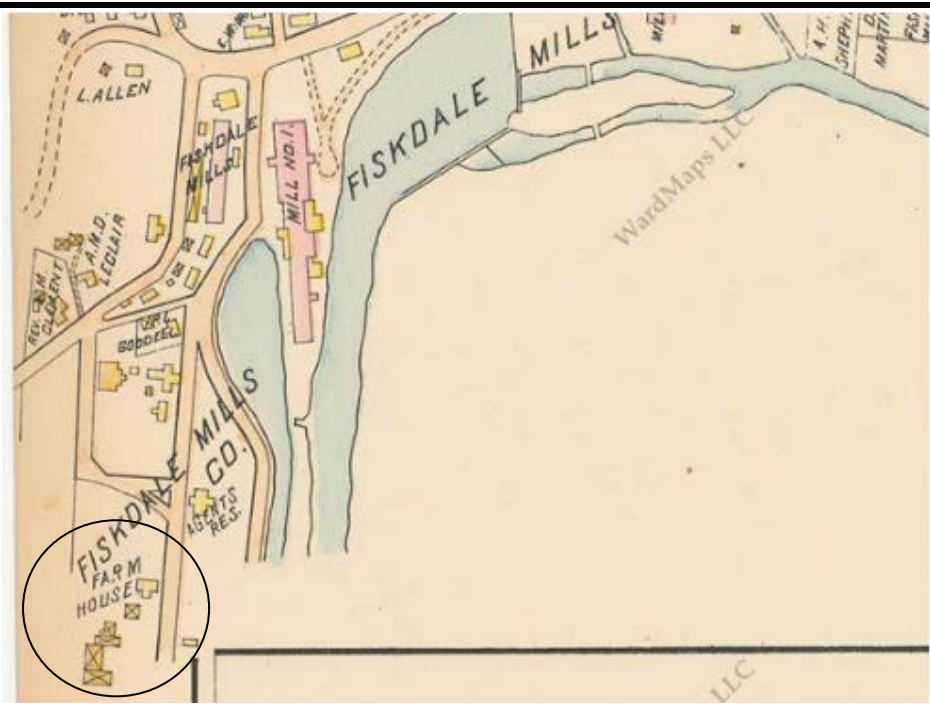


Figure 4: 1898 Map showing Fiskdale Mills Co. Farm House