

FORM A - AREA

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

Photograph



Photo 1. Fiskdale Upper Mill, 9 Holland Road (STU.194), and mill pond, looking southwest.

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place (neighborhood or village): Fiskdale

Name of Area: Fiskdale Mill Area

Present Use: Mixed Use

Construction Dates or Period: 1827–1938

Overall Condition: Good to Fair

Major Intrusions and Alterations: Partial demolition of Fiskdale Upper Mill (1972), vinyl siding and replacement windows

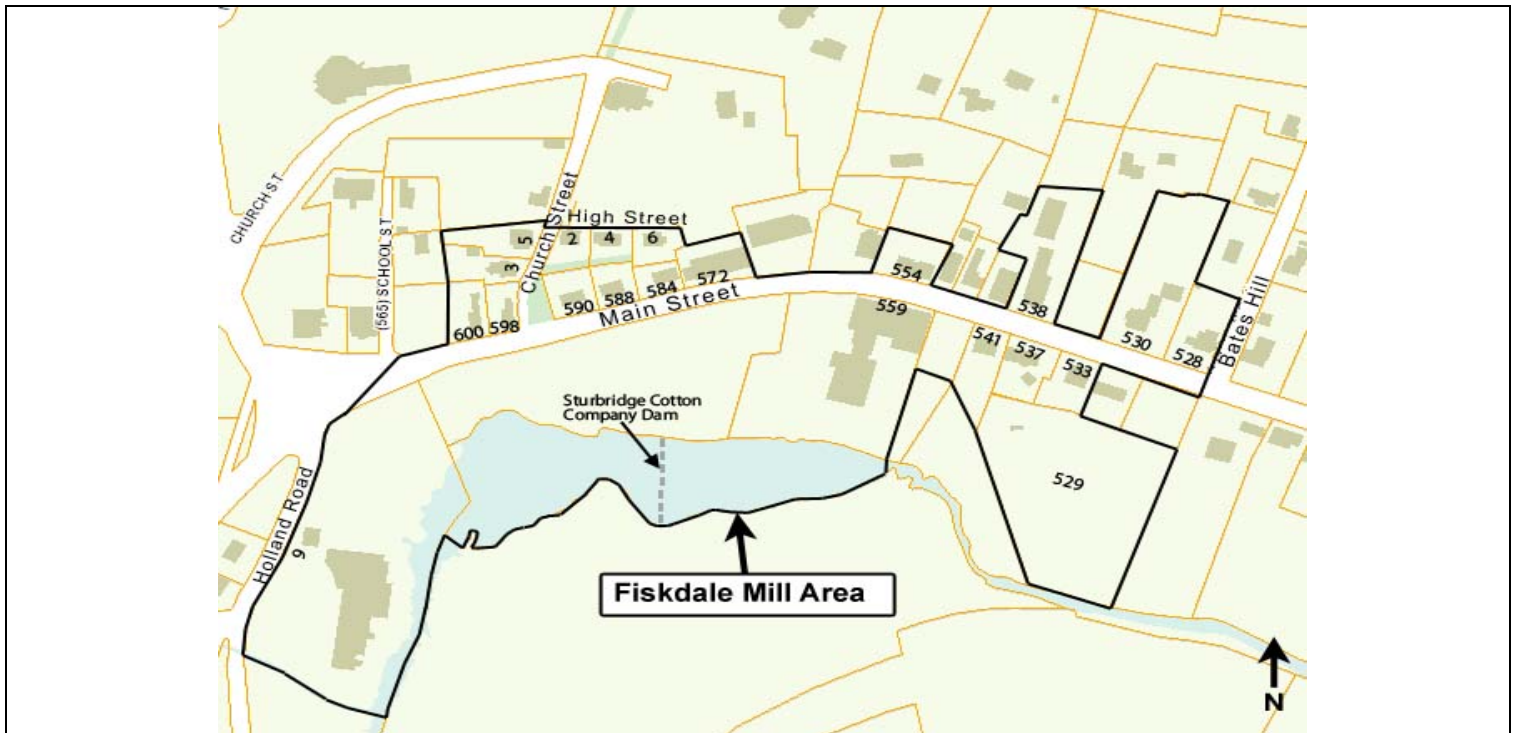
Acreage: 22 acres

Recorded by: L. Kline, G. Pineo, E. Giacomarra; PAL

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (month/year): May 2018

Locus Map



see continuation sheet

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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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Fiskdale Mill Area encompasses 23 resources, including a mill dam, on approximately 22 acres along the north and south sides of Main Street (MA Route 20) in the village of Fiskdale in Sturbridge, extending from Bates Hill Road on the east to Holland Road on the west. The area developed as a mill village around the Fiskdale Upper and Lower mills in the mid- to late nineteenth century and today is a heavily traveled, mixed-use corridor comprising industrial, commercial, and residential buildings. Industrial buildings are on the south side of Main Street and east side of Holland Road, adjacent to the Quinebaug River. Commercial and residential buildings are on both sides of Main Street and extend north onto Church and High streets. They are generally Greek Revival or Italianate in style; most of the housing built for mill workers has no style. The topography slopes downward from north to south, terminating at the Quinebaug River and the former impoundment for the Fiskdale mills. Buildings in the area are generally in good to fair condition; many are clad with vinyl siding and have vinyl replacement windows.

Properties are described alphanumerically by street.

Fiskdale Mills Worker Housing, 3 Church Street (STU.166, 1870–1898, Photo 2), is an east-facing, astylistic, two-story, two-bay-by-four-bay, wood-frame building with an end-gable roof. The foundation is not visible. A two-story, shed-roof addition projects from the north elevation. Brick chimneys pierce the roof ridge and south slope. The walls are clad with aluminum siding and decorative shingles, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story, hip-roof porch with exposed rafter tails encloses the southeast corner and shelters entrances in the center of the east and south elevations. The main entrance in the east elevation is filled with a nine-light, modern door. The east elevation also has a second-story entrance. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, six-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Fiskdale Mills Worker Housing, 5 Church Street (STU.167, 1870–1898, Photo 3), is an east-facing, astylistic, two-story, four-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and a clipped side-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Brick chimneys pierce the ridgeline at the north and south ends of the roof. A two-story, flat-roof porch spans the width of the east elevation and shelters two first-story and two second-story entrances. The roof is supported by turned posts, and both levels of the porch are enclosed by a low balustrade with turned balusters. A set of stairs runs from the center of the porch's first story to the south end of the second story. The entrances are filled with modern replacement doors. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Fiskdale Mills Worker Duplex, 2 High Street (STU.169, 1870–1894, Photo 4), is a north-facing, astylistic, one-and-one-half story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and a side-gable roof. A one-story addition projects from the east elevation. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An external cinderblock chimney is in the center of the west elevation. A pair of entrances is centered in the north elevation and protected by a gable-roof overhang supported by turned posts. The entrances are filled with modern replacement doors. Fenestration is evenly spaced and consists of one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Fiskdale Mills Worker Duplex, 4 High Street (STU.170, 1870–1894, Photo 4), and Fiskdale Mills Worker Duplex, 6 High Street (STU.171, 1870–1894, Photo 4), are nearly identical to the building at 2 High Street. 4 High Street is clad with vinyl siding, and 6 High Street is clad with asbestos shingles. Both buildings have vinyl replacement windows.

Fiskdale Upper Mill, 9 Holland Road (STU.194, 1865, altered 1869, 1875–1921, 1933–1952, 1972) is a west-facing, Italianate-style, irregularly shaped, one- to two-story, brick and concrete-block mill complex between the Quinebaug River on the east and Holland Road on the west. The main mill building, several outbuildings, and the canal have been demolished. The buildings that remain on the site consist of the dry can and bleaching building with an attached boiler house

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and carpenter shop, and a portion of a concrete-block addition constructed between 1933 and 1952 (see Figures 2 and 3). The dry can and bleaching building at the south end of the site varies from one to two stories and has brick walls and a shallow-pitch gable roof with a corbelled brick cornice. A vertical-lift door is centered in the south elevation, and small pedestrian doors, some infilled with plywood, are spaced along the west elevation. Fenestration is evenly spaced and consists of nine-over-nine, double-hung metal and wood sash and one-over-one, double-hung aluminum sash. Windows are topped with segmental arches and corbelled. The concrete-block addition is a two-story, astylistic building with a flat roof and a concrete foundation. A metal and concrete ramp leads to an entrance in the west elevation, which is filled with a metal door and sheltered by a metal awning. Fenestration consists of tripartite, metal, six-over-six-over-three hopper windows; one-over-one, double-hung aluminum sash; and paired casement windows. The complex appears to be vacant or only minimally used.

Simeon Drake House, 528 Main Street (STU.139, ca. 1832, Photo 7), is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, five-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a stone foundation and a side-gable roof. A two-story, gable-roof addition projects from the center of the north elevation, and a one-story, flat-roof addition projects from the west elevation. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story, full-width porch spans the south elevation and shelters the entrance. The porch roof is supported by simple columns. The entrance is filled with a modern replacement door set within a wood-paneled recess with applied pilasters. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl replacement sash. A non-historic garden shed is north of the house.

Fiskdale Ball Field, 529 Main Street (STU.907, by 1938, Photo 8), is on the north bank of the Quinebaug River, immediately east of the Fiskdale Lower Mill, and is accessed by a narrow dirt road running south from Main Street. The field is oriented northwest to southeast. A chain-link backstop is at the northwest corner of the playing field, and metal and wood bleachers are northeast and southwest of the backstop.

Josiah Fiske House, 530 Main Street (STU.140, ca. 1835, Photo 9), is a south-facing, temple-front Greek Revival-style, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and an end-gable roof. The walls are clad with wood clapboards and dropboard siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The entrance is centered in the south elevation and sheltered by the projecting temple front. The entrance consists of a multi-panel wood door protected by a glass storm door and flanked by multi-light sidelights. The door is surrounded by a projecting molded cornice supported by engaged pilasters. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash with simple surrounds.

James Johnson Double House, 533–535 Main Street (STU.189, 1827–1828, Photo 10), is a north-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a parged foundation and a side-gable roof. A one-story, shed-roof addition projects from the east bay of the south elevation. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building is accessed via a pair of modern, four-panel doors in the center of the north elevation beneath a wide, semicircular fan. Fenestration consists of symmetrically spaced, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash. A barn to the southwest, noted in previous documentation, was demolished after 1973.

Fiskdale Mills Tenement, 537 Main Street (STU.190, 1827–1828, Photo 11), is a north-facing, astylistic, two-story, six-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a fieldstone foundation and a side-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney pierces the center of the ridgeline. The building's three entrances are sheltered by a full-width, one-story porch with a shed roof supported by square posts with carved brackets. The entrances are filled with nine-light, two-panel modern doors. Fenestration consists of regularly spaced, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash with simple surrounds.

Sturbridge Cotton Mills Hotel and Store, 538 Main Street (STU.141, ca. 1836, Photo 12), is a south-facing, astylistic, two-story, five-bay-by-three-bay, masonry building with a one-story, two-bay-by-eight-bay ell projecting from the west side of the north elevation. The building has an end-gable roof; the foundation is not visible. The walls of the main block are clad with stucco, and the gable end is infilled with wood clapboard. The ell is clad with wood clapboards. All roof surfaces are covered with asphalt shingles. A two-story porch supported by simple columns projects from the south elevation and has a wood balustrade on the second story. The porch shelters an entrance in the center of the south elevation filled with a nine-light, two-panel door flanked by infilled sidelight panels. A secondary entrance in the main block is in the north bay of the east

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elevation, protected by a shed-roof porch supported by square posts and filled with a nine-light door. Entrances in the ell are sheltered by a full-width engaged porch and contain nine-light doors. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung wood sash and multi-light storefront windows.

A one-story, six-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame Commercial Building, 538 Main Street (STU.312, 1988, Photo 12) is north of the main building. It has an asphalt-shingled, end-gable roof and vertical board siding. Entrances are evenly spaced along the east elevation and are filled with multi-light doors set within arched recesses. Fenestration consists of twelve-over-twelve, double-hung wood sash.

Sturbridge Cotton Mills Office, 541 Main Street (STU.191, 1827–1828, Photo 13), is a north-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, four-bay-wide, brick building with a fieldstone foundation and an end-gable roof with a stepped brick cornice. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and pierced by a center chimney. Entrances are in the east and west bays of the north elevation and are filled with four-light, multi-panel modern doors with single sidelights. The entrances are sheltered by curved awnings. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash with cast stone sills and lintels.

Fiskdale Mills Tenement, 554 Main Street (STU.146, by 1857, Photo 14), is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, eight-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and a side-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Three brick chimneys pierce the ridgeline, and a gable dormer pierces the center of the south slope. Full-width, one-story porches span the north and south elevations. The south porch is accessed by two sets of wide wood steps and shelters four entrances. The porch roof is supported by simple columns, and the porch has a simple balustrade. Entrances are filled with multi-light modern and historic doors protected by aluminum storm doors. Fenestration is rhythmically spaced and consists of one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash and four-over-one, double-hung wood sash.

Fiskdale Lower Mill, 559 Main Street (STU.193, 1845, altered 1865, 1869, 1877, 1938, Photos 15–16), is a west-facing, Italianate-style, 17-bay-by-8-bay, L-shaped, brick mill building. It varies from one to four stories and has a flat roof with a corbelled cornice and a square, five-story brick tower projecting from the center of the west elevation. A two-story, two-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame, shed-roof addition projecting from the west elevation encloses the first story of the tower and the two bays immediately south of the tower. Brick quoins ornament the corners of the main block and the west corners of the tower, which has a shallow hip roof with a corbelled cornice. Three former loading bays in the tower—now filled with paired six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash—have projecting segmental arches and stone sills. The uppermost story of the tower, separated by a brick belt course, has four narrow arched openings infilled with brick in each elevation. Entrances are irregularly spaced and are generally filled with single or paired, fully glazed, metal commercial doors. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, nine-over-nine and twelve-over-twelve, double-hung vinyl sash with projecting segmental arch surrounds and stone sills.

The Sturbridge Cotton Mills Dam (STU.917, ca. 1835, Photo 17) is southwest of the Fiskdale Lower Mill. The low stone dam with stone and concrete wing walls impounds the Quinebaug River to form a mill pond immediately east of the Fiskdale Upper Mill and historically provided water power to the Upper and Lower mills.

The Otis Block, 572 Main Street (STU.151, 1875, Photo 18), is a south-facing, Gothic Revival-style, two-and-one-half-story, 15-bay-by-2-bay, brick building with a slate-shingled, side-gable roof that has a corbelled cornice. A three-story tower east of the center of the south elevation has a pyramidal roof topped with a metal finial. See Walsh 2017 for a full description of this building.

The Fiskdale Mills Hose House, 572 Main Street (STU.152, 1904–1911, Photo 18) immediately west of the Otis Block is a south-facing, one-story, one-bay-by-one-bay, wood-frame building. It has an asphalt-shingled, end-gable roof and is clad with wood clapboards.

Fiskdale Mills Double Worker Housing, 584 Main Street (STU.153, by 1857, Photo 19), is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, six-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and a partially collapsed, side-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The primary entrance is in the center of the south elevation, protected by a narrow gable overhang supported by square posts and accessed from the street by a

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set of marble steps. The entrance is filled with a four-light wood door. A secondary entrance in the east bay of the south elevation is filled with a nine-light modern door. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash. The building is obscured by overgrown shrubs.

Fiskdale Mills Double Worker Housing, 588 Main Street (STU.154, by 1857, Photo 20), is a south-facing, astylistic, two-story, three-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and a side-gable roof. A one-story, flat-roof addition projects from the center of the west elevation. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Brick chimneys pierce the ridgeline at the east and west ends. A full-width, one-story, flat-roof porch spans the south elevation. The porch roof is supported by turned posts, and the porch has a low balustrade with turned balusters. A pair of entrances is centered in the south elevation, sheltered by the porch. The entrances are filled with nine-light modern doors. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Fiskdale Mills Foreman's House, 598 Main Street (STU.156, by 1857, Photo 21), is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, two-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame building with a stone foundation and a pedimented end-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story, full-width porch, partially enclosed by a low balustrade, projects from the south elevation and shelters two evenly spaced entrances accessed by a set of wood steps. The entrances contain four-panel doors flanked by four-light sidelights beneath projecting molded cornices. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Fiskdale Mills Foreman's House, 600 Main Street (STU.157, by 1857, Photos 22–23), is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, three-bay, side-hall plan, wood-frame building with a parged foundation and a pedimented end-gable roof. The walls are clad with asbestos siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story, full-width porch, partially enclosed by a low knee-wall clad with vinyl siding, spans the south elevation. The entrance is in the east bay of the south elevation, accessed by a set of concrete steps. It contains a half-light door protected by a half-light metal storm door, flanked by four-light sidelights beneath a projecting molded cornice. A secondary entrance is in the center of the west elevation, sheltered by a narrow, shed overhang and accessed by a wood entry porch. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The textile industry in Sturbridge began in 1811, when the Sturbridge Manufacturing Company acquired a grist mill owned by Moses Fisk in an area known as Westville, a village south of Sturbridge Center and west of Southbridge Center. The first cotton mill in this part of Worcester County was erected on the site of the grist mill and began production with 128 spindles. The mill was sold to the Westville Manufacturing Company in 1833 (Stone 1930:44). In 1827, Josiah Fiske (1785–1838) and his brother Henry (1796–1846) built a cotton mill in Sturbridge west of the village center that operated under the name of the Quinebaug Company (Stone 1930:1957). Josiah, a graduate of Brown University, was a practicing lawyer in Wrentham at the time of the mill purchase and had served as a state senator from 1823 to 1826 (Pierce 1896:382). Henry moved to Sturbridge to act as the resident mill proprietor and was directly responsible for the construction in 1827–1828 of the first brick mill (no longer extant) on the present site of the Fiskdale Lower Mill and several tenement houses for workers (James Johnson Double House, 533–535 Main Street [STU.189], and Fiskdale Mills Tenement, 537 Main Street [STU.190]). The Sturbridge Cotton Mills Office, 541 Main Street (STU.91), was likely also constructed ca. 1827–1828 (Chase 1889:120).

In 1835, the Quinebaug Company incorporated as the Sturbridge Cotton Mills with \$100,000 capital (Stone 1930:1957). That same year, Henry Fiske retired from the business, and Josiah Fiske moved to the Josiah Fiske House, 530 Main Street (STU.140, ca. 1835), to oversee the mill operations. Simeon A. Drake served as the agent for the company from 1832 to 1854 and resided at 528 Main Street (Simeon Drake House [STU.139, ca. 1832]). The Sturbridge Cotton Mills Dam (STU.917, ca. 1835) was constructed on the Quinebaug River, and a new stone mill (no longer extant) was built. The new mill was in operation by 1836 with 10,000 spindles and 200 looms manufacturing printed fabric. The company also constructed a stone tenement (no longer extant) and the Sturbridge Cotton Mills Hotel and Store, 538 Main Street (STU.141, ca. 1836) (Stone 1930:1957; Chase 1889:120; Davis 1856:185). Josiah Fiske died in 1838; it is unclear who assumed direct oversight of the mill business following his death.

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The financial Panic of 1857 forced the closure of the mills for about a year, after which the businesses reopened with a new corporate structure (Burns 1988:42). James C. Fisk (1825–1885) of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was elected treasurer in 1859 and held the office until his death.¹ Fisk determined that the mills were in poor condition and running outdated machinery. Almost immediately, he had the mills demolished and rebuilt (Fiskdale Upper Mill, 9 Holland Road [STU.194], and Fiskdale Lower Mill, 559 Main Street [STU.193]) and equipped them with new machinery. He also had the existing worker housing renovated and more housing constructed: Fiskdale Mills Worker Housing, 3 and 5 Church Street (STU.166–167, 1870–1898), Fiskdale Mills Tenement, 554 Main Street (renovated, STU.146, by 1857), Fiskdale Mills Double Worker Housing, 584 and 588 Main Street (renovated, STU.153–154, by 1857), and Fiskdale Mills Worker Duplexes, 2, 4, and 6 High Street (STU.169–171, 1870–1894) (Chase 1889:120). Residences for supervisors were constructed between the Upper and Lower mills by 1857 (Fiskdale Mills Foreman's House, 598 Main Street [STU.156], and Fiskdale Mills Foreman's House, 600 Main Street [STU. 157]) (Walling 1857).

In 1869, the name of the company was changed to the Fiskdale Mills and both mill complexes began to expand. A new four-story building (no longer extant) with a three-story L-shaped extension and two central stair towers (one with a bell) was constructed at the north end of the Upper Mill parcel. An 85-ft by 70-ft addition was constructed on the south side of the Lower Mill, two stories were added onto the northern section of the building, and a tower was added. An ell was also constructed to house the picker department and cloth room. Once expanded, the two mills accommodated 600 looms each and produced a total of 25,000 yards of fabric daily (Ammidown 1874:58–59; Burns 1988:25).

Mill workers came from multiple states and countries, including Massachusetts and New Jersey in the United States and England, Ireland, Canada, and Scotland (US Census 1870). Commercial and community development in Fiskdale increased to accommodate the growing residential population. The Otis Block, 572 Main Street (STU.151), initially called the Fiskdale Block, was constructed in 1875 on the north side of Main Street between the Upper and Lower mills (*Massachusetts Spy* 1875). It contained multiple stores on the first story and a hall on the second story (see Walsh 2017 for more information). Between 1904 and 1911, the Fiskdale Mills Hose House (STU.152) was constructed immediately west of the Otis Block to provide storage for fire department's hoses (Sanborn 1904, 1911). A Baptist Church (moved to Old Sturbridge Village in 1947) existed near 518 Main Street by 1857, and two Catholic churches were established in the village in 1883: St. Patrick's (on the current site of the Sturbridge Cotton Mills Hotel and Store parking lot) for the Irish workers and St. Anne's (16 Church Street, STU.173, outside area) for the French Canadians.²

In 1898, a financial downturn in the cotton industry forced several mills (primarily cotton producers) in Worcester County, including the Fiskdale Mills, to reduce wages for their employees. At that time, the Fiskdale Mills employed 400 people (*Boston Globe* 1898). Eight years later, the Fiskdale Mills, among others, announced 10 percent raises for their employees (*Boston Post* 1906). The financial upturn was short-lived, however. After a two-week shutdown due to market conditions in 1910, the Fiskdale Mills announced that the mills would operate only three days a week (*New York Times* 1910).

In 1926, the Fiskdale Mills, by then called the Fiskdale Finishing Company, declared bankruptcy. A June 1926 advertisement in the *Boston Globe* indicated that the company's holdings at the time consisted of Mill 1, a two-, three-, and four-story daylight mill; Mill 2, a two- and five-story daylight mill; water power rights; and 26 tenement buildings, consisting of an agent's house, a farm house, 3 single dwellings, and 21 two-, three-, and four-family dwellings and tenements (*Boston Globe* 1926a). A subdivision plan was filed that created separate parcels for the residential buildings (WCRD 47/41). By August 1926, 13 of the residences (2 single-family homes and 11 two-, three-, and four-family residences) had been sold (*Boston Globe* 1926b).

In 1927, the mills were reopened by Golding Brothers, a New York City firm that also owned the Southbridge Finishing Company. The company equipped the mills with new machinery and began producing bleached, dyed, printed, mercerized,

¹ No direct relationship between Josiah Fiske and James C. Fisk has been identified, although the men may have been distant relatives.

² The two Catholic parishes merged in 1887. In 1970, St. Patrick's Church was moved to the St. Anne's Church complex on Church Street to house Russian icons and was later demolished. A stained glass window depicting St. Patrick was retained and installed in a new, smaller building within the complex (SASPP 2018).

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and finished tickings, dress goods, and shirtings (Stone 1930:1957). In 1934, a nationwide textile workers strike forced the Fiskdale mills to shut down for three weeks. The strike was led by the United Textile Workers union, whose membership exploded from only 15,000 in 1933 to 250,000 in 1934. Workers demanded better working conditions, better wages, and union recognition (Findlay 2018). The strike lasted until a Board of Inquiry called by President Franklin D. Roosevelt suggested an arbitration plan that was agreed to by the union leaders and mill owners (*Boston Globe* 1934). In 1935, the Sturbridge and Southbridge Finishing Companies, which employed 700 people at the time, organized workers into three eight-hour shifts and anticipated creating 100 new jobs as a result (*Boston Globe* 1935). In November 1936, the Goldings awarded 800 workers a 10 percent raise (*Boston Globe* 1936). The hurricane of 1938 damaged the roof of the Fiskdale Lower Mill, resulting in the rear portion of the building being reduced from five stories to three (Holley 1973).

By 1938, the Fiskdale Ball Field, 529 Main Street (STU.907), which may have been constructed by the Goldings as a perk for their employees, was in use (NETR 2018). In the early 1970s, a bar known as Turner's Club sponsored a baseball team that played at the Fiskdale Ball Field, which is now known as Turner's Field. The bar, located on the south side of Main Street immediately north of the ballfield until about 1973, is now the relocated Oxhead Tavern (Brimfield Congregational Church Conference Hall, 366 Main Street [STU.187]) (Briere 1995). The Fiskdale Ball Field remains in use, hosting games for several recreational league teams.

By 1950, the upper and lower mill complexes were owned by Fiskdale Realty, Inc., and largely vacant, with tenants possibly occupying portions (AFMFIC 1950). By 1972, CPC Engineering owned the Fiskdale Upper Mill and had demolished the deteriorated four-story main mill building (Dufresne 1972). The southern one- and two-story portion of the building remained extant and in use as a laundry and by CPC for steel fabrication (Dufresne 1972).

Today, the area remains a heavily trafficked, mixed-use corridor of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Commercial buildings are generally occupied by restaurants, boutiques, and antique stores that cater to tourists drawn to the area by Old Sturbridge Village to the east and Brimfield, known for its antiques market, to the west. The Fiskdale Upper Mill is currently owned by Banjo Boy LLC and is largely vacant. The Fiskdale Lower Mill is occupied by numerous commercial tenants. The extant residential buildings in the area largely remain in use as residences, although several, including the Josiah Fiske House, have been altered for retail or other commercial use.

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STURBRIDGE FISKDALE MILL AREA

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Fiskdale Mill Area Sturbridge, Massachusetts Data Sheet

MHC No.	Assessor's No.	Address	Historic Name/Feature	Est. Date of Const.	Architectural Style/Type	Photograph No.
STU.166	212-02328-003	3 Church St	Fiskdale Mills Worker Housing	1870–1898	No Style	2
STU.167	212-02328-005	5 Church St	Fiskdale Mills Worker Housing	1870–1898	No Style	3
STU.169	335-02328-002	2 High St	Fiskdale Mills Worker Duplex	1870–1894	No Style	4
STU.170	335-02328-004	4 High St	Fiskdale Mills Worker Duplex	1870–1894	No Style	4
STU.171	335-02328-006	6 High St	Fiskdale Mills Worker Duplex	1870–1894	No Style	4
STU.194	348-02338-009	9 Holland Rd	Fiskdale Upper Mill (Mill No. 1)	1865, altered 1869, 1875–1921, 1933–1952, 1972	No Style	1,5,6
STU.139	415-02431-528	528 Main St	Simeon Drake House	ca. 1832	Greek Revival	7
STU.907	415-02431-529	529 Main St	Fiskdale Ball Field	by 1938	No Style	8

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MHC No.	Assessor's No.	Address	Historic Name/Feature	Est. Date of Const.	Architectural Style/Type	Photograph No.
STU.140	415-02431-530	530 Main St	Josiah Fiske House	ca. 1835	Greek Revival	9
STU.189	415-02431-533	533-535 Main St	James Johnson Double House	1827-1828	Greek Revival	10
STU.190	415-02431-537	537 Main St	Fiskdale Mills Tenement	1827-1828	No Style	11
STU.141	415-02421-538	538 Main St	Sturbridge Cotton Mills Hotel and Store	ca. 1836	No Style	12
STU.312	415-02421-538	538 Main St	Commercial Building	1988	No Style	12
STU.191	415-02431-541	541 Main St	Sturbridge Cotton Mills Office	1827-1828	Greek Revival	13
STU.146	415-02431-554	554 Main St	Fiskdale Mills Tenement	by 1857	Greek Revival	14
STU.193	415-02431-559	559 Main St	Fiskdale Lower Mill (Mill No. 2)	1845, altered 1865, 1869, 1877, 1938	Italianate	15-16
STU.917		South of 559 Main St	Sturbridge Cotton Mills Dam	ca. 1835	No Style	17
STU.151	415-02328-572	572 Main St	Otis Block	1875	No Style	18
STU.152	415-02328-572	572 Main St	Fiskdale Mills Hose House	1904-1911	No Style	18
STU.153	415-02328-584	584 Main St	Fiskdale Mills Double Worker Housing	by 1857	Greek Revival	19
STU.154	415-02328-588	588 Main St	Fiskdale Mills Double Worker Housing	by 1857	No Style	20
STU.156	415-02328-598	598 Main St	Fiskdale Mills Foreman's House	by 1857	No Style	21
STU.157	415-02328-600	600 Main St	Fiskdale Mills Foreman's House	by 1857	No Style	22-23

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FISKDALE MILL AREA

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 2. 3 Church Street (STU.166), looking northwest.



Photo 3. 5 Church Street (STU.167), looking southwest.

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Photo 4. (R-L) 2, 4, and 6 High Street (STU.169–STU.171), looking southeast.



Photo 5. Fiskdale Upper Mill, 9 Holland Road (STU.194), looking northeast.

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Photo 6. Post-1933 concrete-block addition to Fiskdale Upper Mill, 9 Holland Road (STU.194), now separated from the mill by demolition of Mill No. 1 and Mill No. 1-O (see Figure 3), looking northeast.



Photo 7. 528 Main Street (STU.139), looking northwest.

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Photo 8. 529 Main Street (STU.907), looking southwest.



Photo 9. 530 Main Street (STU.140), looking northeast.

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Photo 10. 533–535 Main Street (STU.189), looking southeast.



Photo 11. 537 Main Street (STU.190), looking southeast.

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Photo 12. 538 Main Street (STU.141), looking northeast.



Photo 13. 541 Main Street (STU.191), looking southwest.

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Photo 14. 554 Main Street (STU.146), looking southeast.



Photo 15. Fiskdale Lower Mill, 559 Main Street (STU.193), looking southwest.

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Photo 16. Fiskdale Lower Mill, 559 Main Street (STU.193), looking northeast.



Photo 17. Sturbridge Cotton Mills Dam, South of 559 Main Street, looking southeast.

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Photo 18. (L-R) Fiskdale Mills Hose House and Otis Block, 572 Main Street (STU.152 and STU.151), looking northeast.



Photo 19. 584 Main Street (STU.153), looking north.

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Photo 20. 588 Main Street (STU.154), looking north.



Photo 21. 598 Main Street (STU.156), looking north.

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Photo 22. 600 Main Street (STU.157), looking north.



Photo 23. Garage, 600 Main Street, looking north.

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HISTORIC IMAGES

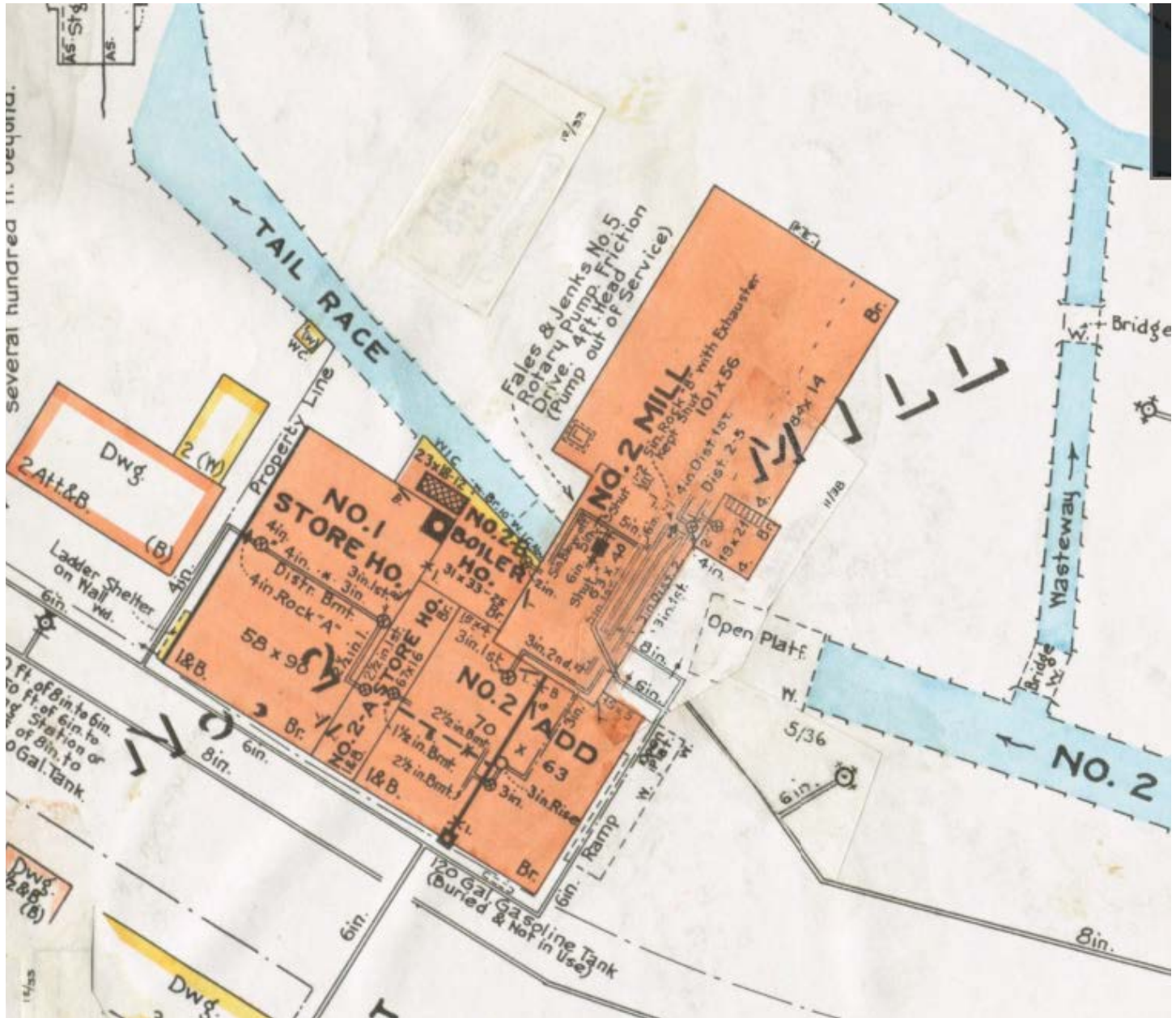


Figure 1. Fiskdale Lower Mill, 1933 layout. Detail from Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies plan (AFMFC 1933).

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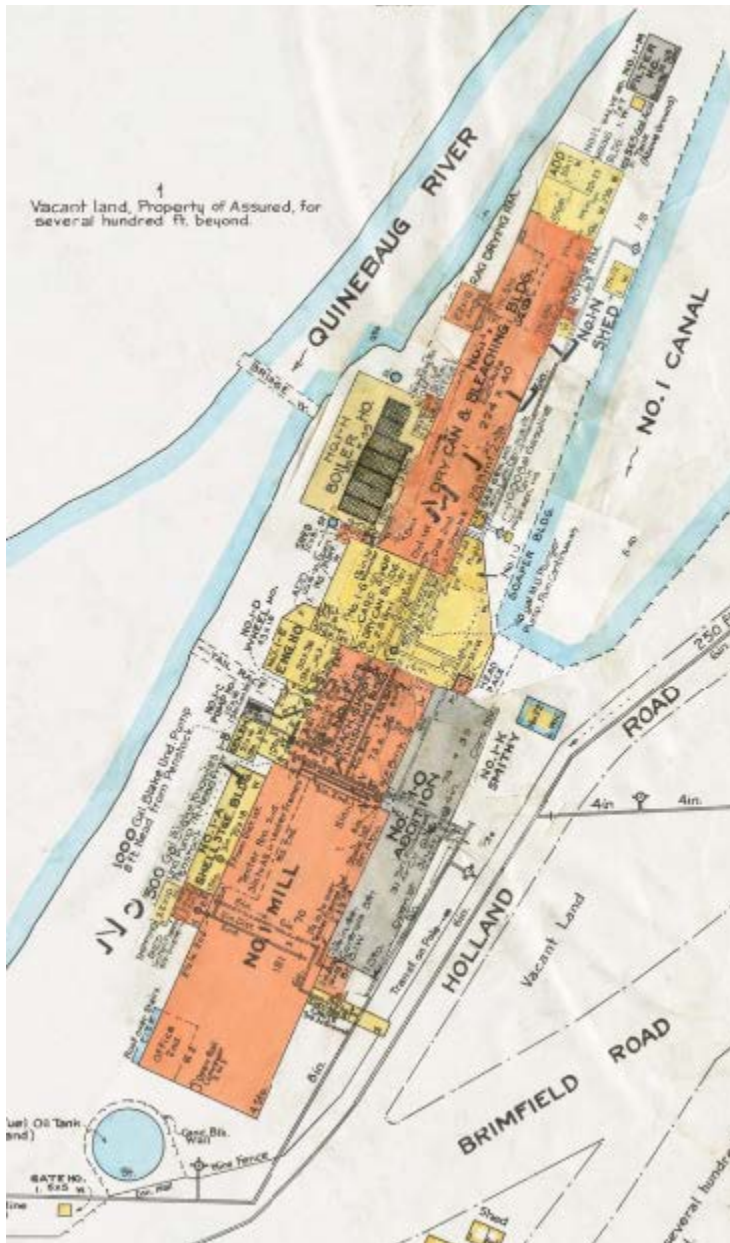


Figure 2. Fiskdale Upper Mill, 1933 layout. Detail from Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies plan (AFMFIC 1933).

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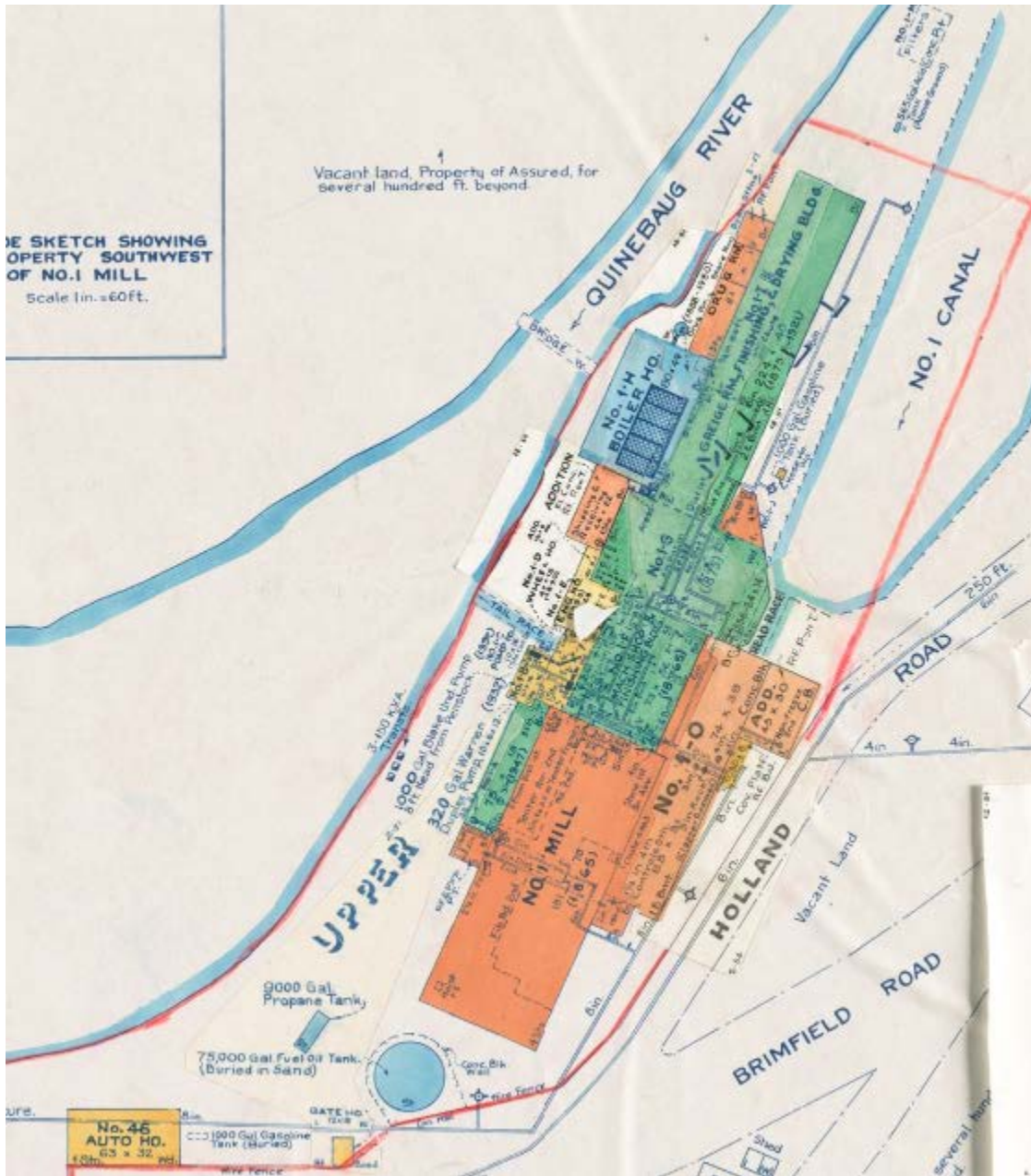


Figure 3. Fiskdale Upper Mill, 1955 layout. Detail of Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies plan (AFMFIC 1955).

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Figure 4. Undated postcard view of Main Street looking toward Otis Block (center), with Fiskdale Lower Mill on left (cardcow.com).

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district

Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by Gretchen M. Pineo and Laura J. Kline, PAL, October 2018

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Although the Fiskdale Mill Area as a whole does not retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places, the following buildings may be individually eligible under Criteria A and C at the local level:

- The Josiah Fiske House, 530 Main Street (STU.140), is recommended eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Under Criterion A, the building is eligible for the association of Josiah Fiske with the development of the Fiskdale cotton mills and the subsequent development of the surrounding mill village. Under Criterion C, the building is eligible as a generally intact example of a rare temple-front Greek Revival-style house in Sturbridge.
- The James Johnson Double House, 533–535 Main Street (STU.189), is recommended eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Under Criterion A, the building is eligible for its association with the development of Fiskdale as a mill village in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Under Criterion C, the building is eligible as a generally intact example of a double house, which was a common building type in the village.
- The Sturbridge Cotton Mills Office, 541 Main Street (STU.191), is recommended eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Under Criterion A, the building is eligible for its association with the development of Fiskdale in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Under Criterion C, the building is eligible as an unusual example in the village of a Greek Revival-style brick building.
- The Fiskdale Lower Mill (Mill No. 2), 559 Main Street (STU.193), is recommended eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Community Planning and Development

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and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Under Criterion A, the building is eligible for its association with the development of the cotton fabric industry in Sturbridge and the subsequent development of the surrounding mill village. Under Criterion C, the building is eligible as a generally intact example of a nineteenth-century mill building in Sturbridge.

- The Otis Block, 572 Main Street (STU.151), was recommended eligible for listing at the local level by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) in 2017 under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture (Walsh 2017). PAL concurs with PVPC's assessment. Under Criterion A, the building is significant for its association with the development of Fiskdale and function as a central meeting hall and commercial building within the village. Under Criterion C, the building is eligible as a rare example of a Gothic Revival-style building in Sturbridge.