

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02446-413

Southbridge

STU.C

STU.80

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Snellville

Photograph



Address: 413 Main Street

Historic Name: George E. Richards Rental House

Uses: Present: Restaurant

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: c. 1886

Source: Beers 1870, O.H. Bailey 1892, WCRD 1886

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood Trim

Roof: Slate Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): building moved to present location from 380 Main Street, 1980; windows and siding replaced, 2014

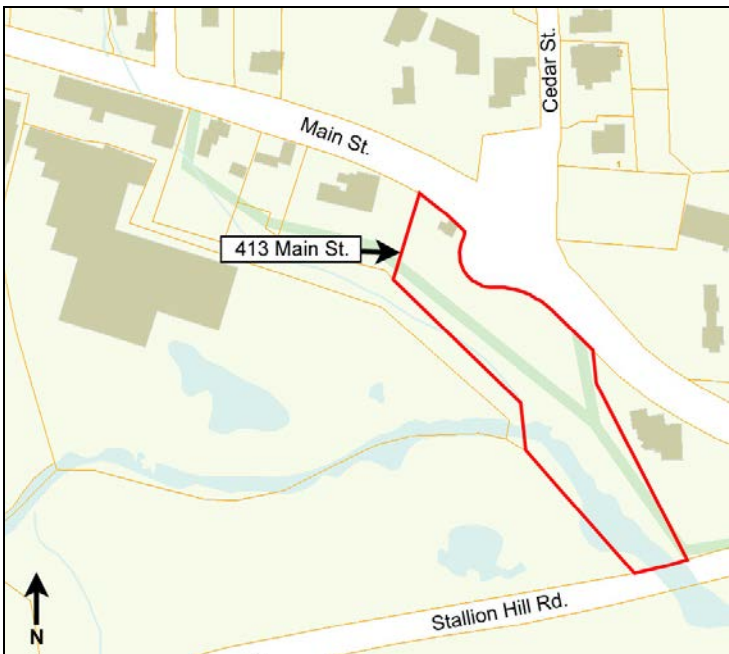
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1980

Acreage: 2.06

Setting: The building is on the south side of Main Street within a mixed-use area along a main thoroughfare through Sturbridge. Most of the lot is paved and used for parking.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): May 2018

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

413 MAIN STREET

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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 building occupies a large oblong lot on the south side of Main Street within a mixed-use area. It is in the northwest corner of the parcel close to the road. A parking lot for 413 and 419 Main Street occupies approximately half of the parcel along Main Street. The parcel extends to Stallion Hill Road on the southeast and a former tailrace for the Snell Manufacturing Company (aka the Auger Shop Canal) on the southwest.

The George E. Richards Rental House (ca. 1886, STU.80) is a restrained Italianate-style, one-and-one-half-story, two-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame building with a two-bay, side-hall plan. A one-story side ell projects from the northwest elevation. The house has a front-gable roof and a poured concrete foundation. A brick chimney pierces the central ridgeline of the main building, and a second brick chimney pierces the northwest end of the ell roof. The walls are clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles and rubber. A one-story, hip-roof entry porch supported by square columns shelters an entrance in the west bay of the northeast (facade) elevation. The entrance consists of a paneled wood door with a six-light window and is at grade with the sidewalk. Fenestration throughout the building consists of replacement twelve-over-twelve, double-hung vinyl sash.

In 1980, the building was moved from its original location at 380 Main Street. In 2014, the windows and siding were replaced.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The George E. Richards Rental House (ca. 1886, STU.80) first appears in its original location on the 1892 Bailey bird's-eye map as a rectangular-footprint house with a side ell (O.H. Bailey 1892). Previous documentation indicated the building was constructed ca. 1865, but the building is not shown on the 1870 Beers map of the area (Beers 1870, Long 1973).

George E. Richards (b. 1845) purchased two parcels of land on the north side of the old town road in 1884 and 1886. He likely constructed the house shortly thereafter; in 1898, the house with its current footprint is shown with G.E. Richards as the owner (Richards 1898). In 1880, Richards reported his occupation as a carpenter; however, by 1900 he was working as a machinist in an auger shop at the Snell Manufacturing Company (see Wight-Snell Manufacturing Area, STU.N) and lived in Snellville with his wife, Louise, and daughter, Grace. Richards also owned a larger house in Sturbridge, the George Richards House, 407 Main Street (1892, STU.124), which was likely his primary residence; the subject property was presumably used as a rental house (US Census 1880, 1900).

Charles H. Shepard (1879–1948) of Sturbridge purchased the property from the estate of George E. Richards in 1921, and the property remained in the Shepard family until 1979. Shepard owned an ice business and lived in Sturbridge with his wife, Ethel (1891–1980), and their two children, Kenneth R. and Harold L. (WCRD 1921, US Census 1930, Find a Grave 2014).

In 1979, Old Sturbridge, Inc. purchased the property from Harold L. Shepard of Maine, likely to make space for the tourist information area that currently exists at 380 Main Street. John T. Moran, owner of the parcel of land at 413 Main Street, acquired the building and moved it to its current location in 1980 (Sturbridge Building Department, WCRD 1979). The current location's 2-acre parcel also contained the Alpheus Wight Vinegar Barn and House, 413 Main Street (1862, STU.123), which was demolished before 1997, likely when the intersection of Main Street and Cedar Street was altered to include a wide-turn curve (NETR 1971, 1998, WCRD 1979).

The property is currently owned by Yervant Realty LLC and is occupied by Jimmy D's Ice Cream & Sandwich Shoppe (Sturbridge Assessor 2018).

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PHOTOGRAPH



Photo 2. 413 Main Street, looking northeast.