

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02432-501

Southbridge

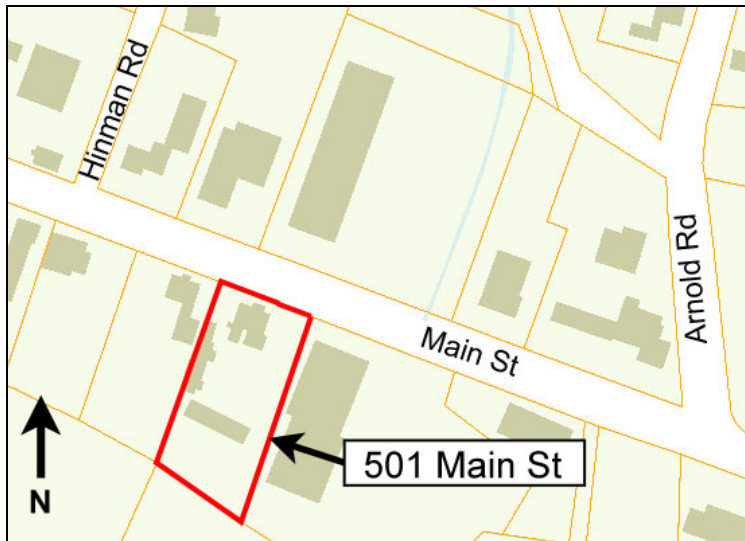
STU.E

STU.178  
STU.326  
STU.327

## Photograph



## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** Sturbridge Historical Commission

**Date (month / year):** May 2018

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

**Address:** 501 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Moses and Lucy Morris House; Pink Haven Motel

**Uses:** Present: Vacant

Original: Single Family Dwelling; Motel

**Date of Construction:** 1830–1831, 1950, 1959

**Source:** WCRD 279/146 (1830), 283/125 (1831)

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Parged

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle and Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** 1950 motel building southwest of house; 1959 motel building south of house; one-car garage west of house

**Major Alterations (with dates):** vinyl windows, late 20<sup>th</sup> century; interior renovations, 2007; new roof, 2013

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** .53 acres

**Setting:** The building occupies a rectangular-shaped lot on the south side of Main Street in the mixed-use neighborhood of Fiskdale. The lot is mostly paved with the exception of a small lawn directly in front of the house at the street edge. The house and the two motels form a U shape around the parking area behind the house.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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STURBRIDGE

501 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 Moses and Lucy Morris House (1830–1831, STU.178) is a north-facing, astylistic, one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a one-story addition on the south elevation. It has a side-gable roof and a parged foundation. An end wall chimney is centered on the east elevation. The walls are clad with wood shingles, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A shed-roof porch supported by turned posts covers two entrances in the north (facade) elevation, each filled with a modern three-light door. A gable-roof porch shelters an entrance in the addition's west elevation, and a hip-roof porch covers an entrance in the east elevation. Fenestration consists of one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

A Garage is west of the house. It is a one-story, one-bay, concrete block garage with an end-gable roof. It has a concrete block foundation, and the gable peak is clad with wood shingles.

The Pink Haven Motel Building 1 (1950, STU.326) is southwest of the house and not visible from the public right of way.

The Pink Haven Motel Building 2 (1959, STU.327) is south of the house, perpendicular to the earlier motel. It is an astylistic, one-story building with a flat rubber-clad roof. The building is clad in wood clapboards, and the foundation is not visible. It has one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash and a modern six-paneled door.

Vinyl windows were likely installed in the late twentieth century. The buildings underwent interior renovations in 2007, and in 2013 the roof was replaced.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Moses and Lucy Morris House (1830–1831, STU.178) is at the east edge of the village of Fiskdale in the town of Sturbridge. Sturbridge was settled ca. 1725 by residents of Medfield and was incorporated as a town in 1738 (MHC 1984:3–4).

Sturbridge native Moses Morris (1788–1870) married Lucy Corey in 1812 in Craftsbury, Vermont. In 1830, Morris purchased one acre of land from Josiah S. Fiske, and the following year, mortgaged the property with a three-year repayment term, "with buildings thereon" to Jesse B. Adams, suggesting a construction date for the house of 1830–1831 (Morris 1887:215; WCRD 279/146, 283/125). Adams gained control of the property, possibly through a default on the mortgage, but sold it in 1834 to Diantha J. Morris, the daughter of Moses and Lucy. Diantha Jennette Morris (1814–1852) was the eldest of three daughters and married wealthy farmer Timothy W. Boit (also Boyt) in 1848, the same year she sold the property to her mother. The property extended from the road south to the Snell Auger Company canal and, per the deed, belonged solely to Lucy with her husband having no purview over it (Find a Grave 2013; WCRD 440/527). Lucy died by 1855, as Moses is listed in the 1855 Massachusetts census as living in Sturbridge with his second wife Orres. Moses Morris remained at the property through at least 1870, appearing on the 1870 Beers map (Beers 1870; Ancestry.com 2014). By 1881, Charles Underwood had control of the property, although it is unclear how he acquired it. That year he sold the property to Elizabeth Merrill, whose husband S. D. Merrill worked at the nearby Snell Auger Company (WCRD 1124/573).

The Merrills owned the property until 1903, when Elizabeth sold it to James Madison, an Irish immigrant who lived with his wife and mother, both also from Ireland, and worked at a cotton mill (US Census 1880; WCRD 1743/435). After only three years, Madison sold the property to druggist William J. Kirby but reserved the right to occupy two rooms on the first floor of the house for the rest of his natural life (WCRD 1841/373). Three years later, Kirby sold the property to Florence Lequin with no reference in the deed to Madison's life tenancy, indicating that he had passed away or moved by then (WCRD 1912/588). Lequin was a widow from Quebec who lived with her widowed son Henry and his son Adalard; her daughter Mary (or Maria), her husband Joseph Lamoroux, and their daughter Daurea; and a boarder from Quebec, Joseph Belanger, who worked as a weaver in a

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cotton mill (US Census 1910). In 1922, the property passed to Maria Lamoroux, who sold it to Edwin and Laura Hunt in 1923 (WCRD 2320/204). Edwin worked at an optical company and lived with Laura and their daughter Pauline (US Census 1940).

In 1945, the Hunts sold the property to Napoleon and Mollie Corriveau and Oswald and Rachel Bastien (WCRD 2955/581). Between 1945 and 1963, the property was transferred from the Bastiens and Corriveaus to Rachel Remian and back twice, ultimately owned by the Bastiens and Corriveaus by 1963 (Polk 1965; WCRD 4374/510, 4374/513). Napoleon Corriveau and Rachel Bastien were siblings who had lived in Southbridge with their parents and other family members in 1940, when Napoleon worked in a cotton mill and Rachel's husband Oswald (born in Quebec) worked at the optical factory (US Census 1940). The siblings and their spouses operated a small motel at the subject property listed as the "Pink Haven Motel" under Racheal [sic] Bastien's name in the 1965 Southbridge city directory. The Pink Haven Motel Building 1 (1950, STU.326) was built by 1950, and the Pink Haven Motel Building 2 (1959, STU.327) was constructed several years later.

In 1980, the Bastiens and Corriveaus sold the property to Jeanne and Raymond Gagnon (WCRD 6950/330). The Gagnons owned the property for four years, selling it to Jon and Nancy Gresenz in 1984 (WCRD 8071/66). During that time the property continued to be used as a motel. In 2004, the Gresenzes sold the property to Richard C. George, who owned it for five years then sold it to the Boardwalk Group LLC (WCRD 33859/22, 44491/142). The motel is no longer in operation and the entire property appears to be vacant.

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**PHOTOGRAPH**



Photo 2. Pink Haven Motel Building 1, 501 Main Street, looking southwest.