

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02432-502

Southbridge

STU.E

STU.130  
STU.331

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 502 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Emory L. Bates House and Barn

**Uses:** Present: Restaurant

Original: Single Family Dwelling; Multiple Family Dwelling; General Retail Store

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1855

**Source:** WCRD 588/304 (1856)

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/ Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Attached Barn (the detached building shown on the assessor base map is no longer extant)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): addition, interior renovation, 2014; barn alterations, 20<sup>th</sup> c.

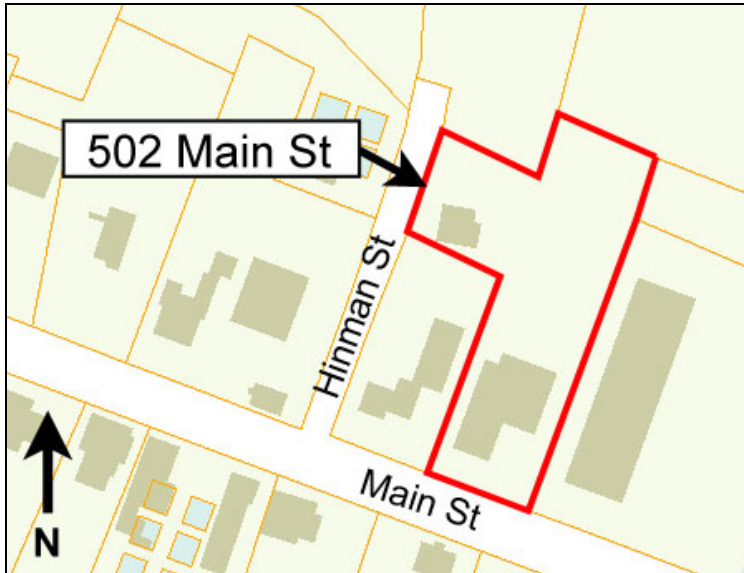
**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 1 acre

**Setting:** The building occupies an approximately rectangular lot on the north side of Main Street in the mixed-use neighborhood of Fiskdale. A large paved parking lot occupies most of the parcel north of the building and is accessed via a driveway east of the building.

## 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

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

STURBRIDGE

502 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 Emory L. Bates House (ca. 1855, STU.130) is a south-facing, temple-front Greek Revival-style, two-story, three-bay-by-four-bay, wood-frame building with an attached barn on the northeast corner and a rear addition, not visible from the street, connected to the house and barn. The house and barn have asphalt-shingled, end-gable roofs, and the house has a brick chimney on the east slope. The walls are clad in wood clapboard, and the house has a stone foundation. Paired carved brackets are regularly spaced along the gable and house eaves, and a cross-gable cupola pierces the center of the barn roof. Four, two-story, fluted Ionic columns support an engaged porch on the house's south (facade) elevation. A one-story, fully glazed, enclosed porch spans the first story of the facade between the columns and square corner pilasters. The porch has paired twelve-light windows and paired twelve-light doors in the center bay. Rectangular window openings in the house have wood surrounds with bracketed molded lintels and are filled with six-over-six, double-hung wood sash. A secondary entrance in the south elevation of the connection between the barn and house contains a paneled door with a fanlight and sidelights beneath a dentiled lintel. Fenestration in the barn consists of two vertically stacked, modern, nearly full-height, three-paned windows and a fanlight in the gable peak.

The Emory L. Bates Barn (ca. 1855, altered 20<sup>th</sup> century, STU.331) projects from the northeast corner of the house. The barn is a south-facing, two-story, three-bay-by-five-bay, wood-frame barn topped with an end-gable roof pierced by a cupola at the center. Four oriel windows are evenly spaced below the eaves on the east elevation, and the south elevation has a wide, two-story, six-pane window topped with a large fanlight filling most of the elevation. A small, fully-glazed entrance door is in the west bay of the south elevation; other access to the barn is via a two-story hyphen. In the late twentieth century the barn underwent significant alterations, including the installation of the south windows, and is currently used as a restaurant.

Despite alterations, the Emory L. Bates House retains its two-story Greek Revival portico and other stylistic elements of a grand, temple-front, Greek Revival-style house.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Emory L. Bates House and Barn (ca. 1855, STU.130 and STU.331) are 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).

Local shoemaker Emory Lyman Bates (1823–1900) was a partner in the Sessions, Bates and Company shoe factory whose primary products were shoes for Southern markets, particularly cheap shoes for slaves (Stone 1930:1959; Burns 1988:42). In 1845, he married Maria Whitney Lumbard (or Lombard) (1820–1903), and the couple had a son, Arthur L. Bates (1846–1922), two years later. Until about 1855, the family lived in Brimfield with Maria's parents.

The Emory L. Bates House and Barn was constructed ca. 1855; an 1856 deed refers to the house built by Bates on Rebecca C. Atherton's land, the remainder of which was west of the subject property (WCRD 588/304). Bates ultimately acquired the property through two transactions, purchasing a portion of Mrs. Atherton's land to the west in 1855 and a lot from Simeon A. Drake, his neighbor to the east, in 1856 (WCRD 560/483; 588/304). With the onset of the Civil War, the Southern shoe market disappeared, and Bates' shoe factory folded (Stone 1930:1959; Burns 1988:37). He ran the Bates and Bacon general store from 1861 to 1868 and in 1862 acquired, with the New York firm of Clark & Wilson, the Snell Manufacturing Company in nearby Snellville (see Wight-Snell Manufacturing Area, STU.N), which he owned until his death (Stone 1930:1959; Hebard 1907:33; Biographical Review Publishing Company 1899:636). In 1861, Bates became postmaster of Fiskdale, a position he held until the mid-1880s (Ancestry.com 2010). Following his death in 1900, the subject property transferred to his wife and then to his son and daughter-in-law. Arthur Bates and his second wife, Caroline Allen (1854–1940), lived in Sturbridge in 1900, and Arthur listed his

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occupation as 'Capitalist.'<sup>1</sup> The couple lived in Sterling, Massachusetts, by 1910 but returned to Sturbridge by 1920 (US Census 1900, 1910, 1920). The property remained in the Bates family until 1952, passing from Arthur to Caroline to their daughter Agnes Hicks (WCRD 3033/385).

In 1970, the property was owned by Normand and Lillian Simonelli who ran an antique shop in the first story of the house and the barn, which at the time was large enough for only one horse and carriage (WCRD 5042/89; Holley 1973). The property changed hands numerous times through the end of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century. In the late twentieth century, the building was converted into a restaurant. In the early twenty-first century, the barn was expanded to accommodate a second restaurant, and an addition was constructed on the north side of the building. The building continues to be used as a restaurant.

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<sup>1</sup> Arthur married his first wife, Josie Maria Allen (1845–1882), in 1871 and his second wife, possibly Josie's cousin, in 1885.

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**PHOTOGRAPH**



Photo 2. Emory L. Bates House and Barn, 502 Main Street, looking northwest.