

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02432-507 Southbridge STU.E STU.180

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

Photograph



Address: 507 Main Street

Historic Name: Sturbridge Second Adventist Church

Uses: Present: Clubhouse; Meeting Hall

Original: Church

Date of Construction: ca. 1892

Source: Holley 1973; WCRD 1399/542 (1892)

Style/Form: No Style (altered beyond recognition)

Architect/Builder: possibly William Schultz (Holley 1973)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding/ Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): removal of corner tower, before 1973; window and door openings altered, windows replaced, gable scrollwork and window trim removed, additions and vinyl siding, after 1973

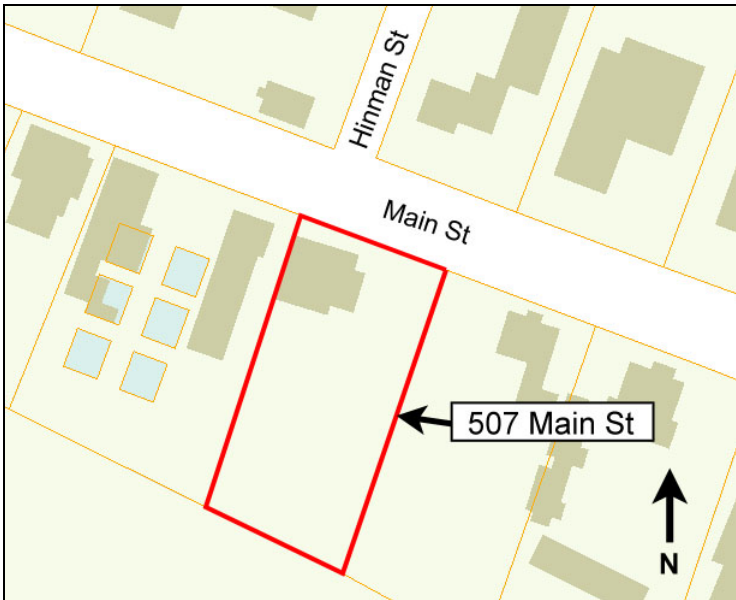
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .5 acres

Setting: The building occupies a rectangular-shaped lot on the south side of Main Street in the mixed-use neighborhood of Fiskdale. It is set close to the street, and most of the parcel is occupied by a paved parking lot, except a small front lawn with a stone memorial, flag, and brick-paved front walkway. The parcel slopes slightly down to the south, and a stone retaining wall borders the lawn and parking area.

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

507 MAIN STREET

Area(s) Form No.

STU.E

STU.180

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 Sturbridge Second Adventist Church (ca. 1892, STU.180) is a north-facing, astylistic, one-story, L-shaped, wood-frame building with a cross-gable roof and a raised brick foundation. One-story, shed-roof additions extend from the south and west elevations. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The main entrance is in a shed-roof entry bay between the north and east arms under a sloping roof supported by carved brackets and filled with a metal door with sidelight and transom. A second entrance is in the west elevation of the west addition and is accessed via an ADA-accessible ramp leading to the sidewalk. The gable peak contains a small octagonal window, and other fenestration consists of eight-over-eight and one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Originally a late Gothic-style church with a three-story bell tower and entry bay between the building's two arms, the building has been altered beyond recognition by the removal of the bell tower and other ornamentation, including window surrounds and gable scrollwork, and the construction of two additions and application of vinyl siding after 1973.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Sturbridge Second Adventist Church (ca. 1892, STU.180) is on the east side 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).

The Second Adventist Church of Sturbridge purchased the land the building occupies in 1892 for one dollar from George Tyler, who had acquired the property that same year from Caroline A. Drake and the heirs of Simeon Drake (WCRD 1399/540, 1399/542).¹ The Seventh-day Adventist Church emerged following the Second Great Awakening of the mid-nineteenth century. Followers were initially known as Millerites for their first leader, Baptist minister William Miller, who believed that Jesus would return to Earth on October 22, 1844. When his prediction failed to come true, known as the "Great Disappointment," Miller's followers split, with one faction becoming the Seventh-day Adventists. The church was formally established in 1863 (Lechleitner 2013).

Previous documentation indicated that the Sturbridge Second Adventist Church may have been designed by William Schultz (Holley 1973). No information about an architect by that name could be found, but further research, including in the files of the American Legion, could confirm his involvement with the building. The church closed in 1918 following declining membership. In 1925, the American Legion Champeau-Vilandre Post 109 purchased the property. The post is named after Isadore Champeau (1892–1918), a US Army soldier who died in World War I, and Roland Vilandre (1918–1943), a US Navy sailor who died in World War II (Briere 1993). The American Legion was founded by World War I veterans and chartered by the United States Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization focused on service to veterans (American Legion 2018).

After 1973, two one-story additions were built and the building's original window surrounds and other ornamentation were removed when vinyl siding was installed. The building continues to be used by the American Legion.

William H. Schultz (1861–1929)

William Henry Schultz was born in Troy, Ohio, to Levi and Sophia (Hartman) Schultz. In 1887, he married Brookfield, Massachusetts, native Rosa Belle Adams (1866–1923), and the couple likely moved to Fiskdale shortly thereafter. The 1900 census lists his occupation as a farmer in Fiskdale, and the 1910 census reports his occupation as a carpenter. As a builder, no other work has been attributed to Schultz in MACRIS (US Census 1900, 1910).

¹ Previous documentation (Holley 1973) stated that the church was built on property that had belonged to a Mr. Draper, the owner of the Fiskdale Cotton Mills, but deed research indicates that the Drakes, not the Drapers, had owned the property.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

STURBRIDGE

507 MAIN STREET

Area(s) Form No.

STU.E

STU.180

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- American Legion. "History." <https://www.legion.org/history>, accessed August 2018.
- Briere, Bob. Recollections of Sturbridge, 1993. Typescript on file, Joshua Hyde Library, Sturbridge, MA.
- Burns, Brian. *Sturbridge: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1988.
- Holley, Helen G. *Massachusetts Historical Commission Building Form B – Sturbridge Adventist Church, 507 Main Street (STU.180)*. On file, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA, 1973.
- Lechleitner, Elizabeth. 2013. "Seventh-day Adventist Church emerged from religious fervor of 19th Century." <https://www.adventist.org/en/information/history/article/go/-/seventh-day-adventist-church-emerged-from-religious-fervor-of-19th-century/>, accessed August 2018.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report – Sturbridge*. On file, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA, 1984.
- United States Bureau of the Census (US Census). *Ninth Census of the United States, 1870*. (M593, 1,761 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. (T623, 1,854 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.
- . *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910*. (T624, 1178 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.
- Worcester County Registry of Deeds (WCRD). Book/Page (Year). 1399/540 (1892), 1399/542 (1892).

HISTORIC IMAGE



The Sturbridge Adventist Church (Burns 1988:120).