

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02431-524 Southbridge STU.E STU.138

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

Photograph



Address: 524 Main Street

Historic Name: Horatio N. Drake House

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1835

Source: WCRD 305/378 (1835)

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding/ Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (1950)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): east and west additions, mid-20th century; vinyl siding and windows, late 20th century

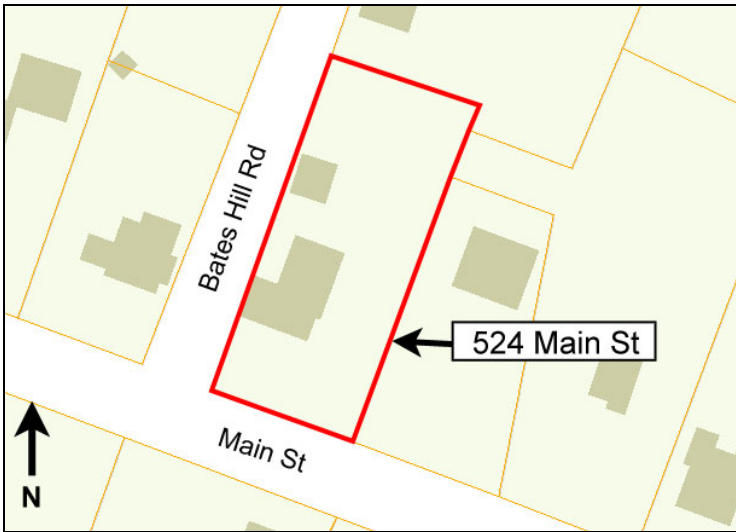
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .5 acres

Setting: The building occupies a rectangular lot at the northeast intersection of Main Street and Bates Hill Road in the village of Fiskdale, set back from the street edge. The parcel has a gradual slope upward to the north and is surrounded by a wood picket fence.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): May 2018

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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 Horatio N. Drake House (ca. 1835, STU.138) is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, gable-roof ell extending from the north elevation. A one-story, flat-roof, one-bay addition projects from the east elevation of the house and connects to the ell. A one-story, hip-roof addition spans the west elevation. The house has a side-gable roof with pedimented gables and a stone foundation. A brick chimney is at the east end of the ridgeline of the main house, and a second chimney is at the north end of the ell. The walls are clad with vinyl siding and brick veneer on the west elevation of the ell, and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The main entrance is in the center of the south (facade) elevation, within a recess surrounded by pilasters supporting a wide entablature. The entrance is filled with a six-panel door flanked by three-light sidelights. Secondary entrances are within a one-bay-by-one-bay, enclosed entry porch projecting from the south bay of the west addition's east elevation; within a one-bay-by-one-bay, brick-clad entry bay in the west interstice of the house and ell; and under an engaged porch in the north bay of the ell's east elevation. A vertical-lift garage door is in the north bay of the ell's west elevation, and an oriel window is between the garage and entry bay. Fenestration consists of twelve-over-twelve, nine-over-nine, and six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

A Garage (1950) is north of the house, accessed via a short driveway leading east from Bates Hill Road. It is a west-facing, astylistic, wood-frame building with an end-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. It is clad in vinyl siding except for the first story of the west elevation, which is clad in vertical boards. The west elevation has an overhead garage door in the south bay, and the south elevation contains two windows that are obscured by vegetation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Horatio N. Drake House (ca. 1835, STU.138) is near the center 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).

Horatio N. Drake (1808–1855) purchased a house lot from the Quinebaug Manufacturing Company in 1835 with specifications in the deed on the distance the house could be constructed south of the road (WCRD 305/378). Drake was the brother of Simeon A. Drake, one of the founders of the Sturbridge Cotton Mills, and worked in the mills with his brother (Hurd 1889:120). In 1837, Horatio, Simeon, and Calvin P. Fiske established the Sturbridge Institution for Savings (Dutton and Wentworth 1837). The house was likely constructed shortly after Drake purchased the lot, and he resided there with his wife Prudence (1806–1848), daughter Josephine (1838–1860), and son Horatio N. (1843–1847) (Find A Grave 2014; Ancestry.com 2014). After Prudence's death, Drake married Amanda Johnson (ancestry.com 2011). He sold the subject property in 1842 to James Darling, who sold it to Avery P. Taylor in 1845 (WCRD 366/421, 403/473).

Avery P. Taylor (1795–1881) was a well-known lawyer who lived with his wife Annie at the property until 1872, when he sold it to the Fiskdale Mills Company (Davis 1856:12; WCRD 866/561). Taylor was involved with town government, serving as moderator in 1827 and 1870 and selectman in 1856 and 1858. He was also a director of the Second Agricultural Society of Sturbridge, a forerunner of the Worcester South Agricultural Society, which incorporated in 1854 (Chase 1889:111, 121).

In 1893, the Fiskdale Mills Company sold the property to William J. Kirby (WCRD 1414/538). Kirby (1862–1913) owned a drugstore in Fiskdale with his brother James Kirby (see Josiah J. Fiske Building, 552 Main Street, STU.145, for more information). William resided at the property with his wife Agnes (1862–1937) and their five daughters (US Census 1910). In 1922, Agnes sold the property to Fayette and Bernice Eldridge, who sold it to Raymond Vinton in 1923 (WCRD 2278/532, 2312/326). Vinton, in turn, sold it to Margaret Borgeson in 1924 (WCRD 2353/513). Borgeson, a German immigrant who arrived in the United States in 1884, lived with her husband Charles, a Swedish immigrant who arrived in the United States in 1887 (US Census 1920). By 1940, Margaret was a widow and lived with her daughter Margaret Muggli and five lodgers. Three of the

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lodgers worked at the Fiskdale Finishing Mill, one was a bartender at a club, and the fifth was a machinist at a garage (US Census 1940).

In 1940, Borgeson subdivided her property, selling the vacant northern portion to Peter and Genevieve Grudzien. In 1942, she made her daughter Margaret joint owner of the subject property (WCRD 275/526, 2874/437). In 1945, Margaret Muggli sold her property to Harry and Faye Rosenblum, who acquired the lot to the north from the Grudziens in 1956 (WCRD 2960/280, 3763/127). The two separate parcels have remained under the same ownership since 1956. In 1963, Dr. William Brunelle and his wife Yvette acquired both parcels from Richard and Sue Butler, who had purchased them in 1959 (WCRD 4047/458, 4354/568). Brunelle was a dentist who had an office on the first floor of the house and lived on the second floor. The dentist office closed in 2012 when Dr. Brunelle retired, but the house remains in the Brunelle family (Holley 1973; Sturbridge Assessor 2018).

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 2. Horatio N. Drake House, looking southeast.



Photo 3. Garage, looking northeast.