

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02431-531 Southbridge STU.E STU.188

**Town/City:** Sturbridge

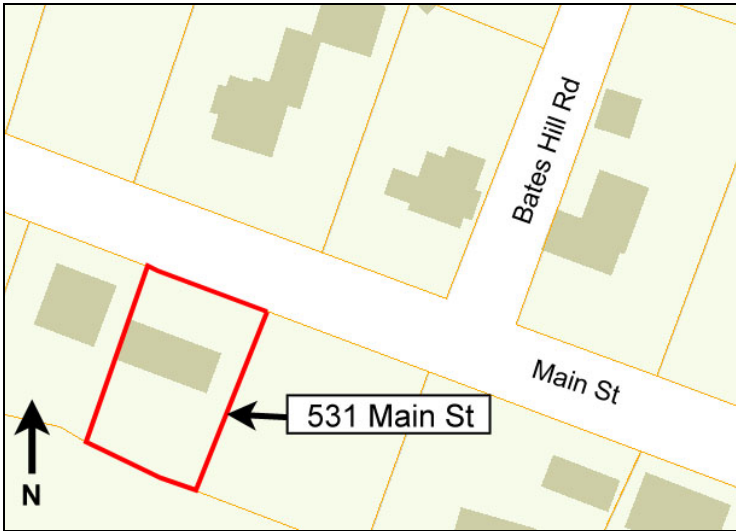
**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

## Photograph



Photo 1. 531 Main Street, looking southwest.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** Sturbridge Historical Commission

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

**Address:** 531 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Fiskdale Mill Blacksmith Shop

**Uses:** Present: Other Commercial

Original: Blacksmith

**Date of Construction:** 1857–1870

**Source:** Walling 1857, Beers 1870

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Not Visible

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Clapboard/Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): second story added 1918–1925, expanded after 1973; front entry porch removed after 1973; vinyl siding and wood replacement windows, 2008

**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** .19 acres

**Setting:** The building occupies a rectangular lot on the south side of Main Street in the village of Fiskdale. The parcel slopes down at its southern edge toward the baseball field south of the property. A paved parking area occupies the area between the house and street.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

STURBRIDGE

531 MAIN STREET

Area(s) Form No.

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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 Fiskdale Mill Blacksmith Shop (1857–1870, STU.188) is a north-facing, astylistic, two-story, six-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a side-gable roof. The foundation is not visible from the public way. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and pierced by a brick chimney at the east end, and the walls are covered with vinyl siding. Entrances are in the east and west bays of the north (facade) elevation, filled with chevron-patterned wood doors in pedimented surrounds. Large openings in the second and fifth bays have pedimented wood surrounds and have been infilled with chevron-patterned wood panels. Fenestration consists of paired four-over-four, double-hung wood replacement sash in peaked wood surrounds.

According to a previous owner, the building was remodeled in 1920. After 1973, the roof was raised to create a full second story, and a one-story entry porch was removed. In 2008, the windows and siding were replaced (Holley 1973).

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Fiskdale Mill Blacksmith Shop (1857–1870, STU.188) 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).

The Fiskdale Mill Blacksmith Shop first appears on the 1870 Beers map. Deed research indicates that it was owned by the mill until 1892, when it was sold to Delphine Martineau, an immigrant from Quebec, Canada, who arrived in the United States in 1881 (WCRD 1398/146). Martineau was a blacksmith and lived in Sturbridge with his wife Adelina; three daughters Blanche, Alice, and Gertrude; and twin sons Carl and Edgar; it is unknown where in Sturbridge they lived, but Sanborn maps indicate that the subject building was not a residence at that time (US Census 1900; Sanborn 1899). Martineau owned the property until 1906, when he sold it to blacksmith William Marsell, and subsequently moved to Worcester (WCRD 1823/133; Drew Allis Co. 1908). Marsell lived on Bates Hill Road, to the northeast, with his wife Louisa, two daughters Blanche and Bernice, and son John (US Census 1910; NEDC 1912). The building remained a blacksmith shop through at least 1918, but by 1925, it had been subdivided with a residence in the east half and a blacksmith shop in the west (Sanborn 1918, 1925). In 1925, E. Vertine Senecal, the executrix of William Marsell's will, sold the property to Charles Sirois (WCRD 2377/142). Sirois was an immigrant from Quebec who lived with his wife Matilda and worked in the lumber trucking business (US Census 1930).

In 1935, Charles Sirois sold the building to Henry J. Fortier, a chauffeur for the Fiskdale Finishing Company (WCRD 2649/159). In 1940, Fortier lived with his wife Beatrice; daughter Mary; sons Emile, Omer, and Amie; and a lodger, Omer Landreville. Everyone in the family except Amie worked for the Fiskdale Finishing Company (US Census 1940). Between 1925 and 1948, the building was expanded to one-and-one-half stories in height, a one-story entry porch was constructed on the east bay of the north elevation, and the blacksmith shop in the west half of the building was converted to a garage (Sanborn 1925, 1948). The property remained in the Fortier family until 1980, when Henry J. Fortier's heirs, Emile, Omer, and Virginia Fortier and Mary Landreville (it appears that Mary married Omer Landreville, the Fortier's lodger in 1940), sold the property to John Moran (WCRD 7135/260).

In 1985, Moran sold the property to Michael Yaskiski, who in turn sold it to Mark Zulkiewicz in 1988 (WCRD 8954/92, 11602/335). According to assessor records, the building was vacant and boarded up in 1988. In 1994, Zulkiewicz sold the property to Toning Management Company (WCRD 16497/112). By 1997, the building was occupied (Sturbridge Assessor 2018). Today the building is occupied by retail space.

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