

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

415-02421-544

Southbridge

STU.E

STU.142

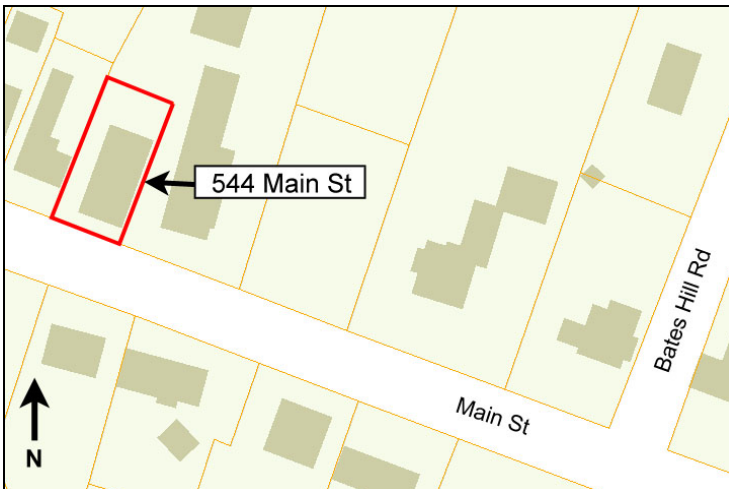
Town/City: Sturbridge

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Fiskdale

Photograph



Locus Map



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

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): May 2018

Address: 544 Main Street

Historic Name: Lemuel Lumbard Building

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Grocery Store; Single Family Dwelling;
Post Office

Date of Construction: 1836–1857

Source: WCRD 318/57 (1836); Walling 1857

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding/ Wood Trim

Roof: Slate Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): first-floor fenestration and porch, late 19th century; second-floor bay windows, 20th century; vinyl siding and windows and conversion to six one-bedroom apartments, late 20th century

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .11 acres

Setting: The building occupies a rectangular lot on the north side of Main Street in the village of Fiskdale. The parcel is mostly paved and has a paved driveway along the west side of the house and a parking lot to the north.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

STURBRIDGE

544 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 Lemuel Lumbar Building (1836–1857, STU.142) is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-and-one-half-story, two-bay-by-six-bay, wood-frame building with an end-gable roof and a brick foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl siding with corner boards and cornice returns, and the roof is covered with slate shingles. Two large bay windows in the second-story bays of the south (facade) elevation have decorative oval wood panels flanked by pairs of carved wood brackets. A Queen Anne-style porch spanning the width of the facade has a carved railing and square wood posts with carved brackets. The porch shelters two entrances, a six-paneled door with transom in the east bay and a two-light, two-panel door west of center. A secondary entrance sheltered by a shed-roof hood is in the north bay of the west elevation. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash with wide board surrounds.

The Lemuel Lumbar Building is a well-preserved example of a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival-style building in Fiskdale with later alterations.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Lemuel Lumbar Building (1836–1857, STU.142) 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).

Lemuel Lumbar (1782–1860) was born and died in Brimfield, Massachusetts, and was married twice, first to Lucina Taylor in 1809 and after her death to Ester Fenton in 1835. He does not appear to have ever resided in Sturbridge but purchased the subject property as an empty lot from Josiah J. Fiske in 1836 (WCRD 318/57). Lumbar likely constructed the current building, which first appears on the 1857 Walling map, sometime between 1836 and 1857 as an income-producing property. In 1857, the Sessions & Bates store and post office occupied the building (Walling 1857). Emory L. Bates (see Emory L. Bates House, 502 Main Street, STU.130) may have rented the property as early as 1845, when he married Lumbar's cousin Maria Whitney Lumbar and entered the shoe manufacturing business in partnership with Judson Smith.¹ Further research is necessary to determine the building's exact construction date. Lemuel Lumbar owned the property until his death in 1860, and in 1871 Wheaton Knight, the executor of Lumbar's estate, sold it to brothers George and Albert Sikes (836/536). In 1872, Albert transferred his half of the property, referred to as the Sikes Block, to his brother; Albert died one year later (WCRD 884/424; Find A Grave 2013). In 1880, George Sikes ran a restaurant and lived with his wife and daughter, his mother, and a boarder (US Census 1880). George owned the property until 1893, when he sold it to Michael Mallahy (WCRD 1447/215).

Michael Mallahy (1846–1920) immigrated from Ireland in 1870 and worked as a merchant. In 1900, he lived in Sturbridge with his wife Margaret, who immigrated from Ireland in 1868; four daughters, Margaret, Mary, Catharine, and Sarah; and two sons, John and William. In 1899, the building was used as a drug and dry goods store. By 1904, the drug store had been replaced by a grocery store. Between 1925 and 1948, a post office was located in the building (Sanborn 1899–1948). The property remained in the Mallahy family until 1965, when the Norich Realty Trust purchased it from John Mallahy's estate (WCRD 4540/81). It is possible that at the time of the transfer to the realty trust, the building was converted into apartments. The property changed hands numerous times throughout the remainder of the twentieth century and is currently owned by 544 Trolley Line Properties, LLC, which acquired the property from Edward S. St. John in 2015 (WCRD 54114/60).

¹ Bates and Smith operated under the firm name of Smith & Bates and also conducted a general store. In 1850, Bates went into partnership with J.D. Sessions under the firm name of Sessions, Bates & Co., which operated a general merchandise business in addition to manufacturing shoes and boots (Biographical Review Publishing Company 1899:636).

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