

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

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

Photograph



Photo 1. 421 Main Street (STU.119), looking southwest.

Town/City: Sturbridge

Place (neighborhood or village): Snellville

Name of Area: Wight-Snell Manufacturing Area

Present Use: Mixed Use

Construction Dates or Period: ca. 1830–1912

Overall Condition: Good to Fair

Major Intrusions and Alterations: Vinyl siding and windows on numerous buildings

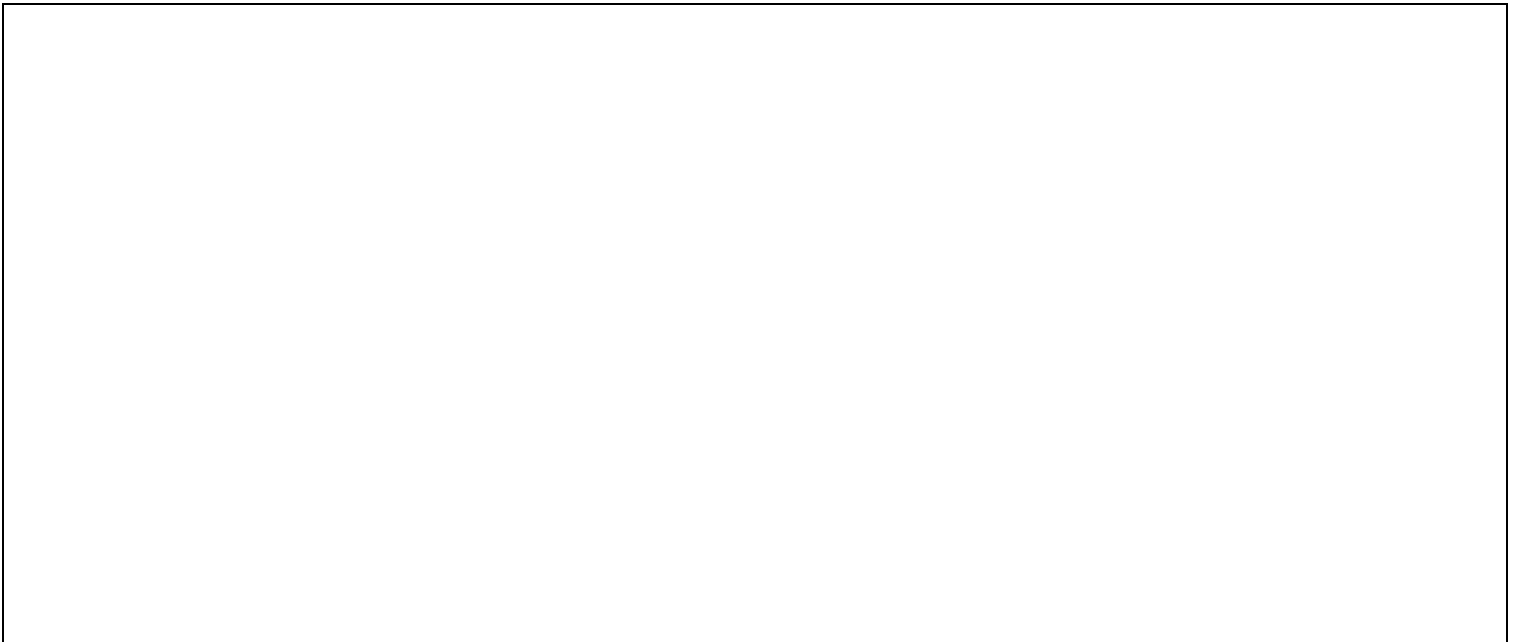
Acreage: 37.1 acres

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

Organization: Sturbridge Historical Commission

Date (month/year): May 2018

Locus Map



see continuation sheet

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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 Wight-Snell Manufacturing Area encompasses 29 resources, including a tail race, on approximately 7.1 acres along the north and south sides of Main Street (MA Route 20), west of Cedar Street, in the village of Snellville in Sturbridge. The area comprises residential, commercial, and industrial buildings historically associated with the Wight and Snell manufacturing companies. Industrial buildings are on the south side of Main Street, adjacent to the Quinebaug River, which historically provided water power. Residential and commercial buildings on both sides of Main Street are generally Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate in style. Worker's housing, primarily along Snell and Auger streets, is astylistic. Buildings in the area are generally in good to fair condition; many are clad with vinyl siding and have vinyl replacement windows.

Buildings in the area are described alphanumerically by street address.

Increase and Lucinda Sykes House, 3 Auger Street (ca. 1855, STU.101) (Photo 2) is an east-facing, astylistic, two-story, five-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame building with a stone foundation and a side-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A two-story porch projects from the south elevation. The entrance is north of center in the east elevation and filled with a two-light, two-panel door sheltered by a metal awning. Fenestration consists of irregularly spaced, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Snell Manufacturing Company Worker's Housing, 7 Auger Street (1857-1870, STU.100) (Photo 3) is a north-facing, astylistic, one-and-one-half-story, two-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a parged foundation and a side-gable roof. The walls are clad with aluminum siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney pierces the ridge near the east end of the roof. Entrances are west of center in the north and south elevations and are protected by glass and metal storm doors and sheltered by metal awnings. Fenestration consists of irregularly spaced, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

A one-story, four-bay garage with a rubblestone foundation and a side-gable roof is south of the house.

Snell Manufacturing Company Worker's Housing, 11 Auger Street (1857-1870, STU.99) (Photo 4) is an east-facing, astylistic, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a side-gable roof. The foundation is not visible. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two chimneys pierce the ridge, north and south of center. The entrance is centered in the east elevation and consists of a four-light wood door protected by a glass and aluminum storm door. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Alpheus Wight Barn, 419 Main Street (ca. 1790, STU.122) (Photo 5) is a north-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, L-shaped, wood-frame building with a cross-gable roof. The foundation is not visible. A one-story ell projects from the west elevation, and a one-story shed-roof addition projects from the north elevation of the L's west arm. The walls are covered with wood clapboards and shingles, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Brick and concrete block end-wall chimneys project from the west elevations of the main block and the shed-roof addition. Entrances are irregularly spaced in the north elevation and filled with modern doors. A full-width engaged porch spans the north elevation of the L's north arm; the center has been infilled with an entrance vestibule. The east and west ends of the porch are supported by simple columns. Fenestration consists of replacement one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash and multi-light casement windows.

Alpheus Wight House, 420 Main Street (ca. 1790, STU.89) (Photo 6) is a south-facing, Federal-style, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a stone foundation and a side-gable roof. A two-story ell projects from the east bay of the north elevation. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The main entrance is in the center of the south elevation and consists of a modern commercial door flanked by sidelights. Fenestration consists of regularly spaced, two-over-two, double-hung vinyl sash.

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North of the Wight House is a non-historic, irregularly shaped, one- to two-story event building called The Barn (1993) (Photo 9), which has a stone foundation and an end-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Entrances in the north, south, east, and west elevations are filled variously with multi-light modern doors and commercial doors. Fenestration consists of four-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash arranged singly and in pairs and four-light casement windows.

Immediately east of the Wight House is a non-historic Commercial Building, 420 Main Street (1988, STU.314) (Photo 8), a south-facing, astylistic, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a one-story, four-bay-by-two-bay ell to the northwest attached by an angled hyphen. The entire building has a poured concrete foundation and a cross-gable roof. The main block has a garrison overhang with narrow angled brackets. The walls are covered with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The roof of the ell is pierced by evenly spaced gable dormers in the north, south, and east slopes. Entrances in the center of the main block and the center of the ell's south elevation are filled with paired multi-light wood doors. Fenestration consists of four-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash with projecting moldings and large, single-pane commercial windows.

Southeast of the Wight House, near Cedar Street, is the Winthrop Wight House, 420 Main Street (by 1857, STU.88) (Photo 7), a south-facing, astylistic, four-bay-by-two-bay, two-story, wood-frame building with a stone foundation and a side-gable roof. Two side-gable barns are attached to the north elevation of the house, each topped with side-gable roofs. Both barns are non-historic additions and have poured concrete foundations. The main block and the northernmost barn are clad with wood clapboards, and the center barn is clad with wood shingles. All the buildings have asphalt-covered roofs. Fenestration in the main block consists of evenly spaced, eight-over-four and nine-over-nine, double-hung wood sash.

Snell Manufacturing Company Auger Shop, 421 Main Street (1855, STU.119) (Photo 1) is a south-facing, astylistic, one- to two-story, rectangular brick building with a shallow-pitch gable roof. A brick addition projects from the east elevation, and several non-historic, concrete-block additions project from the south elevation. The primary entrance is in the west bay of the north elevation, filled with a fully glazed commercial door with sidelights and transom. Vertical-lift metal doors are irregularly spaced in the west elevation of the south addition. Fenestration consists of replacement casement windows with metal frames above horizontally sliding windows.

East of the Auger Shop are the remnants of the Wight-Snell Tailrace (STU.918, late 18th century), comprising a portion of Alpheus Wight's canal from the Quinebaug River (see Historic Narrative). The majority of the tailrace which ran through the Wight and Snell industrial complexes has been infilled and paved over.

D. W. Wight House, 423 Main Street (1870–1894, STU.121) (Photo 10) is a north-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and an end-gable roof. A two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay ell projects from the southwest corner of the main block and has a side-gable roof. The walls are covered with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with slate shingles. Three brick chimneys pierce the roof, two in the center of the main block and one east of center in the ell. The main entrance is in the west bay of the north elevation, sheltered by a full-width, hip-roof porch supported by square posts with carved brackets. A secondary entrance is in the west bay of the ell's north elevation, sheltered by a hip-roof overhang supported by square posts. The entrances contain two- and four-light wood doors. A box-bay window projects from the south bay of the main block's west elevation. Fenestration consists of one-over-one and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash.

F. Wight House, 425 Main Street (by 1857, STU.120) (Photo 11) is a north-facing, Federal-style, two-story, three-bay-by-one-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and a side-gable roof. A two-story, one-bay-by-three-bay addition projects from the south elevation. The walls are covered with wood clapboards, and the roof is clad with slate shingles. The main entrance in the center of the north elevation is filled with a multi-panel wood door with a multi-light transom and is protected by a gable-roof entrance porch supported by turned posts. A secondary entrance in the east elevation of the addition is filled with a multi-light modern door and protected by a metal awning. Fenestration consists of two-over-two, two-over-one, and one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash. Two bay windows filled with four-over-four double-hung sash and multi-light storefront windows flank the north entrance.

Southeast of the house is a former outbuilding that has been converted to commercial space. The one-story, north-facing building is three bays wide and has a concrete foundation and a side-gable roof. The walls are covered with wood

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clapboards, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Two entrances are in the west half of the north elevation, filled with nine-light modern doors. Fenestration consists of irregularly spaced, nine-light storefront windows.

Wight Company Worker Housing, 426 Main Street (by 1857, STU.90) (Photo 12) is a south-facing, astylistic, two-story, four-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a rubblestone foundation and a side-gable roof. A one-story addition projects from the west elevation. The walls are covered with wood clapboards, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Full-width porches span the south and east elevations; both have shed roofs supported by turned posts. Multiple entrances are sheltered by the porches and are filled with multi-light commercial doors. Fenestration consists of four-over-four, double-hung vinyl sash and multi-light flush and bay storefront windows.

Snell Manufacturing Company Factory, 433 Main Street (1912, STU.118) (Photo 13) is a north-facing, astylistic, two-story, 19-bay-by-4-bay, wood-frame industrial building with a flat roof with vinyl brackets. The foundation is not visible. A three-story addition with a parapet on the west side projects from the east end of the south elevation, and a one-story, six-bay-by-three-bay addition projects from the west elevation. A brick parapet wall is immediately east of a recessed entrance in the north elevation's sixth bay from the east. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with tar and gravel. Entrances are irregularly spaced in the north and west elevations and are filled with nine-light modern doors. Entrances in the north elevation are protected by gable overhangs supported by simple posts. Fenestration consists of paired six-over-six, double-hung vinyl sash. At the east end of the north elevation, there are two projecting bay windows filled with one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash and wide storefront windows.

W. Wight Counting Room, 434 Main Street (1857–1870, STU.92) (Photo 14) is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, two-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and an end-gable roof. A two-story addition projects from the north elevation and has a one-story addition with a flat roof enclosed with a low balustrade projecting from its north elevation. A one-story addition with a hip roof projects from the south elevation. The walls are clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An exterior chimney is partially enclosed by the south additions. The main entrance is east of center in the south elevation and consists of a modern door flanked by sidelights and surrounded by a projecting molded lintel supported by engaged pilasters. Secondary entrances are in the east and north elevations. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung wood sash; six-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash; and large, multi-light commercial windows.

Northwest of the Counting Room is a former Garage, 434 Main Street (1925–1948), with the southern half converted into a storefront. The one-story, south-facing building is two bays wide by two bays long and has a cross-gable roof pierced by a square cupola with a weathervane. The walls are clad with vertical board and novelty siding. The entrance to the store is in the east end of the south elevation, filled with a nine-light modern door. A vertical-lift garage door is in the north bay of the east elevation. Fenestration consists of six-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash and wide, multi-light commercial windows. The building is at the edge of a canal with a concrete block retaining wall.

Snell Manufacturing Company Forge Shop, 441 Main Street (1907 and 1928, altered 1945–1966, STU.117) (Photo 16) is a massive, north-facing, astylistic, one- to two-story, irregularly shaped, brick and concrete block building constructed in multiple phases beginning about 1907. The northernmost portion of the building, approximately 12 bays by 4 bays, is brick and has a shallow-pitch gable roof. The center of the building is concrete block, partially clad with corrugated metal at the west end, and has a side-gable roof. The southernmost portion of the building is also concrete block and has a flat roof. The center and southern portions of the building combined are approximately 23 bays wide by 24 bays deep. The main entrance is in the center of the north elevation and is filled with a fully glazed commercial door with a sidelight. Fenestration consists of tripartite casement windows with metal frames.

Two non-historic, light industrial buildings were constructed after 1980 on the west side of the Snell Manufacturing Company parcel and are not related to the historic auger manufactory. The westernmost building is the APCO Building (1980, STU.316), consisting of a one-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, vinyl-clad building with a flat roof and a one-story addition projecting from the center of the north elevation. A two-story, corrugated metal addition projects from the south elevation. Northeast of the APCO Building is the Securos Building (1983, STU.317), consisting of a one-story, seven-bay-wide, vinyl- and metal-clad building with a flat roof.

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George Holley House, 450 Main Street (ca. 1880, STU.105) (Photo 17) is a south-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, three-bay-by-four-bay, wood-frame building with a parged foundation and an end-gable roof. Two one-story, gable-roof ells project from the north elevation, and a non-historic, one-story addition with an end-gable roof projects from the south elevation. A one-story addition with a side-gable roof projects from the north bay of the main block's west elevation. Engaged pilasters ornament the corners of the main block. The walls are clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two brick chimneys pierce the ridge of the main block. There are numerous, irregularly spaced entrances in the east and west sides of the building related to its use by multiple commercial operations. The entrances contain nine-light, modern doors. Fenestration consists of irregularly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung wood and vinyl sash; one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash; and wide, multi-light commercial windows.

The non-historic Stageloft Repertory Theater Building, 450 Main Street (1981, STU.318), is at the north end of the lot, northeast of the Holley House.

Daniel Wight House, 472 Main Street (ca. 1876, STU.111) (Photos 18 and 19) is a south-facing, Italianate-style, L-shaped, two-story, three-bay-by-three bay, wood-frame building with a stone foundation and a cross-gable roof. The walls are clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with slate shingles. A brick chimney pierces the center of the ridge in the L's south arm. The main entrance is in the south elevation of the L's east arm, sheltered by a flat-roof entrance porch supported by a single tapered post with carved brackets. A secondary entrance is in the west elevation, accessed by a run of wood steps. Fenestration consists of two-over-two, double-hung wood sash with wide surrounds topped with projecting moldings.

The house is connected to a barn to the northeast via a one-story hyphen. The hyphen has a side-gable roof and is clad with brick veneer. A recessed entrance is north of center.

The Wight Barn, 472 Main Street (ca. 1876, STU.319) (Photo 19) is a south-facing, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with an asymmetric side-gable roof pierced by a small, square cupola at the center of the ridge. The walls are covered with vertical board siding, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. A vertical-lift garage door is centered in the south elevation.

Lucius Snell House, 479 Main Street (1857–1870, STU.114) (Photos 20 and 21) is a north-facing, Italianate-style, two-story, two-bay-by-three-bay, L-shaped building with a stone foundation and a cross-gable roof. A one- to two-story addition projects from the south bay of the west elevation. The walls are covered with wood clapboards, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Entrances are primarily in the north elevations of the building's various sections. The historic primary entrance is in the east bay of the L's north arm and consists of a multi-panel wood door flanked by five-light sidelights and sheltered by a flat-roof overhang supported by carved brackets. A second entrance is in the west bay of the L's east arm, filled with a vertical-board storm door affixed to the building by strap hinges. Entrances in the west addition are non-historic, half-light doors. Fenestration consists of six-over-six and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash and one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash.

Snell Manufacturing Company Carriage House, 5 Snell Street (1870–1898, STU.94) (Photo 22) is an east-facing, astylistic, two-story, two-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a parged foundation and an end-gable roof. A two-story, partially enclosed entry porch projects from the west bay of the south elevation and from the center of the east elevation. The walls are clad with wood clapboards and vertical board siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A small, square cupola with a pyramidal roof and a weathervane pierces the ridgeline at the east end, and a small brick chimney pierces the ridge near the center. The entrance in the east elevation is filled with a nine-light, modern door; the south entrance is not visible. Fenestration consists of six-light casement windows and one-over-one, double-hung wood sash. The building was likely constructed as a carriage house but was converted into residences between 1925 and 1948 (Sanborn 1925, 1948).

William Wight House, 9 Snell Street (1857–1870, STU.95) (Photo 23) is an east-facing, Greek Revival-style, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a granite foundation and an end-gable roof. A one-story, three-bay-by-one-bay addition projects from the north elevation and has a side-gable roof. The walls are clad with aluminum siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Brick chimneys pierce the roof near the center of the main block and the south end of the addition. The entrance is north of center in the east elevation of the main block and consists of a half-light wood door flanked by sidelights and surrounded by a projecting molded lintel supported by engaged pilasters. A secondary entrance

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is in the center of the east elevation of the addition, filled with a modern door. Fenestration consists of evenly spaced, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Snell Manufacturing Company Worker Duplex, 19–21 Snell Street (1857–1870, STU.96) (Photo 24) is an east-facing, astylistic, two-story, four-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a brick foundation and a side-gable roof. A one-story addition projects from the west bay of the south elevation and has a side-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A pair of entrances is in the center of the east elevation, filled with four-light, two-panel, modern replacement doors and sheltered by a gable overhang supported by angled brackets. Fenestration consists of six-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash.

A modern, one-story, two-car garage with a poured concrete foundation and an end-gable roof is immediately south of the house.

Snell Manufacturing Company Worker Duplex, 23 Snell Street (1857–1870, STU.97) (Photo 24) is an east-facing, astylistic, one-and-one-half story, wood-frame building with a parged foundation and a side-gable roof. Small, one-bay-by-one-bay, one-story additions project from the north and south elevations. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The entrance is in the center of the east elevation and is filled with a modern replacement door. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

Snell Manufacturing Company Worker Duplex, 27 Snell Street (1857–1870, STU.98) (Photo 24) is an east-facing, astylistic, two-story, four-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a parged foundation and a side-gable roof. Two one-story, two-bay-by-two-bay additions project from the north and south bays of the west addition. Brick chimneys pierce the center ridgeline of each of the three roofs. The walls are covered with aluminum siding, and the roofs are clad with asphalt shingles. The main entrances are in the north and south bays of the east elevation and consist of modern replacement doors sheltered by metal awnings. Secondary entrances are in the west bays of the north and south elevations. Fenestration consists of six-over-one, double-hung wood and vinyl sash and six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement sash.

A non-historic, one-story, two-car garage with a poured concrete foundation and a side-gable roof is west of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Wight-Snell Manufacturing Area was settled in the late eighteenth century when Alpheus Wight (1770–1851) dug a canal from the Quinebaug River to provide water power east of the river; a remnant of the canal remains extant in the form of the Wight-Snell Tailrace (STU.918, late 18th century). Members of the Wight family built saw, grist, and fulling mills along the new waterway, and a small mill village (known as Wight Village) developed with worker housing, a company store, and a counting house (Holley 1973; Burns 1988:22; Stone 1930:1958). Alpheus built a house on the north side of Main Street (420 Main Street, ca. 1790, STU.89) and a barn on the south side of Main Street (419 Main Street, ca. 1790, STU.122). Members of his family and descendants, including Winthrop Wight (420 Main Street, by 1857, STU.88) and William Wight (9 Snell Street, 1857–1870, STU.95), built houses nearby. Alpheus' grandson Daniel Wight (1836–1905) built a large Italianate-style house (one of the few in the area) and barn at 472 Main Street (ca. 1876, STU.111) in the late nineteenth century. Daniel lived on a farm, formerly known as the Holbrook Farm, that he purchased from Lucius Snell and inherited the Alpheus Wight property at 419 Main Street when his parents, Winthrop and Louisa, died in 1873 and 1874, respectively. Daniel may have built a rental house at 423 Main Street (1870–1894, STU.121) (WCRD 991/209, 487/473; US Census 1880).

The Snell auger manufactory originated about 1790, when Thomas Snell (1772–1832) moved from Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to Ware, Massachusetts, and began making augers. Thomas and his wife Susanna had 17 children, two of whom, Melville (1804–1877) and Thomas Jr. (1798–1885), went into the family business. In 1839, Melville went to Providence, Rhode Island, where he made augers, possibly at the famed Brown and Sharpe or Providence Tool Company factory, for a short time. In 1841, Melville moved to Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and started the Towne, Snell & Co. auger-making business with Lauriston Towne and Judson Smith in a fulling mill previously owned by the Wights (Chase 1911:225; Hurd 1889:119). In 1846, Towne left the company, which then operated under the name Smith, Snell & Company until 1850,

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when Smith was bought out. In 1844, Melville's nephew Otis (Thomas Snell Jr.'s son) joined him in Sturbridge making augers, and in 1850 Otis' brother Lucius joined the business, which was then renamed Snell & Brothers (Hurd 1889:119; Chase 1911:225). In 1854, Thomas Jr., a deacon, moved from Ware to Sturbridge to join his brother and sons, and the firm was renamed Snell Brothers (Hurd 1889:119; Chase 1911:225).

The first factory occupied by the Snells burned down in 1852, but residents of Sturbridge quickly raised funds to rebuild the factory to discourage the Snells from leaving town (Burns 1988:32). Two more stone mill buildings were constructed in 1853. The company, which produced augers used for constructing ships and buildings, employed 75 people by 1855 (Stone 1930:1958). Housing for workers, much of which remains extant (19–21, 23, and 27 Snell Street and 3, 7, and 11 Auger Street), was constructed nearby on Snell and Auger streets and along Main Street, predominantly between 1857 and 1870 (Walling 1857; Beers 1870). Between 1857 and 1870, Lucius Snell built a large house (479 Main Street, STU.114) on the south side of Main Street, west of the industrial complex. He also owned other property throughout the area, including a lot sold to George Holley (450 Main Street, ca. 1880, STU.105) (Walling 1857; Beers 1870; WCRD 1047/183).

In 1862, Emory L. Bates, a former shoe manufacturer who lived nearby (see Emory L. Bates House, 502 Main Street, STU.130), and Clark & Wilson, a New York hardware company, purchased the Snell firm and renamed it the Snell Manufacturing Company (Stone 1930:1959). Bates' shoe business, which primarily manufactured shoes for Southern slaves, had folded after the onset of the American Civil War (1861–1865). After purchasing the Snell factory, Bates and his partners greatly expanded the business, shipping their products internationally. Bates introduced American steel to the manufacture of augers and bits (Biographical Review Publishing Company 1899:638–639).

Between 1870 and 1894, the mill complex consisted of five buildings, including forge shops where augers of various sizes and uses were made and grinding, polishing, and storage rooms. Of these buildings, only the Snell Manufacturing Company Auger Shop (421 Main Street, STU.119) is extant (Beers 1870; Sanborn 1894). The buildings were arranged on either side of the canal and tail race (STU.918) dug by Alpheus Wight at the end of the eighteenth century. The majority of employees were New Englanders, largely from Massachusetts, although some came from Vermont and Connecticut. A small number of Irish and Canadian immigrants worked in the auger shops, but more worked in the nearby Fiskdale textile mills (see STU.M, Fiskdale Mill Area) (US Census 1880). In 1912, a forging, grinding, and polishing building at the south edge of Main Street burned down and was immediately replaced with the current Snell Manufacturing Company Factory (433 Main Street, STU.118). By 1918, the complex had expanded to the west and encompassed a hammer forging building, a drop forging building, and several storage and grinding rooms (Sanborn 1918). The Snell Manufacturing Company went out of business in 1942–1943 and sold its buildings to other industrial concerns. The buildings remain in industrial use, although many have been altered with non-historic additions.

Today, the mixed-use area along both sides of Main Street (MA Route 20) is a busy regional transportation corridor. The Snell and Wight worker houses are predominantly private residences, and many have been altered by the installation of vinyl siding and windows. Several large houses along Main Street, including the Holley House and Alpheus Wight House and Barn, have been converted to commercial use, such as restaurants and shops that cater primarily to the tourist business drawn by Old Sturbridge Village to the east and the Brimfield antique shows to the west. An antiques store occupies the Snell Manufacturing Company Factory, and Yankee Candle occupies the Wight Counting Room and its associated Garage. The canal that provided water power to the Snell and Wight operations was infilled and paved over by 1971 (NETR 1971).

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INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

WIGHT-SNELL
MANUFACTURING AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Wight-Snell Manufacturing Area Sturbridge, Massachusetts Data Sheet

MHC No.	Assessor's No.	Address	Historic Name/Feature	Est. Date of Const.	Architectural Style/Type	Photograph No.
STU.101	125-02435-003	3 Auger St	Increase and Lucinda Sykes House	ca. 1855	No Style	2
STU.100	125-02435-007	7 Auger St	Snell Manufacturing Company Worker's Housing	1857–1870	No Style	3
STU.99	125-02435-0011	11 Auger St	Snell Manufacturing Company Worker's Housing	1857–1870	No Style	4
STU.122	415-02445-419	419 Main St	Alpheus Wight Barn	ca. 1790	Greek Revival	5
STU.88	415-02435-420	420 Main St	Winthrop Wight House	by 1857	No Style	9
STU.89	415-02435-420	420 Main St	Alpheus Wight House	ca. 1790	Federal	6
STU.313	415-02435-420	420 Main St	The Barn	1993		9
STU.314	415-02435-420	420 Main St	Commercial Building	1988		8
STU.119	415-02445-420	421 Main St	Snell Manufacturing Company Auger Shop	1855; altered 2007 and 2010	No Style	1
STU.918		421 Main St	Wight-Snell Tailrace	Late 18 th c	N/A	None
STU.121	415-02445-423	423 Main St	D. W. Wight House	1870–1894	Greek Revival	10
STU.120	415-02445-425	425 Main St	F. Wight House	by 1857	Federal	11
STU.90	415-02444-426	426 Main St	Wight Company Worker Housing	by 1857	No Style	12
STU.118	415-02445-433	433 Main St	Snell Manufacturing Company Factory	1912	No Style	13
STU.92	415-02445-434	434 Main St	W. Wight Counting Room	1857–1870	Greek Revival	14

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

WIGHT-SNELL
MANUFACTURING AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area Letter Form Nos.

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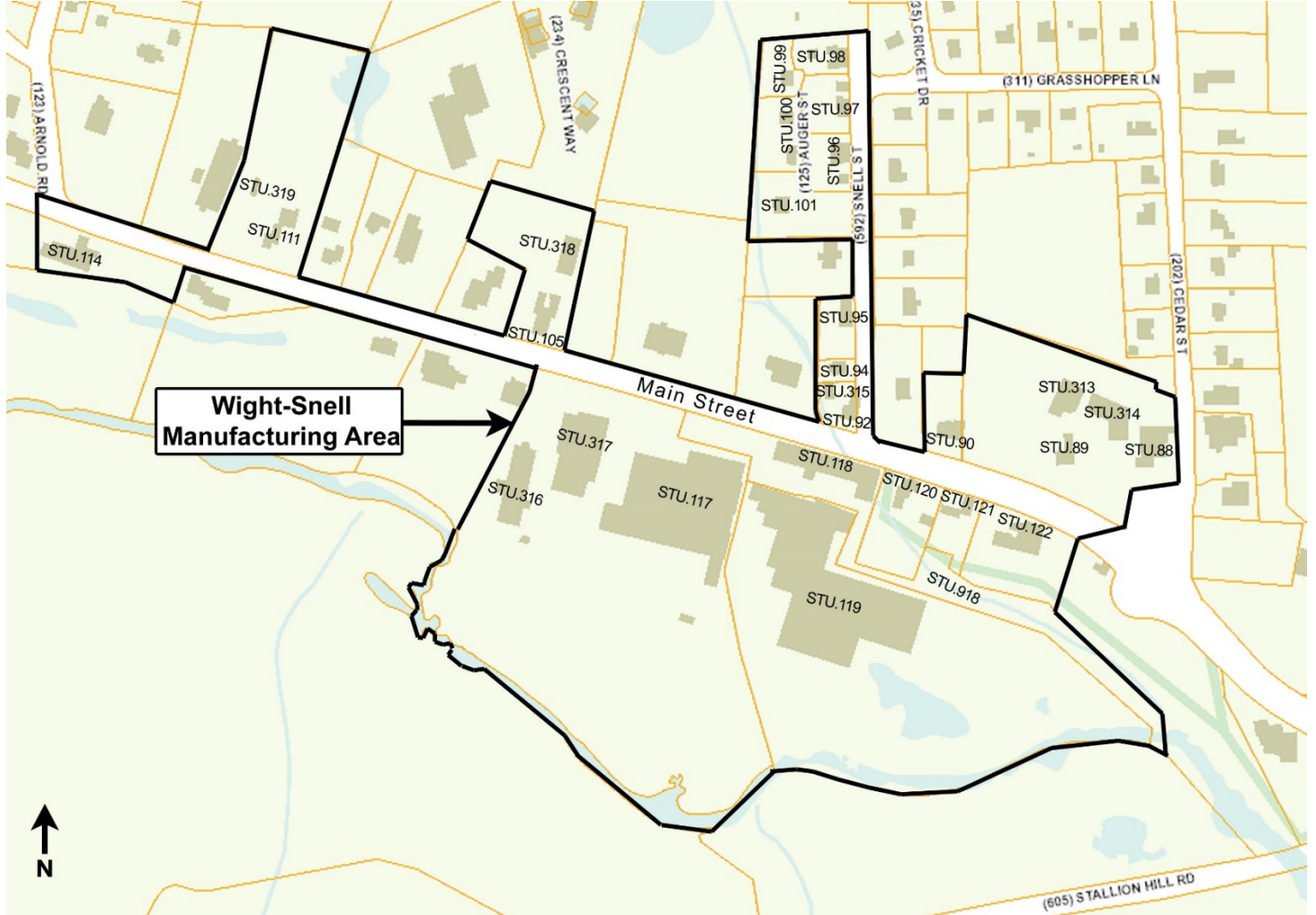
MHC No.	Assessor's No.	Address	Historic Name/Feature	Est. Date of Const.	Architectural Style/Type	Photograph No.
STU.315	415-02445-434	434 Main St	Garage	1925–1948	No Style	15
STU.117	415-02444-441	441 Main St	Snell Manufacturing Company Forge Shop	1907 and 1928, altered 1945–1966	No Style	16
STU.316	415-02444-441	441 Main St	APCO Building	1980	No Style	
STU.317	415-02444-441	441 Main St	Securos Building	1983	No Style	
STU.105	415-02434-450	450 Main St	George Holley House	ca. 1880	Greek Revival	17
STU.318	415-02434-450	450 Main St	Stageloft Repertory Theater Building	1981	No Style	
STU.111	415-02433-472	472 Main St	Daniel Wight House	ca. 1876	Italianate	18–19
STU.319	415-02433-472	472 Main St	Wight Barn	ca. 1876	No Style	19
STU.114	415-02433-479	479 Main St	Lucius Snell House	1857–1870	Italianate	20–21
STU.94	592-02435-005	5 Snell St	Snell Manufacturing Company Carriage House	1870–1898	No Style	22
STU.95	592-02435-009	9 Snell St	William Wight House	1857–1870	Greek Revival	23
STU.96	592-02435-021	19–21 Snell St	Snell Manufacturing Company Worker Duplex	1857–1870	No Style	24
STU.97	125-02435-010	23 Snell St (formerly 10 Auger St)	Snell Manufacturing Company Worker Duplex	1857–1870	No Style	24
STU.98	592-02435-027	27 Snell St	Snell Manufacturing Company Worker Duplex	1857–1870	No Style	24

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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LOCUS MAP



MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area Letter Form Nos.

STU.N

See Data Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 2. 3 Auger Street (STU.101), looking southwest.



Photo 3. 7 Auger Street (STU.100) and Garage, looking southwest.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

WIGHT-SNELL
MANUFACTURING AREA

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Photo 4. 11 Auger Street (STU.99), looking northwest.



Photo 5. 419 Main Street (STU.122), looking southeast.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

STURBRIDGE

WIGHT-SNELL
MANUFACTURING AREA

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Photo 6. Alpheus Wight House, 420 Main Street (STU.89), looking northwest.



Photo 7. Winthrop Wight House, 420 Main Street (STU.88), looking northwest.

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STURBRIDGE

WIGHT-SNELL
MANUFACTURING AREA

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Photo 8. Commercial Building, 420 Main Street, looking northeast.



Photo 9. The Barn, 420 Main Street, looking northwest.

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Photo 10. 423 Main Street (STU.121), looking southeast.



Photo 11. 425 Main Street (STU.120), looking northwest.

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Photo 12. 426 Main Street (STU.90), looking northwest.



Photo 13. 433 Main Street (STU.118), looking northwest.

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Photo 14. 434 Main Street (STU.92), looking northwest.



Photo 15. 434 Main Street (STU.92), looking northeast.

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Photo 16. 441 Main Street (STU.117), looking southwest.



Photo 17. 450 Main Street (STU.105), looking northeast.

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Photo 18. 472 Main Street (STU.111), looking northwest.



Photo 19. 472 Main Street (STU.111), looking northwest.

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Photo 20. 479 Main Street (STU.114), looking southwest (compare with Figure 2).



Photo 21. 479 Main Street (STU.114), looking south.

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Photo 22. 5 Snell Street (STU.94), looking northwest.



Photo 23. 9 Snell Street (STU.95), looking northwest.

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STURBRIDGE

WIGHT-SNELL
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Photo 24. (L-R) 19-21 Snell Street (STU.96), 23 Snell Street (STU.97), and 27 Snell Street (STU.98), looking northwest.

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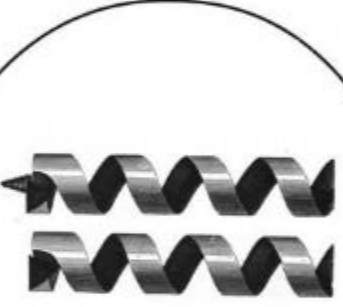
Area Letter Form Nos.

STU.N See Data Sheet

190 THE IRON AGE

SNELL MANUFACTURING COMPANY
ESTABLISHED 1796

PENETRATION
of hard, heavy, knurly, knotty timber, either with
or across the grain, is best effected by means of
SNELL'S SHIP AUGERS



SHIP AUGER BITS
SHIP AUGER CAR BITS

SHIP MACHINE BITS
SHIP BORING MACHINE AUGERS

That this fact has penetrated the minds of the progressive is evidenced by the constantly increasing sales of our augers to Car, Ship and Dock Builders and Contractors. Strong, sturdy AUGERS—quick to bore, easy to sell.

They're to be found all the way from Maine to California, and from Alaska, thru the Panama Canal (where they are operating for "Uncle Sam"), to the diamond mines of South Africa.

SNELL MANUFACTURING COMPANY
FISKDALE, MASS., U. S. A.

SELLING AGENTS: John H. Graham & Co., 113 Chambers St., New York.
115-117 Holborn, London, E. C. 1 218 Market St., San Francisco. Copenhagen, Denmark, Freeport.

Figure 1. A 1909 ad for Snell augers (*Iron Age* 1909:190).

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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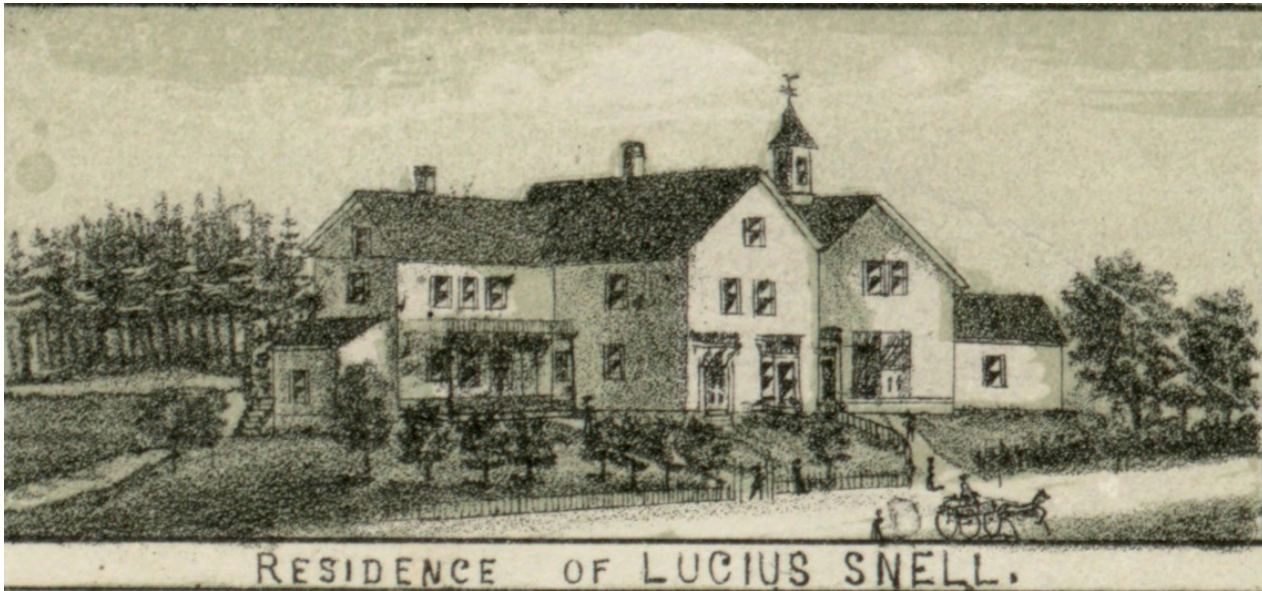


Figure 2. Lucius Snell House, 479 Main Street (ca. 1892) (Bailey 1892).

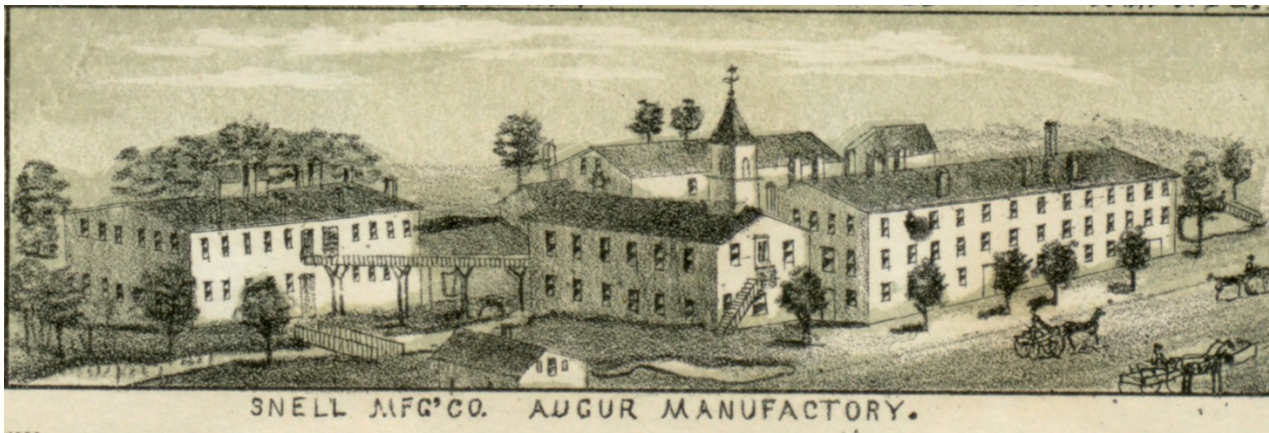


Figure 3. Snell Manufacturing Company (ca. 1892) (Bailey 1892).

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Figure 4. Employees of the Snell Manufacturing Company near the canal, in front of one of the factory buildings (ca. 1880–1899) (Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge, MA).

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Gretchen M. Pineo and Laura J. Kline, PAL, October 2018

Although the Wight-Snell Manufacturing Area does not retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing as a district in the National Register of Historic Places, the following properties may be individually eligible under Criterion A and/or C at the local level:

The Alpheus Wight House, 420 Main Street (STU.89), is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the early development of the village node later known as Snellville and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good example of an eighteenth-century Federal-style building in Sturbridge.

The Winthrop Wight House, 420 Main Street (STU.88), is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the early development of the village node later known as Snellville and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good example of an early nineteenth-century residential building in Sturbridge.

The Daniel Wight House and Barn, 472 Main Street (STU.111 and STU.319), are eligible under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for their association with the growth of the Snellville mill village in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as relatively intact examples of a nineteenth-century Italianate-style house and barn in Sturbridge.