

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.51
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Buck, William Henry - Flagg, Russell House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Fay, Dea. Peter - Howe, Allan D. House
<b>Address:</b>	10 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Southborough
<b>Local No:</b>	54-84
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1840
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Flagg, Russell
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Parsonage; Post Office; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Politics Government; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	SBR.AG: Southborough Town Center SBR.A: Main Street Area
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut; Granite



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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Massachusetts Historical Commission

54-84

Marlborough

A

51

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED

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MASS. HIST. COMM

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Southborough centerAddress 10 Main StreetHistoric Name R. Flagg/W.H. Buck HouseUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1840Source maps; visual assessmentStyle/Form updated Greek RevivalArchitect/Builder unknown

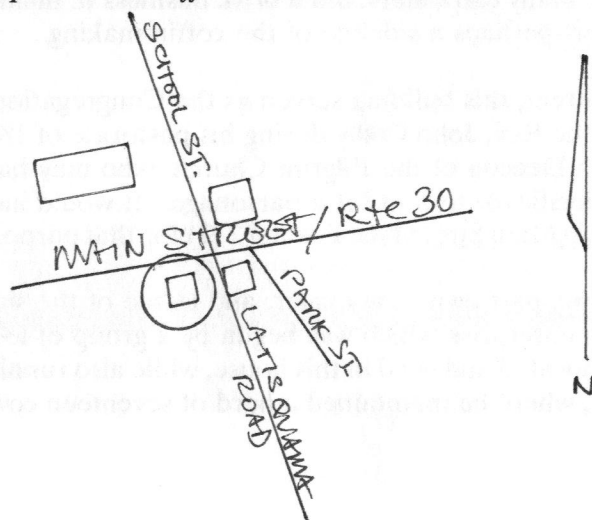
Exterior Material:

Foundation graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphaltOutbuildings/Secondary Structures 1-carboard-and-batten garage, panel-and-glass doorMajor Alterations (with dates) Late 20th C.:most windows replaced, in reduced openings.Condition excellentMoved [x]no [ ] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting Faces N., at NW corner of LatisquamaRoad, on long lot in area of 19th-C. houses.Fieldstone retaining wall along street.

Photograph



inventory forms have been completed. Label streets, including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultantsOrganization Southborough Historical CommissionDate February, 2000

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ ] *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

This large house, probably altered several times during the nineteenth century, is a large, gable-front, 2 1/2-story building. It has a long two-story rear wing with a one-story shed-roofed extension at its south end. The north, main facade facing Main Street is almost symmetrically arranged, with five bays at first and second stories, two in the gable. The center bay at the first and second story is slightly off-center--an indication that the house may have been enlarged, or the interior rearranged. The main, slightly off-center entry has a large-light turn-of-the-century glass-and-panel door with very narrow sidelights and paneled pilasters. A facade-width porch has a turned balustrade and double Tuscan columns at the center, pedimented entry stair. The porch wraps around the northeast corner of the building to extend partway along the east Latisquama Road elevation. That side of the building has a wide polygonal one-story bay window just south of the porch; the main house has two bays at the second story, and a gabled dormer toward the south end of the roof slope. The east elevation of the rear wing is four bays long, with 1-over-1-sash windows at the second story, and 2/2's at the first. At the north end of the wing is an entry with the same type of door as that on the main facade; this door is sheltered by a gabled hood on Tuscan columns, with the same type of turned balustrade as the porch. Most of the windows in the house have recent replacement 1-over-1-sash in reduced openings, combined with older and larger louvered wooden shutters. The architectural trim includes a molded, boxed cornice, and flat corner pilasters with molded capitals.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [x] *see continuation sheet*

*Explain history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

This house, which is apparently somewhat older than it looks, had several owners in the nineteenth century. It is likely that it was built for, and possibly by, carpenter **Russell Flagg** (b. 1808), probably in the early 1840s. He married a member of the Newton family, Mary, (daughter of either Abel or Lyman Newton) in 1837. She died of dysentery in 1847, leaving her husband with five small children. He was married again, in 1848, to Betsy Ann Walkup. Russell Flagg, like many carpenters, did a brisk business in making coffins. By 1860 he is also listed as the town undertaker--perhaps a sideline of the coffin-making.

Like at least two other houses on this section of Main Street, this building served as the Congregational parsonage for a few years, when it was the residence of the Rev. John Colby during his pastorate of 1865 to 1873. During that time it was owned by **Peter Fay**, a Deacon of the Pilgrim Church, who may have acquired the building, with its barn and four-acre lot, specifically to rent for a parsonage. It would have ceased being a parsonage by 1875, when the church built 20 Main Street (see Form #273) for that purpose.

The next known owner, listed in 1886, was **Allan D. Howe**, part-owner, manager, and lessee of the shoe factory in the converted Winchester barn in Fayville, an enterprise which was begun by a group of local partners in 1871. (See Area Form D). He apparently renovated and lived in this house, while also running a farm on the former Lyman Newton Farm of 250 acres, where he maintained a herd of seventeen cows.

[x] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough

10 Main Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

A

51

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Close to the end of the nineteenth century, the property was acquired by **William Henry Buck**, who apparently moved here after giving up dairy and cattle farming at his former property at 85 Main Street. (See Form #18). A prominent Southborough citizen for much of the nineteenth century, Mr. Buck served on the Board of Selectman for several years, was a Trustee of the Fay Library, and one of the town's three Fence Viewers. For much of his life he had been a butcher and one of the town's two major livestock dealers. In that capacity he drove animals for many of the local farmers to the Brighton cattle market in Boston.

Mr. Buck died in 1902 at the age of 83, and the property is said to have been inherited by one of his relatives, **R. A. Howe**. It was apparently sometime after that that the house served as the Southborough center post office, where the mail was handed through the parlor window to postal patrons, who were probably well sheltered by the new wraparound porch.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [ ] *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: 1856 (R. Flagg); 1857 (R. Flagg); 1870 (P. Fay); 1898 (WH Buck).

Marlborough and Southborough Directories. Various dates and publishers.

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.

Simpson, Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. Unpublished manuscript, 1904.

Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Annual Reports and Tax Valuations, various dates.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community  
Southborough

Property Address  
10 Main Street

Area(s)  
A

Form No(s).  
51

## 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 Forbes/Schuler, Consultant

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

This house is eligible for the National Register at the local level both individually and as a contributing property in a potential district encompassing the historic residential and institutional meetinghouse center of the town. Under Criterion A, it is significant as the home of members of the Flagg family, prominent landowners at Southborough center in the early part of the nineteenth century, notably carpenter Russell Flagg, who may have built the house. It is also significant as the residence of Allan D. Howe, part-owner, manager, and lessee of the shoe factory that dominated the industry of Fayville in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and as the retirement home of W. Henry Buck, former butcher and one of the town's two major livestock dealers.

It meets Criterion C as a good illustration of a large Greek Revival house updated with Colonial Revival accents at the turn of the twentieth century.

The property retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting and association.





PHD 51

(A)	Pl. SOUTH US62 MAIL
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Southborough

address 10 Main St

al use dwelling

at use "

at owner Alfred Howes

o public

Date  Style

Education	Military affairs	Date	Style
Government	Religion/philosophy	Source of date	
Literature	Indians	Architect	
Music	Development of town/city		

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added Porch

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: Fieldstone + granite

WALL COVER: Wood Clapboards Brick Stone Other

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 added PORTICO  Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament:

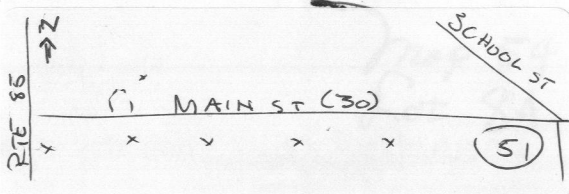
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: glass beside door

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of structure in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street  
Property has  feet frontage on street



Recorder

For

Photo 2-10 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE

# RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

SBR.51

## 1. Outbuildings

## 2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal

Predominant features

Landscape architect

## 3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.

Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious

Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

owner thinks ~~that~~ all, was original house  
 It was built between 1831-1844. at one time the Post Office was in one room of the house, the mail being handed through the parlor window. ①

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

① HOSC Report 1972

1870 Atlas —

1894 W. H. Buck

also  
 Russell Flagg  
 R. A. Howe, heir of Henry Buck

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number 2872 Page 367, Locust co. Registry of Deeds