

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.172
Historic Name:	Fitzgerald's Store - Cordaville Company Store
Common Name:	Wilson's Hall - Cordaville Hall
Address:	110 Southville Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Cordaville
Local No:	4-40
Year Constructed:	c 1850
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Dance Hall; Gas Station or Service Station; General Retail Store; Meeting Hall; Other Religious; Post Office; Warehouse
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Community Planning; Politics Government; Religion; Transportation
Area(s):	SBR.C: Cordaville
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Sheet Metal Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

Saturday, July 09, 2016 at 2:37: PM

Massachusetts Historical Commission

4-40

Marlboro

C

172

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

CordavilleAddress 110 Southville RoadHistoric Name Fitzgerald's Store; Cordaville
Company Store/Wilson's HallUses: Present convenience store/storageOriginal store and meeting hallDate of Construction mid-19th centurySource maps; visual assessment; NobleStyle/Form Greek Revival vernacularArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

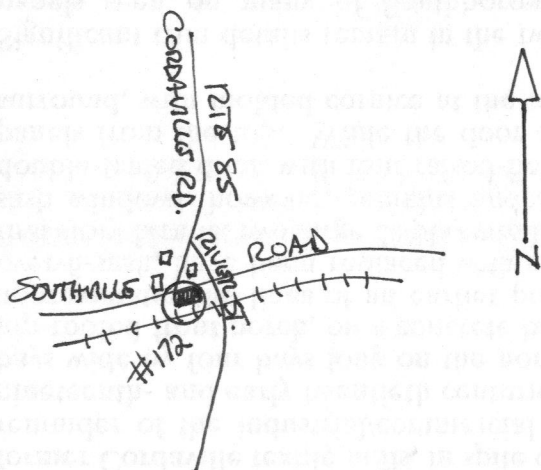
Foundation not visibleWall/Trim wood vertical board; wood trimRoof asphalt and corrugated metal

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

noneMajor Alterations (with dates) windowsash replaced, siding changed, north ell re-moved, rear wing built late 1990sCondition fairMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting Side to Southville Rd. between footof Cordaville Rd. and railroad tracks. Onopen lot, without vegetation or outbuildings.

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual 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 Anne Forbes, consultantOrganization Southborough Historical Comm.Date JUL 08 1999 June, 1999

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

Located at the foot of Cordaville Road across the Boston & Albany tracks from the site of the former Cordaville textile mills, in spite of its many alterations Fitzgerald's Store is a continuing reminder of the industrial/commercial node that existed at the center of Cordaville in the nineteenth- and early twentieth centuries. It is a large 2 1/2-story, gable-front building, three bays wide by four bays long on the north side, with a large recent one-story rear wing. The hip-roofed front porch, on a concrete base, with steel pipe posts and a corrugated metal roof, approximates the lines of an earlier porch. Nearly all the windows, which were formerly 6-over-6-sash, have been replaced with single panes, sized to fit the former openings. On the first story facade, two large display windows have been similarly filled in. One pair of 6-over-6-sash windows, however, remains under the front gable peak. The main center entry has a double-leafed door, with four raised-field panels on each half, with a glass pane in the second panels from the top. While the door appears to date to the twentieth century, its wide flat surround, with molded cornice at the top, may be original.

Significant trim details remain in the two front corner pilasters, which have the long recessed panels seen on many of Southborough's Greek Revival buildings, and in the building entablature, with its wide frieze, complete with architrave; molded, boxed cornice; and gable-end returns.

A one-story shed-roofed refrigerator locker that projects from the south side of the building replaces a hip-roofed ell that appears in early-twentieth-century photographs. In the easternmost second-story bay of the north wall is a door to a modern wooden fire escape/stair.

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.

In spite of its twentieth-century alterations, Fitzgerald's Store is a rare surviving example of a nineteenth-century general store which has continued its original commercial function for nearly a hundred and fifty years. It was built by factory owner Milton Sanford to serve the little mill village of Cordaville that was developing, largely under his ownership and direction, around the cotton and woolen mill he established south of the railroad tracks in 1846 shortly after the Boston & Albany Railroad was built through the south edge of Southborough.

The exact construction date of the building is unknown--it may have been associated with the rebuilding of the factory after a fire destroyed the original buildings in 1855. It was standing by 1857, when both the store and the post office that served the south part of town for many decades are shown at this location. (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: 1857 (store & p.o.); 1870 (Wright Bros. [oc.]); 1898 (store & p.o.)

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

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

Town of Southborough: Assessor's Reports, various dates.

Worcester County Directories/Registers. Various dates and publishers.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds: 2482/477; Plan Book 55/plan 38.

[] 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

Fitzgerald's Store

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

Area(s)
C

Form No.
172

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

In its early years this was the only general store in the south part of Southborough, and served all of Cordaville, Southville, and the adjacent sections of Ashland and Hopkinton. About 1875 it was joined by another store located just to the west, in Southville.

The second story of the building was occupied by a large meeting hall with an inlaid dance floor. At first called Wilson's Hall, and later known simply as Cordaville Hall, over the years it was the site of many significant community gatherings. Southborough's first Improvement Society met here in 1861, as did the Southborough Literary Society for several years in the 1870s. The first Catholic Masses in Southborough were also held here, continuing through the 1860s and most of the 1870s. By the beginning of the Civil War, Southborough's Catholic population, mostly located near the factories at the south edge of town, was large enough for Southborough to become a mission of the Milford parish, named St. Matthew's mission. After Father Patrick Cudahy of Milford was refused permission to hold Mass in the other Southborough meeting halls, Milton Sanford, whose workforce consisted largely of Irish Catholics, agreed to rent his hall if a sizeable bond were to be paid in case of damage. Father Cudahy said the first Mass here in 1861. St. Matthew's mission was later transferred to the Catholic parish of Westborough, and services continued here under Westborough priests until **St. Matthew's Church** (Form #166) was built in Southville in 1879.

Milton Sanford sold his factory to the Cordaville Mills Company in 1864. While they and the factory's subsequent owners retained ownership of this property, from at least the mid-1860s on the store was run by independent proprietors, rather than the by company itself. Over the years the general store had a series of commercial occupants who rented the space. In 1866-67 the proprietor was John W. Wright. The next year his brother (apparently Francis Wright) joined him, and they operated here for several years until moving to the former Fay and Newton store at Fayville in the late 1870s. Francis Wright may in fact have had a hand in both businesses for a few years. By the early 1880s, the partnership of Parker & Ralph was running the Cordaville store.

During the early twentieth century the Cordaville Woolen Company, which had owned the Cordaville mills since 1876, fell on hard times, and in 1928 all their real estate was sold at public auction. The purchaser of the store property was **Thomas F. Fitzgerald**, who had been store proprietor since 1907-1908. During his time here the post office still continued, with Mr. Fitzgerald as postmaster. Mary P. Fitzgerald, apparently his daughter, was Post Office clerk for many years. The store continued through a second generation, operated by Frank, Mary, and Catherine Fitzgerald to about 1960. While it has changed owners at least once since that time, it is still commonly referred to as Fitzgerald's Store today.





PL 1020A
C-63-1102

172

C

Southborough

Address 110 Southville Rd
Fitzgerald's Store

Original & present Store

Owner Fitzgeralds

Public Yes

Style C. 1850

Literature _____ Indians _____
Music _____ Other _____

Source of date _____

Development of town/city
Architectural reason for inventorying:

Architect _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material _____

WALL COVER: Wood Clapboard 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 PORTICO Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: _____

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards _____

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

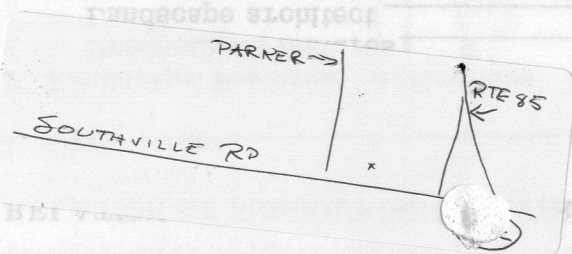
6. Footage of structure from street
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # 3-23 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

- 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)

upstairs used for church meetings
dances etc

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Development of community		Vocabulary	
Where	Other	Source of data	
Physical	Political	Date	State
Government	Religion/Bibliography	Open to public	
Education	Industry/Arts	Present owner	
Vol./Community	Trade/Communication	Use: original & present	
Voluntary	Science/Invention	in 1951	3314-231
Schools	Commerce/Industry	Name	

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number 4738 Page 493 , Ware Co Registry of Deeds