

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.84
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Fay, Heman - Murphy, Dennis House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Willow Brook Farm - Lally, James House
<b>Address:</b>	117 Framingham Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	75-39
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal; Georgian
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Dairy; Horse Or Cattle Farm; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut



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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  
 Massachusetts Archives Building  
 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
 Boston, MA 02125

75-39

Marlborough

84, 653, 654



Southborough

neighborhood or village)

117 Framingham Road

Name Heman Fay House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction 1795 (part may be earlier)

tradition; visual assessment

Form Georgian/Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone

Wall/Trim vinyl siding

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

cross-gabled barn: 19th C.; shed or poultry house  
late-19th C.

Major Alterations (with dates) early-20th-C.

porch on W., enclosed in 1980s. (See text.)

Condition good

Moved [x] no [ ] yes Date N/A

Acreage 3.89 acres

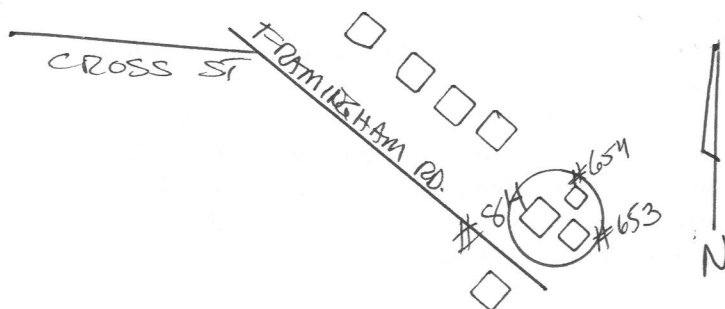
Setting On large, open lot across from garden

center; New single-family development to rear

Stone retaining wall across front.

## 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 Forbes/Schuler, consultants

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date JUL 03 2000 March, 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ ] *see continuation sheet*

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

An interior inspection and further research will be needed to corroborate whether any part of this house dates to the First Period. One traditional date places its construction to as early as 1680 (as stated on the chimney), although recent family research indicates that that earliest Fay house was torn down by the owner who built this one. Its appearance today is one of Southborough's best examples of a late-eighteenth-century 2 1/2-story, double-pile, side-gabled center-chimney house of Georgian proportions, embellished with Federal details. In typical fashion for its time, the house faces south, and has two bays on the west end and five bays across the main facade. A one-bay jut-by leanto (Beverly jog) overlaps the main building at the northeast rear corner, giving that part of the building a salt-box profile. A long one-story ell extends northeast on a slight diagonal from the rear corner of the leanto. Spanning the west end of the main house is a hip-roofed early-twentieth-century porch, which was enclosed with vinyl siding and glass sometime in the 1980s.

Most of the windows in the house are 12-over-12-sash, a typical Federal window type, with modern louvered shutters. Their projecting, molded cornices are now covered with vinyl. The window in each gable at attic level is an 8-over-12-sash. The wood surround of the main, center entry is still exposed. This is a classic late Georgian frontispiece, with a triangular, dentiled pediment over a pulvinated frieze, and fluted pilasters with molded capitals. The six-panel door is characteristic of the 1790s. The east end of the main house is three-bays deep, including in its center a narrow, transomed entry fitted with a twentieth-century door of twelve lights over panels. A similar door occupies the front of the jut-by. Most of the architectural trim of the house, including cornerboards, water table, and a molded, boxed cornice, appears to be intact under the vinyl.

The northeast ell is four bays on the facade, including a 6-over-6-sash window at the inner end. Other windows are twentieth-century examples. Its cornice is unboxed.

Sited close to the house on the east part of the property is a two-part, vertical-board barn (#653). The rear section, apparently the earliest part of the building, is a gable-front, New England style barn with a large vertical-board, interior sliding door in the end facing the house. Behind this section, a leanto tie-up bay runs along the north side of the building. Its low, vertical-board sliding door is mounted on the exterior, indicating a later, possibly turn-of-the-century date for that part. Extending south from the main barn is a long, full-height cross-gabled wing that was apparently the main cowbarn, indicated by the six stanchion windows along the west side, and the five in the south end. The south gable end also has a diagonal-board sliding door in its southwest corner. A 6-over-6-sash window is centered under the south gable. A second, one-story, gabled and clapboarded building directly behind the house may be a former poultry house (#654).

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 is believed to stand on or near the site of the original house of the Fay family in Southborough. According to family research, the extant house was built in 1795 by **Heman Fay** (1752-1816). He had settled on the old family farm to take care of his aged father, Aaron Fay, who died in 1798, and had lived in the house built for his grandfather, John Fay, or later by his father, David Fay. (See also Form #25, 7 Central Street.)

[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

117 Framingham Road

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

Area(s)

Form No.  
84, 653, 654

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

After Heman Fay, the house and 117-acre farm were next owned by his son, **Luke Fay** (1791-1858). In 1850, he had what appears to have been one of Southborough's more prosperous dairy farms, with a herd of a dozen cows, and one of the larger butter-making operations in town. The eight pigs he had in that year point to a sideline in pork production, as well.

During the third quarter of the nineteenth century, Framingham Road was one of the areas of town where Irish immigrants were buying up older farms, including this one. Luke Fay died in 1858, and by 1870, having been reduced to forty-one acres, this farm was owned by Irish-born farmer **Dennis Murphy**. He kept about half a dozen cows, but the man who was apparently the next owner, **James Lally**, had twelve. Mr. Lally also raised poultry, and increased the size of the farm to forty-seven acres.

In about 1902 the farm was acquired by **William A. Phelps**. As was typical of many family farms, he worked the acreage with a relative, **Arthur Phelps**, apparently his son.

In 1930 the farm was acquired by **Arthur J. St. Maurice**, who called it Willow Brook Farm, and raised several types of livestock here over the years, including Texas longhorn cattle, Appaloosa horses, and buffalo. A herd of fifteen- to twenty buffalo still grazed on twenty-nine acres here as late as the 1970s. Most of the property was sold for residential development in 1979. Mr. Maurice also operated the farmstand across the street at 118 Framingham Road.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1857 (Luke Fay); 1870 (D. Murphy); 1898 (J. Lally).

Fay, O.C. History of the Fay Family.

Middlesex News, 8/4/1974.

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

Old Southborough, a Photographic Essay. Southborough Historical Society, 1981.

The Paper, 11/29/1972.

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

Southborough Historical Society files.

Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Annual Reports and Assessor's Reports, various dates.

Worcester Sunday Telegram: "Willow Brook Farm's Future Clouded," 4/27/1980.





Barn

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community                      Property Address  
Southborough                117 Framingham Road

Area(s)                      Form No(s).  
84; 653, 654

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

The Heman Fay House meets Criterion C of the National Register individually at the local level as a well-preserved example in Southborough of an eighteenth-century 2 1/2-story, side-gabled, double-pile, center-chimney house, which may prove to have added architectural significance if it contains portions of a First Period house.

The property is also significant under Criterion A for its connection with early generations of the important Fay family, founders of much of the northeast and east part of Southborough, as well as for its role as a prosperous mid-nineteenth-century farm under later owner Luke Fay.

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

P16

84 5



City Southborough  
 Street address Frammingham Rd  
 Name Willow Brook Farm  
 Use: original & present dwelling  
 Present owner Arthur St. Maurice  
 Open to public no  
 Date 1/6/80 Style \_\_\_\_\_  
 Source of date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Architectural reason for inventorying:  
Pre 1870

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 \_\_\_\_\_

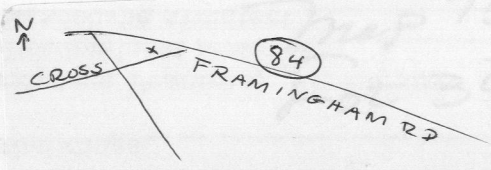
Entrance: Side Front: Center Side Details: \_\_\_\_\_

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 # 3-8 Date 1/971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



## RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR. 84

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)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - D. Murphy

1898 " J. Lohm

Original Fay house "History of the Fay Family" by  
O.C. Fay.

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Deed Information: Book Number 2642 Page 402, Worcester Registry of Deeds