

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.74
Historic Name:	Clifford, William D. House
Common Name:	Deerfoot Farm Housing - Light, Ambrose House
Address:	12 Clifford St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	35-5
Year Constructed:	c 1740
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dairy; Single Family Dwelling House; Workers Housing
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; 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

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Massachusetts Historical Commission

35-5

Marlborough

74

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED

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MASS. HIST. COMM

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Address 12 Clifford StreetHistoric Name William D. Clifford HouseUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction mid-18th C. or earlierSource tradition; visual assessmentStyle/Form center-chimney GeorgianArchitect/Builder unknown

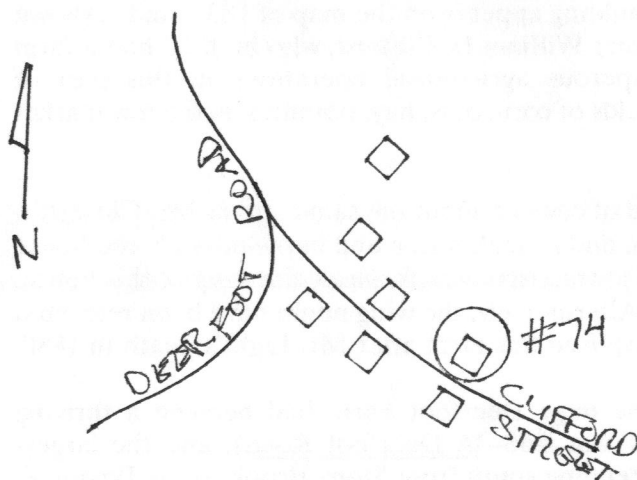
Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstoneWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

3-car, vertical-board garage--late-20th centuryMajor Alterations (with dates) West wing built--20th century; rear deck--ca. 1990. (See text)Condition goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 1.9 acresSetting Faces SW at bend of former country rd.,now developed with late-20th-C. houses. Wideview to rear across wetlands.

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, consultantsOrganization Southborough Historical CommissionDate February, 2000

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

While it may contain an earlier section within its walls, this house represents an excellent example of a 2 1/2-story, five- by two- and three-bay, double-pile, center-chimney house of the latter part of the eighteenth century. A two-story northwest wing, side-gabled like the main house, was added in the mid-twentieth century.

The windows are mostly 6-over-9-sash, with molded, projecting crowns. Those at the second story facade abut the main cornice in a fashion typical of the period. The center entry is tall and narrow, with a 6-panel door surmounted by a 5-light transom, and flanked by flat, tapered pilasters with plinths and molded capitals. The entry is crowned by a horizontal entablature consisting of a frieze and projecting, molded cornice. Like many houses of its era, this one has another entry placed toward the rear of the southeast gable end. The off-center placement of the two first and second story windows on that elevation, which are aligned above each other, but not symmetrically placed on the gable end, suggests that some alteration in the depth of the house has occurred--possibly either the raising or removal of a rear leanto.

Architectural trim includes a molded, boxed cornice with both small returns and a bed molding across the facade, simple board trim at the gables, a water table above the foundation, and wide cornerboards.

The modern northwest wing is nearly as tall as the main house, and is set back only slightly from the front and rear planes of its predecessor. Its detailing follows that of the rest of the house. The facade of the wing is two-bays at the second story, and has a triple 6-over-6-sash window at the first. The fenestration of the west gable end is asymmetrically placed, with one window at each story. This wing replaces another, longer wing which was moved across the street to become the house at 9 Clifford Street (see Form #75), probably sometime in the late-nineteenth century.

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.

Further research will be necessary to trace the earliest owners of this house, which, according to tradition, was built in about 1740, and may have one part dating to 1697. While its appearance suggests that it was standing at least by the latter part of the eighteenth century, an interior investigation is necessary to narrow down a construction date. The building appears on the map of 1831, and is shown in 1857 as belonging to W. D. Clifford. This was farmer **William D. Clifford**, who by 1850 had a farm of 94 acres here. It was one of the more prosperous agricultural operations in this part of Southborough at that time, with eight or nine cows, fields of corn, oats, hay, potatoes, and a few market crops and a good-sized orchard.

By 1870 the owner was **Ambrose Light**. He had a herd of cows of about the same size as Mr. Clifford's, and is listed as owning both the old house and a barn, and a small house and barn--possibly the house across the road at 9 Clifford Street, which, according to tradition, was formerly the wing of this house, relocated and converted to a free-standing dwelling. Alternatively, the wing might have been relocated by the Deerfoot Farm Company, which apparently acquired this farm after Mr. Light's death in 1880.

By the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, the huge Deerfoot Farm had become a thriving commercial operation under Edward Burnett (see Form #68--16 Deerfoot Road), and the largest employer in Southborough, with 400 acres of land extending south from Stony Brook to the Boston &

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough

12 Clifford Street

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

Area(s)

Form No.

74

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Worcester Turnpike. Over the years, the Burnetts acquired several of the old farms and agricultural parcels along Deerfoot Road and Clifford Street, and had built a number of state-of-the-art outbuildings and employees' residences north of this area on both sides of Deerfoot Road. Older farmhouses acquired by the Burnetts, like this one, became the homes of some of the higher skilled or management personnel of the Deerfoot Farm Company.

Until about 1909 Clifford Street was called "McQuarry Road," for the name of the farmer who formerly owned the property at the south end, near Parkerville Road, Allen McQuarrie (McQuarry). By 1913 the name of the street had been changed to Clifford Street.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1857 (WD Clifford); 1870 (A. Light); 1898 (Deerfoot Farm Co.);
1937 WPA maps.

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

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

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

US Census--Agricultural Schedule 1850.

Interview with owner of 9 Clifford Street--2/3/00.



Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
12 Clifford Street

Area(s)

Form No(s).
74

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.

While it may contain an earlier section within its walls, the William Clifford House meets Criterion C of the National Register at the local level as a well-preserved example of a 2 1/2-story, five- by two- and three-bay, double-pile, center-chimney farmhouse of the latter part of the eighteenth century.

It is also significant under Criterion A as representative of one of Southborough's many prosperous outlying farms of the late eighteenth- and nineteenth centuries.

In spite of the recent development of much of the old farmland around it, the house retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

(Attach photo here)

P120 ✓ 74

US62 MARL



City Southborough
Street address 12 Clifford Road
Name _____
Type: original & present dwelling
Present owner Robert Gwillim
Open to public _____
Year 1740 (?) Style Col.
Source of date _____
Architect _____

P021870

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Stone

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 Picture window in back

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

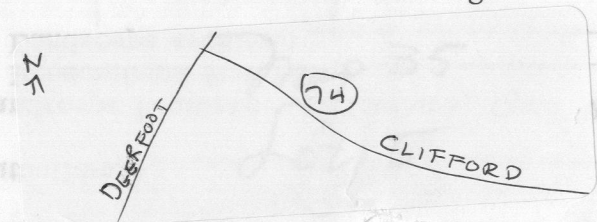
6. Footage of structure from street _____
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # 2-31 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR.74

1. Outbuildings Garage
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features 32
Landscape architect 32
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 Ambrose Light
1898 Deerfoot Farm

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number 4253 Page 517, Worcester Co. Registry of Deeds