

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.201
Historic Name:	Flagg, Betsey H. House
Common Name:	Sullivan, Mary House
Address:	136 Middle Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	28-5
Year Constructed:	c 1830
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Archaeology, Historic; Architecture; Industry
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood; Wood Shingle 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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FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

28-5 Marlboro 201 938

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)



136 Middle Road

Name Mrs. B. Flagg (1857 map)

Present residential

Original residential

Construction ca. 1830

maps and visual

Form Greek Revival

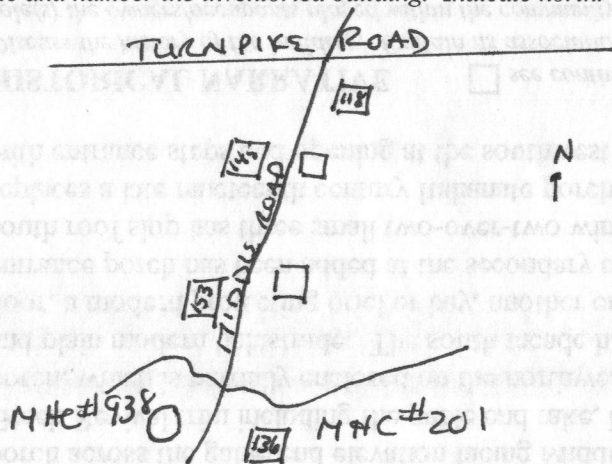
Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Construction stone and mortar

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Wall/Trim wood clapboards/wood trim

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures vertical flush board barn with gable to street - late 20th c.

Major Alterations (with dates) total remodeling in 1989 including reworking of 19th c. wrap porch, new entrance, new 8/8, and added oriel window. Mid 20th c. three-bay dormer and porch enclosure.

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acres 44,000 square feet

Setting East side of Middle Road approximately ¼ mile south of Rt. 9, very close to road with intermittent stream running just north of property, wooded surroundings, Opposite remnant foundations.

Recorded by Schuler/Forbes

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 3/00

JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

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 simple side gabled farmhouse is oriented to the south thus perpendicular to Middle Road. The one and one-half story dwelling is three bays wide with two windows in the gable peak and five bays deep and has a wrap porch across the gable end elevation facing Middle Road and wrapping to the south facade. The house has Greek Revival trim including the gable end rake, boxed cornice and returns and narrow corner boards. The porch, which is partially enclosed on the northwest corner, recently has been replaced with the square columns and plain modern balustrade. The south facade has been remodeled with a plain paneled reproduction entrance door, a modern projecting oriel or bay, another entrance, and a single eight-over-eight window. A small open entrance porch has been added at the secondary entrance on this south facade. The shed roof dormer on the south roof slop has three small two-over-two windows. The chimney is centered at the ridge. The new porch replaces a late nineteenth century Italianate porch that had cut posts, brackets and a decorative cut balustrade with entrance steps and opening at the southwest corner of the street gable front elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☐ see continuation sheet

Discuss the 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.

Located on a rural route connecting the Village of Southborough with Southville and a route which until the 1840s was one of the main north-south corridors, this property appears to be on the 1830 map and the only property south of Turnpike Road and the location of Middle Road that today dead ends into Parkerville Road, which does not appear on the 1831 map. During the second half of the nineteenth century this thirteen-acre farm was among the smaller farms and probably was associated with the shoe shop located across Middle Road. Only about 16% of the 117 farms recorded in the 1850 agricultural census were less than 20 acres. First known owner "Mrs. B. Flagg" likely refers to **Betsey Flagg** who was assessed for \$600 worth of real estate in 1860 and was the mother of the 1870 map owner, **George W. Flagg** (b. 1844). Flagg's father, Leland had died in 1845 at age 42. Probably this house had been the Flaggs' home prior to Leland Flagg's (1803-1845) death. Other Flaggs owned farms north of this at 123 Middle Road and on Turnpike Road since demolished. In 1870 George W. Flagg was assessed for a thirteen acre farm with a house, barn and shoe shop. The 1857 map shows a shoe shop across the road from this house where today there is a deep stone foundation (**MHC #938**) for a barn or shop building and the total real estate assessment is approximately the same as the 1860 figure which is consistent with records for many other known properties. By the late 1890s until after 1909 this property was owned by Mary Sullivan who retained the thirteen-acre farm with house, barn and shop as well as a horse and cow. Further investigation is necessary to know the pre-1850 history of this property as well as the agricultural and pre-industrial history. The foundation on the opposite side of the road may yield additional information as well as the artifacts on the bank of the stream, near the barn/shop foundation on the opposite side of the street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Assessor's Reports: 1860, 1870, 1897, 1909.

Atlases/Maps: 1831, 1857 (Mrs. B. Flagg), 1870 (G. Flagg), 1898 (Mrs. M. Sullivan)

Directories: 1900, 1903, 1913.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town
SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address
136 MIDDLE ROAD
Area(s) Form No.

	201
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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.*

PHOTOGRAPHS



Foundation opposite 136 Middle Rd.



PI 10 201
201
Southborough
address 136 Middle Road
original & present
ent owner Ray Davis
to public
Style

Literature Indians
Music Other
Development of town/city
Architectural reason for inventorying:

Source of date
Architect

----- OR part of Area # -----
3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added Being Restored

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

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

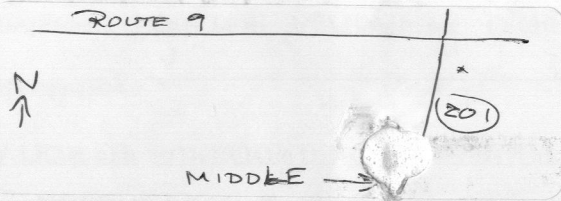
6. Footage of structure from street
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo # 5-25 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR. 201

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)

ROOF: _____
 CHIMNEYS: _____
 FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: _____

DESCRIPTION

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 - B.H. Fay

Music	Other
Government	Religion/philosophy
Education	Military affairs
Art/sculpture	Travel/communication
Architecture	Science/invention
Schools	Commerce/industry

following names: (see also reverse side)
 Building has historical connection with the

Source of date _____
 Date _____
 Open to public _____
 Present owner _____
 Use: original & present _____
 Name _____

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____
 Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds