Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: SBR.219

Historic Name: Newton, Ephraim - Stow, Benjamin House

Common Name:

Address: 14 Oregon Rd

City/Town: Southborough

Village/Neighborhood:

Local No: 15-9

Year Constructed: c 1720

Architect(s):

Architectural Style(s): First Period; Georgian

Use(s): Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House

Significance: Agriculture; Architecture; Exploration Settlement

Area(s):

Designation(s):

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Building Materials(s): Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle; 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

This file was accessed on:

Assessor's number

USGS Ouad

Area(s)

Form Number

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

15-9

Marlborough

219, 665



Southborough

neighborhood or village)

14 Oregon Road

c Name Benjamin Stow House

Edward/Lemuel Chamberlain House Present dwelling

Original <u>dwelling</u>

Construction ____ ca. 1727-1740

architectural analysis: visual assessment:

deeds

orm <u>transitional First Period gambrel</u>

cottage Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone

Wall/Trim wood clapboard and shingle

Roof

____asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

19th-C. barn; mid-20th C. pool and pool house

Major Alterations (with dates) Portion of ell

added--mid-20th century; some late-20th C. window and door replacement. Center chimney removed.

Condition good

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

Acreage

two acres

Setting Opposite foot of Edgewood in area of

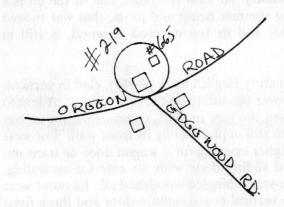
20th-C. houses. Stone walls along road; woods to

to east.

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 7 Southborough Historical Commission

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] see continuation sheet

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

Traditionally believed to date to 1727, a recent architectural analysis by architectural historian Myron Stachiw has confirmed that this little house was probably constructed sometime in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Some lingering First Period features are still evident on the interior, including chamfered longitudinal summer beams and girts, and exposed ceiling framing of 4 x 3 1/2" joists, some of which are half-dovetailed into the beams and plates. The gambrel roof structure consists of common rafters with pinned, half-lap joints at the ridge, and no ridge beam. The plates are set higher than the girts, and both sets of summer beams are longitudinal. Corner posts are flared at the tops. Horizontal feather-edge sheathing remains in the rear first-story room, and vertical feather-edge sheathing, a transitional element characteristic of both the late years of the First Period and the early "Second" or Georgian period, also panels some interior walls. There is also some evidence of early paint surfaces.

A rare example in Southborough of a gambrel-roofed house, 14 Oregon Road is a 1 1/2-story, five-bay, two-room-deep cottage with a long two-bay ell extending east at a slight angle from the northeast rear corner. The building is clapboarded on the front facades, and shingled on the other walls. A narrow chimney rising from the roof ridge just east of the mid-point is a replacement for a massive fieldstone center chimney, which was removed earlier in this century to accommodate the building of a central through-passage. Another, slightly more massive brick chimney pierces the upper rear roof slope just east of that chimney, and a modern brick chimney is positioned near the outer end of the ridge of the ell roof. A pair of narrow, pedimented dormers with 6-over-6-sash windows is symmetrically positioned on the lower front roof slope.

The main facade of the house is also symmetrical, with 6-over-6-sash windows in flat, simple surrounds rising to the narrow frieze board. The entry has a twentieth-century four-panel door with four lights across the top in a wide, flat surround. The west end of the house is two bays deep. Its windows are also 6/6, except for one modern single-pane window toward the rear of the second-story wall, and a round-headed 6-pane sash at attic level. The east end of the house in front of the ell displays the same type of attic window, two 6/6's at the second story, and one 6/6 at the first.

The clapboarded facade of the ell has one 6/6 replacement window, and on the easternmost bay has a small modern glass and metal greenhouse bay window. The ell entry is in the front portion of its east elevation, now fitted with a modern steel and glass door. (Historic photographs show that there was also an entry in the approximate center of the ell facade.) At least the outer end of the ell is a portion of a First Period house, also with exposed ceiling summer beam and joists, that was moved from Marlborough. The well, complete with rope pulley and its top encased in wood, is still in existence inside the ell.

Just east of the house is a small side-gabled, nineteenth-century English barn (#665), clad in vertical-board siding on the front and in the gables, and shingled over the siding on the other walls. A leanto with manure basement, reported to have been added across the rear in 1901, contains the tie-up bay for several cows, and has a line of seven wooden stanchions still in place along its front wall. The west portion of the barn facade shows the lines of a former, higher opening for a wagon door or transom. The present door is a turn-of-the-century vertical-board sliding door with an exterior mounting. Abutting the west wall of the barn is a low side-gabled, one-story shingled woodshed ell. Its outer west bay is open on the front, the eastern four bays consist of a vertical-board walk-in-door and three fixed 6-pane single sash, turned 90 degrees to stand on their sides.

[[]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

14 Oregon Road

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

Area(s)

Form No. 219, 665

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [] 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.

Probably the oldest building in at least the south part of Southborough, 14 Oregon Road has long been believed to date to 1727, the year the town was incorporated. Deeds refer to an existing house on the property as early as 1740, when **Philip Reck** of Southborough sold sixty acres, with a dwelling house, to **Benjamin Stow** of Sudbury. Benjamin and his wife, Zibiah, had nine children, four of them born after they moved to Southborough. At least one son, Timothy Stow, may have taken part in the French and Indian War, as he died at Albany in 1755.

Benjamin Stow apparently acquired fifteen acres more over the middle of the century, as he sold seventy-five acres, including the portion with the house, to **Edward Chamberlain** of Charlton in 1765. Most of the Chamberlain property was on the south side of Oregon Road, extending south to the boundary of the "fiddleneck" section of Framingham--a narrow east-west strip of land that was annexed to Southborough in 1786. By 1783 Edward Chamberlain had a barn across the road, and had increased his land to 60 acres, which he sold, with the house, to **Lemuel Chamberlain** of Marlborough in that year. (This is apparently the Lemuel Chamberlain of Southborough who fought in the Revolution and marched to Concord on April 19, 1775. As an old man, he was among the local veterans greeted by the Marquis de Lafayette when he came through Southborough in 1827.)

Lemuel Chamberlain also acquired more property over the years, some of it from other family members. In 1815, he sold 110 acres, with the house, to **Rufus Whiting** of Dedham. Rufus Whiting was a blacksmith. He apparently held onto the property for some years without living in the house, and it was probably leased to tenants, possibly including some Whiting family members.

Shortly before he died in 1822, Rufus sold fifty acres to the north, apparently associated with a farmhouse on Woodland Road, to his son, Mason Whiting. The house was inherited by his wife, Elizabeth, who owned it until at least 1830. Elizabeth Whiting died in 1845, and 14 Oregon Road was apparently conveyed to or inherited by another son or family member, as the map of 1857 shows W. Whiting as the owner. This may refer to Rufus W. Whiting of Framingham, (probably Rufus and Elizabeth's son), who sold the property to John Nottage in 1866. He in turn resold it the next year to John Short of South Boston.

In 1870 the house, with a 24-acre farm, was purchased from John Short by Charles Capen. Born in 1845, he was the son of the longtime owner of the farm to the southeast on Edgewood Road, Thomas R. Capen. He did not live here long, however, as he died in 1872 or '73

Charles Capen's principal heirs were apparently his widow, **Diana**, and his daughter, **Martha**. It appears that Diana Capen married Augustus P. Greenough sometime between 1875 and 1897. For many years, he was the principal farmer here, and as late as 1913 Oregon Road is defined as running "from the house of A. P. Greenough to the Ashland line." By that time, however, neither Augustus nor his stepdaughter is listed in the street directories as living in Southborough. Martha (Mattie) Capen owned the property until her death in 1960, apparently leasing the house to tenants. When she died, the property was twelve acres, most of it still south of Oregon Road. It is now two acres, all of it on the north side of the road.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough

14 Oregon Road

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

Area(s)

Form No. 219, 665

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [] see continuation sheet

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1857 (W. Whiting); 1870 (J. Short); 1898 (Mrs. D. Greenough.)

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

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

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

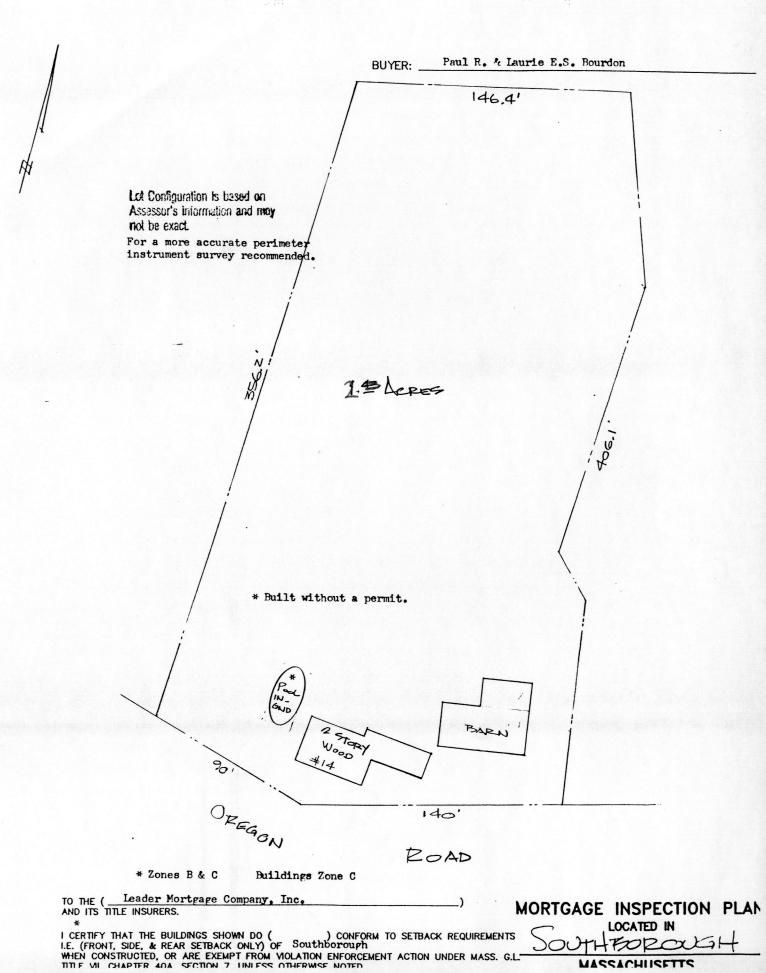
Research by owner, 1999-2000: deeds and interviews,

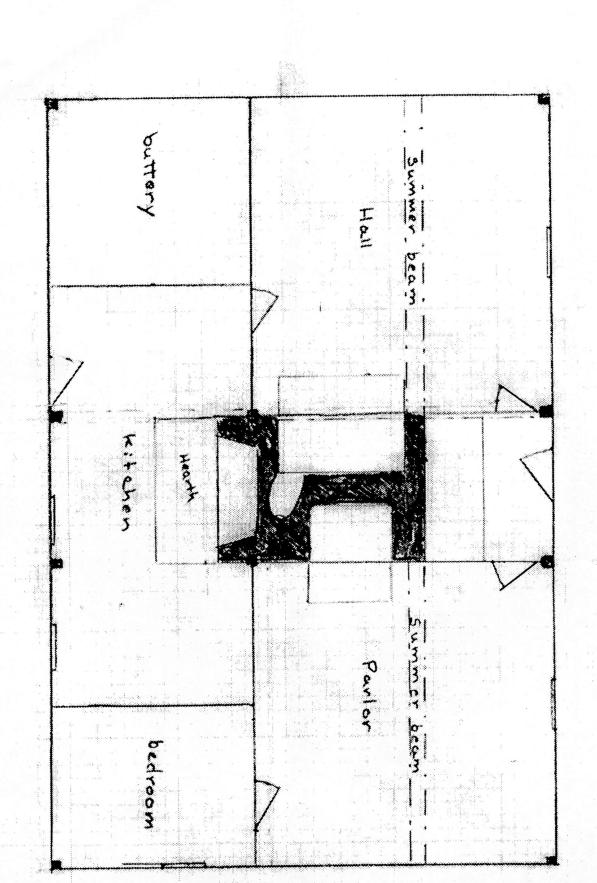
Simpson, Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. 1904.

Stachiw, Myron. Architectural analysis of 14 Oregon Road. 2/2000.

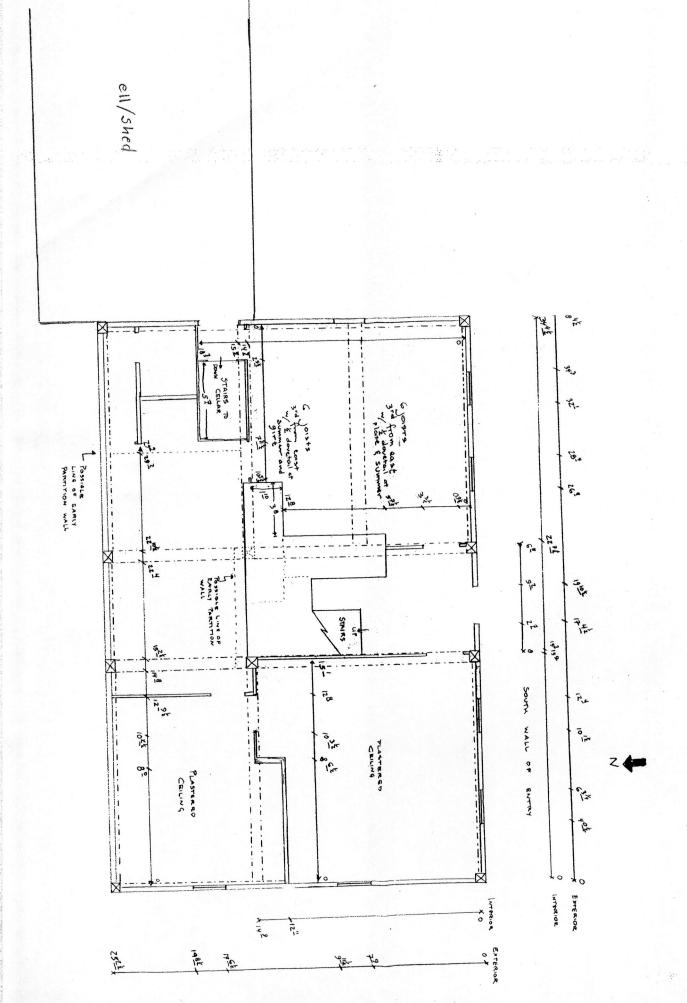
Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Annual Reports and Tax Valuations, various dates.

Westborough, Northborough, and Southborough Directory. 1905.

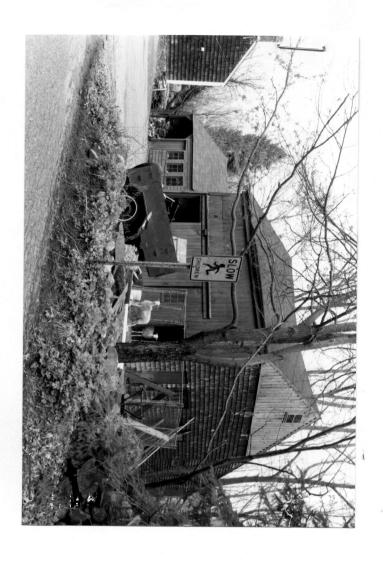




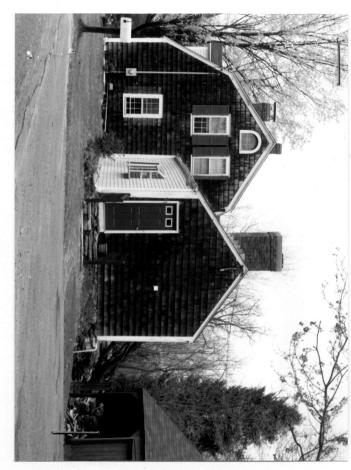
Ephrain Newton House Proposed original floor plan 14 organ Rd Southbord Mai

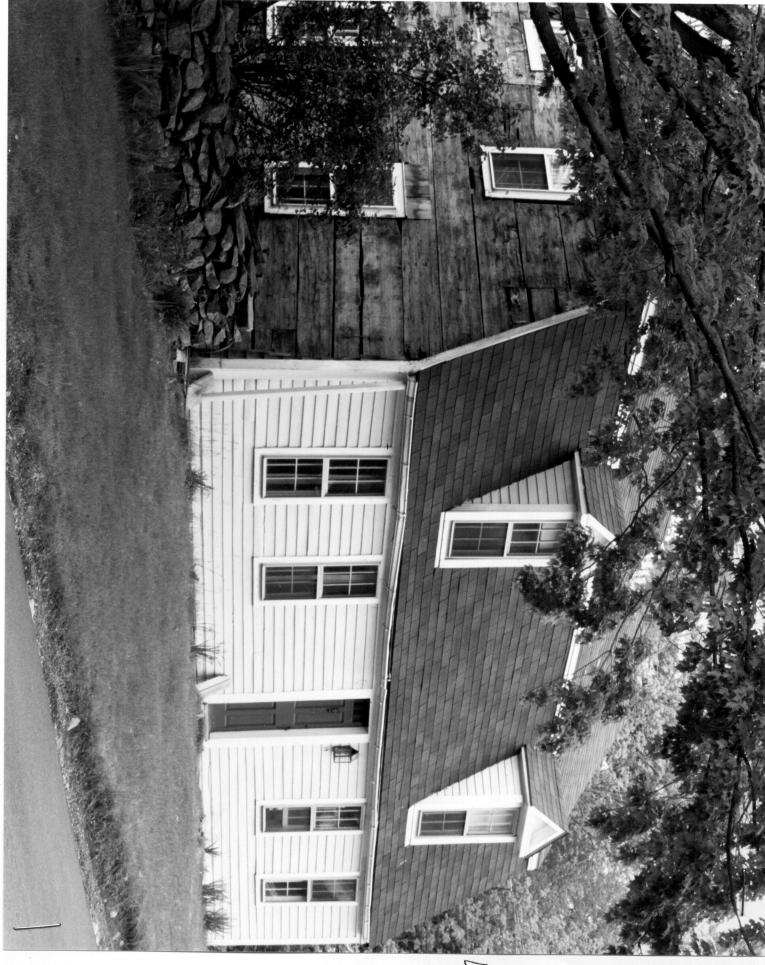


SBR. 219









Large photo

MACRIS No. 568,219

Ephraim Newton house 14 Oregon Road South borough, Ma Paul Bourson Ephraim Newton house South borough 14 Oregon Road No. pof 2 Paul Bourson

Large Photo #1

Houthborough Historical Commission Files

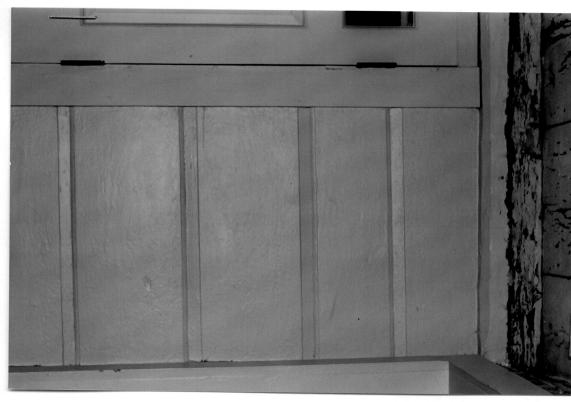
South and east elevations of house including ell, wood shed, workshop and west bay of barn

Large Photo #2

Southborough Historical Commission Files

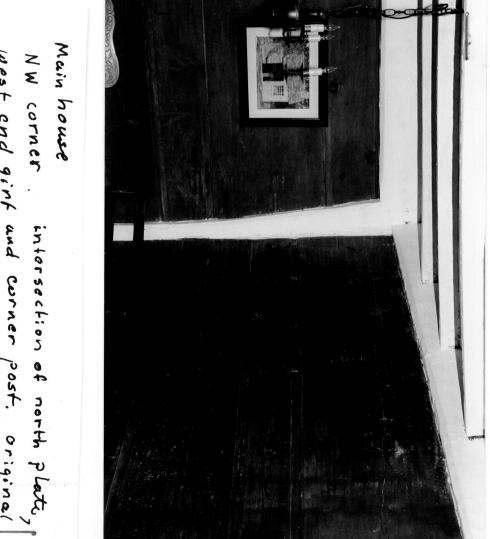
South and west clevations of house during residing of westend. with heavily weathered board sheathing exposed.

Captions for large photos

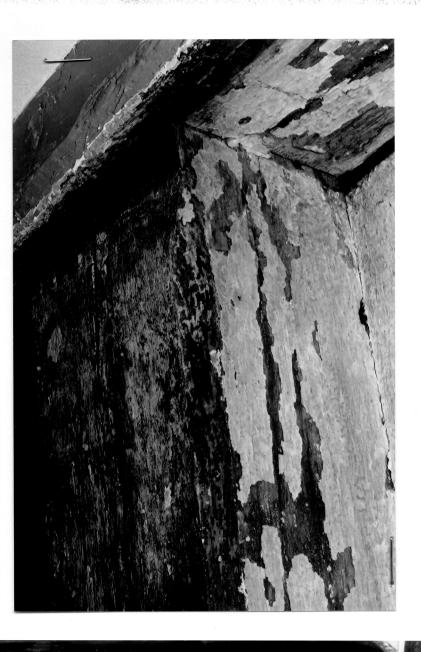




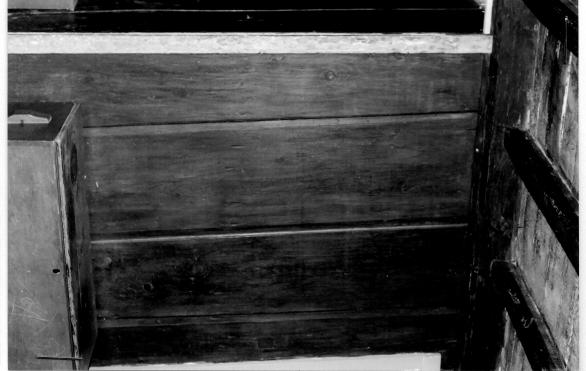
Main house - Front entry wall, note easily white wash on horizontal panel on exterior plate and subfloor above



west end girt and curner post. original horizontal feather edge panel.



* Main house - Sur room 9174. intersection of summer beam with chruney beam. chimney girt has no chamfer but did where clark band is. also note early whiteway have small piece of molding (not replaced yet) note chamber and stop on summer 15+ floor



Mainhouse SE Room 1st floor north wall - vertical featheredge board wall. In entitied
position



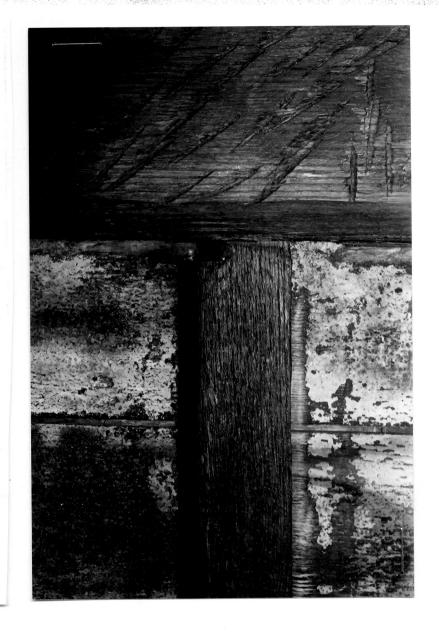
Frame - 2nd floor ceiling joists rutersecting south purlin



mainhouse basement Stainwell back Side of SE room north well (vertical feather edge panel)

Random Polka dot over whitewash.

This room was apparently originally a buttery.



and summer beam main house. intersection of middle joist with half dovetall note: early whitewash on subfloor SE Room - Ceiling

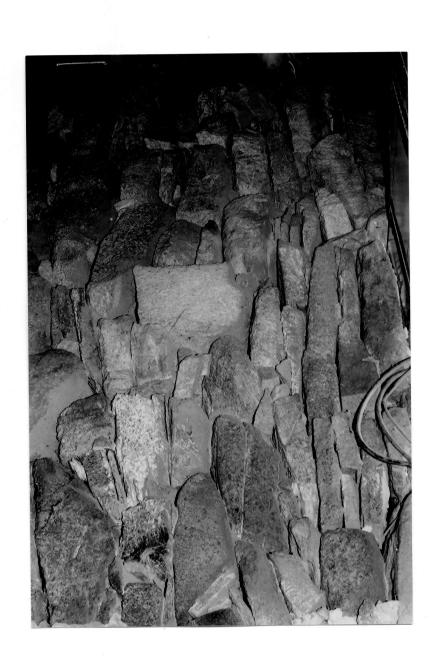


main house kertchen

Chimney girt and post (interior)

Note Step of girt which runs

from front to back of house

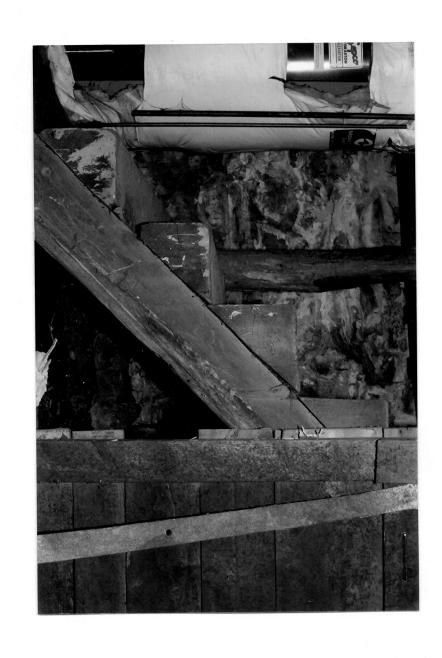


Main house - basement drylaid Stone foundation



main house katchen
intersection of Plate Chim

intersection of Plate, chimney girt and post. note chamfers and stops, Early white wash on plate, Salmon colored paint (cuer white wash) on original horizontal feather edge panel.



Main house - basement triangular log stairs - This location was 19th - may have been moved from offiginal (ccation

Massachusetts Historical Commission 220 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, Massachusetts 02125 Community

Property Address

Southborough

14 Oregon Road

Area(s)

Form No(s). 219; 665

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:								
[x] Individually eligible [] Contributing to a poter						district		
Criteria: [x] A [] B	[x] C	[] D						
Criteria Considerations:	[] A	[] B	[] C	[] D	[] E	[] F	[] G	
Statement of The criter	_	-					tified here	·

The Stow/Chamberlain Houuse meets Criterion C of the National Register individually at the local level as a unique illustration in Southborough of a 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed house of the second quarter of the eighteenth-century which retains many lingering First Period features.

The property is also significant under Criterion A as the earliest known extant farmstead in the southeast part of Southborough.

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

1. Outbuildings_		Photo * Z / Date 164 /	
Predominar	atures: Agriculture Open W nt featuresarchitect	ooded Garden: Formal/Informal	
Style: Colo	tructures nial Federal Greek Revival etian Gothic Mansard Richard	Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.	
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ALL COVER: W	ood Clapment, Shright Zill		
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	AND/OR REFERENCE		
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		The Name	
RESTRICTIONS_	historically significant to:	Street address T OFE JON NOS	
Office of the Secr	etary, State House, Boston	2, TOWN SOLLE DETELLEN	
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address
14 OREGON ROAD

RECEIVED

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, Massachusetts 02125 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION CONT.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AUG 1 5 2002

219

MASS. HIST. COMM

Removal of the plaster ceilings in the front entry, west front room and northwest corner room has revealed that the whitewashed ceiling framing and the second floor sub-floor were left exposed probably until a major remodeling campaign occurred in 1870. This is based on late cut nails removed from strapping and nailers and tax valuations that double between 1870 and 1871. Late cut nails were also removed from the center hall stairway and the floor boards of the front rooms suggesting the removal of the center chimney and re-flooring of the front rooms occurred at this time also. Removal of plaster over circular sawn lath covering feather edged horizontal paneled wall on the north side of the house also revealed strapping attached with late cut nails. Beneath this plaster wall the panel still retained it's salmon colored paint over whitewash. In fact only one plaster wall has been determined to have been early the east wall of the west chamber is rived lath and still retains the plaster scar and repair of a smoke pipe that fed from a wood/coal stove through the wall into the center chimney. The framing at the posts exhibits the unusual form atf the top of the plate being in the same plane as the girts so the girt is not acting as a tie beam. Apparently to counteract the horizontal forces from the roof, half-dovetailed joist were used in the middle of each of the front rooms and extending back to the rear plate. Another peculiar feature this house has is a 1.5 inch step in both chimney posts and the east end girt. This was apparently to put the bottom of the girt into the plane of the rear or north plate. Removal of the kitchen floor revealed an earlier floor used as sub-floor. One corner of the hearth of the rear fireplace was still intact and extended to almost five feet from the rear wall. In the rear pile heavily soot covers parts of the ceiling and extends past the remains of a vertical board partition wall to the west of the chimney bay (installed with early cut nails (oval heads)) to a five sided nailers that was still intact in the ceiling indicating that there was a small (9X7 foot) room in the northwest corner. The 1822 will of Rufus Whiting indicates that this was the bedroom of his daughter Joe. The original doorway was on the south side of the room opening into the front west room. The stairwell to the basement and other original surfaces in the northeast corner of the main house retain the original/early wall treatment of random black polka-dots over whitewash. These areas were originally unheated service space in the rear pile of the house with paint scars of the original shelving. The east front room ceiling also shows signs of heavy soot staining while the west front room ceiling barely shows any staining on the whitewashed surface. There are three different colored layers visible on this surface a pure white first layer, a light yellow, and a very light gray. In addition when the ceiling in the west room was removed it revealed a small piece of molding at the bottom of the chimney girt. This evidence clearly indicates that the east room was extensively used as a kitchen and the west room was either a parlor or possibly the parents bedroom. The plaster repair scar of a corner cupboard was also observed in the northeast corner of the plaster ceiling of the west room apparently a piece of which was used for a nailer in the repair. An iron L hook that resembles a pintle was found in the north side of the summer beam also in the west room. Two sets of initials have been found in the main house. SAB was scribed into the original and very weathered sheathing board on the north side of the house found under 19th century clapboards (late cut nails). NL was found on the underside of the sub-floor laid above the front entry during the 1870 remodeling.

The ell appears to have been added in the period 1820-1840 based on transitional cut nails found in the attic of the ell. In addition a small 2X2 foot door with leather hinges on the main house was also found in the attic with early clapboards still intact. The frame of this structure has hewn large members (approx. 6X6) and up and down sawn smaller members except for some quirky smaller hewn horizontal members. The roof has a five-sided ridge pole with rafters mortised into it and pegged. Exterior walls were originally vertical board with at least one door and a sliding window on the north side. Empty mortise holes have evidence of being produced with a screw auger. Early vertical feather edged paneling applied inside the ell appears to have been brought in from another house, possibly the Marlborough house the chimney was reported to have been removed from. Interestingly one piece of panel removed originally a horizontal board has the name Thomas How on the back and a number 1678 although it is unclear whether this is a date. No evidence of this structure being first period has been found.

The barn has been found to contain a large portion of recycled timbers. Mortise holes were produced with blunt augers consistent with it being recycled from the original barn that was across Oregon road based on deeds. The builder of the present barn may have been a Whiting based on the initials AW found on up and down sawn vertical exterior sheathing. It appears the shed on the back may have been added about 1890 when the valuation increases 2.5 fold. Structural repairs have been made to the barn preserving all original fabric except the west section of the plate and the front and a portion of the east sill.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE CONT.

Further documentary research has identified an earlier if not the original owners of the property as Ephraim Newton the son of Daniel Newton and grandson of original Marlborough founder Richard Newton The earliest reference to a house being on the property is a

1720 deed to an abutting property that is described as "near the dwelling house of Ephraim Newton". An earlier deed dated 1714 between Ephraim's brother Benjamin and their father Daniel describing a house and land to the west has Ephraim as an abutter. It is possible Ephraim received the property in 1710 when he married Christian Ripley of Marlborough. The following year 1711 he is assigned to the garrison house of his uncle John Newton Jr. along with his brothers Benjamin and Abraham, his cousin James who owned land around Oak Hill, Eleazer Bellows, John Woods and James Eager. Southborough town records also refer to Ephraim Newton and his house until 1738 when he sells the property to Philip Rich aka. Reck, LeRich and also Leritch. Rich, marries Joanna Bugbee in Roxbury in 1710 and then moves to Sudbury before he buys this property. He only owns the property less than

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town

Property Address

SOUTHBOROUGH

14 OREGON ROAD

Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 Morrissey Boulevard BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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	019
	219

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE CONT.

two years before he sells it to Benjamin Stow in 1740 and moves back to Sudbury. The following year he dies. There is still some question as to whether the house referred to in these records is the present house. Architecturally it would seem unlikely the present house predates 1720 but there are continuous references to a house on the property from 1720 on. Of course the house may have burned at anytime and been rebuilt. This may require some archaeology to determine. In 1761 Stow sold the farm to Edward Chamberlain of Charlton. Ten years later the 1771 tax valuation has him running a middling farm with three cows and a horse on four acres of pasture and also eight acres of tillage producing 100 bushels of grain and an orchard producing 20 barrels of cider. There were four acres of English grass and twelve acres of meadow producing eleven tons of hay per year.

SOURCES

Architectural and documentary research by Paul Bourdon.

Architectural assessment by Myron Stachiw.

Registry of Deeds, Worcester, Ma., Cambridge, Ma.

Registry of Probate, Worcester, Ma.

Massachusetts Archives, Columbia Point, Ma.

Vital Records Marlborough, Southborough, Roxbury

RECEIVED

AUG 15 2002 MASS. HIST. COMM

Original yellow form: Eligibility file
Copies: Inventory form
Town file(w/corresp.)
Macris
NR director
Community: Williamstown

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received:	Date Due:	Date	Reviewed: 8/14/02				
Type:	X Individual	_Dis	_District (Attach map indicating boundaries)				
Name: Form: SBR.219	14 Oregon Roa	d		Inventory			
Address: 1	14 Oregon Road	, Southborough					
Requested by:	Paul Bourdon						
Action: Other:	<u>X</u> Ho	norITC	Grant	_R & C			
Agency:		Staff in cl	narge of Review: B	F/DL/EG			
INDIVIDUAL	PROPERTIES			DISTRICTS			
X Eligible Eligible, also Eligible only needed Ineligible More inform	y in district			Eligible Ineligible More information			
CRITERIA:		<u>X</u> A	B	<u>X</u> _C	_D		
LEVEL:		X Local	State	National			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

14 Oregon Road fulfils National Register Criteria A and C on the local level. The property is significant under Criterion A for its association and involvement as part of the development of Southborough and Criterion C as a unique example of in Southborough of a 1 ½ story gambrel roofed house of the second quarter of the eighteenth-century which retains many first period features.