

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: SBR.K
Historic Name: Brigham Pond Area
Common Name:
Address:
City/Town: Southborough
Village/Neighborhood: West End
Local No:
Year Constructed:
Architect(s):
Architectural Style(s):
Use(s): Residential District
Significance: Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning
Area(s):
Designation(s):
Building Materials(s):



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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 A - AREA

Massachusetts Historical Commission

220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's Sheets

49, 50

USGS Quad

Marlborough

Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

K

358-368



C 7A, 9A, 10A

Ward Road, view east from #6

Southborough

(neighborhood or village)

West End

of Area Brigham Pond Area

t Use residential

uction Dates or Period 19th to mid-20th C.

l Condition good

Major Intrusions and Alterations

one late-20th-century house

Acreage approximately 15 acres

Recorded by A. Forbes & G. Schuler,

consultants

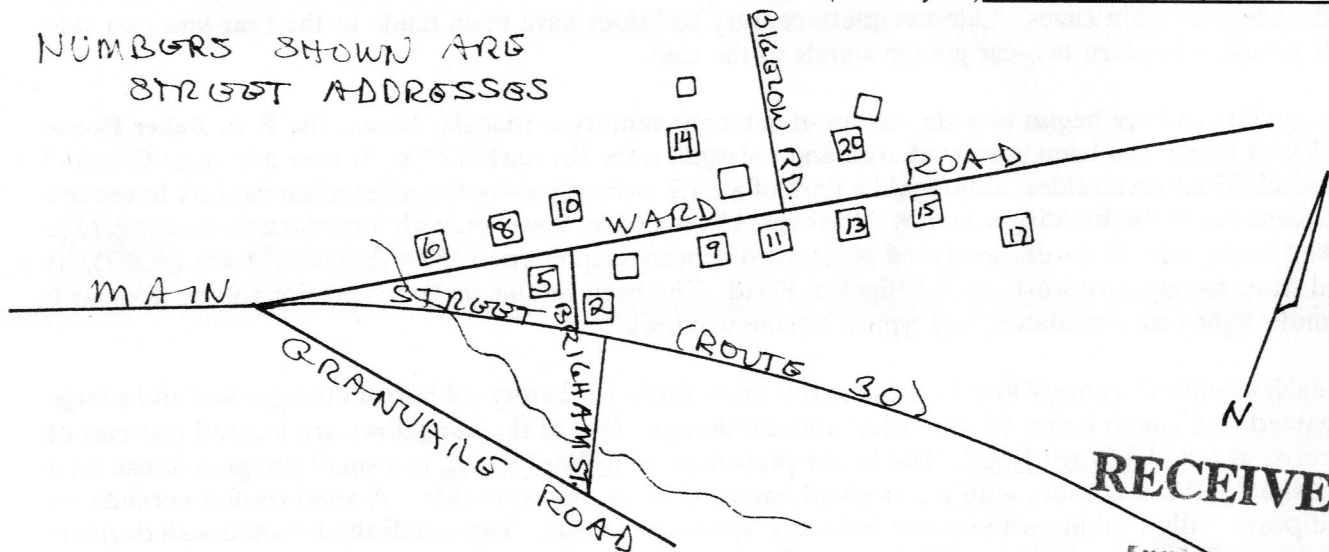
Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/99; 6/2000

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.

NUMBERS SHOWN ARE STREET ADDRESSES



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MASS. HIST. COMM

AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [X] see continuation sheet

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

While Brigham Pond is no longer in existence, the small residential area clustered around its surviving brook north of Main Street (Route 30) and west of I-495 still displays much of the character that was built up here through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Three vernacular Greek Revival gable-front 1 1/2-story, side-hall-entry cottages on granite-block foundations, all apparently built about 1855, remain from the era when the Brigham Mill was still operating. The **Dana Brigham House** at 2 Brigham Street is a 3- by 4-bay vinyl-sided building with a long 1 1/2-story north side wing, which may incorporate a portion of an earlier, stone-chimneyed house. It is accompanied by a gable-front, vertical-board **barn** (#360) of the mid- to late nineteenth century. Both the house and barn are somewhat altered. The house has 6-over-6-sash windows (replacements for the 2-over-2's which were still there in 1970) with modern vinyl shutters and Colonial Revival dentiled crowns, and a modern metal-and-glass door has been installed in the facade of the wing. The main side-hall entry, however, retains its shallow-peaked Greek Revival entablature and 4-pane, half-length sidelights. The door is a turn-of-the-century glass-and-panel type. The **barn** has a shallow tie-up bay along the north side, and an ell on the south side that has been converted to a residence. Like many of Southborough's barns, the building displays a variety of window forms, and has an interior-mounted sliding vertical-board wagon door.

Standing diagonally across the street is another ca. 1855 Brigham house, the **Samuel Brigham House**, at 5 Ward Road. This house, while also vinyl-sided, is the best-preserved of the three. It retains its characteristic Greek Revival entablature of echinus-molded, boxed cornice and wide, two-part frieze, and its wide corner pilasters with molded caps. Like 2 Brigham Street, the main entry has a high, wide frieze with shallow-peaked crown molding; here, however, the sidelights are full-length, with five panes, and the door is a four-panel type--both typical of the 1850s. The 2-over-2-sash windows also have shallow-peaked crowns; their shutters are modern replacements. The house has a one-story rear ell, which has been extended to the rear and west, and stands on a high brick foundation.

The third mid-nineteenth-century gable-front house, at 10 Ward Road, the **J. W. Buck House**, is shingled, but retains most of its trim elements. The building corners have flat pilasters without capitals, but the cornice retains its echinus crown molding and a wide, plain frieze. The main entry, with what appears to be a 20th-century triangular pediment, has 4-pane, three-quarter-length sidelights. Most of the windows are 2-over-2-sash in molded surrounds; some have replacement sash; a line of small 1-over-1-sash has been added under the main eaves. Late-twentieth-century additions have been made to the rear and east side of this house; a modern two-car garage stands to the east.

What appears to have begun as a simple late-nineteenth-century vernacular house, the **F. A. Baker House** at 20 Ward Road, has been greatly altered and enlarged since the early 1970s. It now has large Colonial Revival additions on all sides, although the lines of a 2 1/2-story gable-roofed nineteenth-century house are still discernible at the building's center. Northeast of the house, however, with a modern three-car garage attached to its side, is a well-preserved nineteenth-century clapboarded "New England" **barn** (#367), its gabled front facing northwest toward Bigelow Road. The barn retains its large interior rolling door with long multi-light transom above, and typical 6-pane windows.

Four early-twentieth-century houses stand in this area--three 1 1/2-story gable-front bungalows, and a large side-gabled Craftsman house of somewhat unusual design. Two of the bungalows are located just east of the brook, at 6 and 8 Ward Road. The better preserved, at 6 Ward Road, is a small shingled house on a concrete-parged foundation, with a polygonal bay window on the west side. A shed-roofed veranda on turned posts, with a railing with square balusters, spans the facade. Two small shed-roofed wall dormers break the roofline on both sides of the house. The windows are 2-over-2-sash, with molded surrounds; the entry has a 6-panel replacement door. A small gable-front barn/shed, probably a later addition, extends from the northeast rear corner of the house. (Cont.)

[] Recommended as a National Register District. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement m.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough

Brigham Pond Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)
K

Form Nos.
358-368

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

Next door, at 8 Ward Road, is a somewhat altered bungalow, also with a parged foundation. This house has an enclosed hip-roofed porch across the front, and a wide cross-gabled bay projecting from the south side. It has vinyl or aluminum siding and replacement 2-over-1-sash windows, but retains a distinctive set of high rubble-stone stairs at the front porch entry.

14 Ward Road, built ca. 1912-15, is a large side-gabled, two-story Craftsman house which also utilizes a considerable amount of stone in its construction. The west part of its roof sweeps down over a wide gable-front porch supported on battered fieldstone posts. Between them, replacing a former balustrade, is a fieldstone parapet added in about 1980, and just east of the porch, rising up the facade of the house, is an exterior fieldstone chimney. A wide gable-front dormer is mounted in the main roof just above the porch. There is a variety of windows in this house, including 6-over-1's and 8-over-1's. Several are modern replacements. The house was enlarged by a sizable two-story addition to the rear in about 1930, and is now a two-family residence. Outbuildings to the rear include another dwelling (possibly a converted **outbuilding** (#365)).

17 Ward Road is another gable-front Craftsman bungalow, built in about 1922. Here, the front gable projects forward to shelter a facade-width porch with a solid parapet surmounted by slender, paired Tuscan colonettes. Although aluminum or vinyl siding may obscure some of the house trim, large diagonal brackets still support the overhanging eaves, and the rubble foundation is still exposed. The building appears to have its original main door--a typical ca. 1920 type with a full-length glass field divided into panels. Most of the windows are 6-over-1-sash. A shallow rectangular bay window projects from the west side, and a small ell extends to the rear from the southeast corner. The main alteration of the mid-twentieth century is a shed-roofed dormer along the west roof slope.

Between 1960 and 1962, four small ranch houses were built on the south side of Ward Road between the corner of Brigham Road and #17. Although all have been altered to some degree and have had much of their siding replaced, as a group they retain some of the main characteristics they shared when built, including 1-over-1-sash windows, a breezeway (most have been enclosed) connecting to a garage, a wide exterior end chimney for a livingroom fireplace, and a facade partially faced with brick. 9 Ward Road retains its breezeway, and 13 Ward Road has what appears to be its original livingroom picture window--with one large light flanked by two small 1/1s. 11 Ward Road is the most altered, having been raised to two stories.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [X] *see continuation sheet*

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this area relates to the historical development of the community.

This residential area, which evolved from two large early-nineteenth-century farms, first developed into a small clustered neighborhood in the middle of the nineteenth century with the building of three vernacular Greek Revival houses at 2 Brigham Street and 5 and 10 Ward Road near the outlet of Brigham Pond. The 25-acre pond, called Andrews Pond in the eighteenth century, was the largest natural pond in Southborough. By the early part of this century it had regressed to a wetland, which by 1940 was called Brigham's Swamp.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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358-368

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

The area around the pond, including much of the northwest corner of town to the Westborough line, had been the property of the Brigham family since their inheritance of some of the original 1660s allotments of land in Marlborough. The eastern part of the present fifteen-acre area was part of another large farm that in the latter part of the nineteenth century belonged to Artemas Ward, a relative of the Revolutionary General, Artemas Ward. Standing on the Ward property until at least 1906 was the saltbox house of his ancestor of the same name (a cousin of the general). Some sources place its date at 1777; according to another tradition it was the oldest house in town, having been built by a member of the Ward family in 1706. Shortly before its demise in the early part of this century the building was used as a chicken coop by **Francis A. Baker**, who in the 1880s or '90s put up the core of the present 20 Ward Road on what by that time was a forty-acre farm.

By the second half of the nineteenth century this neighborhood was a significant part of Southborough's West End, a large area of prosperous farms that stretched from the northwest Marlborough and Westborough border south to the Boston and Worcester Turnpike. **Samuel and Dana Brigham** (5 Ward and 2 Brigham) and **John W. Buck** (10 Ward Road) each had small farms on land that was apparently divided out from the old Brigham Farm. Samuel (1791-1873), was either the brother or uncle of Baker Brigham, who owned a larger adjoining farm to the south (see Form #6, 26 Granuaile Road). Samuel Brigham's farm ranged from between 24 and 40 acres, and he shared the barn at the corner of Brigham and Ward Roads, as well as a carriage house (demolished) with Dana, his brother or half-brother, who owned 17 acres. In 1870 the Brighams had a small herd of cows, and produced several thousand gallons of milk, much of which they probably sold to Joseph Burnett's Deerfoot Farm dairy. In that year Dana produced 100 pounds of butter and was marketing the products of a substantial orchard, while Samuel was one of the few farmers in Southborough to market wine from his own fruit. John Buck (1814-1872), at 10 Ward Road, had a larger barn, and a farm that in 1860 measured thirty acres. (He was doubly related to the Brighams by marriage--he married Samuel's daughter, Betsy, in 1836, and his brother, William Henry (see 85 Main Street), married Baker Brigham's daughter Sally Maria.)

Although Dana Brigham's son, Dana (b. 1837), inherited some of the property in the area, by the turn of the century the chain of interconnected family ownership of these farms had been broken. 5 Ward Road was owned by **Marshall G. Richards**, 10 Ward Road by **Charles M. Angier**, and 2 Brigham Street by one of Southborough's late-nineteenth-century Irish immigrants, **Otis O'Leary**.

The 1900 establishment by the Marlborough & Westborough Street Railway Company of an electric trolley line that ran southwest from Marlborough to Westborough via Fisher and Ward Roads was a major factor in subdividing the farms and the building of early-twentieth-century "infill" housing here. The bungalows at 6, 8, and 17 Ward Road all date to the latter part of the streetcar era, as does the larger house at 14 Ward Road. 14 Ward, built in about 1912-1914 by **Daniel Bigelow**, was later turned into a rest home for elderly men, called Walnut Hill Rest Home. Further infill construction in the early 1960s completed the neighborhood, with the addition of four typical ranch houses at 9, 11, 13, and 15 Ward Road on one-acre lots.

In 1962-63, when I-495 was constructed just to the east, a new bypass section of Main Street was built from the base of Northborough Road to the west end of Ward Road, and now forms the southern border of the area. In recent years, the remaining acreage of the Ward farm has been developed with large single-family houses on large lots on the eastern end of Ward Road and on Bigelow Road (formerly Walnut Hill Road).

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough

Brigham Pond Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)
K

Form Nos.
358-368

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [] see continuation sheet

Maps and Atlases: 1794; 1831; 1856; 1857; 1870; 1898; 1937.

Bigelow, John A. Letter to Ladd MacMullen, February 11, 1965.

Southborough and Marlborough street directories. Various dates and publishers.

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; Assessor's Reports and records, various dates.

AREA DATA SHEET

A resource marked with an asterisk (*) is also covered on an individual inventory form.

MHC#	Parcel #	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/type
3*	50-11	2 Brigham St.	Dana Brigham House	ca. 1850	Greek Revival
360			barn	mid-late 19th C.	utilitarian
2*	50-12	5 Ward Road	Samuel Brigham House	ca. 1850	Greek Revival
358	49-3	6 Ward Road garage		ca. 1920	Bungalow
359	50-2	8 Ward Road 2 garages		ca. 1920	Bungalow
361	50-10	9 Ward Road		1961	Ranch house
4*	50-3	10 Ward Road	John W. Buck House	ca. 1850	Greek Revival
362	50-9	11 Ward Road		1960	former ranch house; raised to 2 stories
363	50-8	13 Ward Road		1960	Ranch house
364	50-4	14 Ward Road garage	Daniel Bigelow House	ca. 1912-15	Craftsman
365	50-4		cottage/outbuilding	early 20th C.	utilitarian
366	50-7	15 Ward Road		1962	Ranch house
366	50-6	17 Ward Road		ca. 1922	Bungalow
5*	50-5	20 Ward Road	Francis A. Baker House	ca. 1890	altered former 2 1/2-story house
367			barn	mid-late 19th C.	utilitarian

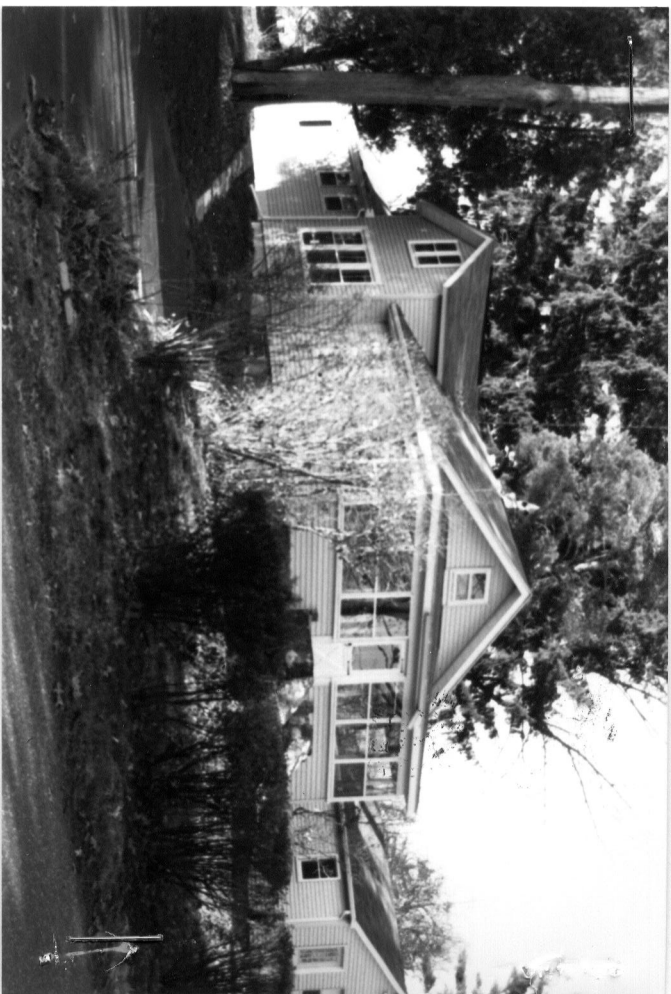


[All photos - 2 Brigham St]





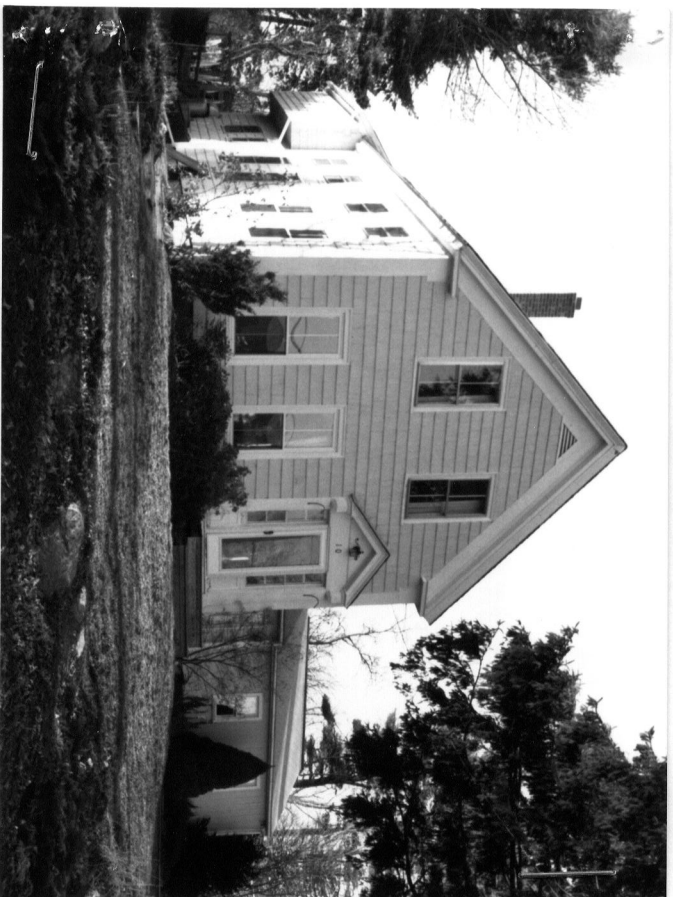
6 Ward Road



8 Ward Road



9 Ward Road



10 Ward Road



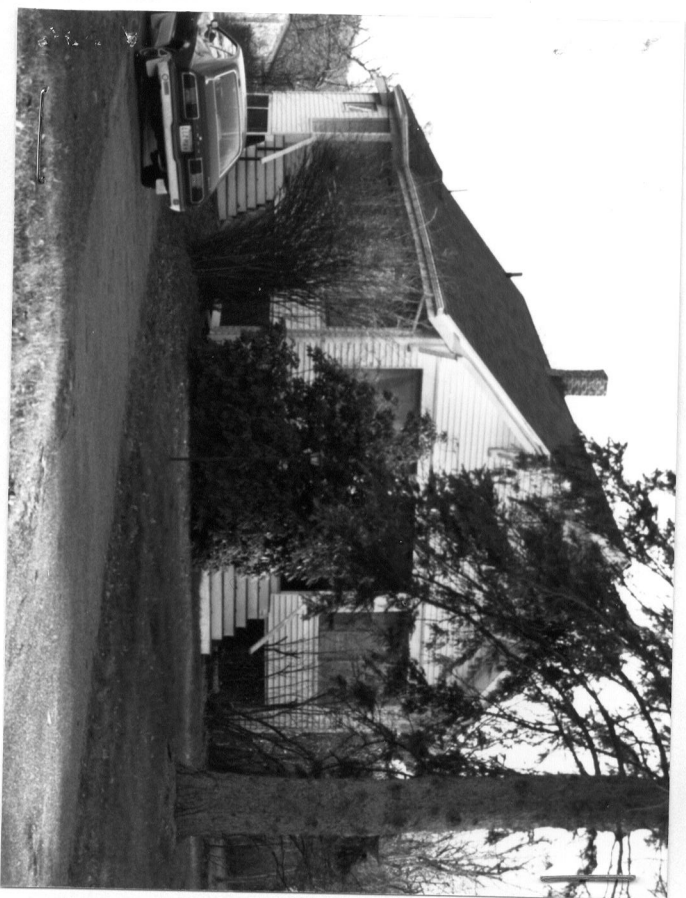
13 Ward Road



14 Ward Road



15 Ward Road



17 Ward Road



20 Ward Road