

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.203
Historic Name:	Bowers, C. House
Common Name:	DeFrees, William H. House
Address:	153 Middle Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	28-007
Year Constructed:	c 1870
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Archaeology, Historic; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Granite; Stone, Cut



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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:

Saturday, July 09, 2016 at 1:01: PM

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28-007 Marlboro 203 1665

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)



153 Middle Road

Name C. Bowers House

Present residential

Original residential

Construction ca. 1870

maps and visual

Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Foundation Material:

Foundation granite block

Wall/Trim vinyl siding

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures late 19th c. vertical board, two-story long poultry barn (MHC #665) behind house built into slope.

Major Alterations (with dates) asphalt shingles, enclosed entrance porch, window alterations - mid 1900s.

Condition fair

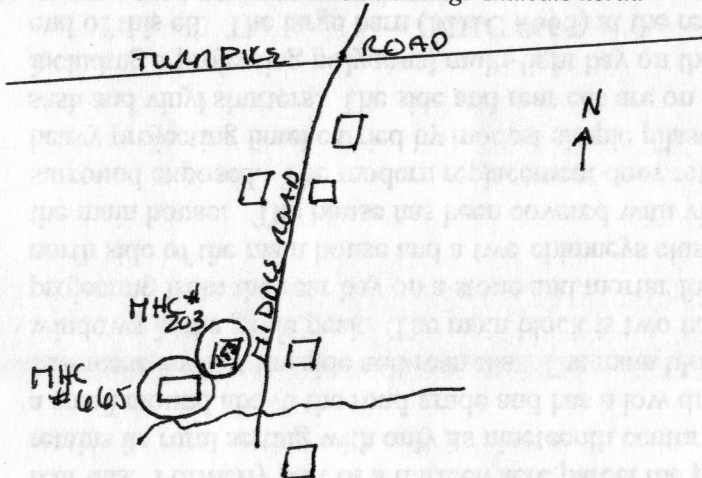
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 2.03 acres

Setting West side of rural road - wooded lot with intermittent stream and foundations just south of house. Modern development south of this property on the west side, otherwise near nineteenth century dwellings.

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.



Recorded by Schuler/Forbes

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month / year) 3/00

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

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

The modest one and one-half story gable front cottage rests on a granite foundation and has one-story side and rear ells. Formerly part of a thirteen acre parcel the property has been reduced to its present two-acre parcel yet retains its rural setting with only its nineteenth century companions in view of the property. The house sits up on a small mound above the road grade and has a low dry laid stone retaining wall at the driveway edge and a raised basement level at the side and rear ells. The main block displays the common three-bay side hall form with two windows in the gable peak. The main block is two bays deep with a two-story gable bay on the north side projecting from the rear bay on a stone and mortar foundation. One chimney extends below the ridge on the north side of the main house and a two chimneys clustered on the rear ell extend up near the rear south corner of the main house. The house has been covered with vinyl siding leaving only the Greek Revival side hall door surround exposed. The modern replacement door retains its flanking half sidehall lights and wide entablature and heavy projecting lintel carried by modest simple pilasters with rudimentary caps. Windows have two-over-one sash and vinyl shutters. The side and rear ells are on stone and mortar foundations and have modern windows including a projecting polygonal multi-light bay on the front of the side ell and sliding six-by-six window in the end of this ell. The large barn (**MHC #665**) at the rear of the property likely is from the poultry farm era. It is two stories with vertical board siding and has multiple windows at two levels and a heavy stone retaining wall and ramp up on the south side as well as open understorage accessible from the driveway.

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.

Middle Road, also known as the road to Southville in the mid to late 1800s, was sparsely populated with small farms south of the old toll road (now Route 9) and between the road to Southville - Parkerville Road into which Middle Road ends, and the road to Cordaville to the east connected by Mt. Vickery Road. This property does not appear on the historic maps until 1870 when the name attributed to the property is **C. Bowers**. However the only Bowers listing in the 1870 Assessor's Record is B. F. Bowers who was assessed for a modest house, barn and an eight-acre farm. This may be the same property that from 1881 was assessed to **William H. DeFrees** as a house, barn and a thirteen-acre farm. Later assessor's records indicate that DeFrees had a large number of chickens (800) and fowl (150) with hen houses in the 1890s. He also was listed in early directories as a poultry dealer and lived here through 1900. The property is at the edge of a former stream, which today only trickles through but which has some archaeological artifacts that may yield information about former uses of the property. According to the 1857 map there was a shoe shop just south of this property opposite the Flagg House at 136 Middle Road.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Assessors Reports: 1870, 1881, 1894, 1897, 1909.

Atlases/Maps: 1870 (C. Bowers), 1898 (W.H.DeFrees)

Directories: 1900.

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town
SOUTHBOROUGH

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

	203
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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.*

Photograph - Poultry Barn





Pl. 8 203
153 Middle Rd
Southborough
Address 153 Middle Rd
Original & present dwelling
Owner Stanley Tannenholty
Public
Style

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

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

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Fieldstone

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

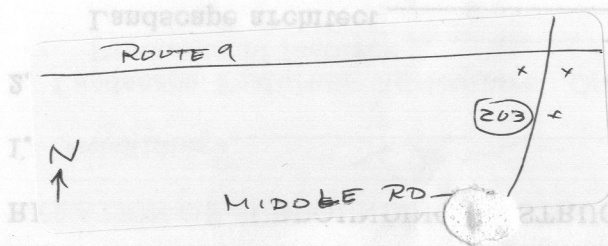
5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings
6. Footage of structure from street
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo # 5-76 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR.203

1. Outbuildings Barn - garage
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)

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BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - C. Bonner
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RESTRICTIONS

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