

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.44
Historic Name:	Newton, Samuel House
Common Name:	Walker, Lorenzo - Dorr, Almira House
Address:	17 Main St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	54-27
Year Constructed:	c 1843
Architect(s):	Newton, Moses and Samuel
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SBR.AG: Southborough Town Center SBR.A: Main Street Area
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Brick



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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

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission

54-27

Marlborough

A

44; 652

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, MA 02125

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Southborough centerAddress 17 Main StreetHistoric Name Samuel Newton HouseUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1843Source owners' research; visual assessmentStyle/Form Greek Revival vernacularArchitect/Builder Moses and Samuel Newton

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick and fieldstoneWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

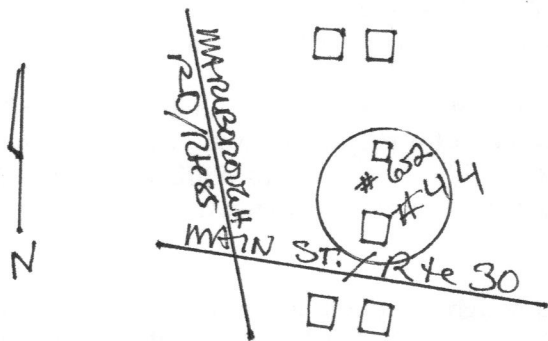
small 19th-century barn

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

wraparound porch removed--20th century; entry altered or replaced--late-20th centuryCondition goodMoved [x]no []yes Date (possibly relocated slightly ca. 1900)Acreage less than one acreSetting On narrow lot next to open municipalpark with handstand. Fire and police stationsto rear.

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.

RECEIVED Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultantsOrganization Southborough Historical CommissionDate February, 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

This building is one of several gable-front, three-bay sidehall-entry houses built at Southborough center in the middle third of the nineteenth century. It is 2 1/2-stories high, with two bays on the west side; three on the east, and a long 1-story, two-bay rear ell. A wide two-story rectangular bay under a gabled roof projects from the rear portion of the east side; a one-story polygonal bay window is positioned toward the front of the west side. Historic photographs show that a broad porch on square, chamfered posts once wrapped around from the facade to the east bay.

The main entry has a 6-panel door in an altered modern surround with a dentiled frieze, paneled pilasters, and one three-pane sidelight. The windows are 6-over-6-sash in flat surrounds, with wooden louvered shutters. A 3-over-3 window placed high over the entry is a twentieth-century replacement, as is a small octagonal window toward the front of the east side. The architectural trim here includes a molded, boxed cornice with returns, and narrow cornerboards.

Directly behind the house is a small gable-front, 1 1/2-story nineteenth-century **barn** (#652). In its facade are a pair of altered wagon- or carriage doors, a vertical-board walk-in door, and a 6-over-6-sash window. Another 6-over-6-sash window appears under the front gable peak. Like the house, the barn roof has molded, boxed eaves.

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.

If its commonly accepted origin is correct, this house is significant both as the work of Southborough's primary family of builders in the early and mid-nineteenth century, and as the first residence of one of them. Although it does not appear on the maps of 1856 and 1857, according to local tradition, it was built in about 1843 for **Samuel Newton**, and was probably constructed by him and his father, builder and carpenter Moses Newton. In that year, Moses divided out this small house lot from his homestead at 15 Main Street and conveyed it to his son. Samuel and his wife, Sophia (Chamberlain), were married in 1840, and lived here for about fifteen years. When Moses Newton died in 1859, Samuel and Sophia, with their two children, apparently moved next door to 15 Main Street. (See Form #45).

In 1866, Samuel Newton sold 17 Main Street, with its lot of one-third acre, the house, and small barn, to another Newton descendant, **Lorenzo Walker**, (b. 1828). Lorenzo, the eldest son of farmer Peter Walker, was a carpenter, and may have altered the house at that time. Over the years members of the Walker family, like the Newtons, owned considerable property in the east part of the center. Among them were Lorenzo's siblings, Francis W. of 6 Main Street (Form #54), Edwin J., and Oren P. Walker. It is possible that Lorenzo Walker did not live here, but rented the property to tenants for a short time.

Although the map of 1870 still shows Lorenzo Walker as the owner of the house, deeds show that in 1867 he resold it to **Almira Dorr**, an unmarried woman. She did not own it for very long, either, as in 1872 she sold it to another single woman, **Harriet Hall**. In 1876, Miss Hall sold the property to **William P. Wilson**, who upgraded the house, and, with his wife, **Abigail**, soon acquired two more properties at Southborough center.

Mr. Wilson died in 1892 at the age of 73, and Mrs. Wilson, although she made her official residence in Natick for a few years, continued to own the property until 1911. Mrs. Wilson, who apparently supported herself on the rental income, was one of the founders of the Southborough Womans Club, organized in 1903.

[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

17 Main Street

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

Area(s)
A

Form No.
44; 652

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

The property was acquired in 1911 by **Eliza Bacon**, wife of Southborough center's village physician, **Dr. J. Lowell Bacon**. They lived on Latisquama Road, and apparently rented out the house for many years.

Mrs. Bacon, who outlived her husband, died in about 1939, and the next year the house was purchased from her heirs by **Gordon and Florence R. Johnson** of Marlborough. Three years later they sold it to **Arthur Hosmer** and his wife, **Hazel**, who lived here for the next twenty years. Mr. Hosmer served on the Southborough Board of Selectmen in the middle of this century.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1857 (not shown); 1870 (L. Walker); 1898 (Mrs. W. Wilson).

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

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

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



Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
17 Main Street

Area(s)
A

Form No(s).
44

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, Consultant

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This house is eligible for the National Register as a contributing property in a district encompassing the historic residential and institutional meetinghouse center of the town. Under Criterion A, it is significant for its association with Southborough's primary family of builders in the early and mid-nineteenth century, and as the first residence of one of them. Probably designed and built by Moses Newton with and for his son, Samuel, it was a primary residential property on the lower part of Main Street from the 1840s through the mid-twentieth century. In spite of the loss of some architectural features, it meets Criterion C as an example of vernacular house of the Greek Revival period indicative of the work of a local master-carpenters.

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



PHD 44

(A)	Pl. SOUTH use - map
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Location Southborough

Street address 17 Main St.

Original use Dwelling

Present use "

Present owner Campbell

Open to public

Art/sculpture
Education
Government
Literature
Music

Travel/communication
Military affairs
Religion/philosophy
Indians
Development of town/city

Date 1843 Style

Source of date

Architect

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 converted to Family Room

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Side PORTICO Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament:

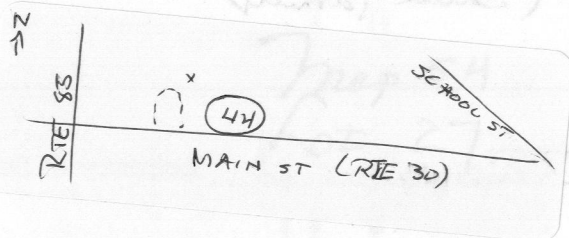
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details:

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

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



Recorder

For

Photo 2-12 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

SR. 44

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)

Built c. 1843, the land was deeded by Moses Newton to his son Samuel. The house was probably built by both Moses and Samuel. Mr. Campbell bought the house in 1966 and it is he who has been responsible for the extensive and meticulous restoration of the house. ①

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

① HDSC Report 1972

1870 Atlas

1898 Mrs. W. Wilson

also

Bacon

Johnson

Hosmer

Jones - Galvin - Baker (Same family)

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number 4686 Page 2462, Worcester Co. Registry of Deeds