

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Inventory No: | SBR.49 |
| Historic Name: | Southborough Congregational Church Parsonage |
| Common Name: | Burnett, Joseph - Wilson, Abigail House |
| Address: | 18 Main St |
| City/Town: | Southborough |
| Village/Neighborhood: | Southborough |
| Local No: | 54-87 |
| Year Constructed: | r 1845 |
| Architect(s): | |
| Architectural Style(s): | Greek Revival |
| Use(s): | Multiple Family Dwelling House; Parsonage; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern |
| Significance: | Architecture; Commerce; Religion |
| 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: Granite; 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

54-87

Marlborough

A

49

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED

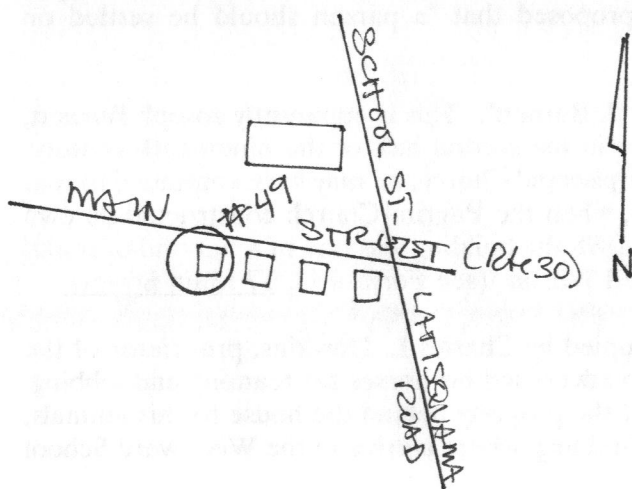
JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

Photograph



inventory forms have been completed. Label streets, including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Southborough centerAddress 18 Main StreetHistoric Name Congregational ParsonageUses: Present two-family dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1840sSource maps; visual assessmentStyle/Form Greek RevivalArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite and brickWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

noneCondition excellentMoved [x]no [] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acre

Setting Faces north on wide lot, in line of 19th century houses. Opposite modern brick office building.

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

This large three-part house consists of a three-bay, 2 1/2-story, gable-front, sidehall-entry house with a four- by one-bay two-story cross-gabled east wing, and a one-story southeast rear ell. The main entry, in the easternmost bay of the gable-front facade, has a four-panel door with applied moldings, flanked by five-pane sidelights over low paneled aprons. The entry surround has recessed-panel pilasters with molded capitals, a high frieze, and a molded, projecting cornice with a bed molding below it. A second entry in the facade of the wing has a six-panel door with glass in the top two panels, and a narrow, recessed-panel surround, a high frieze, and a cornice similar to that at the main entry. The windows are 6-over-6-sash, with flat surrounds; most have louvered wooden shutters. Two 6/6 windows are positioned at attic level under the main gable peak. True to the Greek Revival style, the architectural trim of the main house includes paneled corner pilasters with molded caps, a two-part frieze, and a molded, boxed cornice with returns on the gable ends. The detailing on the wing is somewhat simpler, with a molded, boxed cornice, and narrower, flat cornerboards.

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.

Further research will be necessary to establish the early ownership of this handsome house, which is reputed to have housed a tavern sometime before 1851. If that is the case, it is doubtful that it functioned as such for very long, as it soon became the Congregational parsonage, occupied by the Rev. Alanson Rawson. He presided over the Pilgrim Church, then still located across the street, for the decade from 1843 to 1853. The next minister, David M. Elwood, who served as pastor from 1853 to 1856, succeeded the Rev. Rawson as the occupant of this house. The Rev. Elwood must have been somewhat dissatisfied with the conditions of his employment. According to Louise Simpson, writing in her 1904 "Old Houses in Southborough," he once proposed that "a parson should be settled on horseback, so that he could leave at any time."

In 1870 the property is shown under the ownership of "J. Burnett". This is apparently Joseph Burnett, who owned various pieces of real estate at the center in the second half of the nineteenth century. Although he was by then Senior Warden of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, he may have continued to rent the house to the Congregational ministers until 1875, when the Pilgrim Church constructed its own parsonage at 20/22 Main Street (see Form #273). By 1898 the building was one of a handful of rental properties at the town center belonging to Mrs. **Abigail Wilson** (see Form #44, 17 Main Street).

At the beginning of this century the building was occupied by Charles L. Hawkins, proprietor of the livery stable near the railroad on Park Street. He also advertised his horses for teaming and jobbing. It is possible that Mr. Hawkins may have used some of the property behind the house for his animals, as a long lane or wagon path is shown just west of the building, where a drive to the Woodward School is located now.

- [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

18 Main Street

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

Area(s)
A

Form No.
49

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

Maps and Atlases: 1856, 1857 (parsonage); 1870 (J. Burnett); 1898 (Mrs. WA 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.

Simpson, Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. Unpublished manuscript, 1904.

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

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
18 Main Street

Area(s)
A

Form No(s).
49

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, Consultants

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

This earlier Congregational Parsonage meets Criterion C of the National Register individually at the local level as a well-preserved example of one type of Greek Revival house--the large 2 1/2-story, sidehall-entry residence with a long two-story side wing. It also fulfills Criterion A for its role in the development of the Southborough town center--possibly a tavern in its early days, and for many years rented out as the Congregational Parsonage before the Pilgrim Church was able to build a house for its minister in the 1870s. For these reasons it is also eligible as a contributing property in a district encompassing the historic residential and institutional meetinghouse center of the town.

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



49

(A)

Pt. SOUTH
US 301 m.m.

Southborough

18 Main St.

Dwelling

Dwelling

Marjorie Spurr

- Art/sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Science/invention
- Travel/communication
- Military affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Development of town/city

Date 1851 Style late G. R.

Source of date H. D. S. C. report

Architect

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material:

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:

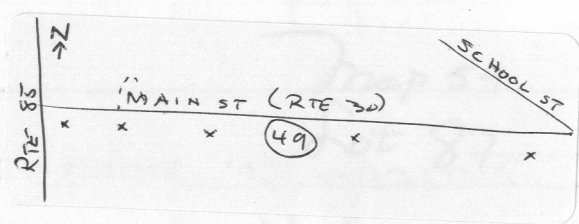
Entrance: Side Front: Center Side Details: Glass side windows

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 2-8 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

SBR. 49

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)

This charming white house was once used as a tavern.
 The date of construction is unknown, but it was built prior
 to 1851 ①

Once a Parsonage

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

① HDSC Report 1972

1870 -

1898 Atlas Mrs. W. P. Wilson

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number 3652 Page 49, Worcester Co Registry of Deeds