

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.198
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Burnett, Charles Ripley - Warner, David House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Works, Francis Delano - Oland, Johan Warner House
<b>Address:</b>	19 Gilmore Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	12-41
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1815
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Dairy; Orchard; Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Recreation
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Concrete Unspecified



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

12-41 Marlboro 198

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)



19 Gilmore Road

Name Charles Burnett House

Present residential

Original residential

Construction ca. 1815

Conjecture/Noble/Visual

Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim wood shingles/wood trim

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures dilapidated barn of weathered shingles, 3 windows of 9/6, double barn doors facing west, brackets at wide eave overhang, on dry-laid stone, ca. 1900

Major Alterations (with dates) rear ell, sliding doors at rear, shingle siding - screened porch on right side/rear - all mid 20<sup>th</sup> c., replacement windows after 1927.

Condition good

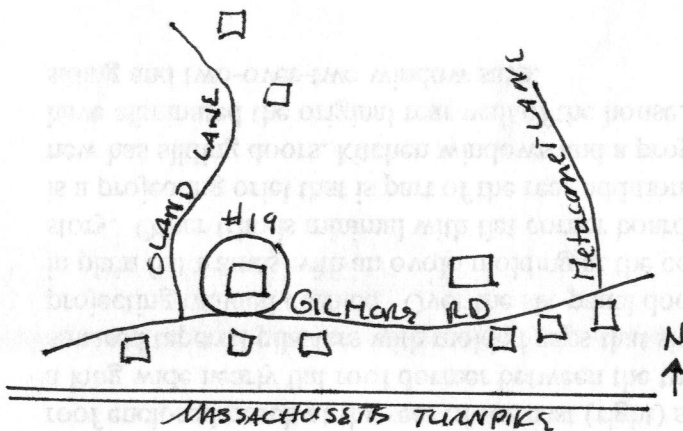
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage One acre

Setting Rural setting next to 18<sup>th</sup> c. dwelling across from 1950s ranch/capes, and surrounded by new 1990s subdivision, stone wall lining front and side property lines with row of maple trees behind front stone wall

## 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) 2/00

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

## 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 five-bay, two-story dwelling rests on a stone foundation, has shingled siding, and is topped by a hipped roof with two interior chimneys. The main block, which is one bay deep, displays a center hall plan and has a shed roof enclosed porch at the rear of the east (right) side and a rear addition that extends from the rear eave and has a long wide nearly flat roof dormer between the two chimneys on the rear elevation. The center entrance has squared tapered pilasters with molded caps that sit on high bases and carry a plain entablature with a bold projecting molded cornice. Over the six-panel door is a half round glazed fanlight. The six-over-six sash are set in plain flat frames with an ovolo molding at the cornice on the second story and small molded lintels at the first story. Other trim is minimal with flat corner boards and plain eaves. On the west (left) side of the dwelling there is a projecting oriel that is part of the rear addition all on a concrete foundation. The rear elevation all of which is new has sliding doors, kitchen windows and a projecting bay, all part of the twentieth century alterations that have eliminated the original rear wall of the house. A photograph labeled 1927 shows the house with shingled siding and two-over-two window sash.

### 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.*

Prior to the advent of the railroad in the 1830s and the establishment of the mill villages of Cordaville and Southville taking advantage of the new transportation, the southern part of Southborough had scattered farmsteads and some saw and grist mills. Each of Southborough's four quadrants had a schoolhouse by 1785 for grades one through eight which operated sporadically depending upon growing and harvest seasons. The few dwellings in the southern part of town were along Gilmore, Richards, the southern part of Woodland, and Oregon Roads.

Tradition states that this house was built by the early-nineteenth century owner of 15 Gilmore Road, **Charles Ripley Burnet**, (later spelled Burnett) for his son, Charles Burnet and his wife Keziah Pond of Medway at the time of their marriage in 1815. The Burnets had arrived at this location in the 1780s when Charles Ripley Burnet married Lovina Mathews, daughter of Asahel Mathis (aka Mathews) (1732-1811), whose family owned 15 Gilmore Road for nearly a century. The land for this property was part of the Mathews-Burnett Farm. **Charles and Keziah Pond Burnet's**, son, Joseph Burnett, was born in this house in 1820. **Joseph Burnett** (1820-1894) lived here at his parents' house through his school days including commuting by horse and wagon to Worcester to attend the English and Latin schools as well as Worcester Technical College. Eventually he moved to Boston only to return to Southborough in 1848 after which time he contributed greatly to Southborough as founder of St. Mark's School as well as St. Mark's Church among other important contributions. **Daniel Warner** (1806-1863) is reported to have purchased the property in 1828 from a Joseph Fay. Further research would be necessary to confirm this transaction. Daniel Warner, had been raised by his grandparents, Daniel I. and Grace Warters Warner, due to his own father's death prior to his birth. All three Daniel Warners, grandfather Daniel I. Warner, father Daniel Warner (1777-1806), and son Daniel Warner who lived here for thirty-five years, attended the North School in Boston and after his schooling Daniel Warner's grandfather sent him to Stowe to apprentice to a cooper. Warner moved to Southborough in 1826 to marry Almira Gardner with whom he had eight



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**Town  
SOUTHBOROUGHProperty Address  
19 GILMORE ROAD  
Area(s) Form No.MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)**

children. Warner's wife, Almira, died in 1852 and Warner married Harriet Hapgood Gould (d. 1902) with whom he had two more children. The Federal Agricultural Census of 1850 accounted for Warner's real estate assessment to be \$1800. He owned 67 acres and grew rye, Indian corn, and Irish potatoes and made 400 pounds of butter. This production appears to be common among the 107 Southborough farmers recorded in the Agricultural Census of 1850. The late nineteenth century owner was **Francis Delano Works** (1837-1911) who was assessed in 1874 and again in 1894 for two cows, a house, storehouse, and a 17 acre farm. F.D. Works was the son of Nathan and Maria Works who lived at 21 Richards Road. According to the 1909 Assessor's Report, Francis D. Works, a 72-year old musician, still owned this 17-acre farm with a house and storehouse. In the 1920s this property was owned by movie actor, **Johan Warner Oland** (1880-1938), who rose to fame when he was cast as Charlie Chan in seventeen movies. Oland and his wife purchased this property by 1921 and may have lived here year-around for some time as Warner Oland was listed in the assessors report as a farmer in 1921. They called it Smoke Tree Lodge for the large specimen smoke tree that was on the front lawn. Also they planted the rows of sugar maples along the stone walls separating this farm from the John Mathews House next door at 15 Gilmore Road. Later in the 1920s and 1930s it was a summer home or vacation retreat for the Olands who called it "Smoke Tree Farm" for the large smoke tree on the front lawn at that time. Apparently, they had purchased surrounding property because at the time of Oland's death, when on holiday in his home country, Sweden, it was reported that his Southborough place was a 125-acre farm with two modest buildings and an apple orchard. Oland and his wife, who were estranged at the time of his death, had converted a barn to an artist studio by placing four large windows in the north side of the barn. Both are reported to have enjoyed painting here. The existing barn does not have evidence of windows in the north side and does not appear to have been converted, thus it may have been another building that no longer exists. Two months after Oland's death, according to a newspaper article, Harrison H. Schaff, of 15 Gilmore Road, purchased ten lots in the Rural Cemetery including perpetual care in the name of Warner Oland. Newspaper articles account for his ashes being buried here after the purchase, however, his obituary written at the time of death stated that he would be buried in his home country of Sweden as he wished. A large irregularly cut roundish stone marking Oland's resting place is visible from Cordaville Road in the Rural Cemetery. It is interesting to note that this property and the John Mathews, Jr. House at 15 Gilmore Road, were used as summer houses in the early twentieth century. It was not uncommon in the early 1900s for eighteenth and nineteenth century farmhouses in outlying towns to be purchased as summer houses.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**☒ *see continuation sheet*

Assessor's Records: 1860, 1870, 1881, 1894, 1897, 1909, 1921.

Atlases/Maps; 1831, 1857 (D. Warner), 1870 (F. Works), 1898 (F.D. Works).

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address  
19 GILMORE ROAD  
Area(s) Form No.

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

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

Directories: 1900, 1903.

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone.

Southborough Historical Society. Old Southborough: A Photographic Essay.

Southborough Historical Society, vertical files.

Southborough Library, vertical files.

Vital Records to 1850.

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



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

Community      Property Address  
SOUTHBOROUGH      19 GILMORE RD.

Area(s)      Form No.

	198
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### 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     Schuler/Forbes, Consultants      
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Charles Burnett House is representative of early nineteenth century dwelling and is associated with its neighbor the John Mathews House because it was built by a descendant of the Mathews nearly a century later to accommodate expanding families. It retains defining architectural features and is eligible for National Register listing in association with the neighboring property. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling.



(Attach photo here)



198  
502  
Southborough  
19 Gilmore Rd  
me  
original & present dwelling  
present owner Arthur MacFarlane  
1978 Harry Wingate (VT)  
open to public  
ate Style  
ource of date  
rchitect

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 Shingles 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 Kitchen added

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  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{2}{2}$

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

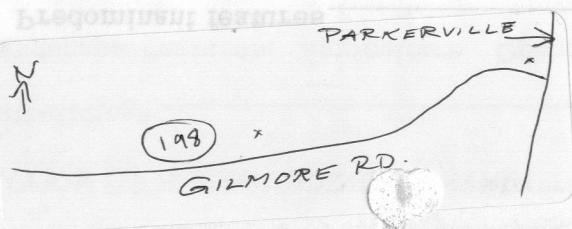
6. Footage of structure from street  
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo # 5-22 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



## RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

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)

Movie actor Warner Oland (Charlie Chan) Summer house

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - F. Works

## RESTRICTIONS

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