

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.338
Historic Name:	Simmonds, Silas C. House
Common Name:	Tibbetts, Robert - Watkins, David House
Address:	19 Richards Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	14-14
Year Constructed:	c 1850
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dairy; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood Foundation: Stone, Cut; Granite



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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

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

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

14-14 Marlboro 338 -340

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)



19 Richards Road

Name Silas C. Simmonds (1857)

Present residential

Original residential

Construction ca. 1850

maps / visual analysis

Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation granite block

Wall/Trim vinyl siding

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures long vertical board barn with stone and metal post underpinnings (MHC #339), stone shed roof milk room (MHC #340)

Major Alterations (with dates) shed roof dormers - mid 1900s, siding - late 1900s.

Condition fair

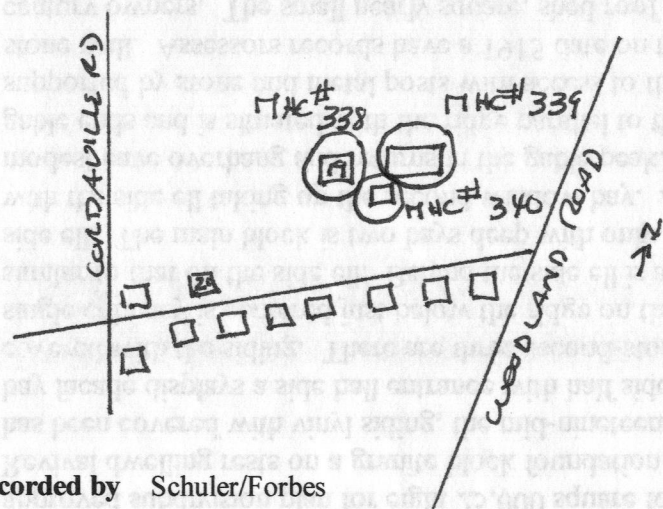
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date n/a

Acreage 23.99 acres

Setting - Rural road opposite 1960s linear development, perpendicular to the north-south route, Cordaville Road. Open land of fields and wooded areas surrounding house. Farm setting with low stone wall along barn yard which is between road and barn. Long lane approach.

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

JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

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 setting of this former dairy farm is a key element to its integrity and clearly is threatened as there is an approved subdivision plan for eight 25,000 square foot lots. The one and one-half story gable front Greek Revival dwelling rests on a granite block foundation and has a side ell, also on granite. Although the dwelling has been covered with vinyl siding, the mid-nineteenth century form of a side-hall entry plan remains. The three-bay facade displays a side hall entrance with half sidelights, and two-over-one sash set in frames that have been covered with the siding. There are three second-story windows and two next to the side hall entrance. The single chimney is centered just below the ridge on the east roof slope where there also is a shed roof dormer similar to that on the side ell. Behind the side ell is a one-story rear ell which appears to post date the house and side ell. The main block is two bays deep with only first story windows on the west side and one on the east side with the side ell taking up the second window bay. Although trim also has been covered, the house retains its modest eave overhang and returns in the gable peak. The two-story barn (MHC #339) has entrances in the gable ends and is situated with the ridge parallel to the street. The long south side with vertical board siding is supported by stone and metal posts with access to the under area which opens into a barnyard delineated by a stone wall. Assessors records have a 1915 date on this barn, and was used as a dairy barn by the twentieth century owners. The small nearly square, shed roof stone building (MHC #340) is a former milk room for the dairy farm.

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.*

A small cluster of development including a schoolhouse was located along the middle of Richards Road by the 1830s. This dwelling is consistent with the type of farmhouse from the mid 1800s and served as a dairy farm in the 1900s. First known owner was **Silas.C. Simmonds** who in 1860 was assessed for \$2500 worth of real estate. Although the next name associated with the property according to the 1870 map is **N. Emerson**, the only assessment for an Emerson is that of Nathan for livestock and a carriage only.

In the early 1890s this was the property of **Robert Tibbetts** who had a house, barn and sheds on his forty-three acre farm. By 1897 **Eldredge E. McKie** was assessed for the Tibbetts place but did not yet live in Southborough. By 1900 McKie had moved from Boston to his farm on Richards Road. Based on the list of McKie's assessed property he appears to have run a chicken farm. He was assessed in 1897 and 1900 for the forty-three acre farm with a house, barn, shed, carriage house, two hen houses, 100 fowl, a horse and swine. In 1897 he had 17 cows and in 1900 only one. There is no information available to date to explain this change in livestock. Another early twentieth century owner of this farm was **Frank Files** who was listed as a cabinet maker in town records and appeared to own according to assessors reports the same property for which McKie had been assessed, but only 30 chickens and two cows. By 1921 the farm was acquired by **David Watkins** with a house, barn and henhouse on 34 acres. At this time it must have been a poultry farm, because John Watkins, farmer, was assessed for the livestock including a horse, a cow and 390 fowl. Later on in the 1920s it was converted to a dairy farm owned and operated by **John Watkins** (ca. 1862-1934). Also living here was Alfred R. Watkins a mechanic in his 20s and John L. Watkins, a farmer, also born in the early 1900s. In addition to the remaining large New England barn used to house the cows and the stone milk room there was a large barn situated east of the existing barn. From 1936 the property described in assessors reports is similar to that of

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

	338
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

David Watkins and is first referred to in 1936 as belonging to the heirs of John Watkins, father of John L. The property continues to be owned by the Watkins family.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES☐ *see continuation sheet*

Assessors Reports: 1860, 1870, 1874, 1881, 1894, 1897, 1900, 1909, 1921, 1924, 1927, 1936.

Atlases/Maps: 1857 (S.C. Simmons), 1870 (N. Emerson), 1898 (E.E. McKie)

Oral History: Freddie Quinn, Southborough Resident.

☐ 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 RICHARDS RD.

Area(s) Form No.

	338
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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 Nathan Works and the Silas C. Simmonds Houses are representative of late eighteenth century and mid-nineteenth century rural farmhouses reminiscent of Southborough's important place in Massachusetts agriculture in the nineteenth century. The setting of the Silas C. Simmonds House is one of the only remaining in tact farm settings in the southern part of Southborough and is important for its placement of farm buildings including the early twentieth century dairy business as well as the surrounding pasture and woodland. This property retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, association and feeling.