

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.329
Historic Name:	Ward, Ephriam House
Common Name:	Clifford, William D. - Norcross, Arthur J. House
Address:	205 Parkerville Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	13-17
Year Constructed:	r 1855
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Stone, Uncut



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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

13-17

Marlboro

329 330

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)



205 Parkerville Road

Name Ephriam Ward House

Present residential

Original residential

Construction ca. 1850s/ ca. 1880s

Maps and visual analysis

Form Greek Revival/Gable end side hall

Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation Stone/Rubble

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard/Shingle

Roof Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Attached barn on raised stone foundation with concrete block reinforcement of north end of barn (MHC #330), freestanding shed

Major Alterations (with dates) Wrap porch - late 19th c., wall dormer on south side - mid 20th c., rear addition connecting to barn - mid 20th c.

Condition good

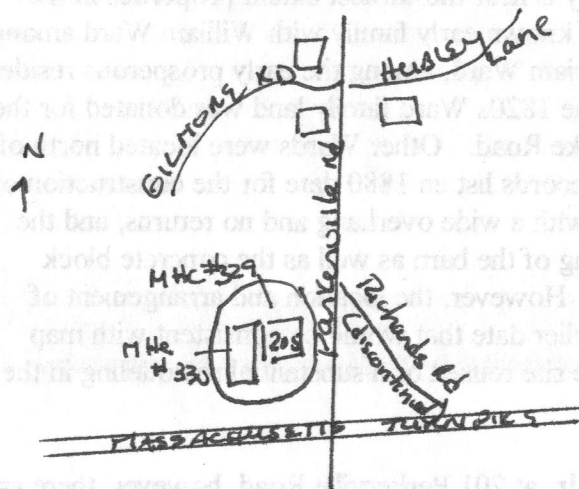
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acres 1.83 acres

Setting Near Gilmore on west side of Parkerville Rd., next to turnpike, among mid 20th c. capes and ranches and near one other mid 19th c. farm dwelling at Parkerville and Gilmore.

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) 1/00

JUL 03 2000

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

MASS. HIST. COMM

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 farmhouse has a three-bay, gable front, side hall entry facade with a wrap porch on two sides of the one and one-half story main block. At the rear there are two additions, one a two-story rear ell and a one-story infill rear ell which is connected to the large barn oriented perpendicular to the main house. Windows on the main facade have two-over-one sash set in flat surrounds: two first story and one second story with a smaller replacement window over the side-hall entrance. The door has recessed panels and a square light covered by a storm door. The wrap porch is supported by square chamfered posts with slightly recessed long narrow panels on each side of the post and decorative brackets with a round cut out. On the south side the wrap porch extends to a one-story projecting polygonal bay window. Also within the porch is a small six-light stair hall window. There is a shed-roofed wall dormer and skylight on the south side of the main block. On the north side of the house there is a two-story projecting gable bay on rubble stone with two windows each with two-over-two sash. On this side also there is a wide wood band course that separates the clapboard and shingle siding. Trim detail besides the decorative porch includes boxed cornice (no returns), flat corner boards at the first story level, and fascia boards in the gable ends that extend under the eave ending with a rounded detail similar to the brackets. Updating of the late nineteenth century, including the wrap porch and probably a change in the roof eaves and rake, is likely the reason for a change in wall material from clapboard at the first story and shingles above the porch roof line and the elimination of the corner boards above. The barn (MHC #330) foundation appears to be concrete block and siding is vertical board. There is a large sliding door in the south gable end with a hay door above. Additional field investigation is necessary to more closely determine the age of the barn.

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.*

Located north of Southville on Parkerville Road, this property is near the earliest extant properties in the southern part of Southborough. The Ward family was a well known early family with William Ward among the first Selectmen in 1727 when the Town was formed and Ephriam Ward, among the early prosperous residents with his twenty oxen used for hauling in the mid 1700s. In the 1820s Ward family land was donated for the first Baptist Church on Mt. Vickery Hill at the edge of the Turnpike Road. Other Wards were located north of Main Street (See Brigham-Ward Area Form K). Local assessors records list an 1880 date for the construction of this dwelling. Furthermore the rubblestone foundation, the roof with a wide overhang and no returns, and the fenestration pattern of the house, and the vertical board siding of the barn as well as the concrete block foundation for the rear of the barn are signs of the later date. However, the location and arrangement of buildings and the size of the house are characteristic of an earlier date that would be consistent with map evidence of a dwelling here by 1831. In all likelihood it is the site reused or a substantial remodeling in the 1880s.

The 1857 map shows E. Ward at this location and **E. Ward, Jr.** at 201 Parkerville Road, however, there are not two separate listings for Wards in the 1860 assessors report, nor is either included in the 1850 agricultural census. This may have been part of the Ward family land which prior to 1850 probably extended from the **Lyman Ward House** at 211 Middle Road to this part of Parkerville Road. The 1870 reference likely is William Dean Clifford (b. 1848, son of William D and Lydia) who was assessed in 1870 for a modest 6 ½ acre farm with a house, barn, horse, cow, and carriage.

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

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

By 1881 Clifford had fourteen acres and a house worth \$1000, which may account for remodeling or new construction. Compared to other assessments this was high for an older farmhouse which also may be evidence of a likely change. In 1894 and 1897 **Christina W. Braithwait** was assessed for a house, barn, and farm of over fourteen acres. She also had two horses, six cows, forty-five fowl, a hen house, and a carriage house. The only other Braithwait included in the Assessors Reports was John J., a farmer on the road to Southville (Parkerville Road) who was only assessed for horses. In all likelihood Christina Braithwait was his wife. Furthermore the values and amount of land are consistent with William D. Clifford's 1880s assessments. It is known that in the 1940s and 1950s this was the farm of **Arthur J. and Belle L. Norcross** and later their son **Howard P. and Gladys S. Norcross**. The land was the same, 14 acres 10,890 square feet and the Norcrosses continued to be assessed for a single house, barn and shed, garage, and hen house as well as separate land on Gilmore Road, which since has been subdivided.

The proportions of this house and barn are consistent with a mid-nineteenth century date which also is indicated on the historic maps. No doubt the property continued to evolve and be updated explaining the changes in details. The 1831 map shows a house at or near this location also. Additional research is necessary to determine whether part of the present dwelling incorporates a pre-1831 structure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES☐ *see continuation sheet*

Assessors Reports: 1860, 1870, 1894, 1897, 1941, 1947, 1955

Atlases/Maps: 1857 (E. Ward), 1870 (W. Clittord), 1898 (Mrs. G.W.Braithwait).

Noble, Richard. Fences and Stone, 1990.

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