

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Inventory No: | SBR.69 |
| Historic Name: | Flagg, Sullivan Francis House |
| Common Name: | Neal, Harrison - Wells, E. Chester House |
| Address: | 21 Flagg Rd |
| City/Town: | Southborough |
| Village/Neighborhood: | |
| Local No: | 34-25 |
| Year Constructed: | r 1865 |
| Architect(s): | |
| Architectural Style(s): | Italianate |
| Use(s): | Agricultural; Dairy; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House |
| Significance: | Agriculture; Architecture; Industry |
| Area(s): | |
| Designation(s): | |
| Building Materials(s): | Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Brick; Stone, Uncut; 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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Massachusetts Historical Commission

#25

Marlborough

69

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Address 21 Flagg RoadHistoric Name Sullivan Flagg HouseUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1860sSource Assessor's records; visual assessmentStyle/Form ItalianateArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick and graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

20th-C. 2-car wood garage; modern shedMajor Alterations (with dates) Rear ell enlarged

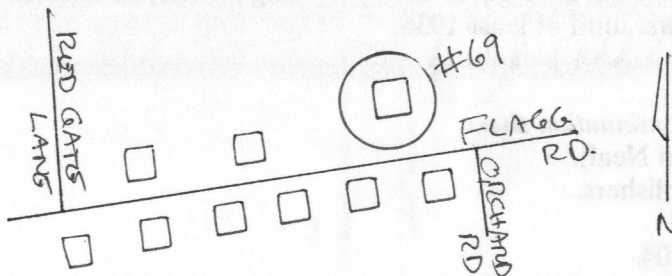
and renovated--late 20th C. 2-S. addn. on E.--mid-
20th C. Exterior chimney at w. gable-end of w. ell--
mid-20th C.

Condition goodMoved [x] no [] yes Date N/AAcreage 1.5 acresSetting Faces SE., at bend in road. Surrounded by

single-family late-20th-century residential develop-
ment.

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.

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultants**RECEIVED**Organization Southborough Historical CommissionDate JUL 03 2000
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 house has been updated and expanded a number of times, but retains its Italianate vernacular character to a remarkable degree. It is a narrow, high 2 1/2-story two-bay house of a modified T-plan, with a one-story cross-gabled ell on either side of the main block, and a long 1 1/2-story ell extending to the rear. A two-story addition now fills the angle between the east and rear ells. Two bay windows with 1-over-1-sash project from the first-story facade--a polygonal bay with a flat roof on the west ell, and a rectangular bay on the east part of the main facade. The latter has a steep mansard roof. Between them, a flat-roofed, clapboard-enclosed vestibule projects at the main side-hall entry.

The door is a late-Victorian type, with one large rectangular light over a panel, and applied moldings. Most of the windows are 6-over-6-sash, in flat surrounds; a six-pane window occupies the main gable. The windows on the upper part of the facade have heavy, molded crowns; most have modern louvered wooden shutters.

The house has a typical Italianate molded, boxed cornice, adorned with paired decorative brackets, and returns on the gable ends. Other trim includes narrow cornerboards, a water table, and molded panels above and beside the entry, and both above and below the bay windows.

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.

This stylish house is a good example of a farmhouse built on one of Southborough's older farms for a farmer of a later generation, and renovated by subsequent owners. It was apparently built for **Sullivan Francis Flagg**, the youngest of the fourteen children of William and Lydia (Onthank) Flagg, who had raised their family at a house (later demolished) several rods to the west of this location. Sullivan Flagg (b. 1828), married Mary Whitney of Shrewsbury in 1849, and for several years they may have lived in a small house located directly across the road from this one. By 1870 this house was standing, as well. At that time Sullivan and Mary owned a farm of 47 acres, and had about ten cows.

By the 1881, the farm, with both houses, had been acquired by **Harrison Neal**, who renovated the house and turned the property into a poultry farm, although he continued to have about a dozen cows for several years. He had a grist mill for a time, which he removed in 1891, since, according to the *Marlborough Enterprise*, it was "not a success." By 1897 he had a large new barn (on the site of the former house across the street), a corn crib, and a windmill, and was keeping 150 chickens in two hen houses. He died in 1899, at the age of 86.

The farm, then 44.5 acres, was acquired in about 1901 from the Neal estate by a young farmer, **E. Chester Wells** and his wife **Rose**, who owned it for many years, until at least 1936.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: 1870 (S. Flagg); 1898 (Harrison Neal).

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

The Marlborough Enterprise. 12/26/1890.

Simpson, Louise. *Old Houses in Southborough*. 1904.

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

US Census--Agricultural Schedules 1870, 1880.

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





PL-20 69

view - small

Southborough

Address 21 Flagg Rd

Original & present dwelling

Owner Clayton Adams

Public no

Style Ital.

Literature Indians Source of date
 Music Other
 Development of town/city Architect
 Architectural reason for inventorying: Pre 1870
 OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Stone

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:

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied bay window

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

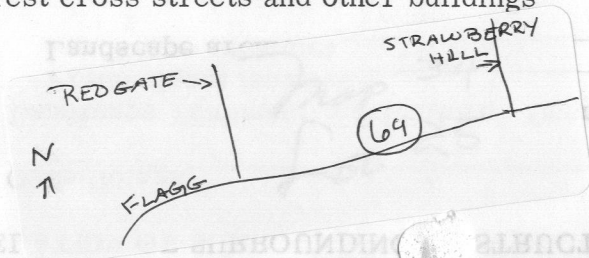
6. Footage of structure from street
 Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo # 3-1 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR.69

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)

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - S. Flagg
1898 " Harrison Neal

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number 4879 Page 575, Norc. Co. Registry of Deeds