

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.214
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Works, Nathan House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Sanders, George A. House - Woodland Schoolhouse
<b>Address:</b>	21 Richards Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Cordaville
<b>Local No:</b>	9-01
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1780
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival; Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Public School; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning; Education
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood; Brick Foundation: 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

9-01 Marlboro 214

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)



Address 21 Richards Road

Historic Name Nathan Works (1857)

Present residential

Original residential

Period of Construction late 18<sup>th</sup> century

Source Historical Society Records

Form Second Period/neo-Colonial Revival updating

Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation concrete

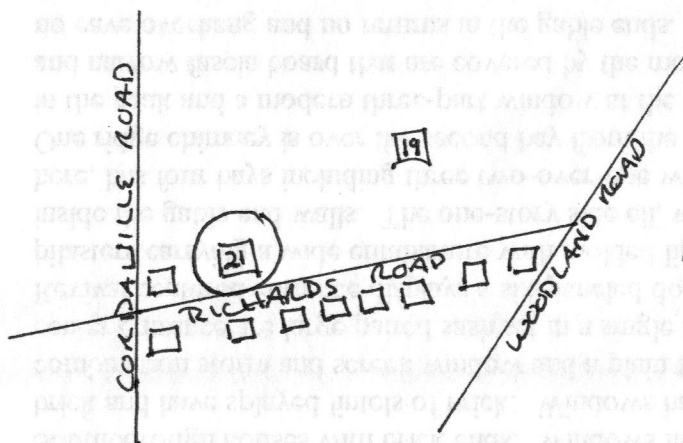
Wall/Trim wood clapboards, wood trim

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

## 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.



Major Alterations (with dates) side ell moved - reported to be old school from Woodland - ca. 1870. new foundation, clapboards, windows - 1999

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date n/a

Acreage .41 acre

Setting - Rural road opposite 1960s linear development, near Cordaville Road, a north-south route. Open land of fields and wooded areas behind and to the east. Next to mid 19<sup>th</sup> c. farm. Line of tall pines on west side of property.

Recorded by Schuler/Forbes

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month / year) 2/00

RECEIVED

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.*

One of the oldest dwellings in the south part of Southborough is this two story, five-bay, late eighteenth century dwelling that essentially has been rebuilt in the 1990s. The dwelling is two bays deep and is one of three or four Southborough houses with brick ends. Windows in the brick ends are set in wood sash that are recessed into brick and have splayed lintels of brick. Windows have been altered and now have two-over-one sash with a combination storm and screen window and a plain frame. First-story windows on the main facade flanking the center entrance are large paired sash set in a single frame with a molded strip framing the surround. The Greek Revival centered entrance displays a six-paneled door with flanking half side lights set in a frame with plain pilasters carrying a wide entablature with molded lintel. The twin ridge chimneys on the main block are set just inside the gable end walls. The one-story side ell, which traditionally is thought to have been a school moved here, has four bays including three two-over-one windows and an entrance with a multi-light and paneled door. One ridge chimney is over the second bay from the left. In the gable end of the side ell there is a single window in the peak and a modern three-part window at the first story level. The trim is limited to narrow corner boards and narrow fascia board that are covered by the modern aluminum gutters and down spouts. There is virtually no eave overhang and no returns in the gable ends.

### 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 the earliest extant property on Richards Road and is only predated by the **John Mathews, Jr. House** at 15 Gilmore Road in this part of Southborough. First known owner was **Nathan Works** (1809-1885) who was married prior to 1835 and had a daughter, Sarah Maria, born in 1835 and a son, Francis Delano, born in 1837, who lived in the **Charles Burnett House** at 19 Gilmore Road by the 1870s. This dwelling appears to be late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century although the date is yet to be confirmed. Probably Nathan Works lived here by the 1830s. In 1850 Nathan Works had a 42-acre farm that produced modest amounts of Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes and hay. Of the 117 farms accounted for in 1850 this was modest in size and production levels. Local tradition states that the side ell is the old school that was on an island of land formed by Richards Road and Woodland Road from after 1831 until 1860 or 1870 when new schools were built and the one to replace this school was located on Woodland near the junction with Cordaville Road. In 1831 there had been a school house just west of this property on Richards Road near the location of Cordaville Road which was not laid out south of the Boston and Worcester Turnpike until the 1840s. Past survey research indicates that this modest one-room school had been purchased for \$125 by the then owners of this property which may have been Nathan Works. In the 1860s Nathan Works was paid by the Town for work done on the roads. Many local farmers supplemented their income doing odd jobs particularly road work and building and maintenance of town buildings. In 1860 and 1870 Nathan Works had a farm worth nearly \$3000. By 1870 the 66-acre farm had a house, barn, a horse, swine and six cows. Little is known about the farm until the turn of the century when the then owner, George A. Sanders is listed in the 1905 street directories as working in a creamery in Boston and living in Cordaville. However, by the 1910s, Sanders lived on Fay Court and worked in a confectionary. There is no assessors listing for Sanders. Thus further research is necessary to learn the early and history of this property as well as the more recent history.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address  
21 RICHARDS ROAD

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

Area(s) Form No.

	214
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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ *see continuation sheet*

Assessors Reports: 1860, 1870, 1897.

Atlases/Maps: 1831, 1857 (N. Works), 1870 (N. Works), 1898 (Geo. A. Sanders)

Directories: 1900, 1903, 1905.

Federal Agricultural Census: 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  
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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community      Property Address  
SOUTHBOROUGH      21 RICHARDS RD.

Area(s)      Form No.

	214
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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 location of the Nathan Works House next to one of the only remaining farm settings, the Silas C. Simmonds House, in the southern part of Southborough is worthy of recognition and reminiscent of the former setting of this property as well. As part of a small district with the Silas C. Simmonds House, the Nathan Works House, in spite of window changes, retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, association and feeling.



214  
✓  
P1- word  
US62 map  
n Southborough  
et address Southborough  
ne Nathan Works House  
: original & present dwellings  
esent owner Roger Capone  
en to public \_\_\_\_\_  
ce 1741? 95? Style \_\_\_\_\_  
rce of date Researching

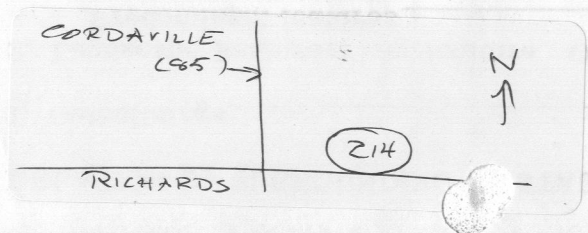
Development of town/city \_\_\_\_\_ Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Architectural reason for inventorying: Pre 1870 - all is old school OR part of Area # \_\_\_\_\_  
3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Fieldstone w/ granite Sills  
WALL COVER: Wood Clapboard Brick Stone Other Ends  
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 Entry PORTICO \_\_\_\_\_ Balcony \_\_\_\_\_  
FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament \_\_\_\_\_  
Entrance: Side Front: Center Side Details: \_\_\_\_\_  
Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied Restoring  
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 # 6-22 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)

It was a school - bought for \$125 and moved from Woodland Rd.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - M. Works

1898 Geo. A. Sanders

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

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