

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.126
Historic Name:	Prentiss, Benjamin F. - Boyd, Joseph House
Common Name:	Allen, Silas House
Address:	246 Parkerville Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southville
Local No:	2-6
Year Constructed:	c 1855
Architect(s):	Prentiss, Benjamin F.
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	SBR.B: Southville
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Slate Wall: Asbestos Shingle; Wood Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Brick



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

Saturday, July 09, 2016 at 1:52: PM

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

2-6

Marlboro

126

674

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village) Southville



246 Parkerville Road

Name Joseph Boyd House,
aka: Benjamin F. Prentiss House

Present residential

Original residential

Construction ca. 1855

maps and visual analysis

form Italianate

ect/Builder unknown

or Material:

Foundation granite block and brick

Wall/Trim asbestos shingles/wood trim

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures attached mid 19th c.
barn (MHC #675) with decorative detail and cupola of ca.
1880s on brick foundation with wood clapboard siding and
slate roof. Barn is attached at later date by addition to rear
ell.

Major Alterations (with dates) Asbestos shingles - mid
20th c.

Condition fair

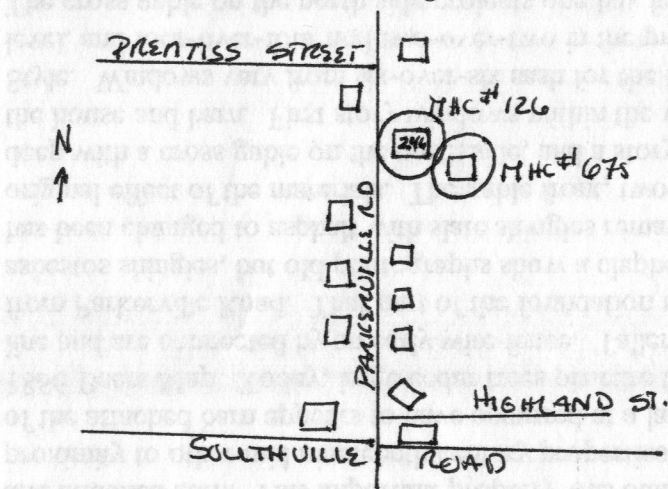
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date n/a

Acreage approximately one acre

Setting In village of Southville on main route connecting
village to major east-west route to north (Turnpike Road
now Rt. 9) - large lot with tall cedar trees screening house,
low granite curb and posts mark property frontage and
entrances - among mixed residential properties of mid 1800s
to mid 1900s.

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) 03/00

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.*

One of the best articulated properties is this elaborately decorated Italianate gable front house with two rear ells and attached barn. This important property was built near the center of the village of Southville and was in close proximity to other mid nineteenth century properties from its construction in the 1850s. Some of the elaboration of the attached barn appears to have occurred at a later date according to the rendering of this property on the 1856 Beers Map. Today, large cedar trees obscure the main facade. Low granite posts line the front property line and are connected by an early wire fence. Taller granite posts mark the driveway and walkway entrances from Parkerville Road. That part of the foundation that is exposed is of brick. The house now is covered with asbestos shingles, but old photographs show a clapboard house, which are retained on the barn to date. The roof has been changed to asphalt with slate shingles remaining on the rear ells and the barn to remind one of the original effect of the materials. The gable front, two-bay house has a double door side hall entrance, is two bays deep with a cross gable on the north side, and a story and one-half rear ell with a side gable shed ell connecting the house and barn. First story windows within the wrap porch are full length, reminiscent of Greek Revival Style. Windows vary from six-over-six sash for the long full length windows, two-over-two at the second story level, and four-over-four and two-over-two in the projecting bay on the south side at the end of the wrap porch. The cross gable on the north side projects one bay from the main block and has two first and second story windows as well as one in the gable peak on its north elevation. The decorative features of the house include the paired cornice brackets set on the wide fascia, a bold and elaborate doorhood carried by heavy brackets over the rear entrance in the rear ell, and front porch which extends across the main facade and wraps to the south side to the one story projecting bay. The porch is carried by square posts decorated with a vertical rope trim molding lining the four corners of the square posts, tall bases that have the same treatment, and wide caps supporting single eave scroll brackets with a incised delicate floral design. The porch posts are set on a low wood deck under which there is a decorative punched and cut foundation screen. The barn (MHC #675) is situated southeast of the rear corner of the house. It has additional gothic and somewhat ecclesiastical elaboration that does not appear in the 1856 map rendering of this property. The barn's gable facade displays a wide entrance (with no apparent door today) with elaborate surround on the south side of the main facade, a pointed arched haydoor over the wide entrance and a round stained glass window in the peak. On the south side there is an entrance door with two pointed arched lights and a doorhood similar to that over the wide entrance. Six-over-six windows have crown lintels. The paired eave brackets are similar to those of the house. The cupola also is elaborated with brackets, pointed arched louvers, and a splayed pointed roof.

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.*

Parkerville Road was the main road connecting Southville with the Worcester Turnpike (now Route 9) and with Southborough Center from the 1840s when the railroad was established and the villages of Southville, Cordaville and Fayville evolved as manufacturing centers. While the outlying areas retained their agricultural roots, many of those who settled near the village centers were connected with manufacturing or other services.

This dwelling is one of the most elaborate mid-nineteenth century properties in Southville and is labeled on the 1856 map as the "**Joseph Boyd Residence**". According to the same map Boyd's brother Thomas, owned the

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

B 126

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

best local example of a Greek Revival house at 188 Southville Road. The Boyd brothers came to Southville from Marlborough for a short time. They are best known for their successes in Marlborough in the shoe manufacturing business where they owned a large factory. The elaboration of the two houses in Southville would have to presume wealth and class consistent with ownership of a business, however, there are no known records to date that link the Boyds with a specific business of Southville. The 1840s and 1850s were a time of advances in the manufacturing in Southville. The John Hartt & Company boot and shoe factory expanded its facility in 1845 and became **Newton & Hartt** and Wood's wool and cotton mill opened at the same time. The Boyds may have been involved in the Newton & Hartt shoe industry. The 1856 map labels this house (with a detailed rendering including house and barn) as the Joseph Boyd Residence, by 1860 Boyd was assessed as a non-resident for \$7250 worth of real estate. Only eight other persons were assessed for more real estate than Boyd at that time, thus he must have owned a factory of some sort as well as real estate. By 1860 the next owner **Benjamin F. Prentiss** (1820-1912) was assessed for \$3200 worth of real estate. In 1856 he owned a house on Prentiss Street (named after Benjamin F. Prentiss) as well as 235 Parkerville Road. Later 235 Parkerville Road was known as the Pierpont Brigham House for which Brigham was assessed in 1860 and 1870, thus evidence points to Prentiss ownership of this property by 1860. Prentiss served as a selectman as early as 1861 and was a prominent person in the community. He was a carpenter and builder, which may account for the elaboration of the barn on this property at a later date than the original construction according to the 1856 map rendering. Review of tax assessors records from 1870 until his death show Prentiss owning considerable property in Southborough, including his main house, two barns, a double house (which also appears as a tenement house), house lots and a store lot (1870) and market building (1897). In 1870 Prentiss was assessed for a 17 3/4 acre farm, a nine acre lot (east of the School house - probably this property) in 1881, and only a one-acre house lot for this property in 1897. Other land assessed to Prentiss can be tracked through the Assessors Reports or Taxation and Valuation Records such as the five-acre parcel that went with the "West barn" and the five-acre Lord land as well as various house lots. Additional research is necessary to know which other properties Prentiss may have built in Southborough.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES☐ *see continuation sheet*

Assessors Reports: 1860, 1870, 1881, 1894, 1897, 1909.
Atlases/Maps: 1857 (J. Boyd), 1870 (B.F. Prentiss), 1898 (B.F. Prentiss)
Directories: 1900, 1903, 1905.
Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.

☒ 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 246 PARKERVILLE RD.

Area(s) Form No.

3	126
---	-----

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 Joseph Boyd House, also known as the Benjamin Prentiss House, is eligible for listing on the National Register individually or as part of a Southville Historic District for its representation of an important example of a mid-nineteenth century Italianate house and barn with fine elaboration in the former manufacturing village of Southville. The property's architecture and historical association with the development of Southville are worthy of recognition and the complex retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling.



PL 5'11" 126

B

Southborough

Address 246 Parkerville Rd

Original & present Dwelling

Owner Miss Stockwell

Public no

Style C. 1870

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 Cement

WALL COVER: Wood _____ Brick Stone Other Asbestos Siding

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard bracketed
 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 Gingerbread ornament PORTICO _____ Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____

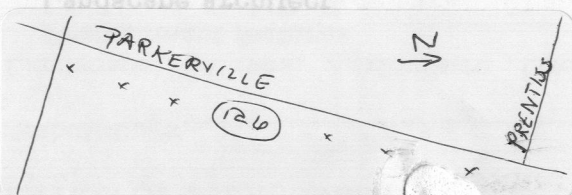
Entrance: Side Front Center/Side Details: _____

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____

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 # 4-4 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)

STORIES: 1 3 3 4

CHIMNEYS: 1 3 3 4

BOOF: High

MAINT COAR: Wood

FOUNDATION BASEMENT: High

DESCRIPTION

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - Prentiss

1898 " "

also

Silas Allen

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds