Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.6
Historic Name:	Brigham, Baker and William House
Common Name:	Wheeler, Horace - Harwood, Richard House
Address:	26 Granuaile Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	West End
Local No:	50-16
Year Constructed:	r 1830
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dairy; Orchard; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Concrete Unspecified

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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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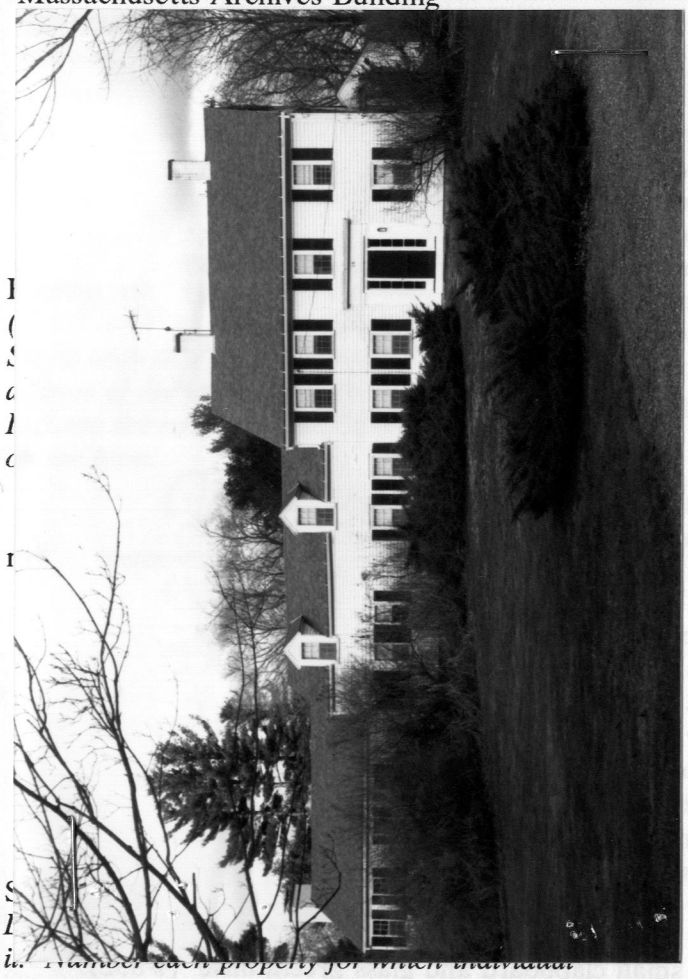
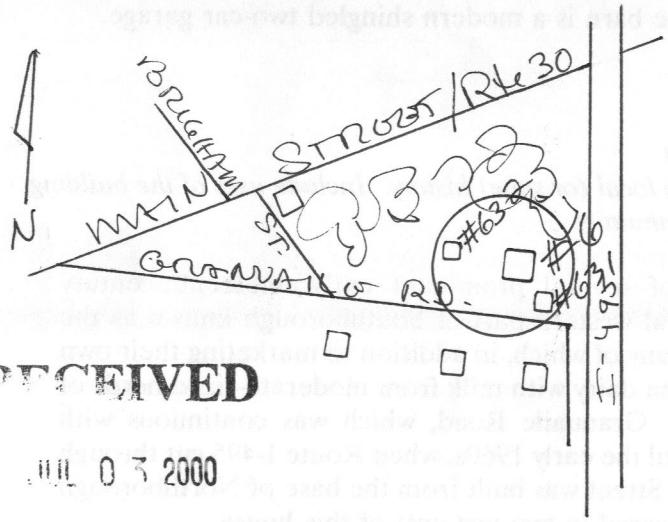
FORM B - BUILDING | Assessor's number | USGS Quad | Area(s) | Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building

50-16	Marlborough		6, 631, 632



i. 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.



RECEIVED
JUL 07 2000
MASS. HIST. COMM

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultants

Organization Southborough Historical Comm.

Date December, 1999

Town Southborough

Place *(neighborhood or village)* West End

Address 26 Granuaile Road

Historic Name Baker Brigham/William Brigham House

Uses: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Date of Construction late 1820s

Source visual assessment; maps

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures 19th-C. shingled barn; early-20th C. greenhouse; mid-20th C. 2-car garage.

Major Alterations (with dates) early-20th C. 2 1/2-story west wing

Condition good

Moved [x] no [ ] yes Date N/A

Acreage approximately fourteen acres

Setting On large lot at end of street, backing up to I-495. Fieldstone wall across front and W. side; woods, with old apple trees on NW part of yard.

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 **Baker** and **William Brigham House** is a very large 2 1/2-story early-nineteenth-century farmhouse that has been expanded over the years with a series of compatible additions. The main house is one of several examples in Southborough of a double-pile, side-gabled, four-bay, or "three-quarter" house. Like the similar **Jonas Fay House** at 25 Jericho Hill Road, it has a pair of large ridge chimneys. In contrast to that building, however, the detailing here is solidly within the Greek Revival, rather than the Federal style. The main entry has full-length, five-pane sidelights, recessed-paneled pilasters, a high frieze, and a horizontal molded cornice. The door has two panels, one above the other. The main house trim repeats the recessed panels at the cornerboards, and has a boxed, molded cornice. Although these details are commonly associated with the fully-developed Greek Revival style of ca. 1830-1850, the lack of any roof overhang at the gable ends supports the traditional pre-1830 date. Additional lingering Federal features include the postion of the upper-story windows, which abut the cornice, and the three-quarter house form.

Architectural trim includes cornice returns, a water table just above the granite-block foundation, and molded surrounds at the 6-over-6-sash windows. The windows have louvered wooden shutters of the nineteenth-century type.

A large five-bay, 1 1/2-story nineteenth-century wing extends west from the main block. Its windows are also 6-over-6-sash, including those in a pair of small through-cornice facade dormers with flushboard gables. A long shed dormer, probably dating to the twentieth century, spans the rear roof slope of this section. Abutting the west end of the wing is a four- by two-bay, gable-roofed addition, which appears to date to the first half of the twentieth century. Its roof ridge is parallel to the others, and although the roof line is lower than the wing to the east, this section is a full 2 1/2-stories due to the descending slope of the terrain. It stands on a concrete foundation, and has a large exterior brick chimney in the center of the west gable end. At the opposite end of the building, a 1 1/2-story gable-front ell or large shed abuts the northeast corner of the main house.

Two significant outbuildings stand on this property--a small clapboard and glass **greenhouse** (#632) about thirty yards west of the house, and a side-gabled, two-story shingled **barn** (#631) a short distance to the southeast, located near the road at the entrance to the main driveway. The barn, which apparently dates to the nineteenth century, has large 6-over-6-sash windows, and diagonal-board carriage doors in the south side. Standing just southeast of the barn is a modern shingled two-car garage.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [x] *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.

The **Baker** and **William Brigham House** is one of several prominent early-nineteenth-century farmhouses located near today's Route 30 in the rural western part of Southborough known as the "West End." This was an area of prosperous farms, many of which, in addition to marketing their own agricultural products, supplied the large Deerfoot Farm dairy with milk from moderate-sized herds of cows in the second half of the nineteenth century. Granuaile Road, which was continuous with Lynbrook Road to its east, was part of Main Street until the early 1960s, when Route I-495 cut through this part of town. At that time a new section of Main Street was built from the base of Northborough to Ward Roads, and the old part of the street was severed in two just east of this house.

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

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Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Much of the northwest corner of town to the Westborough line had been the property of the Brigham family since their inheritance of some of the original 1660s allotments of land in what was the south part of Marlborough prior to 1727. This house was apparently built for farmer **Baker Brigham** (b. 1792) on part of that land. In the early nineteenth century, his was one of several West End farms of about a hundred acres. In 1850, Mr. Brigham was assessed for ninety-eight acres, had what was for that time a large herd of a dozen cows, and was growing sizable crops of hay, rye, corn, oats, and potatoes to feed them.

After Baker Brigham's death in 1868, the farmstead passed jointly to his widow, **Fanny** (Fay), and his son **William Baker Brigham** (b. 1827). Some of the original acreage had by that time gone to other family members (cf. Brigham Pond Area, Area Form K), and by 1870 this property had been reduced to 55.5 acres. At that time it had an assortment of specialized outbuildings, including the barn, a carriage house, hog house, and a combined woodshed and granary. William Brigham had a herd of thirteen cows and several calves, and like his father had done, grew hay, corn, oats, and potatoes. Like many of Southborough's post-Civil War farmers, he was also producing butter for sale, and had a modest-sized apple orchard.

William Brigham apparently expanded the farm through the 1870s. By 1880 it covered 186 acres, and its yearly milk production had risen from under a thousand to over 10,400 gallons--the largest production in the West End. While he was no longer making butter, Mr. Brigham now had a flock of ten chickens, and three hundred bearing apple trees.

In addition to his vocation as a farmer, as a young man William Brigham was a teacher in the Southborough schools. He was also one of the town's most vocal nineteenth-century reformers, participating in debates at the Southborough Lyceum, and advocating abolition and the rights of women, in particular.

William Brigham died in 1889, and for at least a decade the property was owned by his heirs. Farmer **Horace Wheeler** owned the house by 1909, and had sixteen cows, a bull, and three horses on a farm that had been reduced to 48 acres. Other owners of the farm in the twentieth century, during which time the property was further subdivided, included **Richard Harwood**, and **Esther Bushman**, who extensively restored the house in the middle of the century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [ ] *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1857 (B. Brigham); 1870 (Wm. Brigham); 1898 (WB Brigham Est.); 1937 WPA maps.
The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.
Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.
Simpson, H. Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. Unpublished manuscript, 1904.
Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Annual Reports and Tax Valuations, various dates.
US Census--Agricultural Schedules 1850, 1870, 1880.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

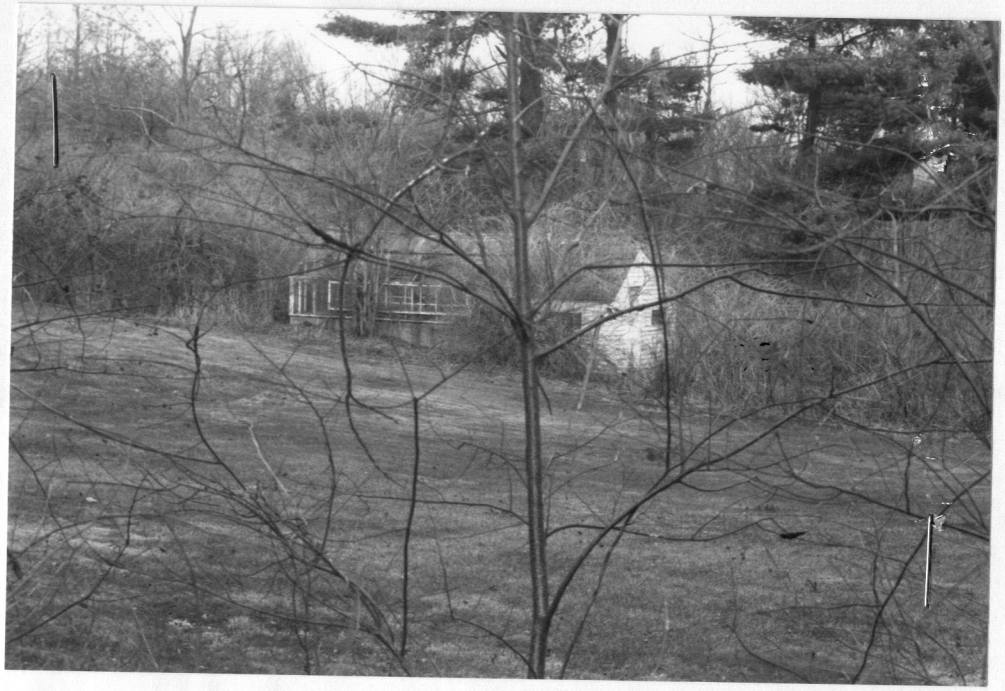
Community	Property
Southborough	26 Granuaile Road

Masschusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.
6, 631, 632

Barn



Greenhouse

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community	Property Address
Southborough	26 Granuaile Road
Area(s)	Form No(s). 6; 631, 632

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

[x] Individually eligible [ ] Eligible only in a historic district
[ ] Contributing to a potential historic district [ ] Potential historic district

Criteria: [x] A [ ] B [x] C [ ] D

Criteria Considerations: [ ] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D [ ] E [ ] F [ ] G

Statement of Significance by Forbes/Schuler, Consultants
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The well-preserved Baker and William Brigham House meets Criterion C of the National Register at the local level as one of several examples in Southborough of a double-pile, side-gabled, four-bay, or "three-quarter" house of the early part of the nineteenth century, as well as for its stylish Greek Revival details.

The property is also significant under Criterion A as a sizable remnant of one of the many prosperous late eighteenth- and nineteenth century farms in the outlying agricultural area known as Southborough's "west end," measuring a hundred acres in the middle of the nineteenth century, and, like its neighbors, supplying milk to Deerfoot Farm. It is also significant for its association with at least two generations of the Brigham family, original Southborough property owners and founders of several farms in that part of town, as well as an illustration, under William Brigham, of one of the most prosperous agricultural operations in town in the 1880s. In addition to his vocation as a farmer, as a young man William Brigham was a teacher in the Southborough schools. He was also one of the town's most vocal nineteenth-century reformers,

In spite of the recent development of much of the old farmland around it, the house retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

Pl 4 6

own Southborough

reet address 26 Granuaile Road

ame Baker-Brigham House

riginal use dwelling

resent use "

resent owner Mrs. Paul Ware

pen to public no

ate 19th Style

ource of date Pre-1831

Music Development of town/city Architect

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material:

WALL COVER: Wood clapboards 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: sidelights

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

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

Recorder

For

Photo 1-54 Date 1970

SEE REVERSE SIDE

SBR.6

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO 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)

Situated on "old main Street" once was the end of the line of Marlboro trolley

Extensively restored by Bushmans.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 map W. Brigham
1898 W.B. Brigham Estate
Others. Horace Wheelor
Richard Harwood (Nancy Harwood married John Falconi)
Esthar Bushman

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:
Deed Information: Book Number 3738 Page 502, 1970 Registry of Deeds
Worcester