

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.9
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Johnson, Capt. Elisha Jr. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Pierce, Capt. Benjamin F. House
<b>Address:</b>	26 Lynbrook Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	West End
<b>Local No:</b>	51-11
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1810
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Dairy; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood



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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

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission

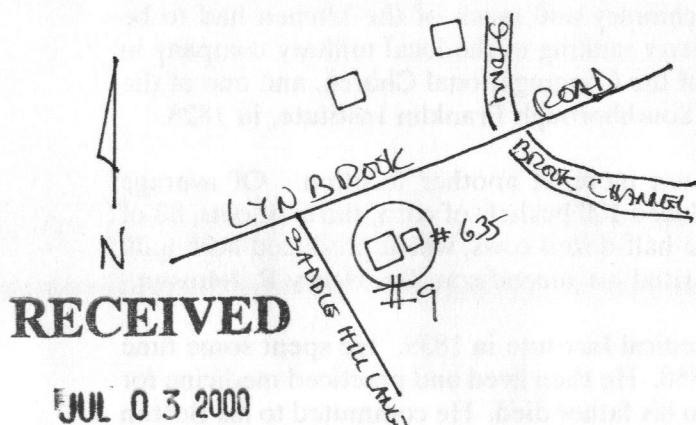
51-11

Marlborough

9, 635

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard

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.



MASS. HIST. COMM

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultantsOrganization Southborough Historical CommissionDate March, 2000Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

West EndAddress 26 Lynbrook RoadHistoric Name Capt. Elisha Johnson HouseUses: Present two-family dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1810Source Johnson family recordsStyle/Form Federal "three-quarter" houseArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation (not visible)Wall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphaltOutbuildings/Secondary Structures 19th-C.:clapboard 2-story barn; attached barn or carriage-houseMajor Alterations (with dates) late-20th C.: mostwindow sash replaced; shutters added (see text.)Condition goodMoved [x]no [ ] yes Date N/AAcreage 2.5 acres

Setting Just west of Stony Brook channel, in area recently developed with large houses on former farmland. Fieldstone wall at front and west side.

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-preserved of Southborough's eighteenth-century Federal farmhouses, this 2 1/2-story, side-gabled building is a four- by two-bay "three-quarter house," with a large chimney placed slightly off-center at the roof ridge. A short two-story, cross-gabled rear wing overlaps the southeast rear corner of the house by one bay; its rear section continues south as a steeper-pitched, one-story ell. In front of the wing on the east is a screened one-story porch spanning the east end of the house. A small attached 1 1/2-story barn or carriage house, with a hay door in the upper part of its east gable end, extends to the rear of the wing.

The windows of the house, which have the proportions of 6-over-9's, now have 1-over-1 replacement sash; those on the facade have modern wooden louvered shutters. A few 6-over-6-sash remain on the rear wing. The facade entry has a door of six raised panels under a three-light transom. The surround, of a type commonly based on designs in builders' guides of the period, has flat, tapered pilasters, a two-part frieze, and a molded cornice. The house trim includes a molded, boxed cornice with returns, but no overhang at the gable ends.

East of the house, across a driveway, is a small two-story side-gabled, clapboarded barn (#635), built into the hillside, with a lean-to bay along its rear, east side. A sliding vertical-board exterior wagon door is located on the west side, facing the house. Two bays of 6-over-6-sash windows occupy the north gable-end of this barn.

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.*

This house is part of a trio of Johnson family houses that were built on one of Southborough's earliest farms--dating back to land belonging to one of the founders of the town, William Johnson. It was built for **Elisha Johnson, Jr.**, also called Captain Elisha Johnson, in about 1810 as a gift from his father, who lived across the road at 35 Lynbrook Rd. (See Form #8 for the earlier history of the property).

**Elisha Johnson, Jr.** (1783-1854) married Sophia Loomis of East Windsor, Connecticut in 1808. Of their nine children, several eventually settled nearby on farms of their own. The house was struck by lightning in August of 1819. While the family inside survived, the chimney and much of the kitchen had to be rebuilt. Referred to as Capt. Johnson, he received his military ranking in the local military company in the early nineteenth century. He was also a loyal member of the Congregational Church, and one of the founders of the local debating society, formally named the Southborough Franklin Institute, in 1828.

By 1850, Capt. Johnson's farm measured 66 acres, with ten more at another location. Of average production for this agricultural community, that year it produced 100 bushels of corn, thirty of oats, 80 of potatoes, and twenty tons of hay. Capt. Johnson also kept a half-dozen cows, which produced both milk and butter. Upon his death in 1854, the property was inherited his second son, **Dr. Henry F. Johnson.**

Henry Johnson, (b. 1813), graduated from the Berkshire Medical Institute in 1839. He spent some time in Paris in the mid-1840s, returning to Worcester in about 1850. He then lived and practiced medicine for a few years in Boston, but moved back to Southborough when his father died. He commuted to his Boston office until 1867, when he sold the farm, and relocated to Cambridge.

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



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough

26 Lynbrook Road

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

Area(s)

Form No.  
9, 635

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The buyer of the farm was **Capt. Benjamin F. Pierce**. He kept about ten cows, and had several outbuildings on the property. In about 1885, however, he sold the property back into the Johnson family--to **Charles L. Johnson**, a grandson of Elisha and Sophia (son of their eldest child, Nathan L. Johnson--see Area Form O, Wolf Pen Farm).

Charles Johnson carried the farm into the early part of the twentieth century. In the late 1890s he had a large herd of two dozen cows, four horses, and a flock of 125 fowl, which he kept in five hen houses. He also owned an ice house where he stored ice cut from the brook during the winter. In 1921 the house was acquired by **Joseph Wentworth**.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1856 (Dr. HF Johnson); 1857 (E. Johnson); 1870 (BF Pierce); 1898 (CL Johnson); 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, Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. 1904.

Southborough Historical Society: family files; newspaper files

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

US Census--Agricultural Schedule: 1850.



Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community                      Property Address  
Southborough                26 Lynbrook Road

Area(s)                      Form No(s).  
                                    9; 635

## 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 Forbes/Schuler, Consultants

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The well-preserved Capt. Elisha Johnson, Jr. House meets Criterion C of the National Register at the local level as one of the best-preserved examples in Southborough of an early-nineteenth-century Federal "three-quarter house".

The property is also significant under Criterion A for its connection with Capt. Elisha Johnson, a prominent member of the Johnson family, who for generations both dominated and developed hundreds of acres of Southborough's rural "west end" in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

For all the above reasons, the property is also eligible as contributing to a potential historic district composed of a trio of Johnson family houses built on one of Southborough's earliest farms, now numbered 26, 35, and 49 Lynbrook Road.

The house retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.



9

US 62 MAY 1971

Town Southborough

Street address 26 Lynnbrook Rd

Name part of Lynnbrook Farm

Original use dwelling

Present use "

Present owner Miss Marcia George

Open to public

Style

Source of date

Literature  
Music

Indians  
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 clapboard Brick Stone Other

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Ell Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO 9' x 5' - gull 9' x 5' Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front Side Ornament: gull 9' x 5' - gull 9' x 5'

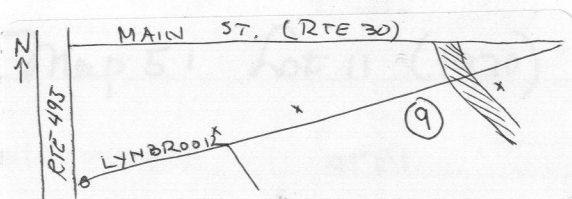
Entrance: Side Front Center Side Details: gull 9' x 5' - gull 9' x 5'

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 1971 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



# RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

SBR.9

## 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 Map - B.F. Pierce (Captain)

1898 " C.L. Johnson - grandson of Elisha & brother of Addison Johnson. Father of James B. Johnson

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number 3153 Page 158, 1970 Registry of Deeds

War. Co.