

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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



DEMOLISHED

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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

51-11

Marlborough

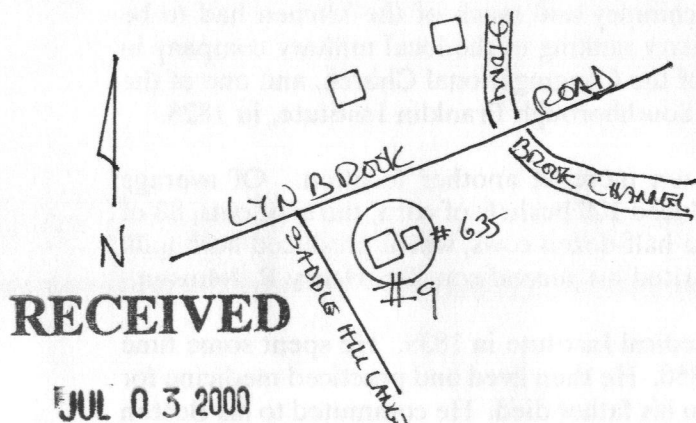
9, 635

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 acresSetting Just west of Stony Brook channel, in arearecently developed with large houses on formerfarmland. 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 leanto 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 _____
 Date _____ 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 Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front Side Ornament: _____

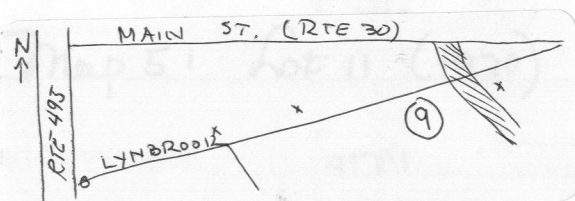
Entrance: Side Front Center/Side Details: _____

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of 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.