

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.47
Historic Name:	Winchester House
Common Name:	Jones, Dr. Claude P. - Davis House
Address:	26 Main St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	54-90
Year Constructed:	c 1815
Architect(s):	Newton, Moses
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	SBR.AG: Southborough Town Center SBR.A: Main Street Area
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Granite; Brick



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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

54-90

Marlborough

A

47, 650

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Town Southborough

neighborhood or village) _____

Southborough centers 26 Main Streetc Name Winchester HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingf Construction ca. 1815visual assessmentorm Federalect/Builder Moses Newton

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite and brickWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

19th-century barn (see text)

Major Alterations (with dates) porch and dormer
added--early 20th C.; window replacement--late-
20th C.

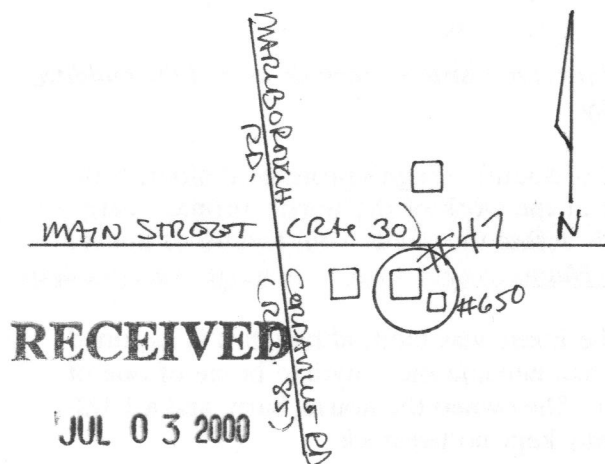
Condition goodMoved [x]no [] yes Date N/AAcreage one acre

Setting Close to road, on open lot in area of 19th
century houses.



Sketch Map

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.

Recorded by Forbes Schuler, consultantsOrganization Southborough Historical CommissionDate February, 2000

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

While this house has been altered by late-twentieth-century window replacement, like its neighbor across the street at 15 Main, it is still an excellent example of a two-story Federal hip-roofed building, two-rooms deep, with a pair of large brick chimneys on the side roof slopes. The main part of the building is five- by two bays. A two-story hip-roofed rear wing on a brick foundation overlaps the southeast corner by one bay; it is three bays long on the east side, where a modern exterior chimney rises up the center of the wall.

Spanning the main facade is a hip-roofed porch on square posts, with a square-dowel balustrade, which appears to date to the early part of this century. A hip-roofed double dormer with paired 6-over-6-sash windows in the center of the front roof slope is of the same period. The main center entry was updated in about 1900 with a large-light, multi-panel and glass door. Above it is an elliptical wooden fan, and beside it are three-part leaded sidelights over wooden panels. Tapered, fluted pilasters frame the entry, and a band of diamond-shaped gouge work adorns the frieze. While the windows have lost their original sash, their projecting enframements, with small moldings across the top, and wooden louvered shutters, appear to be original. The architectural trim of the main part of the building includes a molded, box cornice with a wide bed molding, water table atop the foundation, and cornerboards.

The main house has a second entry in the east side, where a four-panel door appears in a surround with molded architrave, recessed-panel pilasters, and a typical Federal-style entablature that includes a frieze with a band of gouge work, and a molded, projecting cornice adorned with a rope molding--an excellent illustration of the high level of Moses Newton's carpentry skills. An entry in the southeast wing facade has a ca. 1900 glass-over-panel door with a large diamond pane in the center of its single glass light. This later door is set into the same type of surround as the east entry of the main house. The cornice of the wing incorporates a dentil course, rather than a bed molding.

Behind the house is a nineteenth-century two-story, gable-front **barn/carriage house** (#650) with a cross-gabled, one-story ell on the west side. It has an off-center vertical-board wagon door, with a loft door in the wall above it. Most of the windows of this outbuilding are 6-over-6-sash; a 6-pane window appears high in the main gable.

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 significant both as the home of members of one of Southborough's prominent nineteenth-century families, the Winchesters, and as a known example of the work of the town's primary early-nineteenth-century master builder, Moses Newton. It stands across the street from two other houses built by Mr. Newton, 17 Main, and his own residence at 15 Main.

Further research will be required to determine for whom the house was built, although it is assumed that it was a member of the Winchester family. By 1856 it had become the longtime home of one of Southborough center's many single women, **Sally Winchester**. She owned the house, barn, and a 1 1/2-acre lot, but, in contrast to many of her neighbors, apparently kept no livestock.

[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 Main Street

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

Area(s)

A

Form No.

47, 650

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Miss Winchester died in 1891 at the age of 87. By 1897 the lot had been reduced to one acre, and the house was owned by a physician, **Dr. Claude P. Jones**, who updated the building with its facade-width porch and center roof dormer. Dr. Jones owned the house for many years, during which time he served on several town boards and committees. During the construction of the Metropolitan Water Works Sudbury Dam and Reservoir in the mid-1890s, he also served as the Sanitary Inspector for the Water Board. He resigned that post in 1898.

Dr. Jones apparently left Southborough about 1905. A deed of 1919 shows that in that year the property was conveyed from **Caroline Davis** to **Eva Davis**, who still owned it in 1936. A Clarissa K. Davis is listed as owning a Main Street property of 25 acres, with a dozen cows, a large house, a barn, and a few other outbuildings by 1906. (The property owned by Eva Davis in 1936 had been reduced to the present one acre). The property might also be associated with George C. Davis, a real estate broker who lived on Main Street in 1913.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1856, 1857 (S. Winchester); 1870 (Miss Winchester); 1898 (Dr. CP Jones).

Fourth Annual Report of the Metropolitan Water Board, 1/1/1899.

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.

Simpson, Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. Unpublished manuscript, 1904.

Street directories--assorted dates.

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

Worcester County Registry of Deeds: Bk. 2192, p. 218.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
26 Main Street

Area(s)
A

Form No(s).
47; 650

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.

Designed and constructed by local master-builder Moses Newton, the Sally Winchester House meets Criterion C of the National Register individually at the local level as an example of a Federal period house indicative of the work of a local master-carpenter, which contains several details indicative of his considerable skills. It also fulfills Criterion A for its connection with the Winchester family, prominent nineteenth-century residents and land owners in the center part of Southborough. For these reasons it is also eligible as a contributing property in a district encompassing the historic residential and institutional meetinghouse center of the town.

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



47

A

Pl-SOUTH

Southborough

Address 26 Main St.

Original use dwelling

Present use

Present owner Mrs. W. Davis

Open to public

- Architecture
- Art/sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Science/invention
- Travel/communication
- Military affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Development of town/city

Date pre-1832 Style federal

Source of date H.D.S.C. report

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 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:

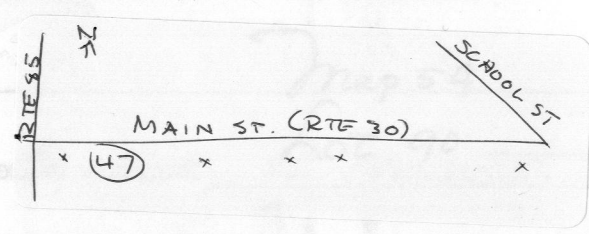
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: Glass side windows

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 2-5 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

SBR. 47

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)

Built before 1832 by Moses Newton, town carpenter. The porch and dormers were added. Known by many as the Sally Winchester House ①

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

① HDSC Report 1972

on 1870 Atlas map

1898 Dr. C.F. Jones

also

Sally Winchester house

2192 - 218

1922 474

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number 4380 Page 449, Worcester Co. Registry of Deeds