

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.46
<b>Historic Name:</b>	White, William A. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Southborough Community House - Legion Hall
<b>Address:</b>	28 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Southborough
<b>Local No:</b>	54-91
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Blake, Charles M.
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Craftsman
<b>Use(s):</b>	Bowling Alley; Community Center; Meeting Hall; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Community Planning; Recreation
<b>Area(s):</b>	SBR.AG: Southborough Town Center SBR.A: Main Street Area
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Concrete Unspecified



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](http://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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on:

Friday, July 08, 2016 at 1:29: PM



Massachusetts Historical Commission

54-91

Marlborough

A

46,951

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

Town Southborough

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

Southborough centerAddress 28 Main Street

Historic Name Southborough Community House/  
William A. White House

Uses: Present community building; American  
Legion Hall

Original dwelling

Date of Construction 1906Source Assessor's recordsStyle/Form Shingle Style/Arts and Crafts

Architect/Builder unknown: Charles Baker  
(addition)

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubbleWall/Trim wood shingleRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

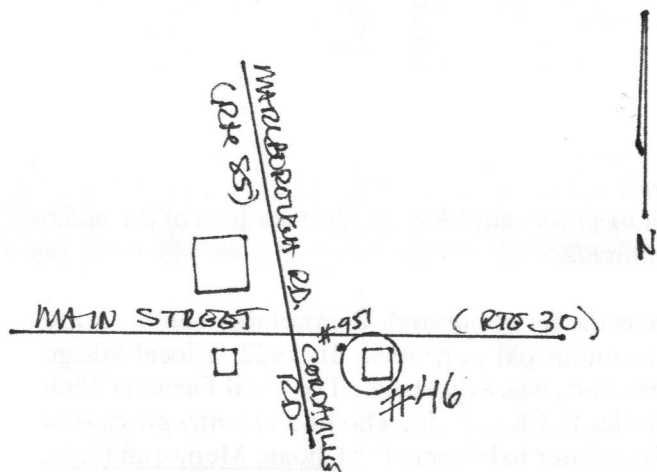
Gen. Knox monument, 1927 (see Form #951)Major Alterations (with dates) East sectionadded: 1921/22; trim covered with vinyl: ca. 1990sCondition goodMoved [x]no [ ]yes Date N/AAcreage 1.5 acres

Setting On large sloping lot at corner of Corda-  
ville Rd. Stone walls along roadsides, across rear  
yard. Mature maples, one tall spruce.

Photograph



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.*

The **Southborough Community House** is one of the few houses in Southborough built in the Shingle Style. A stylish, though unostentatious building, it consists of the main 2 1/2-story house that was built into the slope of the hill in 1906, and a 1 1/2-story east wing of 1921-22. Complex in plan, the main house has a steeply-pitched, side-gabled roof with many large gables and one front and one rear dormer. The main focal point of the building is the large front cross-gable, which projects over a shed-roofed wraparound porch supported on large, square posts with shallow brackets, and surrounded by a square-dowel balustrade. The main facade has a non-symmetrical three-bay arrangement of a small six-pane window, the main door, and, to its west, a large rectangular bay window with a multi-light, four-part, transomed casement.

The main entry is somewhat Arts-and-Crafts in feeling, with an arched, divided-glass section at the top, over a long vertical-board panel. Most of the windows of the house are 6-over-1-sash, with vinyl-covered casings. The upper wall of the facade above the porch contains one paired 6/1-sash at the second story, and a small window at the gable peak. The west gable-end elevation has four window bays at the first story, three at the second, and one in the gable. The high, cross-gabled rear of the house has a full-height rubble-walled basement story, a polygonal bay window toward the west end, and a one-story rectangular entry bay at the east end.

The ridge of the east ell addition is parallel to that of the main house. Its facade has a nine-pane window on either side of a 6-panel door with glass at the top, under a deep, gabled entry hood supported on large sawcut brackets. Rising up the end wall of the ell is a tall exterior, rubblestone chimney. Much of the rear wall of the ell is filled with a two-story-high polygonal window with multi-light casements.

Most of the architectural trim of the building has been covered with vinyl in recent years. Although the eaves are now boxed in by the new vinyl trim, the basic form of the deep roof overhang with widely-spaced exposed rafter- and purlin ends is still evident.

The Christmas tree planted in front of the building in 1922 still stands, and is lit each year for the Christmas season.

Standing close to the Main Street sidewalk in front of the building is a four-foot-high rectangular granite **monument** of 1927 (see Form #951), commemorating the Revolutionary War passage through Southborough of Gen. Henry Knox and the artillery train from Fort Ticonderoga, which he was transporting to Cambridge in the winter of 1775-76.

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.*

For most of its history, this house has served the town as the **Southborough Community House**--a rare surviving example of a former residence converted to municipal purposes. In 1922, a local village improvement society, the Southborough Village Society, Inc., was organized. The local Farmers' Club contributed some seed money in the first year, and Charles F. Choate, Jr., who had recently purchased this property, including several acres to the south that were later to become the Choate Memorial Field, (see Form #949), donated this 1.5-acre piece, with the existing buildings, to the society for a meeting place.

[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

28 Main Street

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

Area(s)  
A

Form No.  
46

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

His gift involved the condition that the Society agree to share the building with the Leo L. Bagley Post of the American Legion. The Legion's headquarters were in the east addition of 1921-22, for which Mr. Choate hired architect Charles M. Baker, a local Marlborough architect who was making a name for himself in Boston. The east ell is still the home of the Bagley-Fay Post 161 of the American Legion.

The Community House immediately became a significant focal point for village life. It served as a popular meeting place for social activities, in particular, including sewing circles, card parties, and increasingly elaborate Christmas celebrations. For many years there was also a bowling alley on the property for use by the community. The first caretakers were Mr. and Mrs. Amos Toombs, and Mrs. Toombs established a longtime tradition of serving tea every weekday afternoon at four-thirty.

The house was built in 1906 for **William A. White**, a Boston lawyer and acquaintance of Mr. Choate, who sold it to his friend fifteen years later. The house replaced the old Trowbridge Brigham House, built in 1833, which had been used for many purposes, including a lying-in hospital in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Mr. Brigham had owned a moderate-sized farm of about 57 acres here, and for much of the nineteenth century had kept about a dozen cows, pigs, and a pair of oxen. By 1898 the property had been acquired by L.W. Whipple. During Mr. Whipple's ownership both the house and a storehouse were still standing, and the property covered ten acres, stretching to the south along Cordaville Road to encompass most of the land that was later developed for Choate Field and the present Woodward School.

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

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

Old Southborough, a Photographic Essay. Southborough Historical Society, 1981.

Commonwealth of Mass. Public Safety Inspection Cards. Massachusetts State Archives.

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



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough

28 Main Street

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

Area(s)  
A

Form No.  
46



Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community      Property Address  
Southborough      Southborough Community House  
28 Main Street

Area(s)      Form No(s).  
A      46

### 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 Southborough Community House is eligible individually for the National Register at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the town's community life in the first half of the twentieth century. As such, it is a rare surviving example of a former residence (1906) converted to municipal purposes (1922), and the manifestation of a strong community improvement organization, the Southborough Village Society. The construction of the east wing for the Leo L. Bagley Post of the American Legion, designed by architect Charles Baker, illustrates an additional community-wide focus.

It also fulfills Criterion C as a well preserved example, rare in Southborough, of the Shingle Style.

For all the above reasons it is also eligible as a contributing property in a National Register 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.



PHD  
PI. SOUTH  
V262 NAME

(A)

own Southborough

reet address 28 Main St

ame 'Community House'

iginal use dwellings

resent use apartment/meeting home

resent owner Village Society

pen to public Yes

ate 1890'S Style Shingle / Col. Rev.

ource of date guess

Music \_\_\_\_\_ Development of town/city \_\_\_\_\_ Architect \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added Legion Hall

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low \_\_\_\_\_ Material: Cement

WALL COVER: Wood Shingle 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 Legion Hall

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament: \_\_\_\_\_

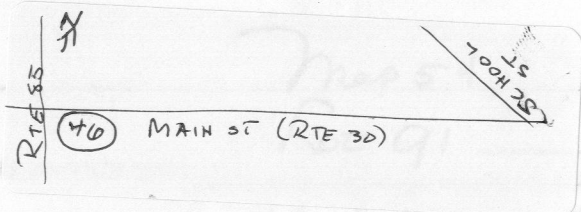
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: \_\_\_\_\_

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 2-4 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE



## RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

SBR. 46

## 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)

Deeded to the Village Society by Charles Choate to be maintained as a community meeting house for the town. ①

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

① HDSC Report 1972

1870 Atlas ?

1898 Atlas L.W. Whipple

also

Timothy Brigham  
Fairbanks  
Hall

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number Page ,

Registry of Deeds