

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.221
Historic Name:	Hillside School for the Feeble Minded Youth
Common Name:	Alden, J. House - Emmanuel School
Address:	29 Woodland Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Fayville
Local No:	30-4
Year Constructed:	c 1846
Architect(s):	Washburn
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dormitory; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Commercial; Private School; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Commerce; Community Planning; Education
Area(s):	SBR.D: Fayville
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Stone, Cut; Granite; 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) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

30-4 Marlboro D 221

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)



Address 29 Woodland Road

Common Name J. Alden House
aka; Hillside School

Present residential

Original residential / educational

Construction ca. 1846

Layout road layout / visual

Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation granite block and concrete

Wall/Trim wood clapboards/wood trim

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures two-bay concrete block and wood barn/garage

Major Alterations (with dates) large rear addition in place of an earlier rear ell - 1999, on west side two small one-story porch like additions - early 1900s.

Condition good

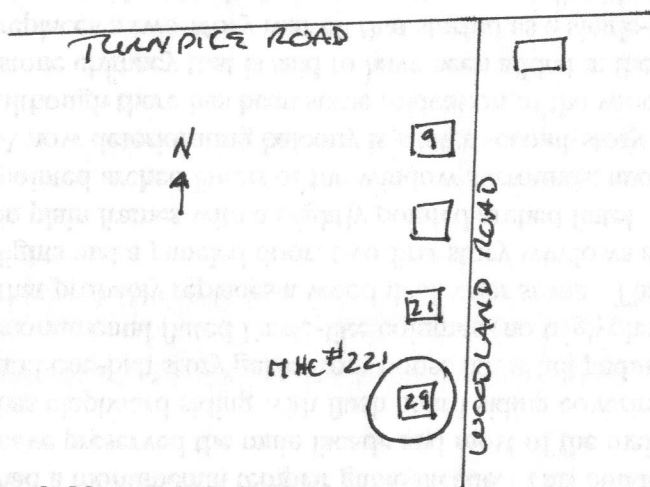
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage acres

Setting Rural road just south of Route 9 - Turnpike Road, house facing north, on wooded lot and set away from road on a high spot, terraced gardens behind house.

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Schuler/Forbes

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month / year) 4/00

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

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

Somewhat secluded from other important properties and shielded by the massive pine trees, this stately Greek Revival residence faces north towards Turnpike Road where once stood the Baptist Meeting house, which also had a monumental templar gable facade. This building has undergone a number of alterations, all additions that have preserved the main facade and most of the main block. The main house rests on a granite block foundation, has clapboard siding with flush board siding covering the main facade, a technique used to mimic stone. The two and one-half story gable front house has a full pediment with bold boxed cornice all carried by two-story monumental fluted Doric-like columns (no triglyphs in the frieze) that today rest on a concrete aggregate deck that probably replaces a wood deck over stone. The three-bay main facade has a side hall entrance with full side lights and a paneled door, two first story windows and three second-story windows. Sash are two-over-two set in plain frames with a slightly pointed arched lintel. The trim is plain with wide corner boards, the slightly pointed arched lintels of the window surrounds, and the plain frieze and boxed cornice at the eave and pediment. A now deteriorating balcony is a later second-story addition. The main house appears to be three bays deep, although there has been some relocation of the windows on the east side to accommodate the exterior splayed stone chimney that is said to have been added in the 1940s. The two-story rear addition, built recently in 1999 replaces a two-story rear ell that started as a single-story ell with a side porch that was enlarged to accommodate more resident students to a two-story rear ell with enclosed porch after 1895. That addition was deteriorated and had significant roof problems, thus it was demolished and replaced on the same footprint and using a similar fenestration pattern. The gable end of the new addition rises above that of the original house. On the west side there are at least two single-story additions, the first a shed roof porch that became enclosed and the second that became a porch to the enclosed addition and now is partially enclosed.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☒ see continuation sheet

Discuss the 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.

Woodland Road was laid out from Mason Whiting's house northeast to the Boston & Worcester pike (Route 9) in 1846. Thus it was another connection in the southeastern part of Southborough between Cordaville and Fayville and led directly to the newly constructed Baptist Meetinghouse which was on the north side of the Turnpike opposite the northern end of Woodland Road. This dwelling is one of the more elaborate and important pre-1850s dwellings built in close proximity to the Turnpike Road and to Fayville as well as the then newly constructed Baptist Meetinghouse of 1845. The first map showing this property was the 1856 with J. Alden as owner of the property. To date there is no information about Alden. Only a David Alden was listed in the 1850 Agricultural Census as having a 70 acre farm. Additional research is necessary to know about the first owners. By 1870 the property was owned by Mrs. Knights (also spelled Knight) and Miss Dana (later Mrs. Mary A. F. Dana Green) who ran a residential school at this location. The connection between these two women is unknown to date, however, it is interesting to note that two men who were cousins from Southborough, Josiah Dana and Oren H. Knight, perished in the Civil War. Both lived in Southborough at the time of the war, but enlisted from their home state of Virginia, one for the North (thus listed from West Virginia) and one for the South. Additional research is necessary to establish a link between Mrs. Knight and Miss Dana. In 1870 Knight and Dana were assessed for a 43-acre farm with a house and one-half of a barn. In the late nineteenth century the property was known as the Hillside School for the Feeble Minded Youth. The school had two buildings at the same site, and in 1895 a fire destroyed the building that sat between the road and this building. The two

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address
29 WOODLAND ROAD
Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

D	221
---	-----

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

buildings were connected by a wood shed which was taken down by local residents to save this stately Greek Revival school/residence. The original house had had a rear ell which then was raised to two stories for additional living space for the resident students. A side porch of the rear ell that extended to the southeast corner of the main house was enclosed to become part of the expansion. According to the present owner, there are newspaper articles describing the fire that also say that Mrs. Knight hired a carpenter named Washburn to do this work. Into the 1900s "Madam M. A. F. Dana Greene" ran the school, also known as Emmanuel School. It was a "Home School", with boarding for the "Backward and Underdeveloped." By the late 1890s Mrs. Mary A. F. Dana Green owned the house, which then was assessed for \$1500 (reflecting the addition made following the fire), a barn, hen house, work shop, and shed on her 82-acre farm. She also was assessed for the Baldwin house, barn and four acres, which may have referred to 9 Woodland Road, a property on which her name is shown on the 1898 map. In the mid-1900s this dwelling with surrounding land was owned by the Jordans who had an antique refinishing business at this location. Soon thereafter it was acquired by Ray Davis who had purchased the large farm and apple orchard on Breakneck Hill Road - today known as **Davco Farm (Area Form AD)** in 1949. Thus the house was rental property until 1998.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Assessors Reports: 1870, 1881, 1894, 1897, 1906.

Atlases/Maps: 1856 & 1857 (A.A. Alden), 1870 (Mrs. Knights and Miss Dana), 1898 (Mrs. Green Hillside School for the Feeble Minded Youth)

Directories: 1900, 1903.

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.

Oral History: Present owner.

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
SOUTHBOROUGH 29 WOODLAND ROAD

Area(s) Form No.

D	221
---	-----

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

The J. Alden House, also known as the Hillside School and located at the southwestern of the village of Fayville, is eligible for listing on the National Register as part of a potential Fayville Historic District and individual listing as well. The imposing Greek Revival house is one of the best local examples of a rural mid nineteenth century temple like house. The history of the use of the property as a school for the "feeble-minded" also is important to the broad educational and social development patterns of Southborough. The district retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling and this property retains integrity of all seven properties of integrity also: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, association and feeling.

Pl. Fay

221

Town SouthboroughStreet address 29 Woodland Rd

Name _____

Use: original & present dwellingPresent owner Jordan

Open to public _____

Date 1846 Style Antebellum + FederalSource of date Earlier owner (Hinkley)

Architect _____

Architectural reason for inventorying:

Pre 1870 - School

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material FieldstoneWALL 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 ElaborateSTORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed CarportPORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO _____ BalconyFACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament 4 PillarsEntrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: _____Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

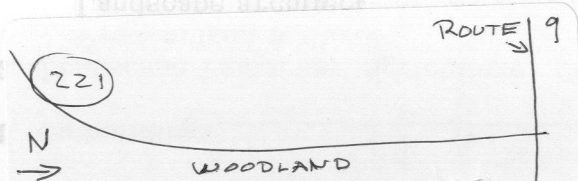
6. Footage of structure from street
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # 6-24 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING 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)

Legend - Escaped slaves lived in small shack on hill behind house

House faces Rto q as a bonus was paid for houses to face the turnpike

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1898 - Hillside School

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____
 Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds