

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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| Inventory No: | SBR.271 |
| Historic Name: | Fairbanks, Charles L. House |
| Common Name: | |
| Address: | 34 Main St |
| City/Town: | Southborough |
| Village/Neighborhood: | Southborough |
| Local No: | 32; 33; 54-9 |
| Year Constructed: | c 1895 |
| Architect(s): | |
| Architectural Style(s): | Queen Anne |
| Use(s): | Single Family Dwelling House |
| Significance: | Architecture |
| Area(s): | SBR.AG: Southborough Town Center SBR.A: Main Street Area |
| Designation(s): | |
| Building Materials(s): | Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood Clapboard; Wood; Stone, Uncut Foundation: Stone, Uncut |



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

54-9

Marlborough

A

271

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Southborough centerAddress 34 Main StreetHistoric Name Charles Fairbanks HouseUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1895Source maps; visual assessmentStyle/Form Queen AnneArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubbleWall/Trim wood clapboard and shingleRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

none

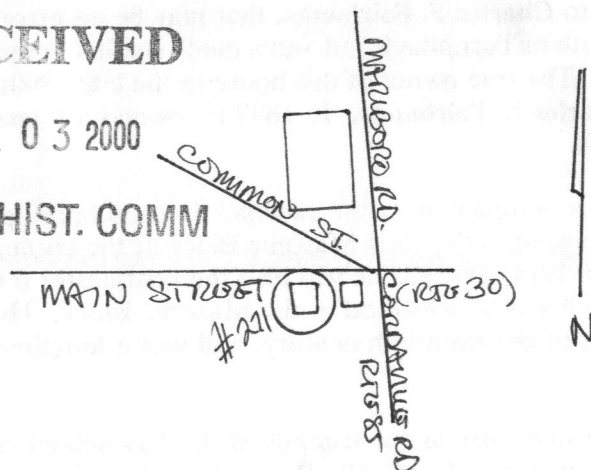
Major Alterations (with dates) _____

ca. 1990: window replacementCondition goodMoved [x] no [] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting Opposite library on south side of Main.Faces north on narrow lot.

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

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.

One of the later buildings on the south side of Main Street at the Town Common, this house is a companion to the slightly more elaborate 46 Main Street, but is in a better state of preservation. It is a wide gable-front Queen Anne house, with a distinctive steeply-gambreled roof which contains both the second and attic story. The lower wall of each story slightly projects over the one below it, as does the upper wall of the main gable peak--features which, along with the dominance of the roof, add a hint of the Shingle Style to the building. A wide cross-gable in the middle of the west elevation displays a similar overlap of stories. On the east side is a tall 2 1/2-story polygonal bay window with a high gabled roof that is nearly identical to a bay in the same position at 46 Main. While 46 Main Street has a tall round tower at the northwest facade corner, here there is a one-story round bay window in that position, with a slightly taller rectangular bay behind it on the west side. A one-story bay that extends across most of the rear of the house has a small oriel bay window on its west wall.

The main facade is two bays wide. The east half at the first story is occupied by a wide, shallow bay window tucked under the second-story overhang; the west portion contains the main entry and a corner window beside it, both sheltered by a large square entry porch supported on short Tuscan columns set on a mortared fieldstone parapet wall. The parapet extends east across the front of the bay window to another short Tuscan column under the northeast corner of the house. The door is a large glass-and-panel type with a single large glass light, surrounded by leaded sidelights over paneled aprons.

Most of the windows have been replaced recently with 1-over-1-sash, and have narrow modern vinyl shutters. Each gable, however, retains its original wide multi-light-over-2-pane sash. A shallow hip-roofed dormer articulates the lower roof plane on the front section of the east side of the house.

The building is sided in wood clapboard at the first story, and wood shingle on the upper parts of the walls. A tall brick chimney rises from the northwest edge of the main roof slope; another chimney is located on the main east roof slope, just above the dormer.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *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.

While the map of 1898 marks this house as belonging to **Charles F. Fairbanks**, that may be an error. While tax records show that he owned a farm south of Turnpike Road and a much smaller house in 1897, he died later that year at the age of thirty-nine. The true owner of this house in the late 1890s, and for several decades afterward, was apparently **Charles L. Fairbanks**. In 1897 he owned a house of about this size, with 110 rods of land and a windmill.

Charles L. Fairbanks was the proprietor of the express company near the railroad at Southborough center. For a brief ten years, his company office was located in the 1904 Masonic Block at the corner of Main Street and Boston Road, which burned down in 1914. By 1905 he was also the Postmaster for Southborough center, in charge of the Post Office which was also located in the Masonic Block. He served as a Selectman for many years at the beginning of the twentieth century, and was a longtime Town Clerk.

The property here was originally quite large, about the same size as the campus of the Fay School at the time the house was built. It extended east and southeast to Cordaville Road (Rte 85), for quite some distance, and southwest behind two other Main Street houses to Middle Road. By the time the house was built the property had been reduced to less than an acre, and lots for other houses had been divided out on the rear part of the land.

[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

34 Main Street

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

Area(s)
A

Form No.
271

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

Maps and Atlases: 1898 (CF Fairbanks).

Marlborough and Southborough Street Directories. Various dates and publishers.

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



Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
34 Main Street

Area(s)
A

Form No(s).
271

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.

This house is eligible for the National Register as a contributing property in a district encompassing the historic residential and institutional meetinghouse center of the town. Under Criterion A, it is significant for its association with longtime Town Clerk and Selectman Charles L. Fairbanks, who was also Postmaster and express agent in the Masonic Block at the foot of Main Street in the early years of the twentieth century. The building meets Criterion C as astylish Queen Anne House.

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



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|---|-----|
| P#D A | 271 |
| Southborough, Mass | |
| Address 34 Main Street | |
| original & present dwelling | |
| present owner Fred. B. Williams | |
| open to public no | |
| 1890's? Style Shingle/2A/Col. Rev. modified Victorian | |
| date of date | |

Development of town/city
Architectural reason for inventorying:

Architect _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material STONE
CLAPBOARDS

WALL COVER: Wood CLAPBOARDS & SHINGLED 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 YES 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 building in relation to
nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 30 ft.
Property has 93 7/10 feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # _____ Date _____

SEE REVERSE SIDE

NEAR MAIN & CORDAVILLE ROADS

MAP 54
LOT 9

1. Outbuildings _____

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal

Predominant features _____

Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures

ACROSS FROM LIBRARY (Georgian)

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)

Situated across from the library, it was once the home of Charles Fairbanks, a town official for many years. ①

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

HDSC Report 1972.

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: _____

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