

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.216
Historic Name:	Capen, Thomas Rand House
Common Name:	Taylor, Charles E. House
Address:	36 Edgewood Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	16-7
Year Constructed:	c 1830
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Agricultural; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood 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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FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-7

Marlboro

216

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)

36 Edgewood Road

Name Thomas Rand Capen House

Present residential

Original residential

Construction ca. 1830

map and visual assessment

form Greek Revival/side gable

ct/Builder unknown

r Material:

Foundation stone and parging

Wall/Trim wood shingles

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures gazebo.

Major Alterations (with dates) shingle siding - since 1970s, rear addition that wraps on northeast side, removal of at least one window on same side - since 1970s, windows altered to 2/2 by 1970s and back to 6/6 since 1970s.

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 27,479 square feet

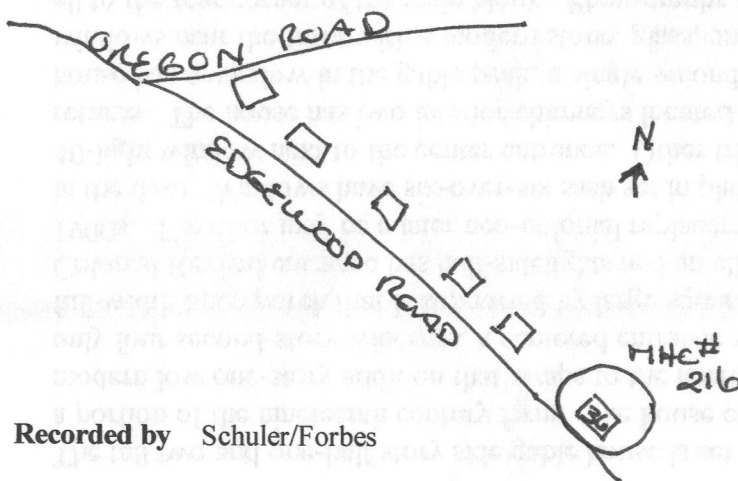
Setting Rural road in southern part of town, seemingly large lot at bend in road with dwelling set back, landscaped with cedar trees, tall pines, large fruit tree in front, rhododendrons near house. Scattered residential development of mid 20th c.

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

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

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

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

The tall two and one-half story side gable house is set back from the rural winding road on a large lot that is only a portion of the nineteenth century farm. The house consists of the main block, a two-story rear ell, and a modern low one-story addition that wraps to the north side of the rear ell. The main five-bay facade displays only four second-story windows, a centered entrance with a slightly projecting enclosed entrance porch within a full-width open porch that is supported by large square posts with square caps on a raised stone foundation. The Colonial Revival entrance has half-sidelights and an elliptical fan over the paneled door, probably from the early 1900s. The door may be a later neo-colonial replacement with two long vertical panels and a half-round fanlight in the door. Windows have six-over-six sash set in plain flat frames with the exception of a large mid 20th century 40-light window next to the center entrance. Other trim includes the corner boards and the boxed cornice and returns. The house has two interior chimneys located behind the ridge of the main block. The north end of the house has a window in the gable peak, a single second story window near the front corner, and two first-story windows near the front with a modern stone, glass, and wood secondary entrance area that wraps from the rear ell to the rear corner of the main block. Photographs from the 1970s show two second-story windows and three first-story on this north end elevation, as well as a one-story rear ell behind the two-story rear ell with a roof of similar slope unlike the present one-story addition that has a sweeping roof to incorporate a sun room.

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.

One of the few pre-1830 properties in the southeastern part of Southborough and the only on Edgewood Road, this farmhouse has undergone numerous changes since the inventory effort of 1971. However, the fact remains that it is one of the few scattered dwellings remaining from the nineteenth century. Edgewood Road was laid out in 1806 from the property of **Lemuel Chamberlain** at 14 Oregon Road to the town line, thus became one of the main connections between Ashland and Southborough Center. **Thomas Rand Capen**, who married Martha W. Williams in 1833, is the first known owner who according to the 1850 census had a large 95-acre farm worth \$3000 with milking cows, oxen and crops producing significant amounts of rye, Indian corn, oats, hay, Irish potatoes and even 25 pounds of beeswax and honey. Of the 117 farmers accounted for in the 1850 Census only eight reported the production of beeswax and honey. In 1860 Capen was taxed for \$2900 worth of real estate and in 1870 he had a horse, two oxen, five cows, a house, two barns, a hog house, a granary and a farm of 73 acres with a real estate value of \$3050. The number of acres had decreased which accounts for a consistent real estate value over twenty years. The 1870 assessors record yields some information about the activities taking place on the property. The size of Capen's farm at this time was average. Southborough, known for having farms in a "high state of cultivation" reported 179 farms ranging from 10 to 400 acres in the 1880s. The 1890s owner was Charles Taylor who was a farmer with more acreage (82 acres in 1897), and similar buildings and structures with the addition of a corn crib and hen house for his 50 chickens. It is reasonable to assume that corn became an important crop to this farm. According to Howard Russell's A Long Deep Furrow, in the mid-1800s an average acre produced approximately 30 bushels of Indian corn. Capen had reported 150 bushels in 1850, which probably in part was a market crop, however, large quantities would have been needed to feed his large flock of chickens. The construction of the corn crib in the late 1800s may indicate the continuation of this crop at the Capen-Taylor farm. By 1909 **Charles E. Taylor**, who was 50 years old then, also had a windmill and tank on his 82-acre farm. He died in 1912 and **Leroy Taylor**, presumably a son, continued to farm on

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETTown
SOUTHBOROUGHProperty Address
36 EDGEWOOD ROAD

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

Area(s) Form No.

	216
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

Edgewood Road. In 1913 Leroy Taylor had married Amy E. Noyes of Marlborough. In the late 1920s Taylor split off part of the farm - 23 acres - and sold 22 Edgewood Road to **Arthur J. Kiley** of Brighton. Thus in the late 1920s and 1930s Leroy Taylor and his wife, Amy, had a 59-acre farm with a house, barn, watertank and hen houses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES☐ *see continuation sheet*

Assessors Reports: 1860, 1870, 1881, 1894, 1897, 1921, 1924, 1927, 1936.

Atlases/Maps: 1831, 1857 (T.R. Capen), 1870 (T. Capen), 1898 (C. Taylor)

Directories: 1900, 1903, 1905.

Federal Agricultural Census: 1850

Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of Worcester County

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.

Russell, Howard. A Long Deep Furrow, 1976

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



216

Southborough

address 36 Edgewood Rd

original & present dwelling

ent owner Harris

to public

Style

Literature Indians Source of date

Music Other

Development of town/city Architect

Architectural reason for inventorying: 1870 OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Stone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboards 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:

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

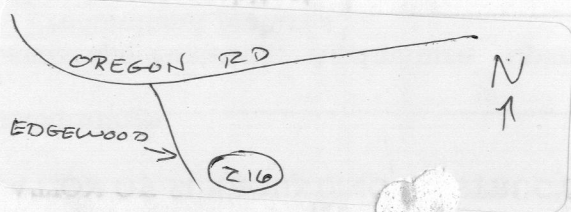
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo # 6-21 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



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 Atlas - T. Capen
1898 " S. Taylor

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number Page Registry of Deeds