

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.72
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Chamberlain, Willard House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Nichols, Herbert - Finn, Lawrence House
<b>Address:</b>	361 Turnpike Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	25-11
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1845
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood Foundation: Stone, Cut; Granite



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:

Saturday, July 09, 2016 at 5:28: PM

Massachusetts Historical Commission

25-11

Marlborough

72

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Town Southborough

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

Address 361 Turnpike RoadHistoric Name Willard Chamberlain HouseUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1840sSource visual assessmentStyle/Form Greek RevivalArchitect/Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation granite blockWall/Trim vinyl sidingRoof asphalt

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

mid-20th C. garage

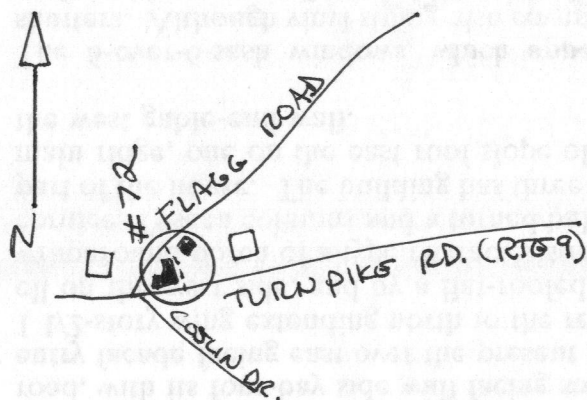
Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

main entry, windows, and shutters replaced--late 20th C; exter. chimney added--20th C.Condition fair/goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 1.1 acres

Setting On busy commercial/office-park section  
of Rte. 9 at corner of Flagg Road. Stone wall  
at east; stone retaining wall across front.

## 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 Anne Forbes, consultantOrganization Southborough Historical Comm.Date JUL 08 1999 June, 1999



## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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

This house remains from what were once many Greek Revival dwellings built along the Southborough section of the Boston & Worcester Turnpike in the middle years of the nineteenth century. Its arrangement is somewhat unconventional in that it stands side to the road, with its four-bay side wall facing south toward the Turnpike, and its two-bay, side-hall-entry facade facing east over the present driveway. The house is 2 1/2-stories, and has a long 1 1/2-story wing extending north to the rear. The wing is abutted by a one-story cross-gabled ell on the west side, and by a flat-roofed stone garage of ca. 1915-1920 at the north end. A wraparound porch of a type characteristic of the turn of the twentieth century, with a dentiled cornice, Tuscan columns and a turned balustrade, lines the east and south facades of the main part of the house. The building has three brick chimneys--one just south of the east end of the main ridge, one on the east roof slope of the wing, and a modern exterior chimney rising up the west gable-end wall.

The 6-over-6-sash windows, which appear to be replacements, have vinyl surrounds and shutters. Although vinyl siding also covers most of the rest of the house trim, the general form of the wide corner pilasters with molded capitals is still visible. Similarly, the molded, boxed cornice at the roofline, with its gable-end returns, appears to be in place under the siding. The entire main entry has recently been replaced, but the new doorway appears to occupy an opening that would have accommodated a wide, sidelighted Greek Revival entry. (Cont.)

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.*

Members of the Chamberlain family were living and farming in the west part of town in the vicinity of the Worcester Turnpike and Flagg Road for at least a generation before this house was built. The building was constructed in about 1840-50, apparently by **Willard Chamberlain**, on what may have been part of the farm belonging to his father, John, who died in 1849. In 1836 Willard Chamberlain (b. 1806) married one of his neighbors, Minerva Collins. In 1870 their farm covered thirty-three acres, most of it on the south side of the turnpike, and they owned both a house and barn, a horse, and four cows. As was the case with many families who occupied adjoining farms, Willard may have done much of the farming jointly with his younger brothers Ephraim, who had 60 acres and lived next door at 359 Turnpike Road (demolished), and John III, whose 15-acre farm was located to the northeast, on Flagg Road. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

- Maps and Atlases: 1857 (W. Chamberlain), 1870 (E. Chamberlain), 1898 (Herbert Nichols).  
The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.  
 Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.  
 Simpson, Louise. "Old Houses in Southborough". Paper presented to Southborough Woman's Club, 1904.  
 Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Assessor's Reports, various dates.  
 Worcester County Registry of Deeds: 1312/538-544.

☐ 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

Willard Chamberlain  
House

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

Area(s)

Form No.  
72

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The rear wing appears to have been a combination of living space at the south end with utilitarian spaces, probably a succession of sheds and a small barn, at the north. Today, it has half-size windows under the eaves and a modern door on the east side under an aluminum hood. A wide overhead two-car garage door occupies the rear section of the east wall. Behind it, the doorway of the early-modern garage addition has been filled in to become a solid wall. Visible from the rear above the garage, in the rear gable-end wall of the wing, is a vertical-board hay door.

As the westernmost residential building on this section of the road, sandwiched between a late-twentieth-century Wendy's restaurant to the east and a gas station, motel, and the Rte 495 interchange directly to the west, the property is slightly buffered by its stone walls and by its mature vegetation, which includes some venerable sugar maples along the main road.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Willard Chamberlain died in 1889. The farm was auctioned off, but his brother Ephraim, as the highest bidder, purchased it and transferred it back to Minerva and the other heirs. By 1898, however, the property is shown under the name of **Herbert Nichols**.

Between 1904 and 1915 the property was acquired by **Lawrence Finn**, who had formerly operated a farm at Southborough center. For many years it was the home of **Mary E. Finn**, lifelong teacher in the Southborough schools from the 1930s through the middle of the century. The Mary E. Finn Elementary School, opened in 1965, is named for her.





Pl. # 72  
JUL 1971

Southborough  
Address 361 Turnpike Rd

Original & present dwelling  
owner Mary Finn  
public  
Style

Literature Indians Source of date  
Music Other  
Development of town/city Architect  
Architectural reason for inventorying:  
Pre 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 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 2 Sides PORTICO Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament

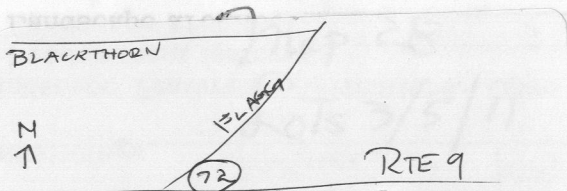
Entrance: Side Front: Center side Details:

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 20  
Property has feet frontage on street



Recorder

For

Photo # 2-34 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE

## RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR.72

## 1. Outbuildings

Garage - Henhouse

## 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 Willard Chamberlain

1898 Herbert Nichols

also

Rockwood (old Deerfoot-house removed)

Hamblott ( " " )

E.H. Chamberlain

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number 1609 Page 545, Marie W. Registry of Deeds