

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.79
Historic Name:	Holland, James House
Common Name:	Duncan, William - Wilson, William P. House
Address:	4 Middle Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	54-13
Year Constructed:	c 1835
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	SBR.AG: Southborough Town Center
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Granite; Brick



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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

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission

54-13

Marlborough

79

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125



Southborough

neighborhood or village)

Southborough center

4 Middle Road

Name James Holland House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Date of Construction ca. 1835-40

Source maps; visual assessment

Style Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite and brick

Wall/Trim vinyl siding

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures 1-car

clapboarded gable-front garage with shed-roofed
shed along north side--mid-20th C.

Major Alterations (with dates) Rear ell raised to
2 stories, dormers added on S and N.--mid-20th C.

Condition good

Moved [x]no [] yes Date N/A

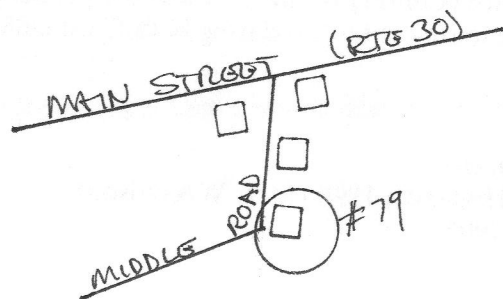
Acreage less than one acre

Setting Near upper end of Middle Road, in line
of gable-front, mid-19th- to early-20th-C. houses.

Close to street on narrow lot.

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 Forbes/Schuler, consultants

RECEIVED

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date JUL 03 2000 February, 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

Southborough has a handful of examples of diminutive Greek Revival temple-front cottages, in which the front gable extends forward over the main story to be supported on three or four classical columns. In spite of its vinyl siding, which has involved the loss of some window trim, this little house is probably the best-preserved of the group. It is a three- by three-bay, sidehall-entry house, with a cross-gabled rear ell that was raised to two stories in the middle of the twentieth century. The front columns are fluted Doric examples; other Greek Revival detailing includes wide corner pilasters and a deep molded, boxed cornice with a characteristically wide, two-part frieze. While the main entry has no sidelights, it does have wide, flat pilasters. The door is a 20th-century 6-panel type, with glass at the top. Most of the windows are 6-over-6-sash; two large 6-over-9's occupy the two bays beside the door on the first story facade. The wood shutters date to the twentieth century.

The rear ell is two-bays deep, and projects one-bay south from the southeast rear corner. Three gable-roofed dormers, their open eaves trimmed with a scalloped verge board, break the south roof plane. A mid-twentieth-century double shed dormer on the north roof slope replaces two small dormers like those that remain on the south side.

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 this house is reputed to date as far back as 1812, its form and style, and the fact that no building is shown at this location on the map of 1831, suggest that it was probably built sometime between 1835 and 1840. It is not certain for whom it was built, but it may have been **James Holland**, who is shown as the owner by 1850. At that time he had a small farm of thirteen acres, where he kept two cows, two pigs, and a horse, and grew a small amount of corn, oats, and rye, as well as hay and potatoes to feed them and his family. His widow, **Sarah S. Holland**, inherited the property after his death. She died in 1884 at the age of 63.

The property was held for a while by **Francis Newton** and **Sarah F. Brigham** (possibly as Mrs. Holland's heirs)*; was sold a few years later to **William P. Wilson**. He died in 1892 at the age of 73, and his wife, **Abigail A. Wilson**, continued to own the house. She moved to Natick for a few years, but returned to Southborough, where she apparently resided at 17 Main Street (see Form #44). In 1903, when the Southborough Woman's Club was founded, she was its first President.

Mrs. Wilson sold the property in 1911 to **William Duncan**, who was employed at the Deerfoot Farm Company. He was also a member of the Fire Department, and custodian of both town cemeteries.

Until the turn of this century, Middle Road was known as Centre (Center) Road, as it was the primary route that cut north through the middle of town to the meetinghouse center, predating both Cordaville and Parkerville Roads.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1857 (J. Holland); 1870 (Mrs. SS Holland); 1898 (Mrs. WAWilson).
Westborough, Northborough, and Southborough Directory. 1905.

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

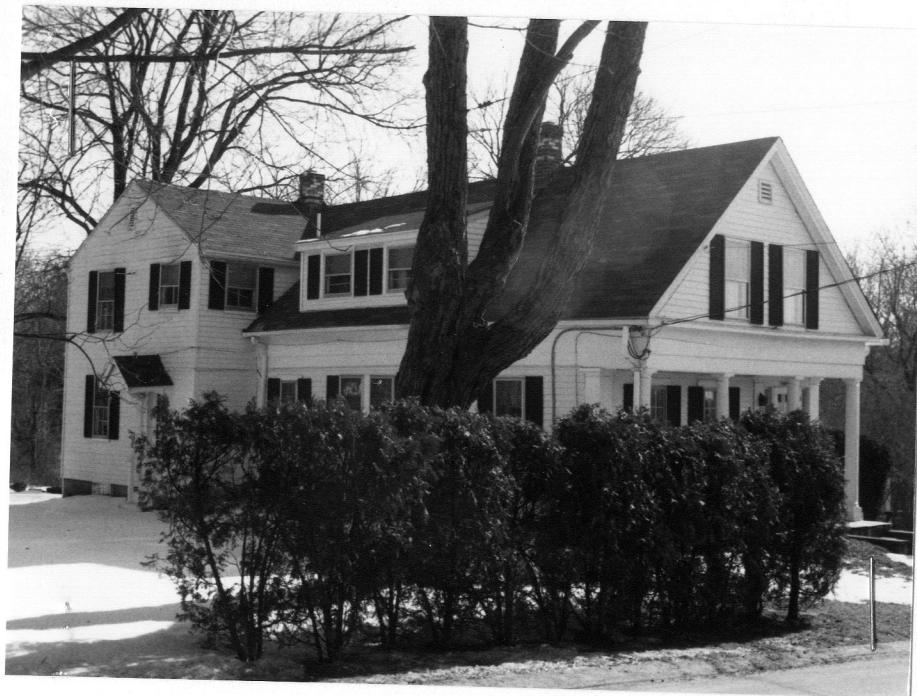
Middlesex Registry of Deeds: Bk. 1961 P. 264.

Noble, R. Fences of Stone, 1990.

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

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

[x] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*



Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
4 Middle Road

Area(s)

Form No(s).
79

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 James Holland 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 of the later residential development of the center south of Main Street opposite the meetinghouse and common at the turn of the century, when small landowners were beginning to break up the small farms which had existed there to build houses on small lots. It meets Criterion C as an example of a small, temple-front Greek Revival cottage.

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



Pl SOUTH

79

0302

mt

City Southborough
 Street address 4 Middle Rd.
 Name _____
 Date of original & present dwelling
 Present owner Benedict Maguire
 Open to public no
 Date 1812 Style GR doric tetrastyle
 Source of date Mr. Charles Fairbanks
 Architect _____

Architectural reason for inventorying:

Pre 1870

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added 2 rooms upstairs

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 _____ PORTICO _____ Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____

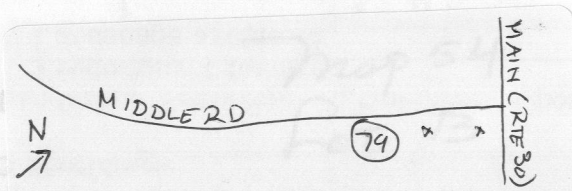
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: _____

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 15 ft
 Property has 40 feet frontage on street



Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # 3-5 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR. 79

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

1898 Atlas Mrs. W. P. Wilson

also

Holland

William Duncan

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number 2683 Page 599, Worcester Registry of Deeds