

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.41
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Nichols, De Clinton House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Morris, Donald E. Funeral Home
<b>Address:</b>	40 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Southborough
<b>Local No:</b>	54-11
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1902
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Funeral Home; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce
<b>Area(s):</b>	SBR.AG: Southborough Town Center SBR.A: Main Street Area
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on:

Friday, July 08, 2016 at 1:33: PM

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

54-11

Marlborough

A

41

Town Southborough

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

Southborough centerAddress 40 Main StreetHistoric Name De Clinton Nichols HouseUses: Present funeral parlor and dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1902Source maps; assessor's records; visual assessmentStyle/Form Federal RevivalArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation stoneWall/Trim vinyl sidingRoof asphalt

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

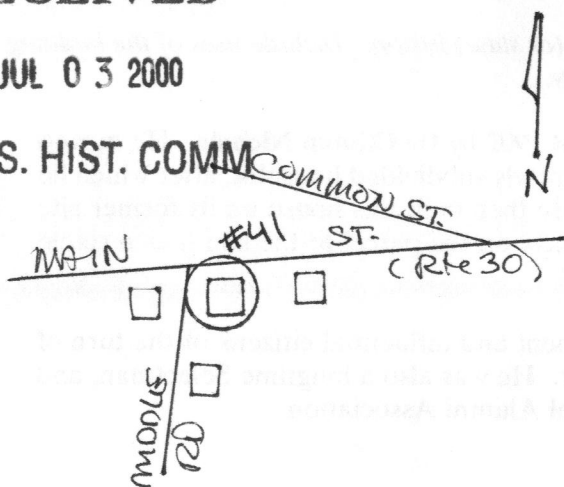
noneMajor Alterations (with dates) Flat-roofed addn.at SW rear corner, with fire escape; deck and stair  
at SE over concrete garage--mid-20th C.Condition fairMoved [x]no [ ] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting Opposite foot of Common on south side  
of Main St. at corner of Middle St., on small lot.

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.

**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 several stylish turn-of-the-century houses at Southborough center, this building was built on the site of another, smaller house, and nearly fills its small lot. It is a large, square, 3- by 3-bay, hip-roofed two-story building with considerable Federal Revival detailing. The main facade is symmetrical, and has a wide three-part dormer at the center of the front roof slope composed of a pair of narrow pedimented windows with a balcony between them. The dormer draws the eye to the center section of the roof, and the focal point of each story continues down the center of the facade. In the center bay of the second story, a three-part Palladian-like window with a semi-circular, garlanded fanlight is set into a keystoned, paneled shallow-projecting bay. At the first story, the center entry has a wide varnished glass-and-panel door, and wide sidelights also set into panels, under a shallow triangular pediment. A generously-proportioned front portico has lost its balcony balustrade since 1971, but its triple unfluted Ionic corner columns are still intact. The other facade windows include large, single double-hung units at the second story, and, at the first story, tripartite sash under high, molded and dentiled entablatures, with diminutive fluted Ionic pilasters located between the window sections. Most of the windows in the house have been replaced with modern single-light sash, and have vinyl louvered shutters. A hint of what the former window sash may have been occurs in the dormer windows, which have lozenge-pane sash over single panes.

Other alterations include a one-story, flat-roofed southwest addition, modifications to the main entry in the form of a ramp against the northwest part of the front wall, and concrete front steps with a modern metal railing.

The west side of the house has a second entry under a deep, hip-roofed hood, located beside a one-story polygonal bay window that still has its balcony balustrade--composed of square dowels and urn-topped square posts. Another shallow polygonal bay window located on the east side of the house also retains its roof balustrade, but has lost its urns. The first story windows on that side of the house have high entablatures with raised swags on their friezes.

Although this house has vinyl siding, which covers the cornerboards, most of its high-style wood trim is intact, including a water table and a prominent scroll-bracketed cornice.

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.*

This house stands on a property that was subdivided in about 1902 by **De Clinton Nichols**. He moved an existing house on the site about twenty yards south to the newly subdivided house lot, after which he rented it out to tenants (2 Middle Road--see Form #78). He then built this house on its former site for his own residence. He apparently used the outbuilding now on the parcel to the south as a stable for his two horses.

De Clinton Nichols was one of Southborough's most prominent and influential citizens of the turn of the century. For many years he was the town's Tax Assessor. He was also a longtime Selectman, and served for a time as the President of the Peters High School Alumni Association.

The building is currently used as a funeral parlor.

[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

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

Community

Southborough

Property

40 Main Street

Area(s)

A

Form No.

41

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

Maps and Atlases: 1898 (D. Nichols--former house).

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

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

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community  
Southborough

Property Address  
40 Main Street

Area(s)  
A

Form No(s).  
41

## 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 turn-of-the-century association with the influential De Clinton Nichols, Tax Assessor and longtime Selectman. In spite of some alteration and the loss of some architectural features, the building meets Criterion C as a Federal Revival representative of a handsome group of large, stylish houses built in a variety of Colonial Revival interpretations between the late 1890s and 1905 in the center of Southborough.

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





PHD 41

A

Pl. South  
Essex, Mass.

Southborough

address 40 Main St.

al use dwelling

nt use dwelling / mortician

nt owner Donald Morris

o public

Style Col. Rev.

Art/sculpture  
Education  
Government  
Literature  
Music

Travel/communication  
Military affairs  
Religion/philosophy  
Indians  
Development of town/city

Date  
Source of date  
Architect

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 PORTICO Pillared Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament:

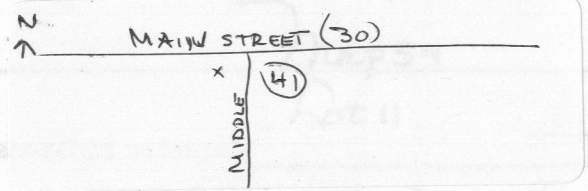
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details:

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

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



Recorder

For

Photo 2-3

Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE

# RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

SBR. 41

## 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)

... Once a private home, it is now a funeral home with living quarters on the second floor.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

① HDSC Report 1972 -

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number

Page

Registry of Deeds