Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.P
Historic Name:	Deerfoot Farm Cottages
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Agricultural; Residential District; Workers Housing
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	

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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 A · AREA

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Assessor's Sheets	USGS Quad	Area Letter	Form Numbers in Area
43	Marlborough	P	403-405

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49-45 Deerfoot Road

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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.

Town Southborough

Place *(neighborhood or village)*

Name of Area Deerfoot Farm cottages

Present Use residential

Construction Dates or Period ca. 1875

Overall Condition fair to good

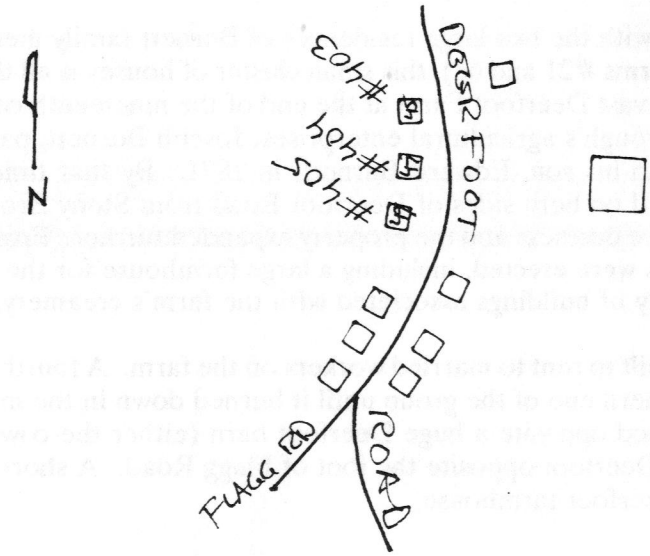
Major Intrusions and Alterations three mid-20th-C. garages/outbuildings

Acreage 1.72 acres

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultants

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date *(month/day/year)* February, 2000



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Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form

AREA FORM SBR.P

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ ] *see continuation sheet*
Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

Although the area around these ca. 1875 farm cottages is now developed with late-20th-century houses, and a large modern elementary school (the Neary School,) occupies a large tract across the road, this little cluster of buildings is still quite true to its late-nineteenth-century appearance. It consists of three small farm cottages situated close together at the curve of Deerfoot Road. Two of the houses, 45 and 47 Deerfoot Road, are nearly identical mansard cottages--low, square, each with a one-story, gable-roofed rear ell and a hip-roofed facade porch. The third, 49 Deerfoot Road, is a long 1 1/2-story gable-front, sidehall-entry cottage with a short, flat-roofed one-story rear ell.

In front of the houses, Deerfoot Road is lined with fieldstone walls and mature trees, including at least one large beech tree that may remain from the original period of Deerfoot Farm ownership.

Architectural description (See Sketch Map)

MHC #	Assessors map & parcel	
403	43-8	45 Deerfoot Road. Mansard cottage. Vinyl siding, slate roof, brick foundation. 2 by 2 bays; porch on square posts, with square-dowel balustrade. Windows: 2/2, including gable-roofed dormers. Trim: molded, boxed cornice; cornerboards. Alterations: mid-20th-century door.
404	43-7	47 Deerfoot Road. Mansard cottage. Wood clapboard, asphalt roof, parged foundation. 2 by 2 bays; porch on square posts, with paired saw-cut flared brackets. Windows: 2/2. Trim: molded cornice with frieze; cornerboards. Alterations: ell extended S. to added deck. N. portion of porch enclosed, decorated with molding echoing porch brackets.
405	43-6	49 Deerfoot Road. Gable-front, 1 1/2-story house. Wood shakes, asphalt roof, parged foundation. Trim: molded, boxed cornice, with returns. Alterations, late-20th C.: ell extended southwest as long side-gabled addition; windows and doors replaced.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [ ] *see continuation sheet*
Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this area relates to the historical development of the community.

With the exception of buildings associated with the two large residences of Burnett family members at 84 Main Street and 16 Deerfoot Road (See Forms #21 and 68), this small cluster of houses is all that remains from the many structures that stood on the vast Deerfoot Farm at the end of the nineteenth century. The founder of this most successful of Southborough's agricultural enterprises, Joseph Burnett, passed on the management of the Deerfoot dairy farm to his son, Edward Burnett, in 1871. By that time it already covered nearly 500 acres, most of it situated on both sides of Deerfoot Road from Stony Brook south to Flagg Road. Under Edward Burnett both the business and the property expanded further. From the 1870s through the early 1890s many new buildings were erected, including a large farmhouse for the farmhands, a new cow barn, a cattle barn, and a variety of buildings associated with the farm's creamery.

Edward Burnett had these three cottages built to rent to married workers on the farm. A fourth one, gable-fronted like 49 Deerfoot, stood at the southern end of the group until it burned down in the middle of the twentieth century. The group was positioned opposite a huge Deerfoot barn (either the cowbarn or the mid-1890s cattle barn) off the east side of Deerfoot opposite the foot of Flagg Road. A short distance to the north was another barn and the big Deerfoot farmhouse.

[x] Recommended as a National Register District. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community	Property
Southborough	Deerfoot Farm cottages

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)	Form Nos.
P	403-405

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

Maps and Atlases: 1898 (Deerfoot Farm Co.)
Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.
Old Southborough: a Photographic Essay. Southborough Historical Society, 1981.
Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Assessor's Reports, various dates.

AREA DATA SHEET

MHC#	Parcel #	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/type
403	43-8	45 Deerfoot Road garage		ca. 1875	Mansard cottage
404	43-7	47 Deerfoot Road garage		ca. 1875	Mansard cottage
405	43-6	49 Deerfoot Road garage		ca. 1875	gable-front 1 1/2-story house

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community	Property Address
Southborough	Deerfoot Farm cottages 45, 47, 49 Deerfoot Road

Area(s)	Form No(s).
P	403-405

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 [x] Potential historic district

Criteria: [x] A [ ] B [x] C [ ] D

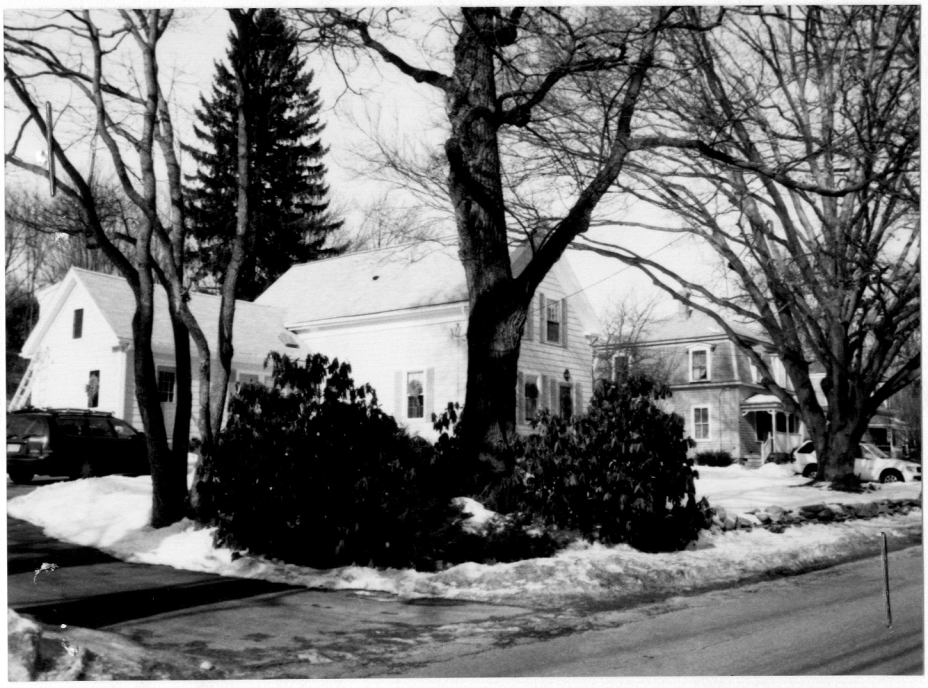
Criteria Considerations: [ ] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D [ ] E [ ] F [ ] G

Statement of Significance by Forbes/Schuler, Consultants
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This cluster of 1870s farm cottages meets Criteria A and C of the National Register at the local level as a historic district or complex. The houses, built for married workers on Deerfoot Farm, fulfill Criterion A as an illustration of the development of this large, important commercial farm in the early years of its great expansion under the progressive management of Edward Burnett, and thus also illustrate one aspect of the agricultural development of Southborough in the latter part of the nineteenth century. For their well-preserved vernacular architecture, representing a typical aproach to housing for management employees of a prosperous farm, the line of cottages also meets Criterion C.

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

45 Deerfoot Road



49-45 Deerfoot Rd.