

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.348
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Fayville Baptist Church
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	54 Central St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Fayville
<b>Local No:</b>	38-59
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Baker, Charles M.
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Abandoned or Vacant; Business Office; Church
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	SBR.D: Fayville
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood Foundation: Concrete Unspecified; Granite



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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)

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# FORM B – BUILDING

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

38-59

Marlboro

348

**Town** SOUTHBOROUGH

**Place** (neighborhood or village) Fayville

**Address** 54 Central Street

**Historic Name** Fayville Baptist Church

**Uses: Present** commercial - office

**Original** religious - church

**Date of Construction** 1919-1920

**Source** Noble

**Style/Form** Greek Revival - Meetinghouse form

**Architect/Builder** Charles Baker

**Exterior Material:**

**Foundation** Concrete

**Wall/Trim** vinyl siding

**Roof** asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures** none

**Major Alterations** (with dates) Siding, doors, dormers, fenestration of rear ell - 1980s conversion to office space.

**Condition** fair (siding)

**Moved** ☒ no ☐ yes **Date**

**Acreage** 13,613 square feet

**Setting** On the east side of Central Street, corner of Cherry Street, near Rt 9, among mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> c residential properties.

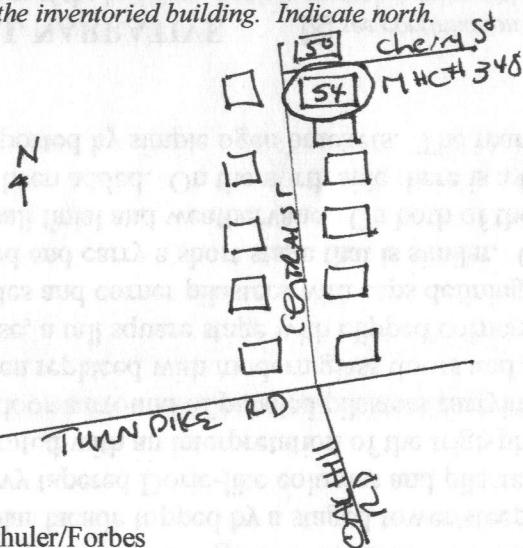
**Recorded by** Schuler/Forbes

**Organization** Southborough Historical Commission

**Date** (month / year) 5/00



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.



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**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 location near the center of Fayville is prominent and allows the Fayville Baptist Church to be viewed from several vantage points. Although now covered with vinyl siding the building retains its meetinghouse form with a wide full templar facade topped by a staged tower/steeple. The entrance portico is slightly projecting and is carried by heavy tapered Doric-like columns and pilasters set on the granite deck of the entrance porch. The frieze is elaborated with an interpretation of the triglyph design and wraps to the sides of the entrance porch. The entrance door surround of paneled pilasters carrying a deep frieze has been retained, however the double doors have been replaced with modern glass doors and a solid light transom set in metal. The tower has a wide low square base, a tall square stage with clipped corners making it polygonal in which there are louvered vents on the four sides and corner pilasters with caps defining the clipped corners. The frieze and cornice of this stage are pronounced and carry a short stage that is similar. On top is a tall pyramid shingled shape also with clipped corners with ball finial and weathervane. On both of the side elevations, the north and south, two gable roof wall dormers have been added. On the north side there is a basement level entrance with a projecting pedimented doorhood supported by simple ogee brackets. The rear ell is two stories and has been modernized with windows and doors.

**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.*

The Baptist Church was constructed between 1919 and 1920 to replace the 1845 Meetinghouse that had been located on Turnpike Road and had burned in 1914. The plans were completed in 1915 according to records in the State Archives with Charles Baker as the architect. The history of the Baptists in Southborough harks back to 1823 when the First Baptist Society of Southborough was established. Prior to that some Southborough Baptists had traveled to Westborough to worship from 1814 when that congregation had been formed. They first assembled in a schoolhouse in the southern part of town until the School Committee decided that they could not use any of the schoolhouses to congregate, thus, the newly formed society with members from many prominent local families met in the home of Emerson Onthank under the leadership of the Rev. Jonathan E. Forbush until constructing a small brick meetinghouse on the south side of the Boston & Worcester Turnpike in 1828. Both the brick meetinghouse and Onthank's house have since been demolished. A major theme of the early Baptist Society was the spirituality of temperance and in the 1840s along with the **Pilgrim Church on Common Street (MHC #31)** sponsored the Young Men's Temperance Society and the Total Abstinence Society for Young Ladies.

In spite of the attachment to "Little Brick" as many called the Baptist meetinghouse, the need for a new church was met in 1845 by the construction of a new Baptist Church on the north side of the Turnpike on land donated by Colonel Dexter Fay owner of the Fay Store at the Fayville crossroads. The new pastor was the Rev. Mason Ball. The building displayed the well elaborated Greek Revival templar facade with monumental Doric columns and pilasters carrying the full templar pediment with wide entablature elaborated with triglyphs. The building rested on a high granite block foundation and had a three stage square tower with pointed hipped roof and molded cornice similar to that above the entablature of the building. Services were held here continuously except in 1866 during which there was no pastor. In 1888 changes were made to the "audience room of the meeting house" and a baptistry was installed so that no longer did baptisms have to take place at a nearby stream.



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address  
54 CENTRAL STREET  
Area(s) Form No.

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

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## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

However, in 1915 the Greek Revival meetinghouse burned in a fire that began in Eugene and Mabel Bigelow's barn and spread to the Church as well as to at least two residences and some outbuildings.

The plans for this new Baptist church were drawn up in 1915, however the construction and dedication did not occur until 1919-20. Probably the reason for the delay in rebuilding was World War I. This third Baptist Church was constructed on land given by Harry Jones who ran the Jones & Brewer Market in the old Woodbury Tavern at 75 Turnpike Road. It is reported that a barn was moved from the Wright property on the opposite corner from the Jones and Brewer Market and incorporated into the new church. Old photographs show several buildings behind the **Wright Store and Post Office** which were next to Francis Wright's residence at 77 Turnpike Road. This building was designed by Charles Baker who also designed an addition to the **Community House** at 28 Main Street in 1921, the **Fire Station** at 5 Main Street in 1927 and the **Peters High School Annex**, which was built as a Grade School at 19 Main Street in 1929-30. Services continued until 1963 although the congregation had dwindled and from 1938 only student preachers would come to lead the congregation in worship. In 1971 the building was converted to offices and retains that use today. Several change to the building were made to accommodate the new use. See **Chapel of the Cross** at 7 Cordaville Road for further history on the Baptist Society in Southborough.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Cotton, Mr. E.S. "History of Baptist Church" 1890, Southborough Historical Society File  
Massachusetts Archives: Public Safety Inspection File.  
Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.  
Old Southborough. Photo Essay  
Southborough Historical Society. File with newspaper articles.

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

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

Community    Property Address  
SOUTHBOROUGH    54 CENTRAL STREET

Area(s)    Form No.

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## 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 Schuler/Forbes, Consultants  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Fayville Baptist Church, designed in 1915 and built after World War I in 1919-20 in the village of Fayville, is eligible for listing on the National Register as part of a potential Fayville Historic District only. Although the building has been remodeled to be used as offices, losing the interior public space, and covered with vinyl siding, its general form and position in the village are important reminders of the prominence of religion in most nineteenth century villages, agricultural or industrial. The building is reflective of the history of the Baptist Society in Southborough. The district retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling and this property would contribute to the integrity of location, design, setting, association and feeling.

## BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT—DISTRICT POLICE

## PLAN RECORD

CASE D RACK 2 APART. 7 NO. 7801  
BUILDING Baptist Church STORIES 1B  
CITY OR TOWN Southboro STREET -Fayville-  
TO BE USED FOR Religious Purposes CLASS Church  
OWNER Baptist Society Wood  
ARCHITECT Chas. M. Baker

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL—~~SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS~~—REFERRED

DATE Nov. 9, 1915  
INSPECTOR Beyer