

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.268
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Appleton, Samuel II - Bigelow, Rev. Andrew House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	55 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Southborough
<b>Local No:</b>	13; 53-8
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1865
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Second Empire
<b>Use(s):</b>	Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Recreation
<b>Area(s):</b>	SBR.A: Main Street Area
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood; Metal, Undetermined Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



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

53-8

Marlborough

A

268



Southborough  
(neighborhood or village)  
Southborough center  
55 Main Street  
Appleton/Bigelow House  
Present dwelling  
Original dwelling  
of Construction ca. 1865  
visual assessment; assessor's records  
Form Second Empire  
Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite and fieldstone  
Wall/Trim wood clapboard  
Roof slate  
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures late-20th C. garage/cottage. Ca. 1930s brick and stone barbecue

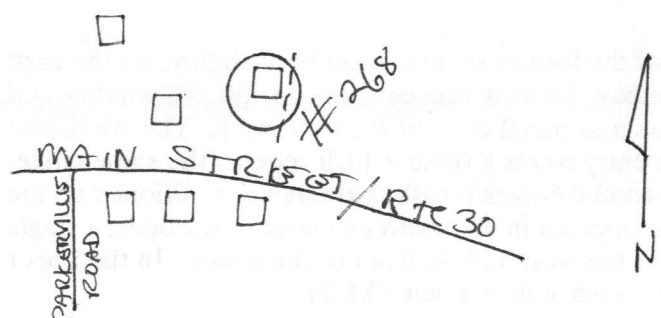
Major Alterations (with dates) 1-story hip-roofed 2-car garage attached at rear--late-20th C.

Condition excellent  
Moved [x]no [ ] yes Date N/A  
Acreage 5.5 acres

Setting Back from road, at end of long, curved, spruce-lined drive. Fieldstone retaining wall at grass terrace W. side of house, early swimming pool in W. yard. Sunken, stone-walled garden N. of house.

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

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date JUL 03 2000 April, 2000

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ ] *see continuation sheet*

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

Along with the great stone mansion renovated by Joseph Burnett across the street at 84 Main Street (Form #21), this handsome two-story clapboarded house is Southborough's best remaining illustration of the Second Empire style. Like many of its type, it is cruciform in plan, with a long rear wing which appears to have been lengthened by a crosswise addition, probably sometime in this century. A square three-story mansard-roofed tower occupies the southeast angle of the cross at the front of the house; another, slightly lower tower, is positioned at the northwest corner of a cross-wise addition at the rear of the original rear wing. Behind the addition is an attached hip-roofed two-car garage with a pair of overhead doors facing east, which appears to have been added in recent years.

The main entry is in the east wall of the front section of the house, behind the tower, where a pair of large double-leaf varnished, three-panel doors are recessed under a pilastered, paneled surround. A flared metal hood extends outward to shelter the entry. The south facade of the house displays the tower at the east, with a 6-over-6-sash window and a narrow three-pane stair window in its first story, and in the main, center section of the house, a wide rectangular bay window with a paired 6/6 on the front, and a single 6/6 on each side. The west elevation of the front of the house, stepped back by one bay, has a single 6/6 window at the front, and two French doors opening onto a later or terrace on the west wall. A pair of narrow pilasters at the outer ends of this wall suggest that it formerly had a porch, rather than a terrace.

All the first-story windows of this part of the house have paneled aprons below them, and molded, eared surrounds. Each lower slope of the complex roof has a single 6-over-6-sash dormer, topped with either a triangular or segmental-arched pediment. The second-story windows of the south and east face of the tower are also pedimented 6-over-6-sash. Above each of them in the roof slope is a narrow, triangular-pedimented 4-over-4-sash dormer window. The architectural trim of the front section of the house is typically Second Empire in its heavy, sculptural quality. Below the roof line is a wide, molded frieze and bracketed cornice. A water table rings the bottom edge of the wall, and a wide beaded molding, rather than a cornerboard, trims the house corners. The frieze between the stories of the tower is embellished with recessed panels with a wide, raised circle in the center. Three heavy interior brick chimneys rise from the center of the main roof--one at the center, and two toward the rear.

Extending directly to the rear is a mansard-roofed wing, which appears to be shown on the footprint of the house on the map of 1898. It is somewhat lower in height than the front section of the house, and has three bays of 6/6 windows at the first story on the east side, with three 6/6, flat-roofed dormers aligned above them. The west side also has three dormers, but the fenestration of the first story consists of a paired French door and a paired 6-over-6-sash window. The trim detailing of this section is somewhat simpler than that of the front of the house, with a molded, unbracketed, boxed cornice, and a water table. A wide, high chimney rises from the rear part of the roof of this wing. A modern terrace with a square-dowel wood balustrade, like that at the main section, extends north across this section from the French doors.

The third, later, cross-wise wing which abuts the rear of the former section is set back slightly on the east, and projects beyond the other wing on the west by one bay. Its east side contains a triple 6/6 window and a deeply-recessed entry with a modern multi-light glass-and-panel door at the first story. The southwest outer corner is supported on a square post; above the entry bay is a frieze which repeats the same circle-and-panel motif as the frieze on the tower. Three flat-roofed 6-over-6-sash dormers are positioned on the east roof slope. On the west elevation, a single dormer appears in the south and west roof slopes; a single 6/6 is located in the south wall, and a large, triple 6/6 in the west wall, in front of the tower. In the upper section of the west wall of the tower is one long, triple-sash stair window (3/9/3).

[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

Community

Property

Southborough

55 Main Street

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

Area(s)

Form No.

A

268

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 the exact construction date of this house is uncertain, its form and style suggest that it was built in the late 1860s. It may be one of the earlier houses built in Southborough as a summer- and country residence for a wealthy city dweller. A house appears here on the map of 1870 under the name "**S. Appleton.**" It is not known whether this was the Samuel Appleton, II, second-generation manufacturer in Lowell, who was affiliated with the Appleton Manufacturing Company, makers of cotton textiles, particularly underwear and stockings. The old Fay farm at Chestnut Hill Road was owned by Samuel Appleton from 1865 to 1867, and the "Hon. Samuel Appleton" gave the address at the dedication of the Soldiers Monument on the town common on New Years Day, 1867, during or just after his term as State Representative from Southborough.

By 1874, 55 Main Street was owned by the **Rev. Dr. Andrew Bigelow**, who arrived that spring to take up a one-year appointment as pastor of the Pilgrim Church. The sixth-highest tax-payer in town, he was independently wealthy, and could well afford to purchase such a stylish property. At the end of the year, he returned his 1,000-dollar salary to the church, to be used to establish an endowment for the building of a parsonage.

Dr. Bigelow remained in Southborough after he left the church, serving his town in several capacities, including as a member of the Southborough School Committee from at least 1875 to 1879. He died in 1882 at the age of seventy-two.

His widow, **Nancy F. Bigelow**, still the fifth-wealthiest citizen in town in the late 1890s, inherited the house, and remained here for many years into the twentieth century. She is well remembered in the Pilgrim Church for the record she set of teaching Sunday School for forty years.

Further research will be necessary to determine who owned the house in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1947, the property was purchased by well-known Boston furrier **George Kakas**.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1870 (S. Appleton); 1898 (Mrs. N.F. Bigelow).

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.

Town of Southborough: Annual Reports and Tax Valuations, various dates.  
 Southborough street directories--1904, 1913.



Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community  
Southborough

Property Address  
55 Main Street

Area(s)  
A

Form No(s).  
268

## 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 Appleton/Bigelow House is eligible for the National Register at the local level under Criterion A for its associations with the prominent Samuel Appleton, and as the residence of one of the more significant pastors of the local Congregational church, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Bigelow. It is also significant as an illustration of the late-nineteenth-century development of land just west of the meetinghouse and common area of Main Street, when a few small farms were still being carved out of the larger established properties. The property meets Criterion C as one of Southborough's best preserved and most stylish examples of the Second Empire style.

For the above reasons, it is also eligible as a contributing property in a district encompassing the historic residential and institutional meetinghouse center of the town.

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



PHD 13 #13

	A	268
Southborough, Mass.		Pl. SOUTH
Street address 55 Main Street		USGS MAP
original & present Dwelling		
Present owner George J. Dorothy L. Kakas		
Open to public no		
Previous style		Victorian Mansard
Source of date		Atlas
Architect		

Architectural reason for inventorying: \_\_\_\_\_

OR part of Area # \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material GRANITE

WALL COVER: Wood ~~CLAPBOARD~~ 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 Garage

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 250'  
Property has 320' feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR. 268

- 1. Outbuildings CONVERTED BARN
- 2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal  
 Predominant features SWIMMING POOL  
 Landscape architect \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Neighboring Structures  
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.  
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern Victorian  
 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 - H. J. Bigelow

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds