

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.71
Historic Name:	Chamberlain, John III House
Common Name:	Smith, Addison - Uhlman, Parker House
Address:	56 Flagg Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	33-33
Year Constructed:	c 1850
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dairy; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
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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Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, MA 02125

33-33

Marlborough

71



Southborough

(neighborhood or village)

56 Flagg Road

John Chamberlain, III House

dwelling

dwelling

early 1850s

visual assessment

Greek Revival vernacular

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite and brick

Wall/Trim vinyl siding

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

attached barn 19th-C. barn, with 1890 carriage house (see text)

Major Alterations (with dates) modern

door, w. side of ell. Pair of modern panel-and-

glass overhead garage doors in barn. Deck, E. side. Carriagehouse extension to barn--1890.

Condition good

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

Acreage 8.72 acres

Setting In area of 20th-C. houses. Low wetland

to rear Decorative metal fence across front;

fieldstone retaining wall along NW. side yard.

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 Comm.

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.

This is one of Southborough's best rural examples of a mid-nineteenth-century 1 1/2-story, gable-front, sidehall-entry cottage, and one of the few that could be classified as an "extended" farmhouse. The main house is two- by two bays, and has both a 1 1/2-story, cross-gabled west side wing and a 1-story rear ell. The ell may be the latest part of the house, added as a connection to the large gable-front New England barn that stands to the rear. The front wall of the barn is built into the hillside, creating a full basement story. The long cross-gabled west extension of the barn is apparently the carriagehouse that was added by Addison Smith in 1890.

The main facade entry of the house is recessed in the typical Greek Revival manner, and has a four-panel door with applied moldings, and five-pane full-length sidelights. The surround of the wide opening is trimmed with plain, flat pilasters, a frieze with molded architrave, and a projecting, molded cornice. The house trim, also typical of a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival, includes triple-board cornerboards and a very wide frieze. The eaves are unboxed.

A rectangular bay window on the west side of the house connects to a hip-roofed facade porch on the wing. The porch incorporates a corner vestibule with a glass-and-panel door with two roundheaded lights. Its outer section is supported on openwork posts, with sawcut brackets, and has a balustrade of square dowels. A third entry, in the three-bay west side of the rear ell, has a modern door. Most of the windows in the house are 2-over-1-sash (possibly replacements for 6/6's), in molded surrounds, with modern synthetic louvered shutters. A wide, second rectangular bay window, with 1-over-1-sash, projects from the two-bay west end of the wing.

The attached barn is clapboarded, and has a large diagonal-board, interior sliding door centered in the main facade, and a small 6-over-6-sash window above it in the gable peak. A vertical-board walk-in door is positioned just east of the main wagon door, and another at the east end of the cross-gabled, carriage-house wing. Most of the carriage house facade is now filled with two overhead panel- and-glass garage doors. Projecting from the east side of the barn itself is a low hip-roofed ell, possibly a milk room added in the early part of the twentieth century.

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.

Along with its neighbor at 361 Turnpike Road (#72, the Willard Chamberlain House), this house, its prominent attached outbuilding, and the remaining 8.7 acres around it, remain as significant reminders of what were once several rural properties in the southwest part of Southborough belonging to the large Chamberlain family. Judging by its appearance, the house was apparently built for **John Chamberlain, III** in about 1850-1855. He was the brother of both Willard and Ephraim Chamberlain, whose houses both faced the Boston & Worcester Turnpike. All three apparently occupied land divided out from the large acreage belonging to their father, John Chamberlain, Jr. John Chamberlain, III (1817-1872) married Mehitable Morse of Needham in 1843. While he is not listed as owning a farm in 1850, by 1870 he possessed fifteen acres here, with the house and barn, and another house with an eight-acre farm nearby. He had a herd of about eight cows at that time.

☐ 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

56 Flagg Road

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

Area(s)

Form No.
71

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

John Chamberlain died at the age of 54, and the property was subsequently owned by farmer **Addison Smith**. He raised both cows and chickens, and added the carriage house to the large barn. He died in 1903 at the age of 75. The property was then owned by his son, **Irving Smith**, who farmed the land for the next several years. The elder Mrs. Smith continued to live here, as well.

In 1912, the property was acquired by **Parker Uhlman**. For much of the mid- and later twentieth century, this was part of the fifteen-acre dairy farm of **John and Ellen Laptewicz.**, who kept it operating with a small herd of cows all through the years of the Great Depression.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1857 (J. Chamberlain); 1870 (J. Chamberlain); 1898 (Addison Smith); 1937 WPA maps.

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

The Marlborough Enterprise. 1/26/1890.

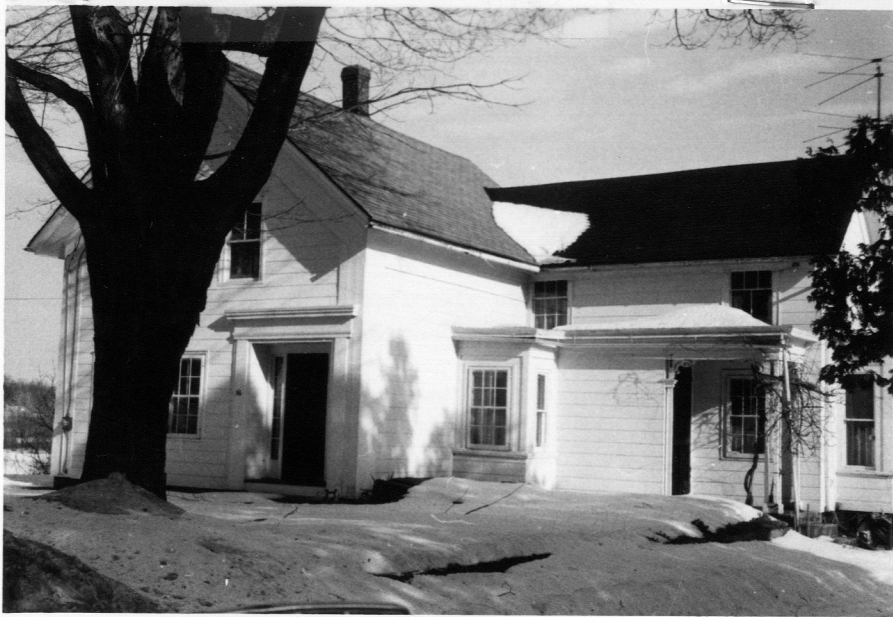
Simpson, H. Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. Unpublished manuscript, 1904.

Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Assessor's Reports, various dates.

Westborough, Northborough, and Southborough Directory. 1905.

Interview with owner, 1/2000.





A-8 71

✓ 562 map

Southborough

Address 56 Flagg Rd

Original & present dwelling

Owner Jos. Laptewicz

Public

Style Gk Rev

Literature _____ Indians _____

Music _____ Other _____

Development of town/city _____

Architectural reason for inventorying: _____

Pre 1870 _____

Source of date _____

Architect _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Stone

WALL COVER: Wood _____ 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: _____

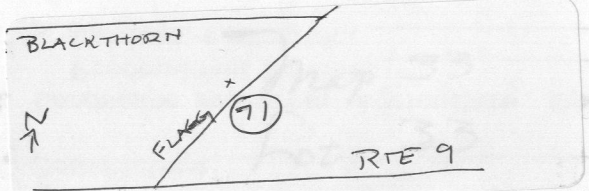
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____

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 _____

Property has _____ feet frontage on street



Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # 2-35 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE.

SBR. 71

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

1870 J. Chamberlain

1898 Addison Smith

also

Carber

Parker Uhlmann

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number 2441 Page 423, Worcester Co. Registry of Deeds