

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.251
Historic Name:	Fay, Robert House
Common Name:	Leahy, John - Uhlman, Douglas House
Address:	7 Central St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Fayville
Local No:	46-07
Year Constructed:	c 1765
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dairy; Horse Or Cattle Farm; Orchard; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	SBR.D: Fayville
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood; Wood Shingle 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

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FORM B – BUILDING

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

46-07 Marlboro D 251 251

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village) Fayville

Address 7 Central Street

Historic Name Robert Fay Sr. House

Uses: Present residential- single family

Original residential

Date of Construction late eighteenth century

Source deed research by previous owner

Style/Form vernacular/side gable / center chimney

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim wood clapboards/some shingles

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures large gable roof late 19th c. barn (MHC #751), mid 20th c. garages

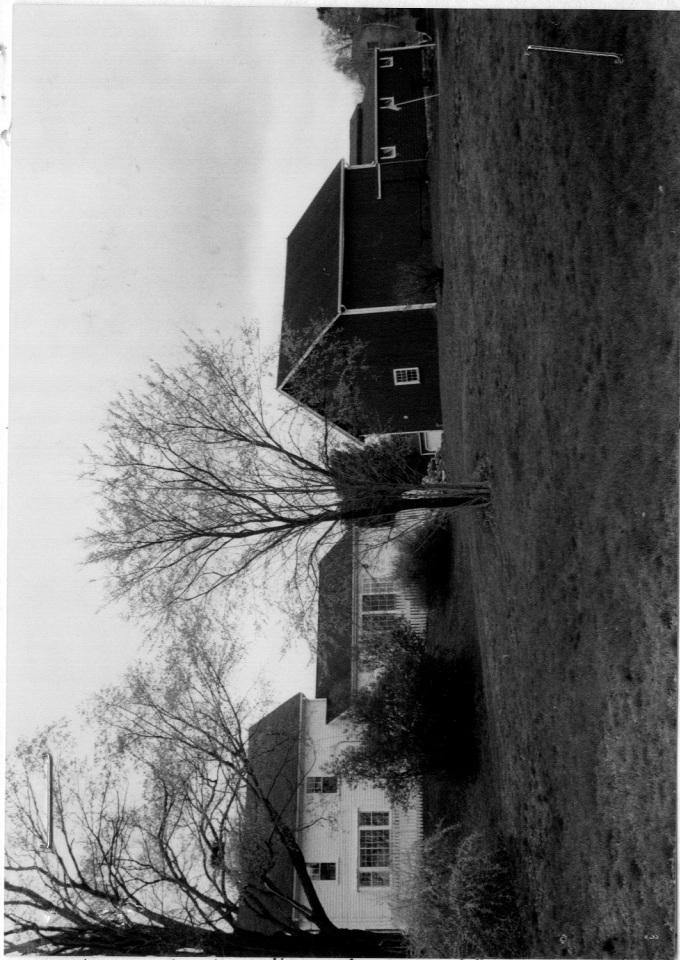
Major Alterations (with dates) orientation. Entrance porch, windows and window caps, gable peak shingles.

Condition good

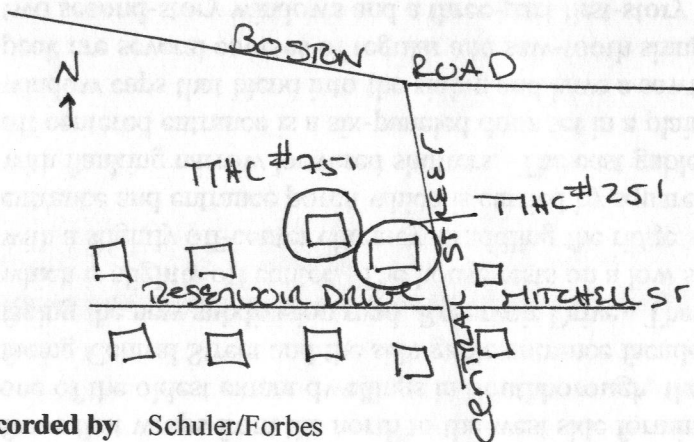
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage one acre

Setting At the edge of the Reservoir near Boston Street, on the corner of Central St. and Reservoir Rd. set back from road, open lot with barn and garages behind, meadow between house and Boston Street. Among modern mid and late 20th c. residential development.



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.



Recorded by Schuler/Forbes

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 5/00

JUL 03 2000

MASS. H

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

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

This simple farmstead and its picturesque setting is prominently displayed on the west side of Central Street and visible from Boston Street when traveling east. The house is set back from both streets and has a low picket fence that wraps from the north to the west side forming a small yard around part of the house. Purported to be one of the oldest extant dwellings in Southborough, the two and one-half story house is situated with a gable end facing Central Street and the side gable entrance facade with projecting open Colonial Revival entrance porch facing the new subdivision road, Reservoir Drive. There is an entrance in each of these two elevations, each of which is slightly off center. The house rests on a low stone foundation, has clapboard siding, and an asphalt roof with a slightly off-center chimney straddling the ridge. The south elevation is three bays with the off center entrance and entrance porch which is carried by square posts on stone bases. Windows have six-over-six sash with flanking narrow louvered shutters. The east gable end is two bays with one window in the gable peak. The off centered entrance is a six-paneled door set in a plain frame. Second-story windows have slightly projecting window caps that blend into the siding and have a sawtooth shingled edge at the window frame. In the gable peak are several courses of regular and saw-tooth shingles above the top gable peak window. The north side has two second-story windows and a three-part first-story window with fifteen-by-fifteen at the center flanked by six-over-nine sash. This large window has the same shingled window cap found on the east side. Trim includes narrow corner posts and a wide water table. There is a one-story ell extending from the west gable end which has an enclosed projecting entrance with a single small six-over-six window on each side of this entrance. On the rear or north side of the ell there are multi-light sliding glass doors. The large side gabled roof barn (MHC #751) has vertical board siding and a shingled attached shed set on a raised stone foundation. It probably dates to the mid to late nineteenth century when the farmer owners had cows.

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.

Fayville was established as a village from the early 1800s when the Boston & Worcester Turnpike was continued from Newton through to Worcester and the Southborough toll gate was moved from the Framingham line west to a location just east of the Turnpike's intersection with the county road that led north to Southborough Center - now known as Central Street. The presence of the Turnpike and the nearby toll gate led to Fayville becoming a center of activity with the **Woodbury Tavern** at 75 Turnpike Road, a number of residences clustered near this intersection and the **Fay Store** which was adjacent the **Dexter Fay House** at 77 Turnpike Road. Prior to this nineteenth century development scattered farms dotted the northeast part of Southborough.

Former survey information, interpretation of deed research and oral tradition attribute this property to David Fay, built in 1699, at the time of his marriage to Sarah Larkin. Additional research of property boundaries and physical investigation of the interior would be necessary to substantiate this early date as well as the attribution to David Fay (1679-1738), who also is associated with the Fay House at 117 Framingham Road. Thus information available to this surveyor attributes this property to David Fay's son, **Robert Fay Sr.** (1715-1808) or his son, Robert Fay Jr. (1764-1810) built in the mid- to late-eighteenth century. In the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Census Robert Fay Jr. had a dwelling house on his 98-acre farm. Robert Fay died intestate and the property was assigned to his son, **Grant Fay** (1787-18??), in 1813 just one year after Grant's marriage to Mary Littlefield of Framingham. Grant Fay inherited the whole of his father's, Robert Fay Jr., 59-acre estate with buildings thereon.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address
7 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)

Additional deed information shows a 1781 transfer of land and house from **Robert Fay, Sr.** to two of his sons, Asa and Robert Jr. In 1744 Robert Fay, Sr. purchased at least two pieces of property, one from Andrew Newton and one from his brother, Aaron Fay, the latter of which sounds like woodlot only. Further research is necessary to determine which is this property and whether there was a house on the property at that time. As stated above, also interior analysis of the existing house is necessary to ascertain a mid- to late- eighteenth century date.

In 1781 Robert Fay, Sr. sold his land and house to his two sons, Robert Jr. and Aaron. Interior descriptions report that the base of the center chimney fills nearly the whole cellar with only approximately six feet between the chimney base and the house's stone foundation walls which would be evidence for an earlier date.

Nineteenth century history of this property is more certain. Deeds substantiate that **Grant Fay** (1787- 18??) was the owner for most of the first half of the nineteenth century. He was the son of Robert Jr. and Submit Fay and brother to Artemas and Elijah Fay, thus cousin to Dexter and Francis Fay of the Fay Store next to **77 Turnpike Road** and Sullivan Fay. Grant Fay had served in the War of 1812. The 1856 map which may be wrong refers to this property belonging to H. Belknap which may refer to **Hiram Belknap** who had been in charge of raising money for the Baptist Meeting house in 1844. Belknap may have lived at this property while it was owned by Fay. Grant Fay's brother, Elijah, was married to a Belknap. Perhaps there is a relationship between these two. In 1850 Grant Fay had 111 acres of land with a farm worth \$5000 which is consistent with the 1860 Assessors Report accounting for \$5150 worth of real estate. Grant Fay, like so many other Southborough farmers, is reported to have had nearly 20 head of cattle and raised Irish potatoes, Indian corn, and oats, and small amounts of hay and orchard products which probably referred to apples. In 1869 the property was sold to **John Lahee** (also spelled Lahey and Leahy) who was assessed in 1870 for a modest house and barn on his 38-acre farm. **Leahy** owned the property through the nineteenth century and added a hog house in the 1880s. In 1894 the City of Boston took 27 acres 8rods from him for the reservoir leaving him with a 10-acre 152-rod farm. John Leahy died in 1896 leaving the property to his heirs who sold it in 1903 to **Florence Uhlman**, whose husband **Douglas Uhlman** was a farmer (age 38 in 1909). The property was a small dairy farm at that time. The Uhlmans were here until the 1950s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Atlas/Maps: 1831, 1856 (H. Belknap), 1857 (G.Fay), 1870 (J. Lahee), 1898.

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.

Old Southborough. Photo Essay

Southborough Historical Society. Fayville File, David Fay House File - notes on deed research.

☒ 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 7 CENTRAL STREET

Area(s) Form No.

D	251
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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 Robert Fay Sr. House, located at the edge of the village of Fayville, is eligible for listing on the National Register as part of a potential Fayville Historic District and may be eligible for individual listing as well. The dwelling may be one of the oldest Southborough residents and even with a later construction date of late eighteenth century is the oldest extant dwelling in Fayville. The property's association with a prominent local family descendants of an early settler is important as is the agricultural history of the property as well as the remaining setting. Interior investigation would be an important part of National Register consideration. The district retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling and this property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, association and feeling.

Pl. Fay
✓

251



_____ D _____

wn _____ Southborough

reet address _____ 7 Central St

ame _____

se: original & present dwelling

Present owner _____ Jane Jarner

Open to public _____

Date 1765 Style _____

Source of date _____ Worce. Co. Reg. of Deeds

MUSIC _____ Other _____

Development of town/city _____

Architectural reason for inventorying: date Pre 1870

Architect _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Fieldstone

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 5 fireplaces

STORIES: 1 2 1/2 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed _____

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 _____ PORTICO _____ Balcony _____

FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament _____

Entrance: Side Front: Center Side Details: Small Porch

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 6/6

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 _____

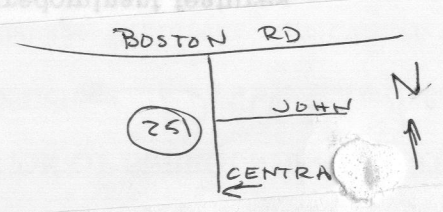
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # 7-3 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR.251

1. Outbuildings Barn-Shed
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)

owner has researched house - a Fay house,
 built by an ancestor of Mr. Jarnes - a fact
 not known when he purchased the house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1810 - J. Lakes
 also
 Jerry Leahy
 Ulmann

RESTRICTIONS

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