

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.237
Historic Name:	Woodbury's Tavern
Common Name:	Jones and Brewer Meat Market
Address:	75 Turnpike Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Fayville
Local No:	38-64
Year Constructed:	c 1808
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Hotel or Inn; Market or Grocery Store; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Transportation
Area(s):	SBR.D: Fayville
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Asphalt Shingle; Wood Foundation: Brick; Granite; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

Saturday, July 09, 2016 at 5:23: PM

Massachusetts Historical Commission

38-64

Marlborough

D

237

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

FayvilleAddress 75 Turnpike RoadHistoric Name Woodbury's TavernUses: Present dwellingOriginal tavern, dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1808Source NobleStyle/Form Federal vernacularArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite-block and brickWall/Trim asphalt sidingRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

none

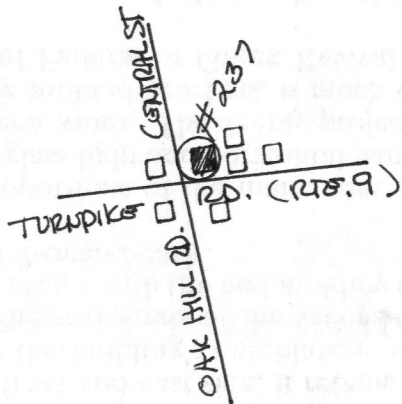
Major Alterations (with dates) _____

northeast ell removed--after 1953Condition goodMoved [x]no [] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acre

Setting At east corner of Central St. on busy Rte. 9. One of several residential properties remaining in the area. Cut-granite retaining wall at NW rear corner of house, concrete steps at front, near sidewalk.

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 Anne Forbes, consultantOrganization Southborough Historical Comm.Date June, 1999

JUL 08 1999

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

MASS. HIST. COMM

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 house is one of several large 2 1/2-story five-bay, two-room-deep, side-gabled buildings that were built on the north side of the Boston & Worcester Turnpike shortly after it was opened through Southborough in 1808-1809. As recently as 1971 the house had all eight of its interior fireplaces, although only the large westernmost ridge chimney remains from what would have been a pair. Although the building is clad in twentieth-century asphalt siding and has modern doors on the front and east side, it retains much of its original character. Significant historical features include the building's entablature, with molded, boxed cornice; frieze, and returns on the gable ends. The surrounds of the second-story facade windows extend up into the frieze, where their crowns merge with the bed molding of the cornice. The windows themselves are later-nineteenth-century 2-over-2-sash.

The proportions of the main, center entry, which now has an early-twentieth-century door with a large glass light and horizontal panels in a molded surround, indicate that the doorway may once have been wider. The deeply-projecting late-Victorian door hood, supported at the outer corners on large molded brackets, is much wider than the present entry--wide enough to have sheltered a pair of Federal or Greek Revival sidelights that may once have flanked the earlier door.

Historic maps and photos show that the building had both a barn to the rear and an attached northeast ell. While the main part of the building survived the 1953 tornado that destroyed the longtime post-office wing of the old Fay/Wright store across Central Street, the loss of the Tavern ell or outbuildings may date to that storm.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [x] *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.

Perhaps more than any other building in Southborough, **Woodbury's Tavern** stands as a reminder of the Turnpike era, the three decades of the early nineteenth century before the railroads came, when wagon and coach traffic passed steadily through town along the Boston & Worcester Turnpike, known today as Massachusetts Route 9 and locally as Turnpike Road. Privately-owned toll roads, which were chartered to corporations by the state legislature, proliferated throughout Massachusetts during the Federal period. While they were meant to be profit-making operations, most ended up losing money. Rooted in the philosophy that a straight line between two points is the most efficient route, they incurred enormous road-building expenses when the road had to traverse hills and other inhospitable territory. Moreover, travelers often avoided them, not just because of the toll fees, but because of the difficult terrain and the fact that they usually did not pass through the centers of towns. (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: 1831: Woodbury; 1857: D. Flagg; 1870: Jones & Brewer; 1898: HH Jones. Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.
Town of Southborough: Assessor's Reports, various dates.
Wood, Frederic. The Turnpikes of New England. Boston: Marshall Jones Co., 1919.
Worcester County Directories and Registers. Various dates and publishers.

[] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed-National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*

Southborough Woodbury's Tavern

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

Area(s)
D

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

The stretch of the Worcester Turnpike through Southborough illustrates all these factors. The first Southborough tollgate, situated close to the border of Framingham, was relocated further west in 1809 shortly after the road opened, in an attempt to deter "shunpikers" (people taking an alternate route around it). The straight line of the Turnpike is still a striking feature on maps of the town, while the ups and downs of its hills are well-known to any modern-day traveler.

Most important to the development of Southborough is the fact that the Turnpike did not pass through the town center, but cut east to west through the rural south part of town. Not only did it benefit the nearby farmers by easing the transportation of farm goods to the markets of Boston or Worcester, it also quickly led to the establishment of a small village around the intersection of the Turnpike and the main road southeast from Southborough center--today's Central Street/Oak Hill Road. This little hamlet, which had a cluster of over a dozen buildings by 1830, was the beginning of the village of Fayville. Col. Dexter Fay opened a store there which was soon catering to travelers, and with his brother, Artemas, operated a home-production network of straw-bonnet making that was also based in a building at the crossroads.

On the opposite corner of Central Street from the Fay store, Samuel Woodbury established an inn and tavern in this building. While its exact construction date is uncertain, it is believed to date to the first years of the Turnpike, about 1808-1809. Woodbury's Tavern quickly became popular with both wagon-drivers and stagecoach passengers. The bar room, with its dark-stained bar and mulberry and black color scheme, was well-known along the forty-mile Boston to Worcester route, and had some illustrious visitors over the years. In 1817, a troop of West Point cadets on a march to Boston stopped here, where they were welcomed by a crowd of townspeople and entertained by Southborough's young musical prodigy, Edward Chamberlain, who played tunes on a cadet's fife, which the owner presented to him as a gift.

In June of 1825, Samuel Woodbury hosted a mid-day dinner for the tavern's most prominent guest, the Marquis de Lafayette. The famous Revolutionary War hero was on his way to Boston toward the end of a triumphant sixteen-month tour of the United States. Great crowds of local people again turned out, and Southborough's seven surviving Revolutionary veterans, ranging in age from sixty-five to ninety-two, were given a special audience with the old General. He also met with the widows of deceased Revolutionary soldiers. Again, music was provided by Edward Chamberlain, playing on a fife that may have been the one he received at the tavern in 1817. It was one of his last performances, as he died the next year.

With the coming of the railroad to the area in the mid-1830s, coupled with the influence of the temperance movement, both the tavern business and traffic along the Turnpike went into a steep decline. The Boston & Worcester Turnpike Corporation was dissolved by the legislature in March of 1841, and by 1843 use of the entire length of the road became free of charge. While it fell into a state of disrepair for the rest of the nineteenth century, the road took on a new role in 1903 when passenger trolley service to Worcester began along it. Nearly thirty years later it was rebuilt by the Commonwealth to become part of the state highway system, as Massachusetts Route 9. (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough Woodbury's Tavern

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

Area(s)
D

Form No.
237

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

In later years the old tavern took on different functions under several owners and proprietors. Its owner in the mid-1850s was **D. Flagg**, who may have used it as both a residence and store. By 1870 the **Jones & Brewer** meat and provisions market was located here, owned by two Fayville neighbors, Alfred Jones and David H. Brewer, and the property included two buildings just south of the tavern, on the sites of #s 71 and 73 Turnpike Road. By 1880, under A.H. Jones & Son, the store operations included both a fish and meat market, and a grocery store. By 1896 the owner was Alfred Jones' son, **Harry H. Jones**, who continued to operate the market into the twentieth century..

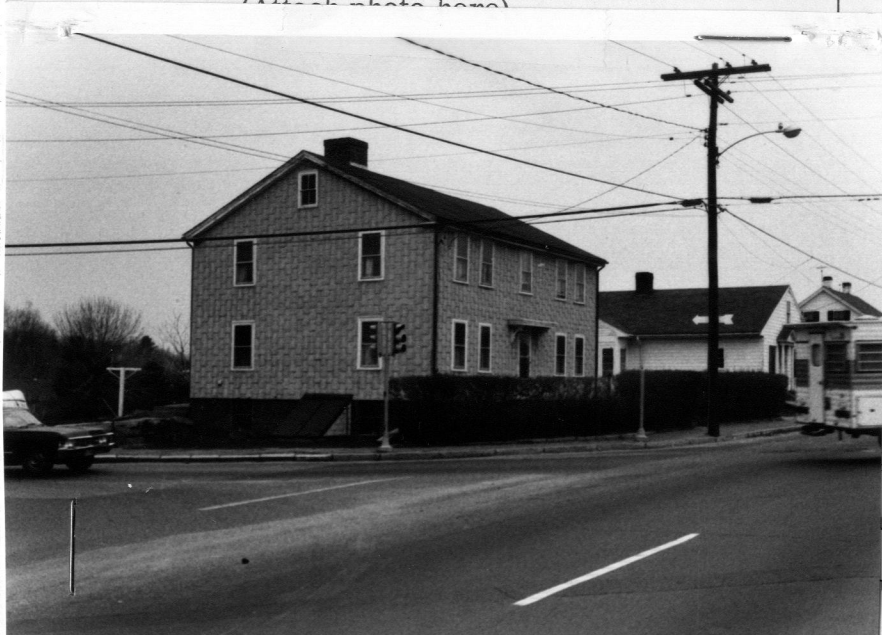


Pl. FAY
65-1-100

237

D

in Southborough
street address 75 Turnpike Rd.
ne _____
e: original & present dwelling tavern market
esent owner Noborini
open to public _____
te _____ Style _____
ource of date _____
chitect _____



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 Brick - partial basement

WALL COVER: Wood _____ Brick Stone Other Asbestos Siding

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

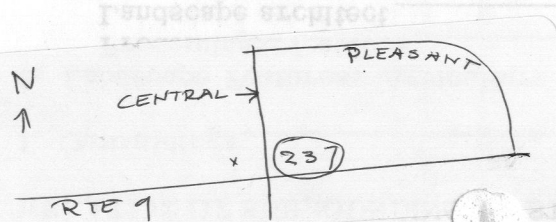
6. Footage of structure from street _____
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # 7-16 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

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)

Age of house on a book in Library
 Was a tavern + pony express changing place
 Lafayette Slept here
 8 Fireplaces, one in each room. None work
 Withstood the tornado

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - Jones & Brewer Mead Mt
 1898 " H. H. Jones

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____

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