Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.Q
Historic Name:	Bemis - LaurEdo Farm
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Agricultural; Residential District
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

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 11:35 PM

FORM A - AREA

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's Sheets	USGS Quad	Area Letter	Form Numbers in Area
34	Marlborough	Q	67, 406-408, 962

77 Deerfoot Rd.

Southborough

eighborhood or village) _____

f Area Bemis Farm; LaurEdo Farm

Use agricultural, residential

ction Dates or Period mid-19th-century

Condition fair to good

ntrusions and Alterations none

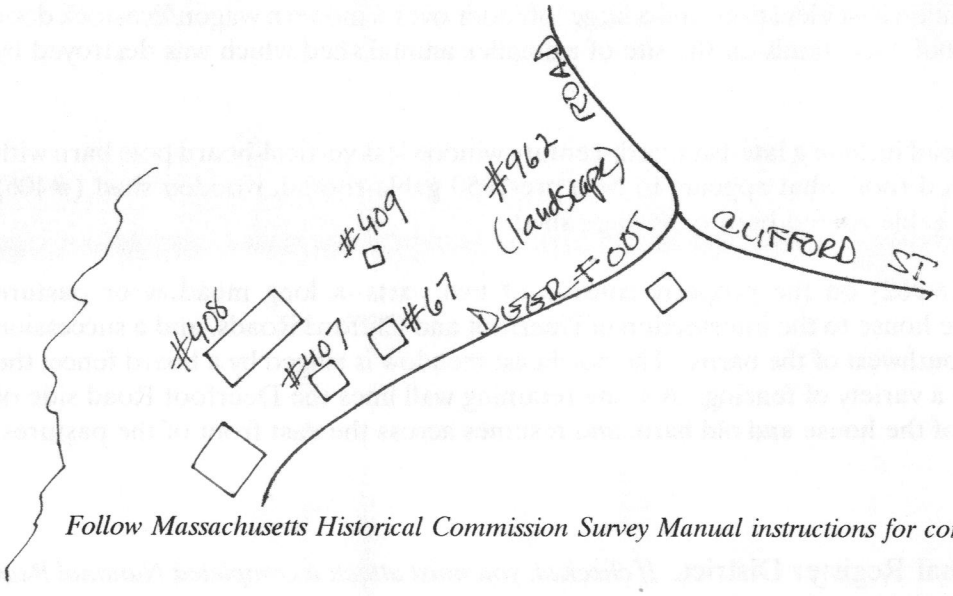
Sketch Map
Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.

Acreage 6.82 acres

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultants

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date *(month/day/year)* February, 2000



RECEIVED
JUL 0 3 2000
MASS. HIST. COMM

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form

SBR.Q

AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ ] *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

While it adjoins the late twentieth-century industrial park corridor along Turnpike Road (Route 9) to the south, and its area has been reduced over the years to just under seven acres, the old Bemis Farm is still a striking example of a typical nineteenth-century agricultural property, with its clustered farmstead situated close to a bend in the road at the brow of a hill, with open meadows and pastures extending to the rear and to either side. Its rural appearance is enhanced by over fifty acres of open land abutting the property to the west and south.

The **farmhouse** at 77 Deerfoot Road is a 2 1/2-story, three-by-two-bay, two-room-deep, side-gabled house with a pair of tall ridge chimneys. A one-story, side-gabled, three-bay ell abutting the south end of the main part of the building probably dates to the same ca. 1840 period of construction. A lower, hip-roofed former sunroom at the south end of the ell was added in the early twentieth century. A third narrow brick chimney rises from the sunroom roof up the south side of the ell. The building is clad in wide alumninum siding, stands on a parged foundation, and has an asphalt shingle roof.

The main, center entry has a paneled door and long modern leaded sidelights, and is enclosed in a wide, concrete-based mid-twentieth-century glassed vestibule with a shallow-hipped roof. An entry at the north end of the ell facade has a modern paneled door with lights across the top; another in the sunroom has a mid-twentieth-century louvered glass door. The windows in the house are a mixture of 6-over-6-sash on the main block and in the ell gable, and 2-over-2-sash, in two pairs, on the ell facade. The sun room also has 2-over-2-sash. While the cornerboards and architectural trim around the windows have been lost or covered by siding, the building retains its molded, boxed cornice, with frieze across the facade, and a slight overhang, with returns, at the gable ends.

Just south of the house is a gable-front **New England barn** (#407), dating to 1844. It is clad in wood clapboard, with an asphalt-shingle roof, and has three modern overhead garage doors on the facade. It retains an 8-over-12-sash window in the main gable, and 6-pane stanchion windows along the sides. A one-story cross-gabled shed, probably a milk shed, which was apparently in place by 1881, abuts the barn's southeast corner. The roof of the shed extends toward the road over a small leanto. Vertical-board entry doors are located in its northeast end, facing toward the house.

Located to the rear of this barn is a long gambrel-roofed shingled **cow barn** (#408), built in 1948, with two front wings, one extending east from each end of the main building. This barn displays a line of 6-pane stanchion windows along the main east elevation, and a large loft door over a modern wagon/livestock door in the north gable-end. The building stands on the site of a smaller animal shed which was destroyed by a hurricane.

Other buildings on the farmstead include a late-twentieth-century windowless vertical-board pole barn with a shallow-pitched, metal gabled roof, what appears to be a pre-1950 gable-roofed, wooden **shed** (#406) and a modern vertical-board gable-roofed barn or storage shed.

The agricultural **landscape** (#962) on the property consists of two parts--a long meadow or pasture descending northeast from the house to the intersection of Deerfoot and Clifford Roads, and a succession of rolling pastures west and southwest of the barns. The northeast meadow is ringed by a board fence; the west and south pastures have a variety of fencing. A stone retaining wall lines the Deerfoot Road side of the meadow, breaks in front of the house and old barn, and resumes across the east front of the pastures.

[ ] Recommended as a National Register District. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community	Property
Southborough	Bemis Farm

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)	Form Nos.
Q	67, 406-408, 962

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [ ] *see continuation sheet*
Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this area relates to the historical development of the community.

The early development of this farm, one of the principal acreages on the north side of the Boston & Worcester Turnpike in the nineteenth century, is somewhat uncertain. A house is shown at this location as early as 1831. According to Louise Simpson, the farmhouse was rebuilt later in the century. Thus the existing house may represent either a replacement or a reconstruction of that earlier building. The first owner of the farm was either **Jacob Bemis** (1791-1867), who was operating a 64-acre farm by 1850, or possibly his father, **Elisha**. Jacob Bemis married Lydia Rice of West Boylston in 1836, suggesting that the house might have been built or rebuilt in the late 1830s, around the time of their marriage. A date displayed on the barn reads "1844", another possible date for the construction of the house. The proportions, fenestration, and visible remaining details of the building, such as the wide 6/6 windows, the wide frieze board, and the roof overhang at the gable ends, are especially consistent with a date in the 1840s.

At mid-century Jacob Bemis had a half-dozen cows, four pigs, a horse, and two oxen to work his fields--a moderate investment among Southborough's farmers of the time. Like most of his neighbors, he raised a variety of grains, hay, and potatoes, and had a small orchard.

He died in 1867 at the age of seventy-five, and the property changed hands at least three times over the next two decades. In 1870 the farm is shown under the ownership of **John L. Bickford**. He kept a dozen cows and two horses in the barn close to the road, and had a granary to store their feed. By 1881 the farm had been acquired by one of Southborough's many Irish immigrants of the second half of the nineteenth century, **Matthew P. Maley**, who had nine or ten cows. By 1886, however, it was owned jointly by **John** and **William O'Brien**, who were also apparently from Ireland. They kept over a dozen cows, and owned their own bull. In their time, the farm increased to 73 acres. John O'Brien lived here well into the twentieth century.

In 1928, the farm was acquired by **Edward Offutt.** His family, who have called it **LaurEdo Farm** (named for Edward and his wife, Laura,) for many decades, still own and operate it. While a 1937 WPA map shows it as a poultry farm during the Depression, according to the family, it was still a dairy farm at that time. Mr. Offut, who was not a farmer, did very little of the farm work. The operation was carried on by his son-in-law, veterinarian **Raymond Allen**, who supplied up to 700 pounds of milk daily to **Deerfoot Farm**. They continued to supply milk to Deerfoot's successor, National Dairies, until 1955, when the Allens sold their Jersey herd. A few years later, an Allen son started another dairy herd. That, too, was later dispersed, and a herd owned by a female graduate of New Hampshire State College took its place until 1989. The farm was reduced to thirty acres by 1971, and is less than seven today.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1857 (J. Bemis), 1870 (JL Bickford); 1898 (J. O'Brien); 1937 WPA maps: poultry farm.
Federal agricultural census: 1850.
Information from owner, 6/2000.
Westborough, Northborough, and Southborough Directory. 1905.
The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.
Simpson, H. Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. Unpublished manuscript, 1904.
South Middlesex News, 12/26/1971: "Lauredo Farm: a hobby for Southborough couple."
Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Assessor's Reports, various dates.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community	Property
Southborough	Bemis Farm

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)	Form Nos.
Q	67, 406-408, 962

AREA DATA SHEET

MHC#	Parcel #	Street Address	Historic or Functional Name	Date	Style/type
67 (see B Form)	34-1	77 Deerfoot Road	Bemis/Bickford House	ca. 1840 or earlier	2 1/2-story, twin-chimney farmhouse
407	" "	" " "	New England barn	1844	gable-front barn
408	" "	" " "	cow barn	1948	utilitarian
406	" "	" " "	shed	early 20th C.	utilitarian
962			agricultural landscape	19th-20th C.	landscape

-- other outbuildings date to the mid- to late 20th century

77 Deerfoot Rd.

77 Deerfoot Rd.

77 Deerfoot Rd - Barn