

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.236
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Fay, Dexter House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Wright's Store and Post Office - Harvest Hill
<b>Address:</b>	77 Turnpike Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Fayville
<b>Local No:</b>	38-37
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1820
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Business Office; General Retail Store; Post Office; Restaurant; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Politics Government
<b>Area(s):</b>	SBR.D: Fayville
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Concrete Unspecified



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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

38-37

Marlboro

D

236

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village) Fayville



Address 77 Turnpike Road

Common Name Dexter Fay House

Present commercial - offices

Original residential - single family

Construction ca. 1820

Map map/visual

Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation granite block and concrete

Wall/Trim wood clapboard/wood trim

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) demolition by tornado of attached two-story Georgian store and post office - 1930s, rear and side two-story additions, long one-story addition with deck, replacement clapboards, windows, shutters - 1990s.

Condition good

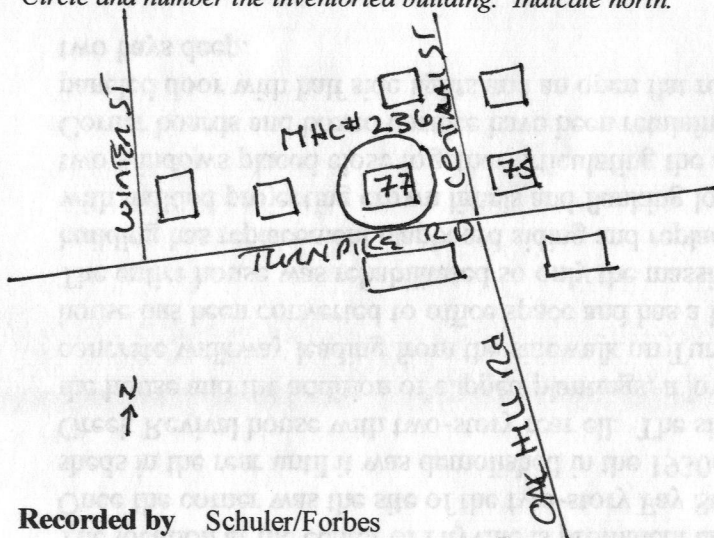
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 39,640 square feet

Setting Main route (Rt. 9) connecting Boston and Worcester thru Southboro - corner with traffic light - 4-lane highway, opposite car dealership, next to residences, landscaped lot with new low neo-colonial fencing and plantings.

## Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the 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

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

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.*

The location at the center of Fayville is prominent and appropriate for the proprietor of the first store at Fayville. Once the corner was the site of the two-story Fay Store and Post Office which was attached to the residence by sheds in the rear until it was demolished in the 1930s leaving only the five-bay, two and one-half story side gable Greek Revival house with two-story rear ell. The site recently has been improved with significant renovation to the house and the addition of clipped plantings, a low picket fence marking a small front entrance garden and a concrete walkway leading from the sidewalk on Turnpike Road to the front centered entrance. The double pile house has been converted to office space and has a large low one-story rear addition topped with a balustrade. The entire house was rehabilitated so only the massing, structural parts and granite foundation remain. The building has replacement clapboard siding and replacement windows. The six-over-six sash are set in frames with molded projecting crown lintels and flanking louvered wood shutters. The gable end displays two sets of two windows placed close together articulating the double pile layout with two windows in the gable peak. Corner boards and boxed cornice have been retaining or replaced. The entrance is marked by a replacement paneled door with half side lights and an open flat roof entrance porch supported by square posts. The rear ell is two bays deep.

### 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 to this dwelling of **Dexter Fay** (1784-ca. 1869). Fay's store is reported to have been a single-story building measuring twelve by twenty feet. He began as a butcher and later was known as a successful cattle broker, attending auctions at the cattle yards in Brighton on behalf of Southborough farmers who raised cows and horses. Also Dexter Fay had a straw hat manufacturing business with his cousin, Artemas Fay (1791-18??). Dexter Fay's brother, **Francis Ball Fay** (1793-18??), started in 1814 taking the straw hats and braid to New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. They also were sold in the Fayville store. In 1817 when the first postmaster was appointed for Fayville it was Dexter Fay's brother, Francis B. Fay and the post office was located in the same building as the store. Dexter Fay's residence appears on the 1831 map and probably was built after the store was established at this location. It is reported that the store and post office underwent various enlargements.

By 1830 Fayville had a cluster of about a dozen buildings at the intersection which constituted the village named after the many Fays who lived here and who were involved in farming and commercial enterprises in the village. The village grew slowly over the next two decades with development limited to the Boston & Worcester Turnpike and Central Street. The advent of the Boston & Worcester Railroad cutting through the southern part of Southborough in 1835 led to a shift away from the use of the toll road so that the taverns and other businesses along toll roads saw a decline in business. However, the Fay Store and Post Office remained open, not suffering the decline that many other businesses did by 1843 when travel on the Turnpike was free. By the 1850s the

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address  
77 TURNPIKE ROAD  
Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	236
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## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

business had been named **Fay & Sons** with Dexter Fay's son. **Sylvester Chamberlain Fay** (1825-1891) is reported in Noble to have sold the store and butcher shop in 1854 to reinvest in his own shoe factory, although there are no other references to a Fay shoe shop. Furthermore Dexter Fay was still alive and was assessed in 1860 for \$12,500 worth of real estate, one of the highest assessments at that time. The reports that Curtis and Dexter Newton purchased much of the estate of Dexter Fay including the store and his residence in 1869 is more likely the case. While they owned the property it was run by **Charles H. Merrill** who was occupant of the house and proprietor of the store and post office. The butcher shop continued to be a feature of the store.

From the 1890s this was the residence of **Francis Wright** who also was proprietor of the store and post office. Wright who was listed as 68 years old in 1909 had significant real estate holdings amounting to over \$15,000 which included this house, the store building, storehouse, stable and storehouse, shed, hayscales, fishmarket and even an "automobile building" as well as property in Southville. He continued through 1913 to be listed as merchant and post master Turnpike Road. From the 1920s **William E. Wentworth** was the grocer who ran the store at this site and lived in the adjoining house. Wentworth also served as Police Chief for a number of years. The store and post office was demolished in the 1930s and by 1941 Wentworth was assessed for a gas station with two pumps. Only the residence stands today at 77 Turnpike Road, the store and post office having been demolished in the 1930s.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Atlas/Maps: 1831, 1856 (D.Fay), 1870 ([o] C.&D. Newton, [oc] C.H. Merrill), 1898 (F.Wright)  
Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.  
Old Southborough. Photo Essay  
Southborough Historical Society. Fayville File.

☒ 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      77 TURNPIKE ROAD

Area(s)      Form No.

D	236
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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 Dexter Fay House in the village of Fayville is eligible for listing on the National Register as part of the potential Fayville Historic District only. Although the building has been substantially rebuilt recently its location at the side of the Boston & Worcester Turnpike and the site of the first known store and post office in Fayville from the early 1800s are reasons for its inclusion in a district nomination. The district retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling and this property would contribute to the integrity of location, association and feeling.



Pl. Fay  
236

W. S. M. L.

D

Southborough

address Turnpike Rd

'Harvest Hill'

original & present dwelling/restaurant

ent owner Norak

to public yes

Style

Literature Indians Source of date

Music Other

Development of town/city Architect

Architectural reason for inventorying: PR 1870

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

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed new

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

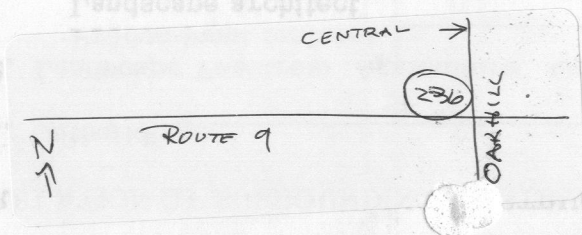
6. Footage of structure from street  
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo # 7-15 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)

*Has been a dwelling, general store, restaurant,  
 Postoffice*

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

*1870 Atlas - C. H. Morrill  
 1898 " - Wrights Store & Post Office  
 also  
 George Miller  
 Gladys Wentworth Walker*

## RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

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