

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.52
Historic Name:	Barney, George F. - Marsh, Alexander Jr. House
Common Name:	
Address:	8 Main St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	54-70
Year Constructed:	c 1856
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival; Italianate
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SBR.AG: Southborough Town Center
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Granite



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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

54-70

Marlborough

A

52

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Southborough centerAddress 8 Main StreetHistoric Name Marsh/Barney HouseUses: Present two-family dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1855Source maps; visual assessmentStyle/Form ItalianateArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt

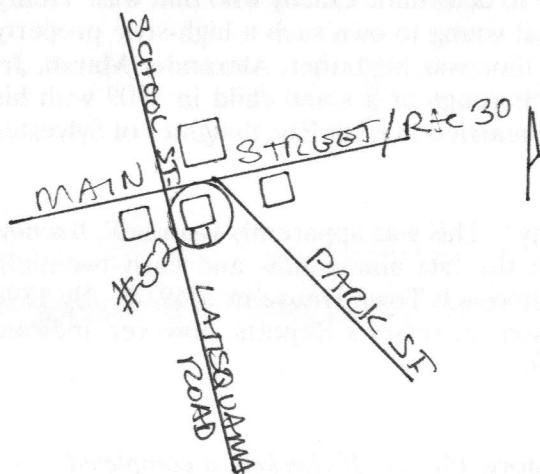
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

attached barn/carriage house

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

some window replacement--late 20th C.Condition excellentMoved [x]no [] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting Faces N., between Latisquama and ParkSts. on open, triangular lot in area of 19th-C.houses. Fieldstone retaining wall along street.

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, consultantsOrganization Southborough Historical CommissionDate February, 2000

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 probably the earliest Italianate house in Southborough, with some of the Tuscan-inspired features that characterized many of the first houses built in that style in Massachusetts' rural communities. Most striking is the very shallow-pitched, front-gabled roof, with a broad unboxed overhang over a wide frieze and rake board. Like many of its type, this is a two-story, cruciform-plan house, with a full-height rear wing and a wide, cross-gabled bay projecting from either side. Also articulating the rectilinear, block-like quality of the building is a one-story rectangular bay window on the face of the east bay, a one-story flat-roofed entry bay against the north side of the west bay, and, against its south side, a rectangular bay window.

The three-bay, side-hall-entry main facade faces north. The main entry, in the west bay, is a curious provincial anomaly that betrays the early date of the house. More Greek Revival than Italianate, the entry is recessed, with a four-paneled door, four-pane full-length sidelights, recessed-panel pilasters, and, over the opening, a frieze and architrave with molded, projecting cornice.

The windows of the house are 2-over-2-sash, with molded surrounds; those on the second story facade have stylish label moldings. The wide bay windows on the sides of the house have three 1-over-1's in the center, and a single 1/1 on the ends. The fenestration of the east side of the rear wing along Park Street has been altered to include paired 6-over-1-sash at the first story, and a picture window on the second. The architectural trim includes the wide frieze, which has a molded bottom edge, and, in lieu of cornerboards, a rounded molding along the house corners.

A small clapboarded, gable-roofed barn/carriage house on a brick foundation is joined to the main house by means of a clapboarded, second-story passageway.

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.

According to map evidence, a house was standing at this location by 1856, when it is shown under the name of **H. (or A.) Marsh**. Deed research will be necessary to determine exactly who that was. Henry A. Marsh was born in 1836, and would have been somewhat young to own such a high-style property in the mid-1850s. It is more likely that the owner at that time was his father, **Alexander Marsh, Jr.** He had been born in Berlin in 1805, and moved to Southborough as a small child in 1809 with his parents, Alexander and Catherine (Ball) Marsh. In 1827 he married Mariah Fay, daughter of Sylvester and Mary Fay.

By 1870 the house is shown under the name of "G.P. Barney." This was apparently **George F. Barney**, (b. 1837-8), who was a house painter for many years in the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth centuries. He was the principal painter for the new Southborough Town House in 1869-70. By 1898 the owner is shown as **F.E. Barney**, possibly Mr. Barney's son. Assessor's Reports, however, indicate that George Barney owned the property until at least 1909.

[x] 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

8 Main Street

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

Area(s)
A

Form No.
52

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

Maps and Atlases: 1857 (H. Marsh); 1870 (GP Barney); 1898 (FE Barney).

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.

Westboro, Northboro, and Southboro Directory. 1905.

Town of Southborough: Vital Records; Annual Reports and Tax Valuations, various dates.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
8 Main Street

Area(s)
A

Form No(s).
52

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 Forbes/Schuler, Consultant

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This house is eligible for the National Register at the local level both individually and as a contributing property in a potential district encompassing the historic residential and institutional meetinghouse center of the town. Under Criterion A, it is significant as the home of members of both the prominent Marsh and Barney families. It meets Criterion C as probably the earliest Italianate house in Southborough, with some of the Tuscan-inspired features that characterized many of the first houses built in that style in Massachusetts' rural communities.

The property retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting and association.



P. SOUTH

52

VSB MARK

Southborough

Address 8 Main Street

Original & present dwelling

Owner Bullard

Public

Style French Provincial

Literature

Indians

Source of date

Music

Other

Development of town/city

Architect

Architectural reason for inventorying:

P 121470

OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material StoneWALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone OtherROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard

Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster ElaborateSTORIES: 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 VariedCorners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

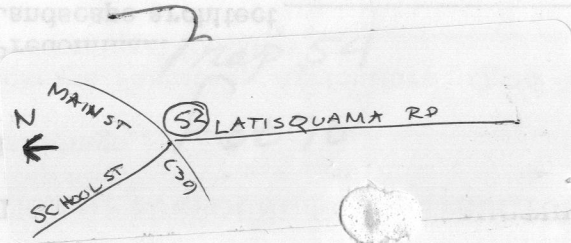
6. Footage of structure from street
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo # 2-24 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR. 52

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 Atlas

1898

F. E. Barney

also

Marsh
Bullard

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number 4163 Page 456, Worcester Co. Registry of Deeds