

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.306
Historic Name:	
Common Name:	Banfield, Herbert House
Address:	8 Middle Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	54-15
Year Constructed:	c 1900
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood Clapboard; Asbestos Shingle; Wood 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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Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, MA 02125

54-15

Marlborough

306



Southborough

(neighborhood or village)

Southborough center

8 Middle Road

Present Name

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Date of Construction ca. 1900

Type of assessment visual assessment

Form 2 1/2-story gable-front house

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble

Wall/Trim vinyl siding and wood clapboard (1st story); asphalt siding (2nd story)

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) Windows and

door replaced--late-20th C.

Condition good

Moved [x] no [] yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

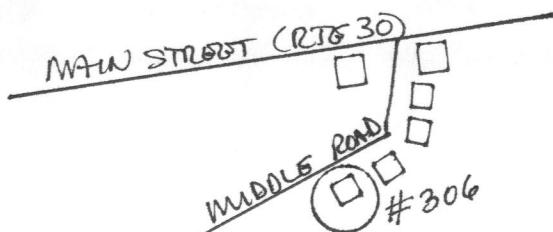
Setting Near upper end of Middle Road, in line

of gable-front, mid-19th- to early-20th-C. houses.

Close to street on small lot.

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.



RECEIVED

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultants

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date February, 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

8 Middle Road is the second in line of a group of three tall 2 1/2-story, ca. 1900 gable-front houses of similar design that stand close to the road on small lots. This building is three- by two bays, with a shallow-hip-roofed one-story ell across the rear. The main decorative elements are the classically-derived molded, boxed cornice, with returns, and the facade-width, hip-roofed front porch. The porch is now screened-in, with a glass-enclosed vestibule at the altered entry, which retains a hint of the lingering Queen Anne influence in the turned post and saw-cut brackets at the south end. The windows have replacement 1-over-1-sash; their casings have a narrow molding across the top. The square, multi-light stair window at the west end of the south elevation is typical of the era.

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.

This house, along with the its two immediate neighbors at 6 and 10 Middle Road, illustrates some of the small-scale development that was being done just after the turn of the twentieth century by some local residents on some of the former farmland at or close to Southborough center. Map evidence indicates that as late as 1898 the property on which the three houses stand was part of the land associated with the new house of Charles Fairbanks at 34 Main Street (see Form #271). At that time his land extended east and southeast to Cordaville Road (Rte 85) for quite some distance, and southwest behind two other Main Street houses to Middle Road. It had about 300 feet of frontage on Middle Road, where these three houses were constructed a few years later.

8 Middle Road is thus an early example of a trend which continues today in this former agricultural community--the subdividing of farmland into house lots for the building of single-family dwellings. On roads at or near the center, where the farms were relatively small, this type of development tended to be limited to the building of only two or three houses at a time, as was the case here.

While the first owners of this house and the one just south at 10 Middle Road are uncertain, it is likely that one of them was owned by 1913 by **Herbert Banfield**. He was a railroad conductor, probably for what was by then the New York, New Haven, & Hartford Railroad, which had a depot and freight house at Southborough center just south of Main and Park Streets.

Until the turn of the twentieth century, Middle Road was known as Centre (Center) Road, as it was the primary route that cut north through the middle of town to the meetinghouse center, predating both Cordaville and Parkerville Roads.

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

Southborough Directory. 1913.

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

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

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



8 and 10 Middle Road

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
8 Middle Road

Area(s)

Form No(s).
306

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, Consultants

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

This house is eligible for the National Register as a contributing property in a district encompassing the historic residential and institutional meetinghouse center of the town. Under Criterion A, it is significant of the later residential development of the center south of Main Street opposite the meetinghouse and common at the turn of the century, when small landowners were beginning to break up the small farms which had existed there to build houses on small lots. It meets Criterion C as an example of the large side-hall-entry house type which was still being built by local carpenters and builders at the turn of the twentieth century.

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