

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.22
Historic Name:	Burnett, Joseph Stone Shop
Common Name:	Burnett House Building Crew Headquarters
Address:	84 Main St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	53-1; 21
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Chapel; Other Industrial; Single Family Dwelling House; Warehouse
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Commerce; Engineering; Industry; Religion
Area(s):	SBR.A: Main Street Area
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut; Coursed Rubble; Granite; Schist; Brown Stone; Wood



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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:

Friday, July 08, 2016 at 1:42: PM



① A SBR.21

Southborough Pl. South

address 84 Main Street

Joseph Burnett Stone Shop

ual use Gristmill - 1st Episcopal Church

nt use unused

nt owner Irwin Garfield

to public no

Date 1800's Style

Education

Government

Literature

Music

Military affairs

Religion/philosophy

Indians

Development of town/city

Source of date

Architect

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material:

WALL COVER: Wood 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

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament:

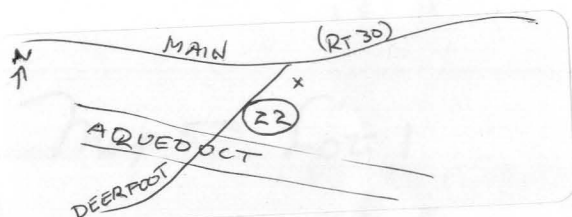
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details:

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

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

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



Recorder

For

Photo 1-16A Date 1970-1

SEE REVERSE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO 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)

Small stone building, once the shop for the old Sawin grist mill which was torn down when the M.D.C. dam was built in the late 1800's. This dam and the large bodies of water on both sides of the road form an attractive natural boundary. ©

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

① HDSC Report 1972

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number 3068 Page 180-1, Registry of Deeds Worcester Co.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

SOUTHBOROUGH

84 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

SBR.A

SBR.22

Supplementary photographs received July 2014



RECEIVED
JLY 31 2014

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file
 Copies: Inventory form
 Town file(w/corresp.)
 Macris
 NR director _____

Community: SOUTHBOROUGH

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received:

Date Reviewed: 7/30/14

Type: X Individual

 District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Joseph Burnett Estate

Inventory Form: SBR.21,22,291,292

Address: 84 Main Street

Requested by:

Action: Honor ITC

 Grant

 R & C

 X Other: planning

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review:

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

 X Eligible

 Eligible, also in district

 Eligible only in district

 Ineligible

 More information needed

DISTRICTS

 Eligible

 Ineligible

 More information needed

CRITERIA:

 X A

 X B

 X C

 D

LEVEL:

 X Local

 State

 National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Betsy Friedberg

The Joseph Burnett Estate includes a mansion house, barn, and other outbuildings on just under five acres in a parklike setting south of Main Street, on the edge of Stony Brook and the Wachusett Aqueduct and at the edge of Southborough's town center.

The estate was the home of Joseph Burnett, one of the most influential citizens of Southborough in the 19th century, and his family for several generations. Burnett was the founder of Burnett's Flavoring, a manufacturer of extracts based in Boston, through which he amassed a large fortune in the 1840s. He purchased the property on Main Street in Southborough in 1847 and shortly after his marriage to Josephine Cutter of Boston in 1848, began construction of a house that would be their country estate.

The first building erected here was the stone shop building, which was said to serve as headquarters for the building crew working on the mansion. The mansion house was completed in 1849 but substantially rebuilt in the late 1850s or 1860s, at which time its high slate mansard roof was added and its present Second Empire-style appearance achieved. The building is constructed of local stone in a mix of colors, trimmed with wood modillions and brackets. The house has a complex form with several wings and appendages, including a square tower with a

hipped roof (formerly a higher tower with mansard roof) and a square, single-story wing with hipped monitor roof, once a billiard room. Multiple brick chimneys pierce the slate-clad roofs. The mansion interior retains a number of fine details, including staircases and rails, paneling, cornice moldings, mantels, doors and hardware, and window and door trim.

Other buildings remaining on the property include the abovementioned stone shop (1848), built of stone with a slate gable roof; a rare but deteriorated Gothic Revival-style summer house or bungalow (ca. 1850), one story in height, with board and batten siding and a steeply pointed-arched dormer, which was moved from its original location on the bank of the brook to a site closer to the shop (the relocation occurred in the 1890s, around the same time the brook was channelized as part of the development of the Boston water-supply system); and a wood-frame, mansard-roofed carriage house/stable (ca. 1870), with a stone-walled paddock. The property is served by a curved drive leading from its entry on Main Street, and there are sweeping lawns as well as areas of specimen trees. A low stone wall surrounds the property.

Joseph Burnett was responsible for bringing one of the first herds of Jersey cattle to the U.S., to his property in Southborough, known in the 1860s as Deerfoot Farm. Burnett was a prime force behind bringing the Agricultural Branch Railroad through Southborough, was a founder of St. Mark's Episcopal parish (first services held in the upstairs room of the stone shop, which served as a chapel; St. Mark's Church opened nearby in 1863) and donor of its rectory and parish hall, a founder of St. Mark's School (established 1865 on land in Southborough's center that he purchased and donated), benefactor of the Fay School (1866), and chairman of the building fund to replace the Town Hall after it burned in 1869. In 1871, Burnett turned management of Deerfoot Farm, with lands extending well beyond the 5 acres of the mansion estate (approximately 500 acres south of Stony Brook), to his son. Deerfoot Farm was a significant supplier of dairy and pork products for Boston markets. While Burnett continued involvement with the Burnett Extract Company, he also worked on developing his gentleman's estate, adding specimen trees (some of which survive), and building a large carriage house and stable for his horses and carriages. After Burnett's death in 1894, his sons took over the farming activities as well as the Burnett Extract Company. The property remained in the Burnett family until the 1940s.

The Burnett Estate retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, meeting National Register Criteria A, B, and C at the local level. It is historically significant for its associations with the development of Southborough in the second half of the 19th century and as an example of a lavish country estate. It is architecturally significant for its well-preserved Second Empire-style mansion and associated outbuildings, set within an intact landscaped setting. It is also significant for its associations with Joseph Burnett, the town's major benefactor and arguably most influential citizen in the 19th century. The Burnett Estate also stands in an area of other estates, institutional and residential buildings along Main Street, potentially eligible as a National Register district.