

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.18
Historic Name:	Fay, William Augustus House
Common Name:	Buck, William Henry - Brigham, George House
Address:	85 Main St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	52-6A
Year Constructed:	c 1790
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Altered beyond recognition; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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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

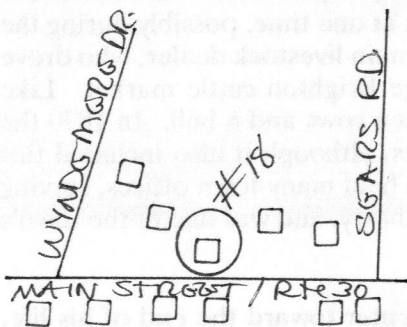
52-6A

Marlborough

18



Indicate north.
 sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.



Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Southborough center

Address 85 Main Street

Historic Name W. A. Fay/William Henry Buck

House

Uses: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Date of Construction ca. 1790 (tradition)/early 19th century

Source tradition; visual assessment

Style/Form Greek Revival with late-

Georgian core

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite block

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

two-car gable-front garage--mid-20th C.

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

none (see text)

Condition good

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

Acreage 1.64 acres

Setting On deep lot in area of late-20th C. houses.

Mature trees, fieldstone retaining walls at front.

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultants

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date January, 2000

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

Although the appearance of this house is much more typical of the 1830s-'40s than of its traditional date of 1790, the curious position of its large chimneys, slightly offset from each other on either side of the roof ridge, may indicate that a former house of another configuration is encased within. As seen today, this is a wide 2 1/2-story gable-front building with a symmetrical four-bay facade, a three-bay east side with the main entrance in a one-story entry bay at the end of a wraparound porch, and a long one-story rear ell. A square one-story bay projects from the rear part of the west side of the house.

The windows are a combination of 6-over-6-sash at the second story and in the ell, 2-over-2-sash at the main first story, and a paired 1-over-1-sash in the front gable. The latter is a replacement for a former single window. All the older windows have projecting enframements and louvered wood shutters. The main entry in the east vestibule is presently obscured by a wide double-leaf wooden storm door. The four-bay ell has a narrow paneled door on its east side. The architectural trim includes a molded, boxed cornice, very wide cornerboards of Greek Revival proportions, and a water table.

The wraparound porch, which was in place by 1898, has a turned balustrade and chamfered, square posts with small oval panels in their bases.

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.

Map evidence is somewhat confusing in regard to the mid-nineteenth-century ownership of this handsome house. Further research is also required to find who its first owner was.

In the 1850s this was apparently the home of **William Augustus Fay**, a farmer who had 26 acres here, and who was also the local marketman who took the agricultural products of Southborough's farmers to market in Boston and Worcester. That may have been his main occupation, which would explain why he was one of only two Southborough farmers who are listed as not owning any cows in 1850. Also in contrast to his neighbors, he grew no corn or oats. His farm did produce close to the largest amount of potatoes in town in that year, however.

By 1870, both this house and one just to the west (demolished) are shown under the name of **William Henry Buck**, one of Southborough's most prominent citizens for much of the nineteenth century. Mr. Buck apparently lived in the other house by 1856, and either rented this one out, or provided it as a residence for his farm manager. Butcher George Brigham and his sister occupied it at one time, possibly during the time W.H. Buck owned it. W. Henry Buck was a butcher, and the town's main livestock dealer, who drove animals to Boston for many of the local farmers, particularly to the large Brighton cattle market. Like many of his neighbors he was also a dairy farmer, with a herd of two dozen cows and a bull. In 1870 the main farm he owned here on the north side of Main Street was 22 acres, although it also included this house, with 3 1/2 acres, and over fifty more at other locations. Mr. Buck held many town offices, serving on the Board of Selectman for several years, on the Trustees of the Fay Library, and was one of the town's three Fence Viewers.

Mr. Buck, who died in 1902 at the age of 83, retired to Southborough center toward the end of his life. In about 1897, this property was purchased by **Benjamin S. Proctor**. He died within a short time, however, at the age of 79, and his heirs sold the property, along with the one to the west, to **J. Montgomery Sears**, owner of 1 Sears Road (see Form #21). At that time Mr. Sears was still acquiring property adjacent to his vast Wolf Pen Farm (see Area Form O)--a collection which included several old farms, farmhouses, and outbuildings. One of the main entrances to the farm was just west of this house, where Mr. Sears maintained a group of outbuildings and a house for several years, at least.

[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

85 Main Street

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

Area(s)

Form No.
18BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [] *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1856, 1857 (WA Fay); 1870 (WH Buck); 1898 (BS Proctor).

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone: a History of Southborough, MA. Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall, 1990.Simpson, Louise. Old Houses in Southborough. 1904.Southborough Historical Society. Old Southborough, a Photographic Essay. Southborough: Yankee Color Corp., 1981.

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

US Census--Agricultural Schedule: 1850.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
85 Main Street

Area(s)

Form No(s).
18

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 at the local level under Criterion A for its association with Southborough's major "marketman" in the mid-nineteenth century, William Augustus Fay, and with prominent butcher, dairy farmer, and cattle dealer W. Henry Buck in the second half of the century. It is also significant as an illustration of the late-nineteenth-century development of land just west of the meetinghouse and common area of Main Street, where several farms were located in the nineteenth century. The property meets Criterion C as an illustration of a transitional Federal/Greek Revival house.

For the above reasons, it is also eligible as a contributing property in a district encompassing the historic residential and institutional development along the main road at and near the center of town.

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



PL SOUTH

18

WV MTEL

Southborough

address 85 Main Street

al use dwelling

nt use "

nt owner J.D.C. Bradley

o public m

Art/sculpture

Education

Government

Literature

Music

Travel/communication

Military affairs

Religion/philosophy

Indians

Development of town/city

Date Style

Source of date

Architect

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: Stone

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

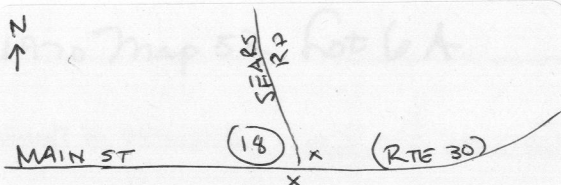
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Front & side PORTICO Balcony

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 buildings6. Footage of structure from street 20
Property has 150 feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo 1-134 1977

Date Recorded 1970

SEE REVERSE SIDE

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)

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - W.H. Buck or J.H. Robinson

1898 Atlas - no name listed

other owners

W.A. Fay
 George Brigham
 B.F. Proctor

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number 4702 Page 54, Worcester Co. Registry of Deeds