

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.75
Historic Name:	Harris, James T. - Light, Ambrose House
Common Name:	Deerfoot Farm Company Worker Housing
Address:	9 Clifford St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	35-3
Year Constructed:	r 1780
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Altered beyond recognition
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House; Workers Housing
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Brick



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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

35-3

Marlborough

75

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Address 9 Clifford Street

Historic Name James Harris House

Uses: Present dwelling

Original west wing of house at 12 Clifford

Date of Construction late-18th or 19th C.

Source tradition; visual assessment

Style/Form altered/Federal Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

late-20th C. garage.

Major Alterations (with dates) Fenestration altered,
entry and southwest additions built--late 20th C.

Condition fair/good

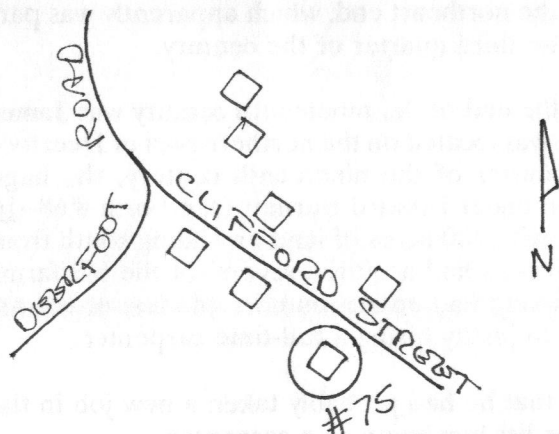
Moved [] no [x] yes Date late-19th C.

Acreage 1.1 acres

Setting Stands end to street, at curve in former
country road now developed with late-20th C.
houses.



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, consultants

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date February, 2000

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

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

While it retains the overall lines of what appears to be a tall, one-room-deep, side-gabled, early-nineteenth-century building, this house has undergone great changes over the years. It is understood to have been built as a wing for the house across the street at 12 Clifford Street (#74--see below), and moved into place, possibly by the Deerfoot Farm Company, in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The one-story polygonal bay window on the northeast end was apparently in existence when the building was moved. A tall one-bay cross-gabled wing at the southwest rear, which incorporates the only brick chimney, may have been added after the relocation. The complex of south ell and additions, however, all date to the 1970s or '80s.

Most of the fenestration and the wide gable-roofed center-entry vestibule also date to the late-twentieth century. In 1971 the house had an asymmetrical, three-bay facade with an open shed-roofed porch spanning all but its south end. Today it has a symmetrical, five-bay arrangement of 12-over-12-sash windows in flat surrounds. The second-story window in the northeast end is a fanlighted, paired casement. The main entry is a 6-panel door with an open-pedimented surround, fronted by a wooden landing with modern balustrade.

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 local information, this house was once the northwest wing of the house across the road, 12 Clifford Street (See Form #74), and was detached, rotated clockwise ninety degrees, and placed here on a new brick foundation. The date of its relocation is somewhat uncertain. A house is shown here in 1857 under the ownership of **Benjamin Dillingham**, indicating that it may have been moved by that time. Although the owner of #12 in 1870, Ambrose Light, is listed as owning a second small house and barn, and a house is again shown at this location, this time under his name, on the map of that year, the use of the brick foundation is somewhat more characteristic of buildings that were constructed by #12's later nineteenth-century owner, the **Deerfoot Farm Company**. The Burnett family, Deerfoot Farm's owners, built brick foundations for new and existing buildings well into the twentieth century, however.

The date of the house's original construction is equally uncertain. Its tall, narrow proportions suggest an early-nineteenth-century date; the polygonal bay window on the northeast end, which apparently was part of the house when it was moved, is more characteristic of the third quarter of the century.

Whatever the dates, the occupant of a house on this site at the end of the nineteenth century was **James T. Harris**, longtime carpenter for Deerfoot Farm, whose shop was located on the northern part of Deerfoot Road, opposite the company dairy barn. By the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, the huge Deerfoot Farm had become a thriving commercial operation under Edward Burnett (see Form #68--16 Deerfoot Road), and the largest employer in Southborough, with 400 acres of land extending south from Stony Brook to the Boston & Worcester Turnpike. The Burnetts had acquired several of the old farms and agricultural parcels along Deerfoot and Clifford Roads, and had built a number of state-of-the-art outbuildings and employees' residences--more than enough to justify hiring a full-time carpenter.

By 1904, James Harris is listed as a "meat cutter", implying that he had probably taken a new job in the Deerfoot sausage plant. The next year, however, directories list him again as a carpenter.

Until about 1909 Clifford Street was called McQuarry Road, for the name of the farmer who formerly owned the property at the south end near Parkerville Road, Allen McQuarrie (McQuarry). By 1913 the name of the street had been changed to Clifford Street.

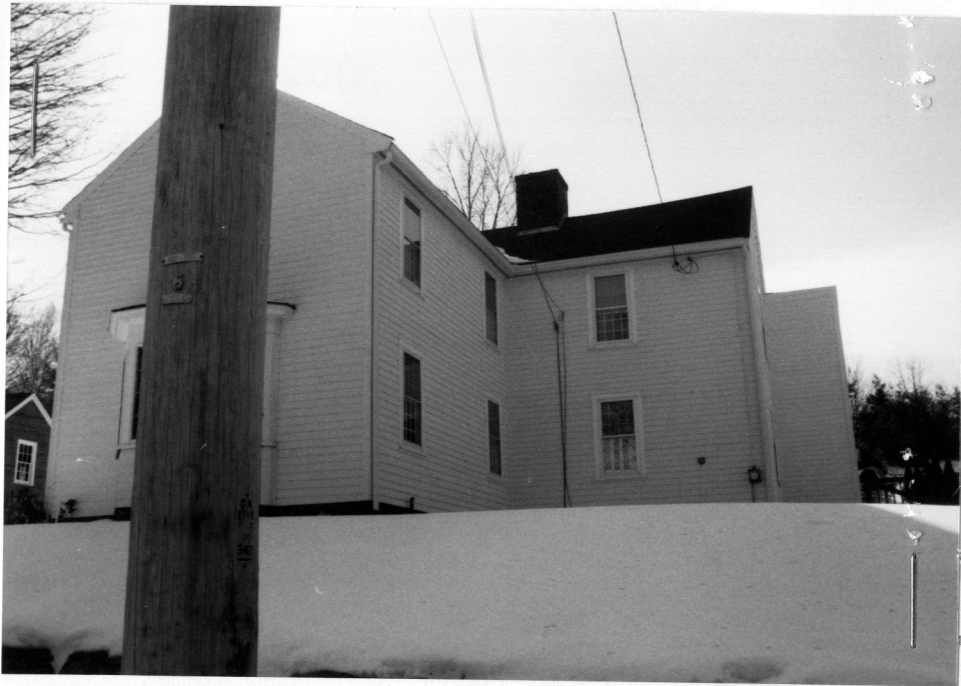
Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Community	Property
Southborough	9 Clifford Street
Area(s)	Form No. 75

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [] *see continuation sheet*
Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1857 (BD Dillingham); 1870 (A. Light); 1898 (JT Harris)
Marlborough and Southborough Street Directories. Various dates and publishers.
Town of Southborough: Tax Valuations, (various dates).
Interview with owner, 2/3/00.





Pl. # _____ 75

Southborough

Address 9 Clifford Road

Original & present dwelling

Owner O'fitt

Public _____

Style _____

Literature _____ Indians _____ Source of date _____

Music _____ Other _____

Development of town/city _____ Architect _____

Architectural reason for inventorying: _____

Post 1870 _____ OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Stone

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 _____

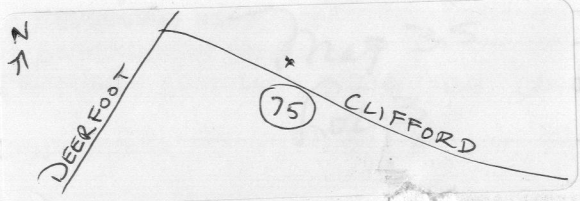
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: _____

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied bay window

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 20 ft
Property has _____ feet frontage on street



Recorder _____

For _____

Photo # 2-32 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

SBR. 75

- 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)

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION Excellent

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Ambrase Right
 1898 J. T. Harris

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____
 Deed Information: Book Number 3833 Page 322, Worcester Co. Registry of Deeds