

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.19
Historic Name:	Parker, Jedidiah House
Common Name:	Brigham, Eliza Ann P. - Gardner, George P. House
Address:	94 Main St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	53-5
Year Constructed:	c 1777
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival; Federal
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dairy; Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Industry; Recreation
Area(s):	SBR.A: Main Street Area
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Brick; 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

53-5

Marlborough

A

19

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard



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 January, 2000 **JUL 03 2000**

MASS. HIST. COMM

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Southborough centerAddress 94 Main StreetHistoric Name Jedediah Parker HouseSwain Parker/George P. Gardner HouseUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1777Source owners' researchStyle/Form Federal/Federal Revival with late-Georgian coreArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brickWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

noneMajor Alterations (with dates) early 20th C: up-dated with Fed. Revival details. Ca. 1935: wings
reduced, upper story removed from east wingCondition goodMoved [x] no [] yes Date N/AAcreage two acresSetting S. side of Main St., opposite foot of SearsRd. Stone retaining wall along street and hill at W.of house. Backs up to Stony Brook channel/
Wachusett Aqueduct.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

In spite of some alterations made in the early twentieth century, the Jedediah Parker House is one of Southborough's best examples of a two-story, five-bay, hip-roofed Federal house. Its proportions, and the very shallow pitch of the roof, are characteristic of the fully developed Federal style after 1790, although the earliest section of the building, believed to date to about 1777, is said to be the center-hall main section. Most of the two-story hip-roofed west wing was added during the Civil War. The east wing, consisting of a short two-story hip-roofed block with a paired 6-over-6-sash window at each level attached to a one-story, flat-roofed square section, was apparently added in the 1890s. The latter part, which has a tall brick chimney in its two-bay end wall and a clapboarded parapet around the roof, was reduced to its one-story height in the late 1930s.

The main body of the house has a pair of interior brick end-wall chimneys and a symmetrical five-bay facade. The windows are 6-over-9-sash, with molded surrounds, now flanked by modern vinyl shutters nailed to the clapboards. The center entry has a 6-panel Victorian door with applied moldings, set into a Federal Revival surround of paneled pilasters, a high frieze with an unembellished oval medallion in the center, and large 3-pane sidelights set over recessed-panel aprons. Projecting forward over the entry is a high flat-roofed canopy, its corners supported on paired, tall, slender, fluted columns set onto a brick base. The granite step in front of the brick platform may remain from an earlier period. A dentil course trims the cornice of the canopy; another appears over the doorway.

Three projections animate the form of the west wing--a hip-roofed dormer in the front roof plane, a shed-roofed first-story bay in the angle between the main house and the wing, and a one-bay extension under a hipped roof at the outer west end, containing a sun room or sitting room at the upper story.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [x] *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 is the oldest house remaining in the vicinity of Main Street and Sears and Deerfoot Roads, an area which once had a cluster of early houses and was referred to as Parkerville. The main part of the house was built about 1777 by or for **Jedediah Parker** (1749-1822), son of James and Anna Parker, probably on the occasion of his marriage to Catherine Horne (1757-1853). Jedediah was a Corporal during the Revolution in Capt. Josiah Fay's Southborough company of militia and Minute-men, and as such he was one of the local soldiers who marched to Concord on April 19, 1775.

The house subsequently descended through at least three more generations of the Parker family. At the end of the eighteenth century this was a rural part of town, and the house stood on a farm of over a hundred acres. The Parker property stretched south beyond Stony Brook, which ran west to east just behind the house and included at least two water-powered mills. The map of 1831 shows Parker's Mill on the south bank of the brook at the end of a dam, and another building on the north side of the brook at the end of a short lane that led east around the back of the house. It is not known whether Parker's Mill was built by Jedediah Parker; it appears to be shown on the map of 1795 as Bent's sawmill, one of two in the town at that time. By 1833, Parker's Mill included both a grist and saw mill under another family member, **Dea. Gabriel Parker**, who sold it in that year to Moses Sawin. It was known as Sawin's mill for the rest of the nineteenth century.

[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

94 Main Street

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

Area(s)
A

Form No.
19

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Jedediah's elder son, **Swain Parker** (b. 1780) still maintained a farm of 138 acres, one of the largest near the center of town, and had a herd of at least two dozen cows. While he grew the same mix of corn, oats, and hay as most of his neighbors, he was one of only four farmers in town to grow wheat at that late date. In 1850 his fields produced twenty bushels, about twice as much as the other three Southborough wheat growers.

Swain Parker was the father of Eliza Ann Parker Brigham, a skilled theorem painter of the early 1800s, who married Southborough teacher-turned-physician Adolphus Brigham in 1828. They moved to Shrewsbury, where she died of consumption in 1831. One of her paintings, entitled *The Full Basket*, is in the collection of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum in Williamsburg, Virginia. Theorem painting, a form of stencil painting, usually taken from a lithograph and copied onto velvet, was flourishing in New England during the 1820s, and Eliza Ann's painting illustrates something of what well-bred young ladies in the Southborough area were engaged in at that time. Her death at a young age from consumption, unfortunately, was also typical of the era. Of the four children of Swain Parker and his wife, Caroline (Taylor), two other daughters had also died of the disease, both at the age of eighteen--Nancy Mariah in 1825, and Wealthy in 1830.

The property was subsequently acquired or inherited by Swain and Caroline Parker's youngest child and only son, Hiram. **Hiram Parker** (b. 1815) married Harriet Hanes (or Haynes) in 1837. Over the next twelve years they became the parents of six sons. Mr. Parker died in 1869, and his widow gave up the farm and moved to Southborough center, to take up residence at 16 Main Street (see Form #50).

It is not known who acquired the property from the Parkers. It appears to be shown under the name of **H. Smith** on the map of 1870. This may be **Henry Smith**, apparently a real-estate speculator, who had briefly owned the adjoining farm to the west a few year earlier.

By about 1890 the property was owned by **George Peabody Gardner** and his wife **Esther (Burnett)**. Toward the end of the nineteenth century a handful of wealthy Boston residents, several of them connected with the Burnett family, were acquiring or developing farms on the outskirts of the center, to which they retired in the summers and on weekends. In contrast to some of their peers, however, the Gardners only owned a little over an acre here. The surrounding nine acres was owned by Mrs. Gardner's mother, Josephine Burnett, until her death, and was still referred to as the "Hiram Parker land."

George Gardner (1855-1939), who had married Joseph Burnett's daughter, Esther, in 1884, and lived at 186 Beacon Street, Boston, was one of the most prominent men connected with the Burnett family. After graduation from Harvard in 1877, he first joined his father, George Augustus Peabody, in his financial office, and later practiced independently. While much of his time was spent managing the family estates, over the years he became well-known as a financier and philanthropist, serving on the boards of many large corporations and institutions. In that capacity, he was President of the Provident Institution for Savings, of the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Co. (his contemporary, Charles Choate, also served on that board), and of the Amoskeag Company in Manchester, NH. He also served as Vice-president of the Chicago Junction Railroad and Union Stockyards Co., and as a Director of the Old Colony Trust Co., the Old Colony Railroad, American Telephone and Telegraph, General Electric, and was a major force in the development of the latter two concerns. Among his many charitable roles, he was appointed manager of Children's Hospital, Boston, in 1885, and subsequently Vice-president, and later President, an office he held from 1917 until 1930. He was also a trustee of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, acting President in 1924, and Vice-president beginning in 1926. He became Senior Warden of the Church of the Advent in Boston in 1917, and served for many years as President of the Trustees of Donations of the Protestant Episcopal Church. (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Southborough

94 Main Street

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Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)
A

Form No.
19

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

George Gardner was also known locally for his contributions to Southborough and its institutions. He was both a trustee and Vice-president of St. Mark's School, and in 1923 gave the school the sixty-five-acre golf course between Latisquama and Cordaville Roads, then called the Southborough Golf Links, on which he and many of his colleagues had been playing since 1897.

Sometime in the 1920s, the house, barn, and the remaining property associated with them were purchased by Esther Gardner's brother, **Robert Burnett**. He and his second wife, **Helen**, altered the house, probably adding such Federal Revival updates as the large entry canopy on double fluted columns. They also removed an upper story from at least part of the east wing. Before Southborough's roads were paved, for years this property was referred to as "the dustpan", because it collected a great volume of dust blown straight down Sears Road.

Robert Burnett died in 1929. **Helen (Haines) Burnett** (1892-1960), who was much younger than her husband, lived on in the house for many years. In the mid-twentieth century this was one of the many properties acquired by **J.D.C. Bradley**, owner of the huge Wolf Pen Farm along Sears Road (see Area Form O).

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

Maps and Atlases: 1831; 1870 (H. Smith); 1898 (GP Gardner).

Burnett family genealogy.

The Marlborough Directory. Various dates and publishers.

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

Southborough Historical Society. Old Southborough, a Photographic Essay. Southborough: Yankee Color Corp., 1981.

Southborough Historical Society files.

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

US Census--Agricultural Schedules 1850, 1870, 1880.



Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Southborough

Property Address
94 Main Street

Area(s)

Form No(s).
19

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.

The Parker/Gardner House is eligible individually for the National Register under Criterion C as one of Southborough's best examples of a two-story, five-bay, hip-roofed Federal house. It is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with the prominent Parker family, including Jedediah, a Corporal during the Revolution, Swain, a prominent mid-nineteenth-century farmer in the area that came to be known as Parkerville, and Eliza Ann, a talented theorem painter of the early nineteenth century. It is also significant for its later connection with both the prominent local Burnett family, and with well-known financier and philanthropist George Peabody Gardner, who married Esther Burnett.

For the above reasons, the house is also eligible, along with its accompanying former outbuilding at 96 Main Street, 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.



PHD 19

(A)	
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own Southborough PL SOUTH
reet address 94 Main St. 1162 main
ame _____
riginal use dwelling
resent use "
resent owner J.D.C. Bradley
pen to public _____
ate 1700's Style _____
ource of date 1777 - H.D.S.C. owner

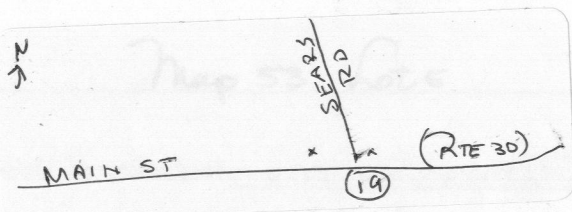
Music _____ Development of town/city _____ Architect _____

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: fieldstone & brick
WALL COVER: Wood clapboards 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 one wing
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO Pillars Balcony
FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament: _____
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: side lights ; pillared porch
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 1-14A
Photo 1971 Date _____

SEE REVERSE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

SBR.19

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) Built c. 1777 by Jedidiah Parker, it is the oldest house in the district. West wing was added during Civil War and east wing in the 1890's.

Central part (hall, one room on each side) built late 1700's.
 Kitchen wing (west) added during Civil War. Other wing added 1890's. When Burnetts bought house in 1935 they tore off upper story of both wings.
 Original kitchen was in the cellar.
 Eliza Ann Parker lived here (Theorem painting in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Fab Art Museum, Virginia).

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 atlas H. Smith

1898 " J.P. Gardner

Swain Parker (father of Eliza Ann)

Hiram Parker

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number 4583 Page 334, Worcester co. Registry of Deeds