

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.300
Historic Name:	Gardner, George Peabody Stable
Common Name:	Gardner, George Peabody Gardner's - Porter's House
Address:	96 Main St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Southborough
Local No:	52-3A
Year Constructed:	c 1895
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Out Building; Servant Or Estate Housing; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Stucco; Wood Foundation: Concrete Unspecified



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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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FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

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

52-3A

Marlborough

300

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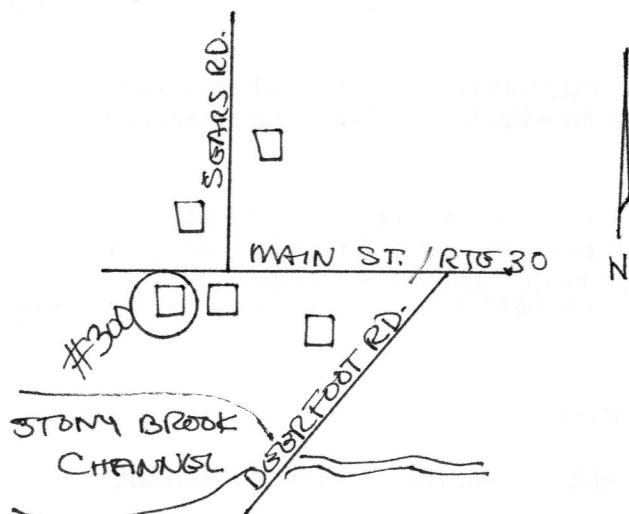
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inventory forms have been completed. Label streets, including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.

Recorded by Forbes/Schuler, consultantsOrganization Southborough Historical CommissionDate January, 2000Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Southborough centerAddress 96 Main StreetHistoric Name Gardner lodge and stablePresent dwellingOriginal stable and lodgeDate of Construction ca. 1895maps: visual assessmentForm utilitarianArchitect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation unpargedTrim stuccoRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

noneMajor Alterations (with dates) conversion tosingle-family dwelling--mid-20th centuryCondition goodMoved [x]no []yes Date N/AAcreage one acreSetting S. side of Main St., just west of formerGardner house, opposite modern houses on largelots. Backs up to Stony Brook channel of Wachusett Aqueduct

BUILDING FORM

5BR.300

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

This former outbuilding, with its aging stucco partly covered with ivy, forms a picturesque complement to its much earlier companion to the east, the house with which it was associated at 94 Main Street (Form #19). It is a two-part building, composed of a wide 1 1/2-story gable-front barn or stable and an attached, cross-gabled northeast ell. The cross-gabled ell was built some years after the barn itself, apparently as living quarters for a gardener or porter. The larger barn, built ca. 1895, has a symmetrical facade with a pair of high diagonal-boarded carriage doors in the center, each with 6-pane sash at the top. In the wall to either side of the doors is a 6-pane window; a metal louvered opening occupies the gable peak. The west side of this section has two narrow walk-in doors, one near each end, with three 6-pane stall or stanchion windows between them.

The residence ell is one story, with a stuccoed interior chimney rising from the two-bay east gable-end wall. The facade is three bays, with two windows and an entry. The entry, in the westernmost bay, is fitted with a modern multi-light glass and wood door, and sheltered by a gabled hood supported at the corners on simple diagonal braces.

The roof of both parts of the building has a deep overhang, with prominent exposed rafter ends. Along the street in front of the building, a fieldstone wall continues west from #94 Main, with the stable entrance marked by a pair of large square granite posts.

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 handsome outbuilding, now a dwelling, was a combination stable and employee's residence. It was apparently built by **George Peabody Gardner** after he acquired the old Parker farm in about 1890. (See Form #19: 94 Main Street). That was the era when some of Southborough's wealthier citizens were acquiring or developing rural properties on the outskirts of the center, to which they retired in the summers and weekends. In contrast to some of their peers, however, the Gardners at first only owned a little over an acre here. By 1909 the property had expanded to three acres, with nearly an acre more abutting it to the west. The surrounding nine acres was owned by Mrs. Gardner's mother, Josephine Burnett, until her death, and referred to as the "Hiram Parker land."

Sometime in the 1920s, the Gardner house, stable, and the remaining property associated with them were purchased by Esther Gardner's brother, **Robert Burnett**. He and his wife, **Helen**, altered the house, and may have been the ones to add the stucco to the barn.

By the middle of this century, along with the house, this was one of the many properties to be acquired by **J. D. C. Bradley**, owner of the huge Wolf Pen Farm along Sears Road (see Area Form O). It was later divided out onto a separate one-acre parcel, although still owned by the same owners as the house.

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

Maps and Atlases: 1898 (GP Gardner).

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

Owners' research.

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

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

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community	Property Address
Southborough	96 Main Street
Area(s)	Form No(s). 300

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 Gardner lodge and stable is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as a contributing part of a small district, with its associated house at 94 Main Street, associated with well-known financier and philanthropist George Peabody Gardner and his wife Esther (Burnett).

In spite of its conversion to a residence, the building is also eligible under Criterion C as an illustration of a stylish type of building, in the popular stucco material, that was constructed on many gentlemen's estates at the turn of the twentieth century.

For the above reasons, it is also eligible, along with 94 Main Street, as a contributing property in a larger potential district encompassing the historic residential and institutional development along the main road at and near the center of town through the early part of the twentieth century.

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