

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.353
Historic Name:	Howe, Ashbel House
Common Name:	Bird, Samuel B. House
Address:	99 Pine Hill Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	c 1830
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dairy; 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; Brick



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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:

Saturday, July 09, 2016 at 2:02: PM

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

96-??

Marlboro

353

354

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)

99 Pine Hill Road

Name Ashbel Howe House

Present residential - single family

Original residential

Construction ca. 1830

maps/visual

Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard/wood trim

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Shingled gable front barn (MHC #354) and attached open shed on stone foundation at rear of lot with two small 6-light window transom over a sliding wood herringbone pattern door with two 6-light windows centered in door also, 6/6 in peak. Separate gable front shingled outbuilding behind house with multi-light window in peak.

Major Alterations (with dates) Wrap porch, rear wall dormer, fenestration changes, second rear ell on one-story brick foundation with two dormers - all mid to late 1900s.

Condition good

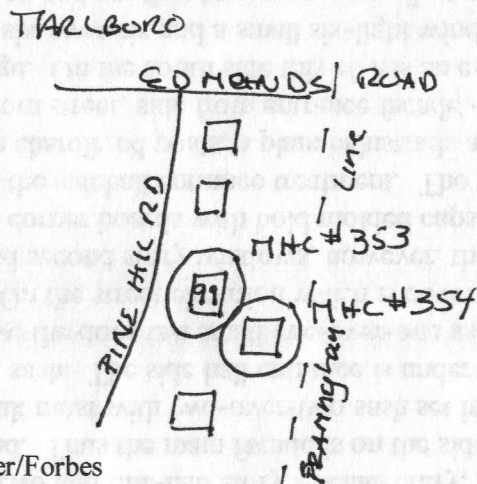
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 1.45 acres

Setting Once rural road in north east part of Southborough disconnected from town, surrounded by new 1990s subdivision. House sits up above road.

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Schuler/Forbes

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month / year) 5/00

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

MASS. HIST. COMM

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

This gable front, two and one-half story sidehall entry, Greek Revival house faces south with the roof gable parallel to the road. Thus the main facade is on the side. The three-bay facade has three second story windows and one in the peak most with two-over-two sash set in plain frames. The attic window in the south gable peak has a six-over-six sash. The side hall entrance is under a wrap porch and has full sidelights flanking the door. The window above the door is a small one-over-one as is the second-story window around the corner on the street elevation. On the street elevation which is covered by the one-story hipped roof wrap porch, there are only three first and second story windows, however, the spacing points towards four bays. Greek Revival trim includes the wide corner boards with bold molded caps carrying a wide entablature with boxed cornice and returns as well as the sidehall entrance treatment. The house has two interior chimneys near the ridge. The wrap porch is new with chamfered posts, a plain balustrade and partial deck with no roof. Extending from the east elevation - rear from street, side from entrance facade - is a one and one-half story gable roof ell with a chimney straddling the ridge. On the south side this ell has an entrance, two first story six-over-six windows, a tall wall dormer with two six-over-six and a small six-light window tucked up under the eave overhang. Behind this ell is a shed roof addition and another two-story rear ell on a raised one-story brick foundation with entrance door, two gabled dormers with two-over-two sash and a deck that wraps around the end of this second rear ell. The north side of the house presents a two-bay main block, a one-and one-half story rear ell with an entrance door, three first-story eight-over-eight windows and two second story. Behind this ell is a raised roof to form a two-story addition. The ground slopes to the south accounting for the raised brick foundation and retaining wall on the south side of this part of the house. The gable front barn (MHC #354) is shingled and has a large centered sliding door with exterior track over which is a small six-light transom. The only other features are the boxed cornice and narrow returns, the single six-over-six sash in the peak and the small six-light window on one side of the sliding door. The attached shed probably is a later addition. The second gable front outbuilding is northeast of the barn and is also shingled with a multi-light window in the peak, boxed cornice, and a sliding window next to the entrance in the gable front.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☒ see continuation sheet*Discuss the 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.*

The 1897 construction of the Sudbury Reservoir and Dam changed the surrounding landscape dramatically and isolated this northeastern most part of Southborough, making it accessible only after passing through part of Framingham to the south or Marlborough to the north. Until that time Pine Hill Road from the north ended at what today is called Clemmons Street where the road turned west and crossed the upper part of Southborough to Marlborough Road. The east-west route was obliterated by the Reservoir and left Pine Hill Road cut off from the rest of Southborough. This property is the only remaining early nineteenth century dwelling that survives on Pine Hill Road and one of only two in this truncated northeastern section of town.

Although this house was constructed by 1831, nothing is known of owners until mid-century when **Ashbel Howe** lived here. In 1839 he had married **Laura Nichols**, who probably was from the Nichols family who ran the nearby saw and grist mills. Ashbel Howe was recorded in the 1850 Agricultural Census as having a farm worth \$3000 and similar to other local farmers raised hay, oats, Indian corn, and Irish potatoes as well as making large amounts of butter. Howe had 8 pigs, one horse, 5 cows and a pair of oxen, no doubt to work his fields. By 1860 his real estate was worth \$4800 which is consistent with his 1870 assessment at which time he owned a

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
SOUTHBOROUGH

Property Address
99 PINE HILL ROAD
Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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75-acre farm with an additional 11½ acres of woodland, a house worth \$1500, a barn, store house, carriage house, and hog house. He still had a pair of oxen, a horse, 6 cows, and only one swine. By 1897 this property had been sold to **Samuel B. Bird** who was assessed for the A. Howe house, barn, hog house, the wood land that by this time was categorized as "sprout land" and an additional 76 acres described as 40 acres of farm and 36 acres of Howe pasture and sprout land. However Bird only had an 11-acre Pine Hill sprout land parcel by 1900. By 1909 some of the land had been sold separately because Edward Eastabrook of Framingham owned 13 ½ acres of Howe's pasture and sprout land on Pine Hill Road in Southborough. In the early twentieth century much of the farm land along Pine Hill Road belonged to the two large dairy farms based in Framingham with land holdings that extended to these properties. They were the Birds' Waveney Farm and Eastleigh Farm just east of this property on Edmands Road. Additional research is necessary to determine whether Samuel Bird who owned this property for a brief period in the late 1890s was related to Reginald and Violet Bird who purchased the Belknap farm in 1912 and called it Waveney Farm (See Framingham MHC #567).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ *see continuation sheet*

Assessors Reports: 1870, 1881, 1894, 1897, 1906, 1909.

Atlases/Maps: 1831, 1857 (A. Howe), 1870 (A. Howe), 1898 (Sam' Bird)

Directories: 1900, 1903.

MHC Historic Resource Survey, Framingham; B-Form #567

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



Barn