

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.263
Historic Name:	Fayville Village Hall
Common Name:	Southborough G. A. R. Hall
Address:	42 Central St
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	Fayville;
Local No:	38-45;
Year Constructed:	1911
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival;
Architect(s):	Warren, Joseph E.;
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Auditorium; Community Center; Meeting Hall; Warehouse;
Significance:	Community Planning; Politics Government; Recreation;
Area(s):	SBR.D
Designation(s):	
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Brick; Wood; Wood Shingle; Foundation: Ashlar Random Laid; Stone, Uncut;
Demolished	No



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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
 Boston, MA 02125

38-45

Marlborough

263

Town Southborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

FayvilleAddress 42 Central StreetHistoric Name Fayville Hall/Fayville Village HallUses: Present Senior center, VFW meeting
roomsOriginal Meeting hall; fire stationDate of Construction 1911Source Southborough Annual ReportsStyle/Form Colonial RevivalArchitect/Builder Builder: J.E. Warren & Co.

Exterior Material:

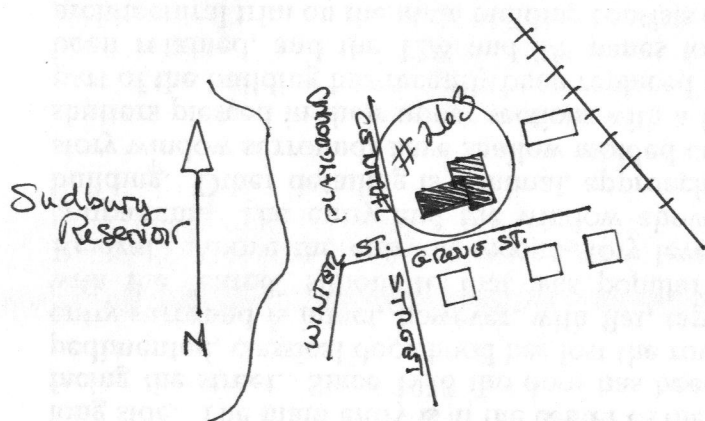
Foundation stone: random ashlarWall/Trim wood shingle (main building),
brick (rear); wood trimRoof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

noneMajor Alterations (with dates) Window sashand door replaced, entry columns removed--since 1978.Condition goodMoved [x] no [] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting At Fayville opposite athletic field andplayground. Parking lot, small modernathletic building, railroad to rear.

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within 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 Anne Forbes, consultantOrganization Southborough Historical Comm.Date June, 1999

MASS. HIST. COMM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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

This distinctive building is one of the focal points of Fayville, and one of Southborough's several stylish institutional structures of the early twentieth century. It is a large 1 1/2-story shingled building with a gambrel roof lined with four pedimented dormer windows on each long side. The main entry is in the center of the three-bay, symmetrical southwest-end facade, facing the street. Since 1978 the door has been replaced with a glass security door, and the pedimented, classical door hood has lost the round columns that supported it. The rest of the entry surround is intact, however, with flat, tapered pilasters, and a wide, molded architrave with the "eared" silhouette that was popular during the early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival. Above the entry at second-story level is a large Palladian window with a wooden tympanum. The entry and the window above it are the most high-style elements of the building. Other detailing is minimal, approaching the Craftsman in its simplicity. The first-story window surrounds have shallow molded crowns, and are flanked by wide recessed-panel shutters pierced in their upper sections with a heart motif. All the window sash on the main part of the building has recently been replaced with vinyl, although the original openings have been retained, and the 12/8 and 8/8 panes follow the original sash configurations. Other architectural trim on the main building consists of a molded cornice with returns, a water table, and flat cornerboards. (Cont.)

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.

Fayville Hall, more recently called Fayville Village Hall, was built by the town in 1911 as a public hall, to provide meeting space for the Southborough Post 44 of the Grand Army of the Republic, and for the use of the town Fire Department. Its construction as authorized by the March 1911 Town Meeting was the culmination of many years of efforts to meet several longstanding needs. The Fayville section of town had lacked a meeting hall since the former GAR hall had burned down in the 1896 fire that also destroyed the former A.D. Howe shoe factory, and the Southborough Post 44 of the Grand Army of the Republic had been without a headquarters since that time. Better storage facilities for the fire apparatus of Fayville was also needed than the space the town had been renting for \$60 per year. The effort to construct the new community building was apparently spearheaded by the George Wesley Nichols Building Association, which offered the property on which the shoe factory and the GAR Hall had stood to the town. They also apparently commissioned the design. While the name of the architect is not known, the builder was the major building contractor in Marlborough at that time, Joseph E. Warren & Co. The Building Committee consisted of Augustus E. Wright, Josiah True, and John H. McCloskey. Waldo B. Fay gave the town a mortgage to cover the construction costs and furnishings. (Apparently the Chickering piano that was bought by the town in 1912 for \$256 is still there). (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

"Fire in Old AD Howe Shoe Shop," Southborough Chronotype, 3/7/1896.
Town of Southborough: Annual Reports for 1910-1913.

☐ 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

Fayville Hall

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

Area(s)

Form No.
263

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The main part of the building has two secondary entries, one on each side elevation in the sixth bay from the street, reached by concrete steps. The northeast entry has a glass-and-panel door; the entry on the south side has a 6-panel wood door, and is sheltered by a shed-roofed hood on square posts, with a straight-dowel balustrade. A small chimney rises from the rear end of the roof ridge.

Placed across the rear of the main building is a low, one-story shed-roofed brick section, originally used to store fire apparatus. Its south wall, where the main entrance may have been, has a stepped brick parapet. An added wood-shingled section extends from either end. The rear wall of the brick section has 6-over-6-sash windows set into segmental-arched openings. Wood 6-over-6-sash also remain in the northwest, hip-roofed addition. That part of the building has its own facade entry, which appears to be original--it has a wooden door with one long panel, flanked by 5-pane sidelights.

By some accounts, this building stands on, or reuses material from the foundations of the shoe factory formerly on the site.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

As was typical of the design of other public halls in town, such as the **Town Hall** (#30) and **Wilson's/Cordaville Hall** at **Fitzgerald's Store** in Cordaville (#172), the second floor of this building was filled by a large meeting hall/auditorium, and had a stage at one end. Smaller rooms for the GAR and a rear kitchen were located at the first story, and the Company #1 of the Fire Department used the one-story brick section at the rear of the building to store equipment, including its hand engine.

Since the Town owned the property, it could determine the uses of the hall and gain some income from renting it out. It was also used for a variety of town purposes, such as activities during the war relief effort of World War I, and as a health center during the 1918 influenza epidemic, when a tent hospital was put up in the field beside the building. In 1921 Town Meeting voted to grant use of the hall to the Southborough Band. In 1923 the Town purchased land for a public park across the street from the G.W. Nichols Building Association--apparently the property which is still in recreation use as a playground and the Horace E. Fay Memorial Field. At the height of the depression, the Fayville Athletic Association sponsored the town's third Boy Scout troop, which held weekly meetings in the Hall. The building is still in active use as a senior citizens' center, and the rear section is occupied by Choate Post 3276 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



View southeast



Rear view, looking southwest

AL FAY
USG MAPC

In Area no.

D

Form no.

263

SION
ton

1. Town Southborough

Address 42 Central Street

Name Fayville Village Hall

Present use Municipal offices
(partially unused)

Present owner Town of Southborough

3. Description: ca. WWI

Date conjectural 1910-1920

Source Town employee

Style Colonial Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric wood shingle field-
stone foundation

Outbuildings (describe) 1½ story gambrel

Other features 1½ story gambrel roof.

Georgian - inspired entrance portico
with Doric columns. (See other side)

Altered 2 rearwing Date _____
additions - 1 story

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 78'

Approximate distance of building from street
32'

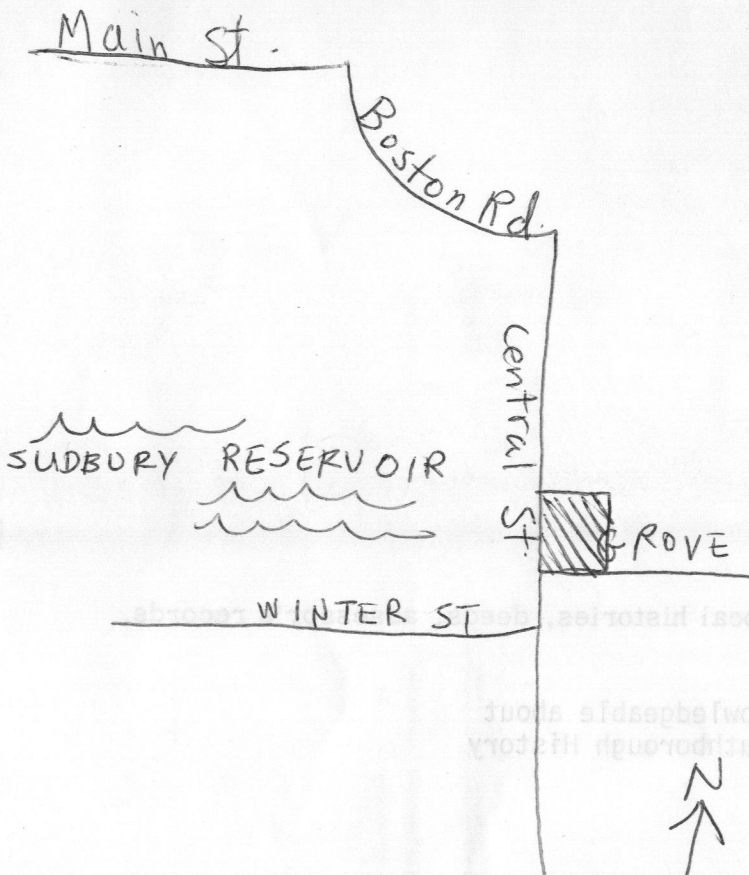
6. Recorded by Harriet White

Organization MAPC

Date 7-24-78



Other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Town of Southborough

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates During WWII - Red Cross volunteers rolled bandages here.
Currently rented out for dance classes, social functions.

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	<u>x</u>
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	<u>x</u>		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Mrs. Kay Allen, 77 Deerfoot Rd. Knowledgeable about
 Mrs. Lois McCarthy, 23 High St. - Southborough History

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Southborough

Form No:

263

Property Name:

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Other features, cont'd

4 pedimented dormers on each lower slope of the gambrel roof.
Palladian window over entrance.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____
Copies: Inventory form _____
Town file(w/corresp.) _____
Macris _____
NR director _____

Community: Southborough

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 10/18/00

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 10/18/00

Type: ☒ Individual

☐ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Fayville Village Hall

Inventory Form: B

Address:

Requested by: Southborough Historical Commission

Action:

☒ Honor

☐ ITC

☐ Grant

☐ R & C

☐ Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: BF

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☐ Eligible

☐ Eligible, also in district

☐ Eligible only in district

☐ Ineligible

☒ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible

☐ Ineligible

☒ More information needed

CRITERIA:

☒ A

☐ B

☐ C

☒ D

LEVEL:

☒ Local

☐ State

☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Brian Knight

The Colonial Revival/Shingle style, the 1-½ story gambrel roof Village Hall retains much of its simplistic yet historic building features such as a Palladian window with a wooden tympanum, the shallow wooden molded window crowns and recessed panel shutters. However, the front door has been replaced by a glass security door and the pedimented door hood has lost its supporting round columns. All of the window sash on the main part of the building was recently replaced with vinyl windows that mirror the historic 12/8 and 8/8 configurations. There is a one-story shed roofed brick section attached to the rear of the building. This section also has shingle extensions on either side of it. There is no information concerning the integrity of the interior of the building.

The Fayville Village Hall was built in 1911 to serve as a meeting room for the Southborough Post 44 of the GAR as well as a space for the fire department. This building replaced the former GAR Hall, which burned down in 1896. There is a large meeting hall/auditorium on the second floor of the building. In 1918, the space was used as a health center during the influenza epidemic. The building is now used for as a Senior Citizens center and a meeting space for the VFW.

The Village Town Hall serves as the focal point of the Fayville Village. Due to a fire that occurred in the center in 1896, many of the historic institutional buildings were destroyed. The Fayville Village Hall represents that "second growth" of civic buildings. In addition to the Fayville Village Hall, the area also consists of a collection of Greek Revival, Italianate, Bungalow and Arts and Crafts structures. Throughout the history of Fayville, there has always been a close relationship between the village and transportation. The village was located along the Boston and Worcester turnpike, the Agricultural Railway and the Boston and Worcester Trolley. Due to a large collection of intact institutional, commercial and industrial buildings ranging from the early 1800s through the first half of the 20th century, the Village of Fayville is eligible as a National Register District under Criterion A and C at a local level. There is a large collection of intact buildings that vary in style and construction period which reflect both an architectural integrity but also the developmental history of the Fayville area.