Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System
Scanned Record Cover Page



Inventory No:	MED.94
Historic Name:	Smith, Aaron House
Common Name:	Ellis, Franklin - Jordan, Horatio A. House
Address:	205 South St
City/Town:	Medfield
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	171; 28-31;
Year Constructed:	C 1835
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival;
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Industry;
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials:	Roof: Wood Shingle; Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Foundation: Granite; 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

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 7:42 PM

MED.94

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
28/31	Medfield		94, 218

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



Sketch Map

see attached map

RECEIVED
JUL 22 1998
MASS. HIST. COMM

Recorded by NCA, JMS, VHA
Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
Date *(month/day/year)* May 1998

Town Medfield
Place *(neighborhood or village)*

Address 205 South Street
Historic Name Aaron Smith House
Uses: Present residence
Original residence
Date of Construction ca. 1835
Source Blue Book # 9
Style/Form Greek Revival
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material:
Foundation granite
Wall/Trim clapboard
Roof wood shingle
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
garage/former South School House (MHC 218, ca. 1799)
Major Alterations *(with dates)*
rear ell (19th c.)
Condition good
Moved X **no** ____ **yes** **Date**
Acreage less than one
Setting grassy side yard, drive to the southwest, mature trees, stone well to the northeast of the house

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

MED. 94

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☑ *see continuation sheet*

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

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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☑ *see continuation sheet*

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

MED.94

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community: Medfield

Property Address: 205 South Street

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

Area(s)

Form No. 94, 218

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *(continued)*

The Aaron Smith House, constructed ca. 1835, at 205 South Street is a 1½-story, Greek Revival-style residence. It is a typical example of its type and period within the survey area and is notable as a full Cape-type house which has not undergone major alterations. The outbuilding which sits on the property is unusual because it was once used as a schoolhouse and moved to the site. It is the oldest of two early schoolhouses remaining in Medfield. The other, located at 15 High Street (MHC 188, 1876), was also moved from its original site and converted into a residence. The house, which rests on a granite foundation, has a regular plan consisting of a rectangular main block with a rear ell extension. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (south elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade and consists of a wood panel door with 3/4 sidelights and a fluted surround. Fenestration consists of double-hung sash windows with 6/6 lights set in rectangular openings. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard. A shed dormer pierces the roof on the rear slope. A brick chimney is located in the center of the ridge of the main roof. Other notable exterior architectural features include windows set close to the cornice and cornerboards. Alterations include a gable roof rear ell addition (19th century). The property is in good condition and also includes a front gable wood shed. The property also includes the former South School House (MHC 218, ca. 1799), a 1½-story building that presently is being used as an auto garage. The building is rectangular in plan and has a front-facing gable roof with a sliding, hung-track door. Fenestration consists of fixed sash windows with 6/6 lights set in rectangular openings. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard and the roof is sheathed with wood shingle.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE *(continued)*

The lower portion of South Street, below High Street, was not formally laid out until the middle of the nineteenth-century (Tilden 1887:246-249). The house at 205 South Street is associated with the Smith family. Aaron Smith purchased a house on South Street, near the South School House, where he and his son, Aaron, worked as farmers and custom shoe makers (Blue Book #9). Upon the elder Aaron's death, the property passed to his son, who tore down the old house to construct the current structure about 1835 (Blue Book #9; MHC B Form 94, 1835).

In 1855, the South School House, which had stood at the intersection of south and High Streets, was moved to the property to be used as a carriage house (Blue Book #9) when the South School lot was made larger and a new building was constructed just to the south of the site of the older one (Tilden 1887:246). The first South School House was constructed in 1730, when the town voted to construct two schoolhouses in the north and south sections of town (Tilden 1887:129-130). This schoolhouse was replaced in 1761 and again in 1799 by the present structure, and in 1831, it was altered to seat more students (Tilden 1887:145,196,229). Upon the removal of this building to South Street, another South School House was constructed, which now sits at 15 High Street (MHC 188, 1876).

In 1876, the property is shown on maps as that of F[ranklin]. Ellis (Comstock & Cline). Ellis had married Alma Woods, the daughter of Reuben and Pamela (nee Smith), a descendant of Aaron Smith. By 1884, the property was in the possession of Horatio A. Jordan, a farmer (Office of the Union Publishing Co. 1884:46) who remained at the property through at least 1898 (A.E. Foss 1886:23; Blue Book #9), at which time the property was owned by H.W. Wood. Henry W.Wood remained at the property until at least 1914 (Walker 1909; Gordon 1914:34). A large barn which had stood to the rear of the house was torn down in 1932 (Keene 1939:523). The property continues to be used as a private residence.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community: Medfield

Property Address: 205 South Street

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

Area(s)

Form No. 94, 218

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *(continued)*

A.E. Foss. *Residents and Business Directory of Medfield and Walpole for 1886-7.* Needham, MA. 1886.

"Blue Books" (10 volumes). [loose leaf notebooks containing street-by-street and house-by-house information and photographs. Located at Medfield Historical Society].

Gordon, Amos J. *The Medfield, Millis & Medway Directory Massachusetts 1914-15.* Needham, MA. 1914.

Office of the Union Publishing Company. *First Resident and Business Directory of Medfield, Walpole and Norwood.* South Framingham, MA. 1884.

Keene, Gwendoline. "'Mere Man' Makes a Home for Himself" in *American Cookery.* Vol. XLIII, No. 9. April, 1939.

Tilden, William S. *History of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts, 1650-1886.* George H. Ellis, Boston, MA. 1887.

Maps

1876 Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts. Comstock & Cline.

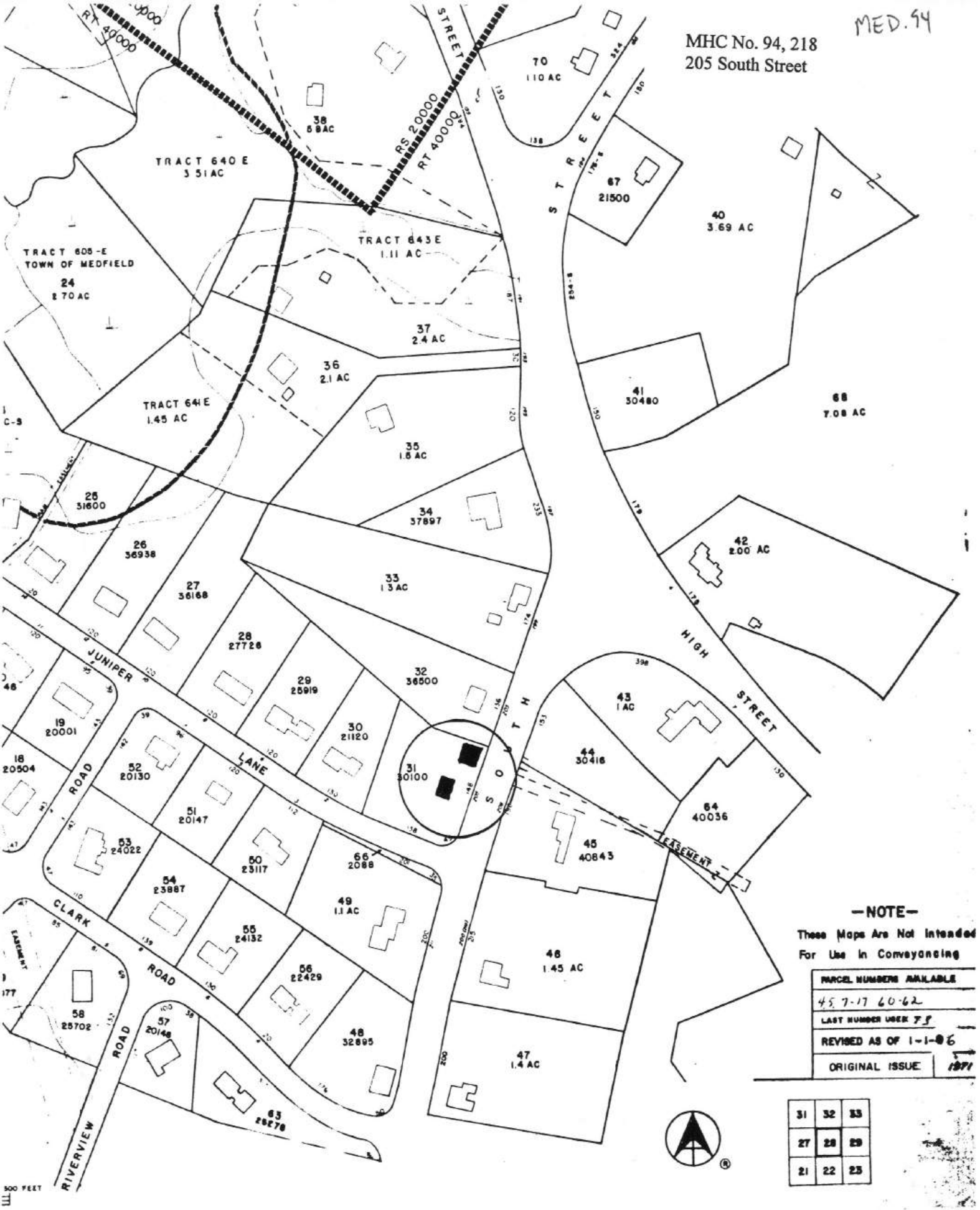
1888 Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts. E. Robinson, Boston.

1909 Atlas of the Towns of Needham, Dover, Westwood, Millis, and Medfield, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. Walker Lithograph and Publishing Co., Boston. Plate 15.



MED. 94

MHC No. 94, 218
205 South Street



—NOTE—
These Maps Are Not Intended For Use In Conveyancing

PARCEL NUMBERS AVAILABLE
45-7-17 60-62
LAST NUMBER USED 75
REVISED AS OF 1-1-86
ORIGINAL ISSUE 1971

31	32	33
27	28	29
21	22	23

MED.94

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archive Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Medfield

Property Address:
205 South Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	94, 218

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: NCA, JMS, VHA

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Aaron Smith House at 205 South Street is a notable as a locally fine example of a full Cape-type, Greek Revival-style residence. The property also has a long association with agricultural land use patterns which played an important role in the settlement and development of Medfield through its affiliation with the Smith family for over 100 years and with farming into the first decades of the 20th century. The outbuilding is the former South School House, oldest of two early schoolhouses remaining in Medfield , moved to this side in 1855 for use as a carriage house. The Aaron Smith House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and meets criteria A and C of the NRHP. Additional historical research will be required to complete the nomination

MAP REF. ~~NO. 37~~ MED. 94 171

(attach photo here)

FORM B - STRUCTURE SURVEY
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Info. Requested by Mass. Hist. Com.

1. Is this structure historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Structure has historical connection with the following themes (See also reverse side):

Agriculture	Commerce/industry
Architecture	Science/invention
Art/sculpture	Travel/communication
Education	Military affairs
Government	Religion/philosophy
Literature	Indians
Music	Development of town/city

2. Town MEDFIELD

Street address 205 South ST

Name (199)? 94

Original use Home Pl. 4

Present use Home UNLIMITED SELTA

Present owner ERNEST M. KENYON

Open to public NO

Date Ca 1835-6 Style Greek Revival

Source of date OWNER

Architect

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: Stone

WALL COVER: Wood Clapboards Brick Stone Other

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard Wood Shingles
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End End interior Cluster Elaborate Irregular

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency with 1 chimney

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony Recessed:

FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament:

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: 3/4 length sidelights panels

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6 over 6

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

OUTBUILDINGS Garage

5. Indicate location of structure in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



6. Footage of structure from street 20'
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder Barbara Leighton

For Medfield Historical Society

Photo ~~You~~ have 68.1436

Date Dec. 70

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form.

SEE REVERSE S

FORM MHC-B 10M-4-67-944872

MED.94

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom. Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian

Type Buildings: Homes Conditions: Excellent (Good) Fair Deteriorated

Use: (Residential) Commercial Religious Proximity: _____ _____ _____

Landscape Features: Agriculture (Open) Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal

Predominent Features _____

Landscape Architect _____

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Smith family came to Medfield about 1796. Original house built about that time. There was a small farm which Aaron Senior worked, together with his trade as a custom shoe maker. His son, Aaron, Jr., lived at home and worked at the same trade. Aaron, Jr., brought his wife there from the New Hampshire hills when she was 17 years old (about 1837). Aaron, Senior, died in 1841.

The old house was torn down and the present house built about 1835-6.

1831 the South school house was enlarged. In 1855 this was moved to an adjoining homestead, used as a carriage house.



BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFER

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds