

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

84-52

Marlborough

47

Town Marlborough

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Road district \_\_\_\_\_

Address 407 Cook Lane

Historic Name Silas Temple House

Uses: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Date of Construction ca. late 1790's

Source maps; visual assessment

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures early-20th

century concrete block garage/utility building

Major Alterations (with dates) 2-story porches

and exterior chimney on S. end band of multi-

light windows on first ell

Condition good

Moved [] no [] yes Date N/A

Acreage ca. 41,300 square feet

Setting At corner of Farm Rd, facing north

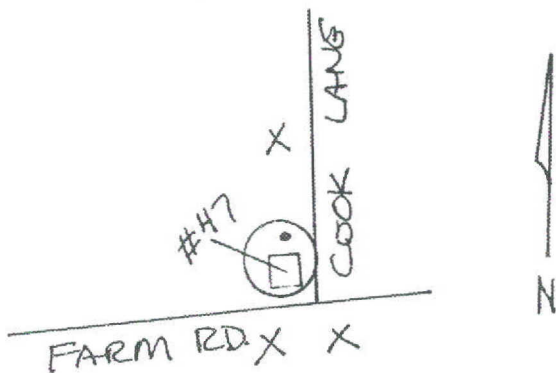
Fieldstone retaining wall across front; pool at

rear. Modern houses to southwest



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

Organization for Marlboro Hist. Comm.

Date 6/15/95

## 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 house, like many older farmhouses, is a four-part building that apparently grew over the course of several decades. The main house is a large 2 1/2-story, side-gabled, five-bay building of a type and style that dates to the Greek Revival period, probably about 1830-1840. Both its proportions and architectural detailing are typical of that time: its roof cornice is molded and boxed, with a wide frieze, and cornice returns on the gable-ends, and the house corners are embellished with typical wide Greek Revival corner pilasters with recessed panels and molded caps. The main center entry has full-length divided sidelights, a simple surround of wide, flat boards, a high frieze, and a molded, projecting lintel. (The door is covered by a vertical-board storm door.) The windows, which are 2-over-2-sash, with flat surrounds, would have been inserted after 1850. A succession of ells extend northward; at least one of which is likely to predate the main house. The first two are 1 1/2-stories high, the roof line of the second being higher than the first. Abutting the higher ell is a short, low, 1-story extension. Most of the windows in the ells are 6-over-6-sash.

Abutting the south end of the main house is a two-story open porch, probably dating to the first third of this century.

### 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.*

In spite of its Cook Lane address, this house represents a family connection to the properties along Farm Road, as it was the home of members of both the Temple and Arnold families. **Lydia Arnold**, (b. 1774), daughter of Joseph Arnold, who evidently lived at 580 Farm Road, married **Silas Temple** (b. 1775), son of Jonas, in 1796. (Temples lived both to the southwest, on Farm Road, and to the northwest on Framingham Road and Maple Street). At least part of the house might have been built at about the time of their marriage, and a house is shown here under Silas Temple's name on the map of 1803.

Lydia Temple died in about 1814, after having eight children. Silas married again and joined the Shakers, apparently moving away from Marlborough in about 1820. The house then became the property of Silas and Lydia's eldest daughter, **Betsey** (b. 1796), and her husband **George Williams** (b. 1800, son of Stephen and Sally [Estabrook]), whom she married in 1823.

By 1856, George and Betsey Williams had evidently moved to 580 Farm Road, (see Area Form AC), and the property, still with 55 acres, was owned by **Jonas D. Morse**, who was here until at least 1889.

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

Maps and atlases: 1803, 1830, 1835, 1856/7, 1875, 1889.  
Bigelow, Ella. Historical Reminiscences of Marlborough, Mass. 1910.  
Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Marlborough. 1862..  
Marlborough Vital Records.  
Marlborough Directories and Real Estate valuations.

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

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
Marlborough

Property Address  
407 Cook Lane

Area(s)

Form No(s).  
47

### 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 Anne Forbes  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Silas Temple House, for its association with the early Temple and Arnold families of Farm Road, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its contribution to the development of a rural, linear National Register district along Farm Road. As an excellent example of early Greek Revival architecture in a rural setting, it also qualifies under Criterion C.

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