

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

MAY 15 1989

533 SOUTHBRIDGE MASS
MRA

AREA	FORM NO.
D	439

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

Town SouthbridgeAddress 31 Sayles StreetHistoric Name James Gleason CottageUse: Present residenceOriginal residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca 1830-1835Source mapsStyle transitional Greek Revival/Gothic RevivalArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric clapboardsOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) frontporch a later addition (ca. 1900)Condition GoodMoved Yes Date ca. 1900Acreage less than one acreSetting mid-19th c. residential neighbor-
hoodUTM REFERENCE 18/744 560/4662 590USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge Mass-ConnSCALE 1:25,000Recorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci
ed. S. CeccacciOrganization Southbridge Historical Com-
missionDate May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The James Gleason House is significant for its association with the town's mid-19th century real estate development and its stylish and rare Gothic Revival design. It meets National Register criteria A, C and exception B and retains integrity of setting, location, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The boundaries indicated on the attached assessors map are those of current ownership.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

This cottage is one of only a few remaining residences in Southbridge with elements of the Gothic Revival style. The Gothic Revival style experienced only limited popularity in Central Massachusetts cities and towns, leaving relatively few examples surviving today throughout the area. Most of these surviving examples indicate that the use of the Gothic Revival here was almost entirely in the vernacular, consisting most often in the application of Gothic elements to one story, gable front houses with symmetrical silhouettes. This is precisely the case for the James Gleason Cottage where a recessed Gothic arched porch occupies the projecting pediment of an otherwise Greek Revival house. The present porch is not original, but was probably added around the turn of the century when the house was moved from its original site. It is very likely that the original porch consisted of four Doric columns, giving the house an even more Greek Revival flavor. A house of similar design still exists in nearby Sturbridge Center.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The size and mid-19th century vernacular style of this house relates it to other middle class residences lining High, Sayles and Winter Streets. Moved from the nearby eastern corner of Main and Sayles Street about 1900, the house is stylistically and historically part of the neighborhood where it now stands.

This cottage was probably built by James Gleason, a successful grocer who had an interest in several stores and business enterprises in Globe Village during the middle portion of the 19th century. For many years Gleason operated the Union Store, a cooperative store of the Protective Union, Division 661. When the success of the Union Store caused it to require more space, the Hamilton Mill built a building known as the Union Block to house it. After some time (the exact date is not clear), the Union Store came into the possession of Gleason. It was operated by him and later by Julius S. Gleason until around the turn of the century.

The increasing success of the Hamilton Woolen Mills created a growth in population and a related building boom in Globe Village from the 1830's until the Civil War. The success of James Gleason's businesses must have been due in part to this prosperity and to the increase in population. The construction of his house was part of the building boom that developed High Sayles and Winter Streets during the same period. Gleason later built a much larger and more imposing house in the Italianate style on the western corner of Main and Sayles Streets, opposite the original location of this cottage. That house is still standing but has unfortunately been altered by the application synthetic siding.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Assessors Records

Ammidown, H. Historical Collections, 1874

Quinebaug Historical Society Leaflets, Vol. I, #4, pp. 52-53

Vol. II, #13, p. 119

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Southbridge MRA
State Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
31. Gleason, James, Cottage Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
32. Globe Village Fire House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
33. Glover Street Historic District Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
34. Hamilton Mill Brick House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
35. Hamilton Mill--West Street Factory Housing Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
36. Hamilton Millwright--Agent's House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
37. Hamilton Woolen Company Historic District Substantive Review	for Keeper <u>Betty L. Savage</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
38. Harrington, Theodore, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
39. Hartwell, George H., House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
40. Hartwell, Samuel C., House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Gleason, James, Cottage
NAME:

MULTIPLE Southbridge MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/31/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/16/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/29/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000533

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/22/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



31 Sayles Street (D-439)

James Gleason Cottage

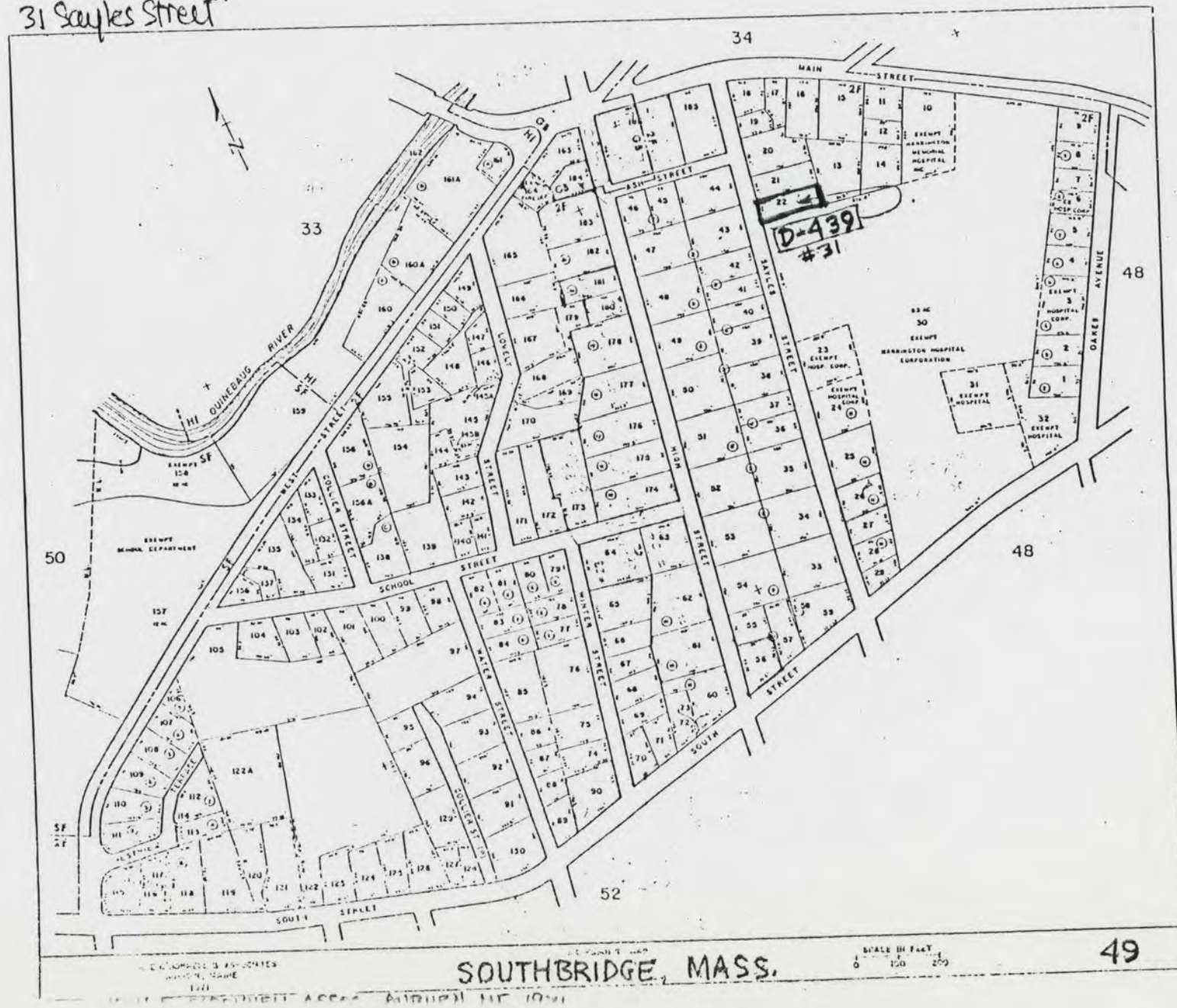
Southbridge, MA ~~NRA~~

1986

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 6-9-9A

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS
MRA



Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294