

FORM B - BUILDING

MAY 15 1989

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

587

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

MRA

AREA	FORM NO.
B	246

Town Southbridge

Address 3 Dean Street

Historic Name n/a

Use: Present residence

Original residence

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

Roll # 3-27

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1878-1889

Source maps, photographs

Style Stick

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard/shingle

Outbuildings garage (NC)

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

Major Alterations (with dates) garage added to side ca. 1950's, porch & enclosed rail early-20th c.

Condition Good-fair

Moved yes Date 1899-1904

Acreage less than one acre

Setting neighborhood of 19th-century worker houses, mostly altered. Some 3-D's but mostly 1 & 2 story houses

UTM REFERENCE 18/745 840/4662 230

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Commission

Date May 1986

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

3 Dean Street is significant as an early example of worker housing constructed during the rise to prominence of the American Optical Company and the growth of the town's eastern section late in the 19th century. It meets National Register criteria A, C and Exception B at the local level and retains integrity of setting, 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.

The best preserved example of a type and style of a small workers' cottage which was extremely prevalent in the neighborhoods around the American Optical Main Works in the late-19th century, this one-and-a-half story house is one of the few of its type which still retains its original siding. A vernacular expression of the Stick Style, which was somewhat popular for middle and upper class residences in Southbridge, it is distinguished by half timbering and dog tooth shingling on the gable end, a high-pitched roof, dog tooth brackets in the overhanging eaves and an entrance in the long side. Photographs indicate that rows of identical houses of this type lined Crystal and Lens Streets in 1889. Most were oriented gable end to the street with the entrance on the side. Others were positioned with the entrance toward the street. The inspiration for the ornament used on these houses may have been the E. Merritt Cole House on Main Street (form #A-153).

This house did not appear on this lot until the turn of the century. It was moved a short distance from the corner of Crystal and Dean Streets when a larger building was built on that site between 1899 and 1904. The present porch was apparently added at that time. Less altered than another house of the same type at 75 Crystal Street, this is a rare survivor of this distinctive vernacular house design.

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

The construction of a number of identical houses of this type and design was part of the early development of this area in response to the opening of the American Optical Company factory nearby in 1872. The first houses in the area built on what was originally open land between Crystal and Foster Streets, were a row of Greek Revival Vernacular cottages, 1870-1878, on Benefit Street (form #B-220). Like this house, they were built on the same gable front plan with the entrance in the side. Houses along Crystal and Lens Streets seem to have been a second phase of development of the area. The developer of the Benefit Street row seems to have been William Edwards. It is not known who developed the rest of the area. By 1898 the area had been densely developed, between the river on the north and Main Street on the south from Mechanic Street about halfway up North Street. By this time, houses in the area were individually owned.

Apparently because of their small size, many of these early cottages were altered or replaced around the turn of the century. Especially on Crystal Street, houses were enlarged or new buildings were built. For some reason, houses on Lens and Benefit Streets were not replaced or greatly enlarged. Today their original appearance has been most altered by the application of synthetic siding.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Southbridge MRA  
State Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

- | Nomination/Type of Review   | Date/Signature   |
|---|--|
| 41. High--School Streets Historic District<br>Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 42. Hodgson, William, Two-Family House<br>Entered in the<br>National Register     | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 43. House at 18 Walnut Street<br>Entered in the<br>National Register              | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 44. House at 3 Dean Street<br>Entered in the<br>National Register                 | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 45. House at 34 Benefit Street<br>Entered in the<br>National Register             | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 46. House at 59--63 Crystal Street<br>Entered in the<br>National Register         | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 47. House at 64 Main Street<br>Entered in the<br>National Register                | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 48. House at 70--72 Main Street<br>Entered in the<br>National Register            | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 49. House at 91 Coombs Street<br>Entered in the<br>National Register              | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 50. Judson--Litchfield House<br>Entered in the<br>National Register               | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: House at 3 Dean Street

MULTIPLE NAME: Southbridge MRA

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: 89000587

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTMs       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Page 2  
3 Deane Street, (B.246)

Southbridge, MA

Ceccacci, 1986

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 3.27



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294