

MAY 15 1989

529

AREA	FORM NO.
D	241

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

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

Town Southbridge

Address 484 Worcester Street

Historic Name Dani & Soldani Cabinet Makers & Wood Workers Factory

Use: Present industrial

Original industrial

DESCRIPTION

Date 1914

Source maps, atlases & directories

Style early-20th c. Brick industrial

Architect UNK

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings gable roofed two story frame storehouse at rear (C)

Major Alterations (with dates) two story cinderblock addition on rear (mid-20th c.)

Condition good

Moved No Date n/a

Acreage one acre or less

Setting on main thoroughfare in outlying residential area

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

UTM REFERENCE 18/746 230/4663 920

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge MA CT

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci  
ed. S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Com- mission

Date May 1986

### **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Dani and Soldani Factory is significant as a building associated with the optical industry that dominated the Southbridge economy through the late 19th and early 20th centuries, bringing economic expansion that contributed to the growth of the town. It meets National Register criteria A and C at the local level 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.**

Typical of early-20th century brick factory buildings in Southbridge, this structure is simple in design with corbelling at the eaves and broad segmented arched windows. Indicative of its period of construction are the cement window sills.

Today the building remains intact as an early-20th century light industrial shop. It still retains its multipaned wood window sash and an appropriate painted sign on the street facade.

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

This building was originally built to house the Optical Lens Company, about which little information has been found. A study of available Southbridge directories suggests that the company was established about 1914 when the building was built. It remained in business into the 1920's. The company was not listed in the 1930 directory. Following the success of the American Optical Company during the late-19th and early-20th centuries, a number of small optical manufacturers hopefully set up business here also. A few were successful and remained in business for many years, others, such as this one, lasted only a few years.

Dani and Soldani, established by Eugenio Dani and Giovanni Soldani, was the earliest Italian manufacturer to establish itself in Southbridge. As early as 1912 the two men were listed in the directory as carpenters living at the same address, 56 Elm Street. The company was officially founded about 1914, first operating from the rear of their Elm Street house. Later it moved to the Armory on Central Street. In 1926 Dani and Soldani moved to the present location where the company still remains in business today. Makers of counter display cabinets, the company employed forty hands in the 1930's.

Italians began arriving in Southbridge in the late-19th century. The greatest Italian influx, however, came between 1910 and 1916, just before World War I. Dani and Soldani appear to have arrived during this period as they were not listed in the 1902 directory.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

maps, atlases, directories

Stone, O.L. Massachusetts Industries, Vol. II, pp. 1952-53.

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
21. Comins--Wall House <b>Substantive Review</b>	Keeper <u>Beth Sarge</u> 6-22-89 Attest _____
22. Congregational Church <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
23. Cummings, E.B., House <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
24. Dani and Soldani Cabinet Makers and Wood Workers Factory <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
25. Dennison School House <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
26. Dresser, Sylvester, House <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
27. Dunbar--Vinton House <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
28. Durfee, Henry E., Farmhouse <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
29. Elm Street Fire House <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
30. Evangelical Free Church <b>Entered in the National Register</b>	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dani and Soldani Cabinet Makers and Wood Workers Factory

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: 89000529

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  
 UTMs       boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

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

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

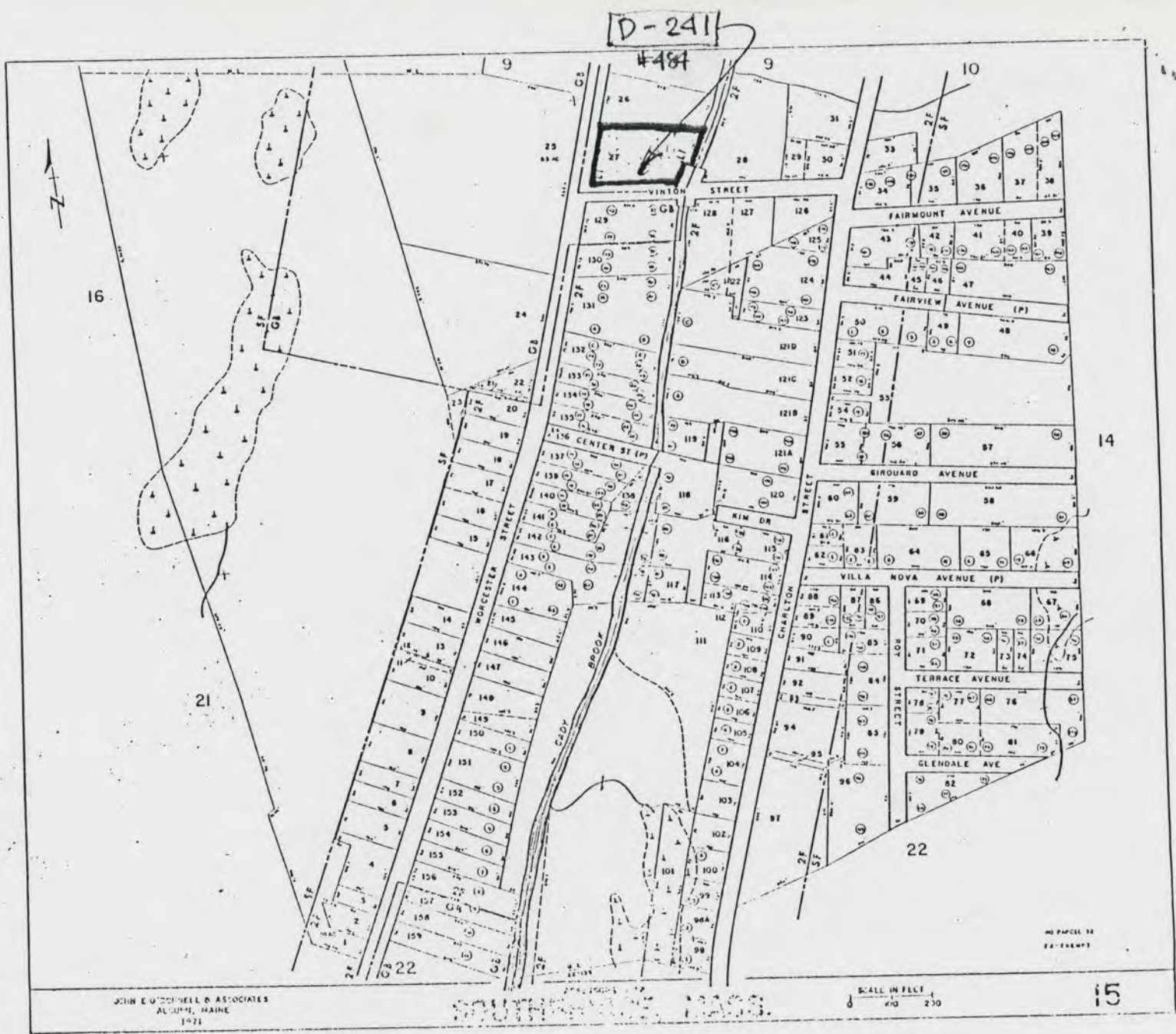
**DANI AND SOLDANI**  
CABINET MAKERS. WOOD WORKERS



484 Worcester St. (D. 241) Dani ; Soldani  
Southbridge MA ~~MRA~~ cabinet makers ;  
Ceccacci 1986 woodworkers ;  
Southbridge Historical Commission Factory  
Roll #6

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS  
MRA

484 Worcester Street



JOHN E. GUDENHELL & ASSOCIATES  
ALDUBEN, MAINE  
1971

SCALE IN FEET  
0 100 200

NO. PAPERS 34  
EA. SHEET 1

15

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294