

FORM B - BUILDING

MAY 15 1989

561

MRA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
A	115

Coll # 1-17

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 Southbridge

Address Hamilton Street

Historic Name Evangelical Free Church

Use: Present church - Episcopal

Original church - non denominational/
Congregational

DESCRIPTION

Date 1869

Source Quinebaug Historical Soc. Leaflets

Style transitional Romanesque Revival/
Victorian Gothic

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) doors, late-

20th c.; parish house addition - 1958

Condition Good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting fronts onto residential street

UTM REFERENCE 18/744 720 /4662 910

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by E. Woodford, ed. S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Com-
mission

Date May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Evangelical Free Church is significant for its association with the town's industrial expansion and the elaboration and diversification of public building at mid-century. It meets National Register criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of 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.

Built of brick, the Evangelical Free Church was one of three church buildings built in Southbridge in 1869. The other two, St. Mary's Catholic Church and the first Notre Dame Catholic Church (no longer standing) were built of wood. Chiefly Romanesque in style, the church also has some Victorian Gothic elements. Romanesque characteristics seen here are the paneled nave walls, brick corbelling, round arches and the stocky well articulated bell tower. The high-pitched spire with polychromatic roofslates and the large projecting entrance overdoor are distinctive Victorian Gothic features. The choice of style and design are not unusual for Central Massachusetts churches built after 1860. In fact, a somewhat Romanesque style church was built in 1864 on Main Street in the Centre Village Historic District, for the town's Baptist congregation.

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

Churches were among the earliest structures to be built on the west end of Hamilton Street; St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church was the first in 1853 (form #A-113), in 1869 the Free Church, and in 1873 St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (the successor to St. Peter's) were all built in this still undeveloped area.

Organized in 1854, by the agent and managers of the Hamilton Woolen Company, the Evangelical Free Church met in Unity Hall at Main and Mill Streets until the construction of the present building was complete. Although it claimed to be non-denominational, the church was classed as Congregational. Among its original 29 members, there were owners, employees of the mill, and several prominent citizens of Globe Village. Nonetheless, the Free Church was often referred to as the "Mill Church" or sarcastically as the "Church of the Holy Supervisors."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases
Quinebaug Historical Society Leaflets, Vol. II, #13.

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

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: 89000561

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 _____



Hamilton St. (A-115)
Evangelical Free Church
Southbridge, MA ~~MA~~

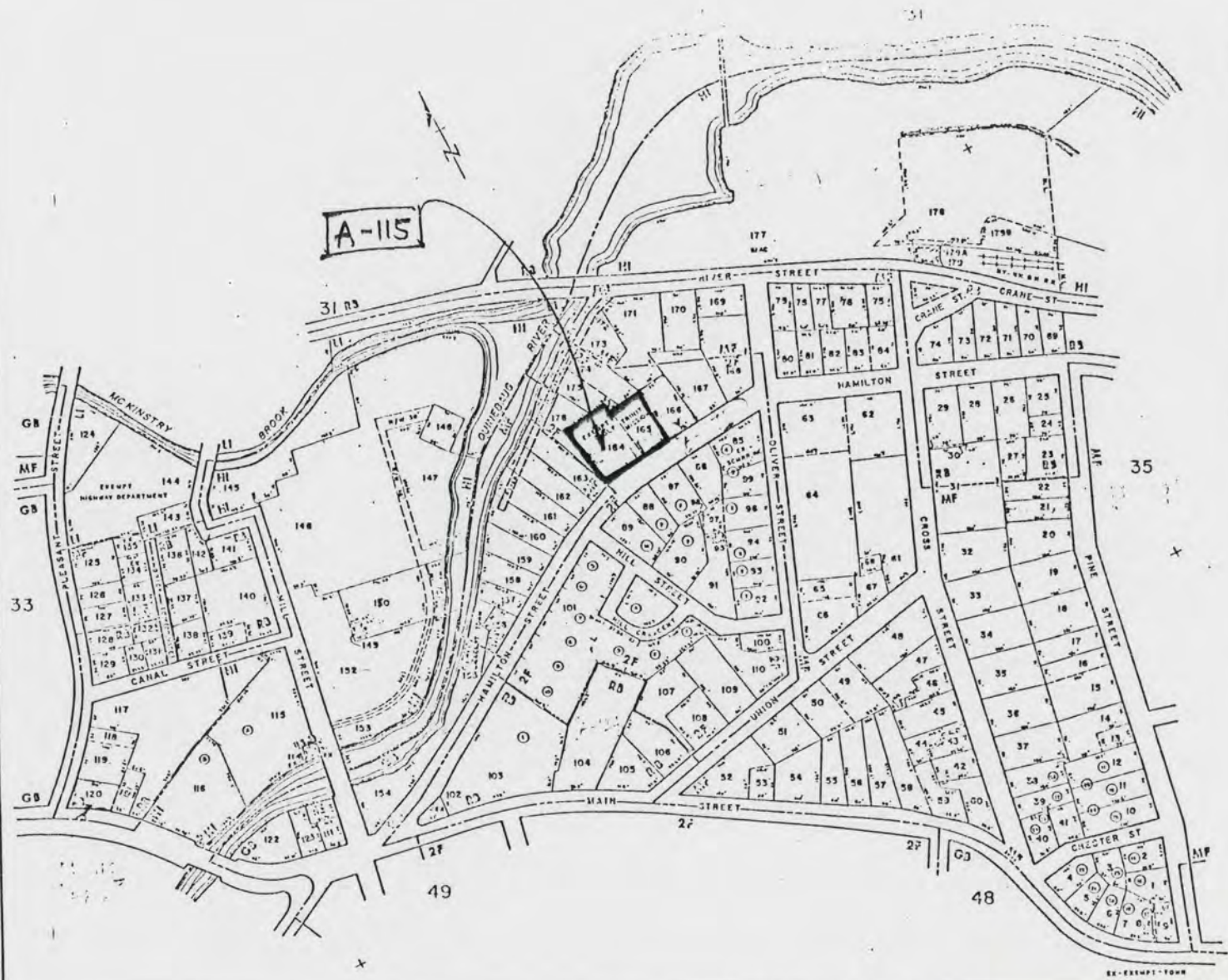
1986

Southbridge Historical Comm.

Form # A-115 1985 photo
Southbridge
Hamilton Street

Roll # 1-17

SOUTHRIDGE MASS
MRA



JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES
AUBURN, MAINE
1971

SOUTHRIDGE, MASS.

SCALE IN FEET
0 100 200

34

Evangelical Free Church, Hamilton Street

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294