

MAY 15 1989

602

Form numbers in this area Area letter

E-508,509,511,801, 513

E-514

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

MBA

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

Town SouthbridgeName of area (if any) Bacon-Morse DistrictPresent Use: residential and agriculturalGeneral Condition: GoodGeneral date or period ca. 1750 early-20thcentury

Sketch map. Draw a general 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) and indicate north. (Attach a
separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

UTM Reference

- (A) 18/747 630/4658 380
- (B) 18/747 610/4658 150
- (C) 18/747 770/4658 110
- (D) 18/747 780/4658 020
- (E) 18/747 860/4658 000
- (F) 18/747 830/4657 795
- (G) 18/747 905/4657 760
- (H) 18/747 820/4657 650
- (I) 18/747 760/4657 770
- (J) 18/747 460/4657 660
- (K) 18/747 425/4657 700
- (L) 18/747 330/4657 790
- (M) 18/747 350/4657 620
- (N) 18/746 720/4657 440

- (O) 18/746 895/4658 020
- (P) 18/746 980/4658 030
- (Q) 18/746 825/4658 180
- (R) 18/746 840/4658 350
- (S) 18/747 170/4658 480
- (T) 18/747 230/4658 190
- (U) 18/747 300/4658 210
- (V) 18/747 280/4658 330

USGS QuadrangleSouthbridge, Mass-ConnScale

1:25,000

Acres

apx. 100

Recorded by E. Woodford, A. Kavanagh,

S. Ceccacci, ed. S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Com-
missionDate May 1986

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: _____	Form No.: _____
SOUTHBRIDGE, MA	E-514
Property Name: BACON-MORSE DISTRICT	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT

The Bacon-Morse District is a significant example of agricultural and rural settlement. Although the area is no longer agricultural it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The late-19th century added the lumber business to the agricultural business as a major part of the economy; the Morse-Lumber Co. continues to operate at this time. Many of the original families have remained in the area throughout the 19th-century. The District therefore, meets criteria A and C of the National Register at the local level.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

This rural settlement contains several houses, barns and a cemetery clustered corners of the intersection of North Woodstock and Tipton Rock Roads. The residential structure represents a variety of vernacular styles popular during the area's period of greatest significance, ca. 1750 through the early-20th century. The most significant properties included in the historic district are:

Freeman Pratt Farm (form #E-508) (ca. 1750, ca. 1845) (northwest corner of intersection)

The earliest structure in the area is a well preserved one-and-a-half story, five bay house with central chimney which forms most of the ell of this two story Federal style house. The Federal period section of the house is the most elaborate of the other houses in the district. Built on a three bay, side entry, pediment front plan, it has such fine Federal elements as a fan motif flanked by tapered pilasters in the pediment and an unusual door frame with a strongly projecting cornice above a pilastered frieze and pairs of thin tapered pilasters flanking

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific). (See Continuation Sheet)

The Bacon-Morse District was first settled in the mid-18th century by members of the Morse, Pratt and Bacon families. This cluster of farms soon grew to be a distinct rural community. Made in 1812 from a 1796 survey, the earliest map of Southbridge to include the location of buildings shows a group of structures scattered along North Woodstock Road in the vicinity of the present historic district. Extending some distance beyond the limits of the present historic district, that area included Morse's Tavern to the north, a school (established ca. 1772) which stood on the southeast corner of the present intersection and three farms (one being the Freeman Pratt Farm and the other two located on either side of the road where the present Hiram Morse Farmhouse (form #E-513) stands.) Although not indicated on the map, a community cemetery had already been established by that date. By 1830, six houses and a schoolhouse were clustered around the intersection while other structures stood further away along North Woodstock Road to the north and south. Other farms to the east down Tipton Rock Road were apparently also part of the community at that time.

Many of the original families to settle here remained in the area throughout the 19th-century. A few more houses appeared in the vicinity but the neighborhood did not grow significantly.

During the late 19th century, lumbering was added to farming as a means of livelihood for the settlement. That business still survives today in the form of Morse Lumber Company nearby. Although farming is no longer a thriving enterprise here, many area residents are descended from the original families. Some modern houses have been built along the road in the southern part of the district. Nevertheless, the historic area still survives as a visual entity, even though it is no longer completely rural in appearance.

(See Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Leaflets of the Quinebaug Historical Society, Vol. I, p. 26

Morse, H. Porter, "Morse Neighborhood", unpublished MS, 1970.

collection J. Edwards Library, Southbridge

interview S. Ceccacci with Richmond Sherman, fall 1985

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Southbridge	Form No: E-514
Property Name: Bacon-Morse District	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)Freeman Pratt Farm (cont'd)

3/4 length sidelights. Resting on a granite foundation and roofed with slate, the house is one of only two well preserved Federal style farmhouses in Southbridge (see form #B-243). It is also among the best preserved examples in town of a transitional Federal/Greek Revival style house featuring the three bay gable front house form with Federal details (see forms #C-301 & #D-448). The 19th-century barn still stands north of the ell.

Daniel Morse Farmhouse, (form #E-511) (1855-1870) (southeast corner of intersection)

This 3 bay side entry Greek Revival style cottage is a late expression of style. Typical of such later examples, this one-and-a-half story house has a high pitched roof, broad eaves and no pediment. Attenuated vernacular expressions of Greek Revival details such as the frieze, cornerboards and simple architrave/pilaster doorframe are seen here. Still part of a working farm, the house retains its original barn at the rear.

Morse Cemetery, (form #801) (1789-present) (south side of eastern branch of Tipton Rock Road, behind Daniel Morse Farm)

Deeded in 1789 to nine neighborhood residents for use as a burying place forever, the burying ground contains 290 burials (not all with markers). Numerous pre-1830 stones are still extant. In general, the stones are in upright condition and still legible. Surrounded by a stone fence and in a rural setting, the cemetery retains its historic appearance.

Hiram Morse Farmhouse (1855-1870) (990 North Woodstock Road) (see attached form # E-513)

Two houses which stand on the southwest corner of the intersection appeared here some-time around the turn of the century, after 1898. The larger of the two, a ca. 1870's one-and-a-half story gable front Victorian vernacular cottage with a gingerbread porch (form #E-509) is said to have been moved to this site from Southbridge center. About the same time, a one-story vernacular cottage was built behind it facing on Tipton Rock Road. Small in size and simple in design, both houses are compatible with the area's earlier houses and stand as testament to the continuing vitality of this rural family district at the turn of the century. The buildings found in the Bacon-Morse District are similar to Vernacular residential structures found elsewhere in Southbridge.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

No longer represented by its tavern and schoolhouse (demolished about 1966) or its full complement of farms and houses, the Bacon-Morse District still survives. Other rural communities in Southbridge, such as "Ammidown City" near Sandersdale and a settlement at the foot of Lebanon Hill are no longer intact. The Bacon-Morse District still consists of an undisturbed nucleus of well preserved buildings and a cemetery which are representative of its period of importance as an agricultural community.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
SOUTHBRIDGE	E-514
Property Name: BALCON-MORSE H.D	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

873 No. WOODSTOCK Rd

901 NO. WOODSTOCK Rd

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: <i>Southbridge</i>	Form No: <i>E-514</i>
Property Name: <i>Bacon-Morse H. D.</i>	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

906 no. Woodstock Rd.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

Cover

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 6-22-89

1. Academic Brochu

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

2. Allen, William E., House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

3. Alden--Delahanty Block

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

4. Ammidown--Harding Farmhouse

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

5. Ashland Mill Tenement

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

6. Bacon--Morse Historic District

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

7. Beechwood

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

8. Boyer, Alexis, House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

9. Building at 25--27 River Street

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

10. Building at 29--31 River Street

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Bacon--Morse Historic District
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: 89000602

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Bacon-Morse⁴. District

873 N. Woodstock Road

Southbridge, MA ~~MRA~~

looking S.W.

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 5



Bacon - Morse^{H.} District

906 N. Woodstock Rd.

Southbridge, MA MRA

looky S.E.
Southbridge Historical District

Roll # 5



Bacon-Morse^{H.} District
901 N. Woodstock Road
Southbridge, MA MRA

front view

Southbridge Historical Commission, 1986

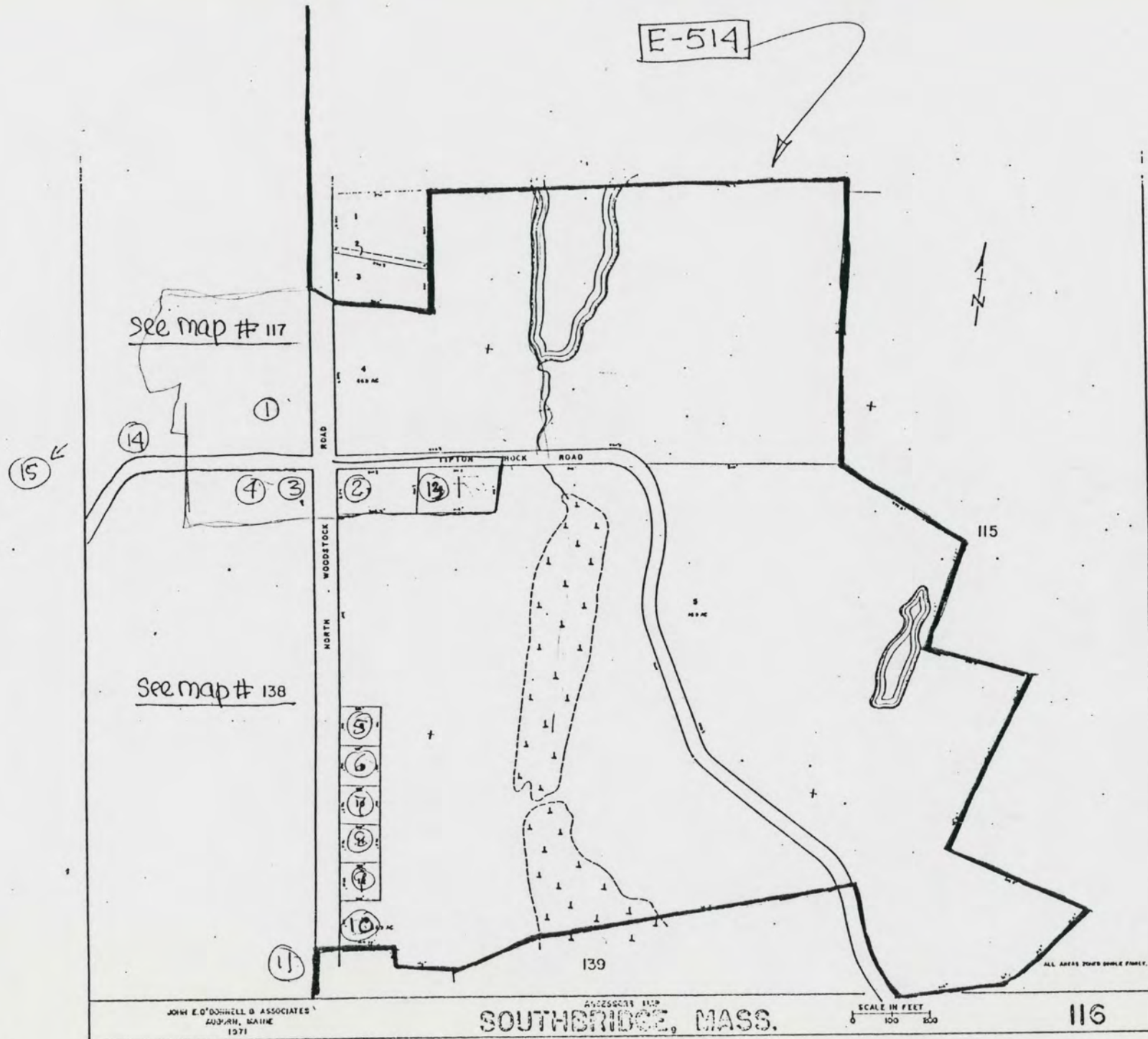
Roll # 5



Bacon-Morse District
Morse Cemetery
Southbridge, MA MPA
Looking South

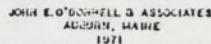
Southbridge Historical Commission, 1986

Roll # 5



See also maps # 117 & 138

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SOUTHBIDGE, MASS.

SCALE IN FEET

0 150 200

117

See also maps 116 & 138

F-514

116

see map # 116

133
see map #138

ALL AREAS ZONED SINGLE FAMILY

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294