

MAY 15 1989

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

SS1

MRA

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
F	615

Town Southbridge

Address Dennison Lane

Historic Name Dennison School House  
(District 2)

Use: Present residential

Original school house

DESCRIPTION

Date 1849

Source plaque

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) side extension in the 20th c., Sash with false muntins (late 20th c.)

Condition Good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 1.71 acres

Setting rural area

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

cell = 3-7

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 18/743 125/4600 460

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge MA/CT

SCALE 1:25,000

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

Organization Southbridge Historical Commission

Date May 1986

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Dennison School is significant for its association with Southbridge's persistent agricultural community and as a rare survival of a brick district school. 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, retaining a rural setting.

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

The Dennison School House is the better preserved of two extant mid-19th century school houses in outlying Southbridge districts. The other, a frame structure at 383 Lebanon Hill Road, has been considerably altered in its mid-20th century adaptation as a residence. Both of these outlying school houses are of a similar one-and-a-half story design. The Dennison School is somewhat unusual because brick construction is less common than wood for schools in outlying districts in Central Massachusetts towns. The entrance in the long side rather than in the gable end of the building is also less common. Although the original plan of the Lebanon Hill Road school is not certain, it appears to have had the entrance in the gable end.

A third mid-19th century school house (ca. 1850) is still standing on Main Street in the Centre Village Historic District. This two story Italianate brick structure is larger and somewhat more imposing than these outlying schools because of its location and its higher student population. The use of brick and more elaborate architecture for schools in town centers during this period was not unusual.

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

The Dennison School District was the first school district in Southbridge. In 1742 when this section of town was part of Sturbridge, the first school classes in <sup>the</sup> territory now belonging to Southbridge were held in James Deneson's barn. A school house is known to have existed on this present site as early as 1795. In the mid-19th century it appears that all of the district school houses were rebuilt. Three surviving early schools are from this period. It is possible that the small brick Dunbar-Vinton House at Hook and Hamilton Streets may have originally been a school (ca. 1800-1828). If so, it would be the oldest school building known to be in existence in Southbridge. Presently, however, the Dennison School is considered the oldest intact school building in town. The Centre Village School, now the Police Station, was also built about the same time. The precise dates of construction of these mid-19th century schools has not been documented by current research.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Amidown, H. Historical Collections, 1874

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 F. Savage</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: Dennison School House

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: 89000551

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  
\_\_\_ UTM's      \_\_\_ 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

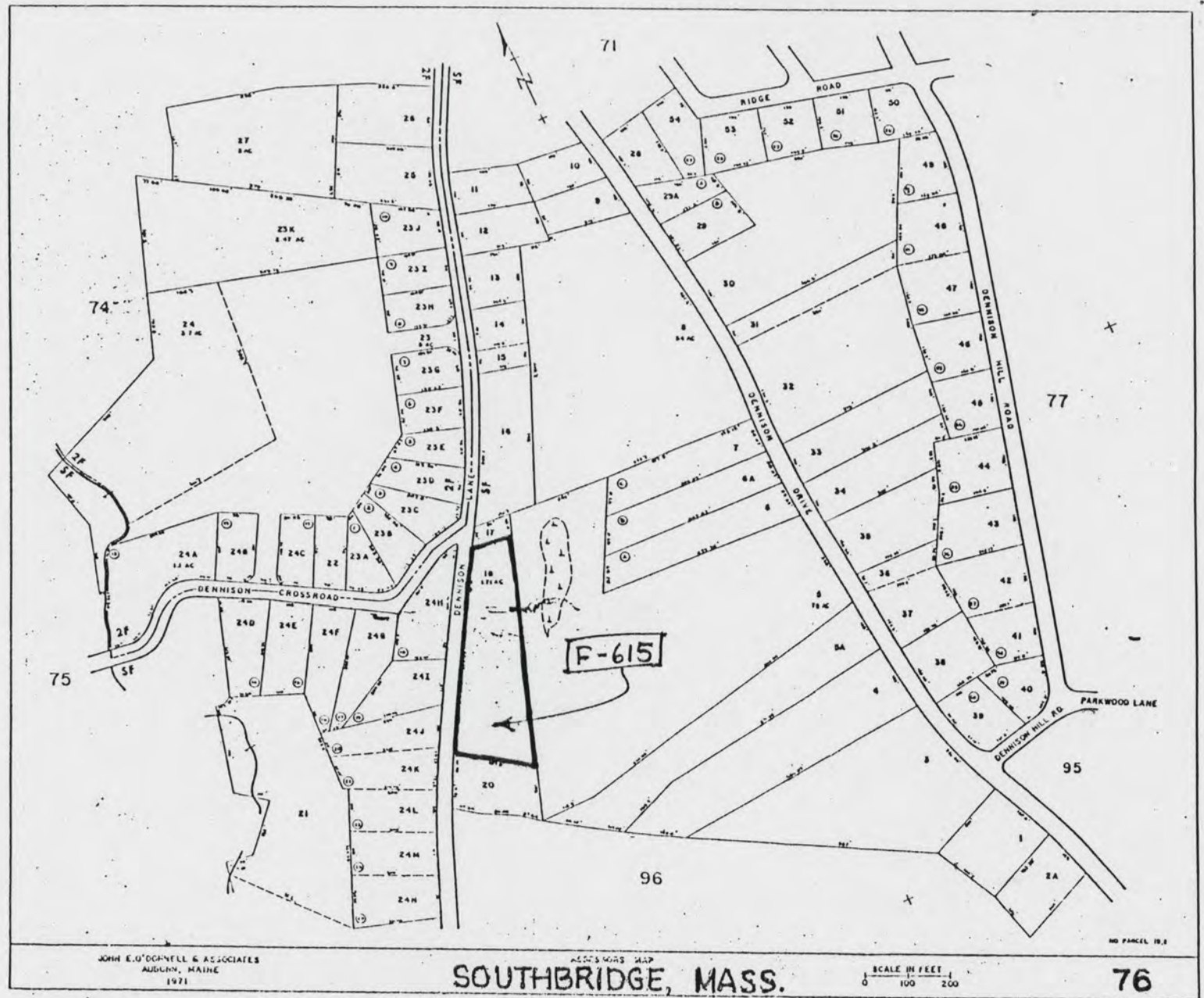
\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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



Dennison School House, (F.615) Dennison Lane  
Southbridge MA *MRA*  
Ceccacci 1986  
Southbridge Historical Commission  
Roll # 3-7

SOUTHRIDGE MASS  
MRA



Dennison School House, Dennison Lane

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294