

FORM B - BUILDING

MAY 15 1989

577

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
A	154

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 ³² Paige Hill Road
Historic Name George Sumner House

Use: Present residence
Original residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1812-1830

Source maps

Style Federal

Architect UNKNOWN

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) gabled addition at rear of facade with fan in pediment ca. 1890's

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting near road, on steep rise overlooking river, row of altered early-19th c. workers' houses above it along Paige Hill Road.

Recorded by S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Commission

Date May 1986

UTM REFERENCE 18/745 550/4662 580

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The George Sumner House is significant for its association with the settlement period of Southbridge's history and the development of its mill economy, and its Federal style form and ornament. It, therefore, meets National Register criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The boundaries marked 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.

A late vernacular expression of the Federal style, this two-and-a-half story, four bay house has an entrance with fanlight in the third bay of the longer side. Oddly, greater importance is given to the gable end which faces the street but contains no entrance. This four bay street facade contains a complete pediment pierced by a large fanlight with a groove-carved frame set above a carved ornamental panel with swags. It is not clear whether this treatment of the street facade is original to the construction of the house or whether it might have been a "stylish" updating of a plain vernacular building.

Another house which may originally have been quite similar to this one is the Clarke-Glover House (form #D-444) on South Street, ca. 1830's. Both houses have a squarish plan and four bays on the long side with a pediment facing the street. Because the Clarke-Glover House was
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community. (see continuation sheet)

A house was first shown in this location on the 1830 Southbridge map. Although its ownership was not clearly indicated on that map, several written accounts suggest that it belonged to Maj. George Sumner, also known as Deacon Sumner, who was clearly shown as the owner on the 1855 map. Sumner, a clothier who came here from Spencer in 1802, was involved in the early manufacture of textiles in Southbridge.

About 1802 George Sumner bought out the clothier's business of his brother-in-law, Zebina Abbot, which was located just below the house at Marcy's Mills. Abbot in turn had bought the business from a John Gray who had originally established himself there in 1790. In the early-19th century, before the introduction of the power loom and factories in which all the procedures of cloth manufacture were carried out under a single roof, the business of the clothier was the carding of wool into rolls to be returned to the home spinner, the dying of yarn and of homemade cloth and the final napping, fulling and dressing of the homemade cloth. About 1808 the first machines "propelled with mechanical power" for the carding of wool were introduced into the Southbridge area. Sumner appears to have been among the first to have used this new technology here. Also, according to George Davis' Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge (1856), Sumner was the first in Southbridge to contract for the entire process of woollens manufacture:

(See Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Ammidown, H. Historical Collections, Vol II, 1870, pp. 221,363

Davis, George, Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge, 1853, p. 199

Holbrook, J. M., Southbridge Vital Records to 1850, pp. 258-259

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	MRA	Form No:
Southbridge		

Property Name:	George Sumner House Paige Hill Road
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Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

"Dea. Sumner, still living in Southbridge in 1811, manufactured the first wool designed for sale which was furnished by Calvin and Luther Ammidown, Esquires. The terms for manufacturing were that for every pound of wool furnished, a yard of cloth, dressed, ready for use was returned."

Sumner apparently provided all the services of the clothier himself and contracted out the other processes, such as spinning and weaving, to individuals working in their homes.

After about ten years at Marcy's Mills, Sumner erected a building nearby adjacent to the cotton mill of William Sumner and John Green. In 1814 he purchased the surplus water of the cotton mill and continued in business there until he sold his interest and retired about 1832. In 1833 both Sumner's business and the adjacent cotton mill became the property of S. H. Babcock of Boston, who later sold out to Harvey Dresser, the company being known as the Dresser Manufacturing Company. Later, the Dresser Mill was absorbed by the Central Mills.

George Sumner was "active in the affairs of the old parish" and was an "efficient cooperator in procuring the incorporation of the parish territory as the town of Southbridge." In 1830 he married Julia F. Newell, age 28. Entries on the Southbridge Vital Records showing the deaths of several children of a George Sumner prior to 1830 suggest that he had been married previously. A Peggy Sumner who died in 1826 may have been his first wife.

The house and six acres was owned in 1878 by Austin Sumner who in the 1840's had operated a dry goods and grocery business in Globe Village together with William F. McKinstry. In 1841 he married Julia Seabury.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

apparently Greek Revivalized around the 1850's, it is impossible to know how similar the two might have been originally.

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
61. Oakes, J.J., House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
62. Phillips, E.M., House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
63. Plimpton, Simon, Farmhouse	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
64. Richard, Stephen, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
65. Sacred Heart Church Historic District	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
66. Smith--Lyon Farmhouse	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
67. St. George's Greek Orthodox Church	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
68. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church-- St. Mary's School	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
69. Stone, Lorenzo R., House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
70. Sumner, George, House	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 Sumner, George, House
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: 89000577

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
___ UTM's ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



32 Paige Hill Road (A-154)
George Sumner House
Southbridge, MA ~~MRA~~

1986

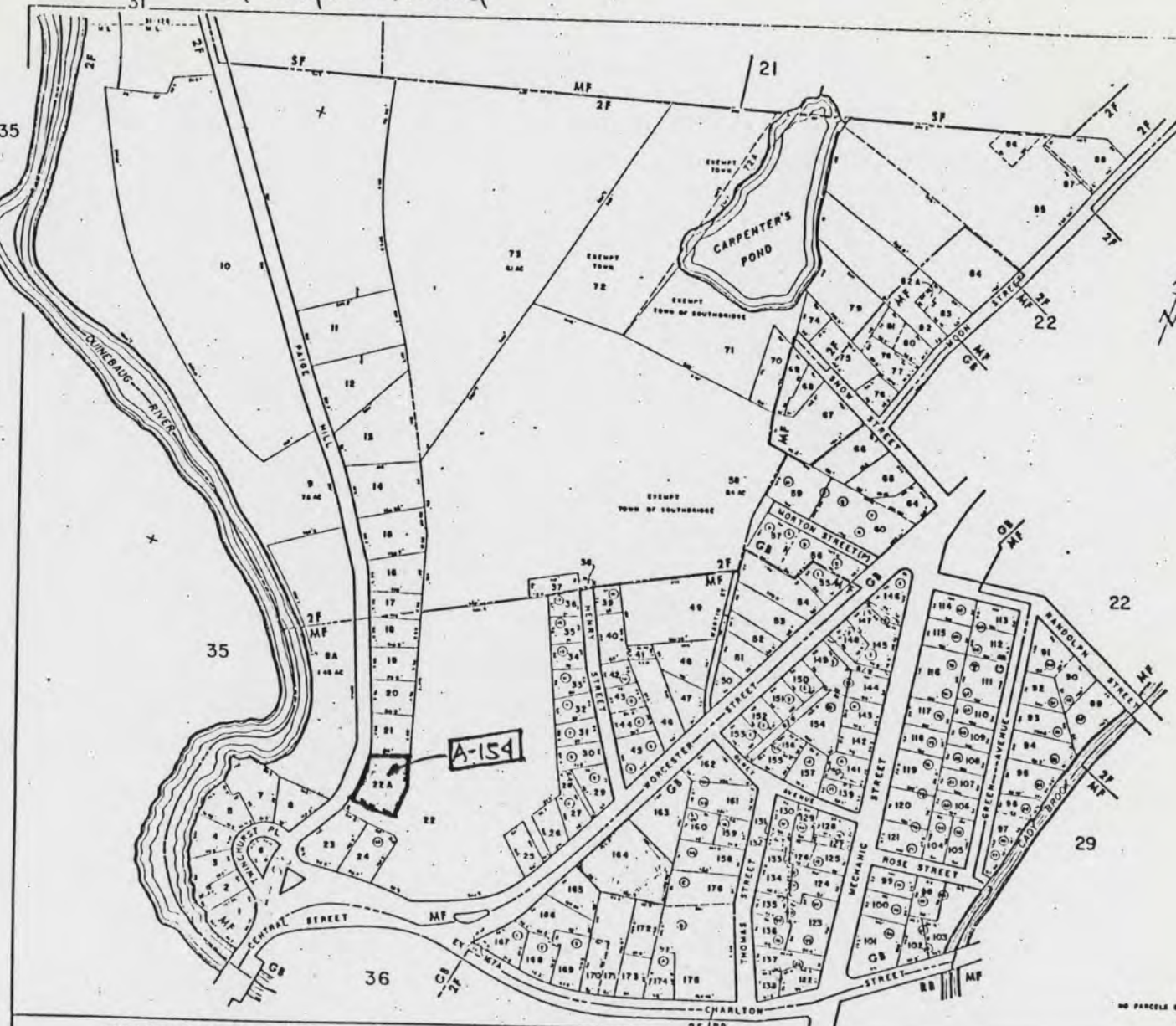
Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 5

Summer House, Paige Hill Road

SOUTHRIDGE MASS

MAP



JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.
1971

SOUTHRIDGE, MASS.

SCALE IN FEET
0 100 200

NO PARCELS 61, 62, 63

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294