

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

MAY 15 1989

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

MPA

AREA

FORM NO.

B

211

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 SouthbridgeAddress 70-72 Main StreetHistoric Name NoneUse: Present multi-family residentialOriginal multi-family residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1898-1904Source mapsStyle Colonial RevivalArchitect UnknownExterior Wall Fabric Synthetic sidingOutbuildings NoneMajor Alterations (with dates) porch in gab closed (mid-20th c.)Condition GoodMoved No Date n/aAcreage 5375 sq. ft. less than one acreSetting residential/commercial street, mostly multifamily late 19th-early 20th century residencesRecorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci

ed. S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical CommissionDate May 1986UTM REFERENCE 18/745 810/4661 970USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-ConnSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

70-72 Main Street is significant as an example of multi-family housing constructed during the growth of the town's eastern section late in the 19th century. It meets National Register criteria A and C at the local level, retaining integrity of setting, location, 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 high quality materials, this Colonial Revival style dwelling is representative of one of several types of three family tenements which appeared in Southbridge during the first three decades of the 20th-century. Sitting gambrel end to the street, it has an ample roof and broad roof dormers which create ample living space on the third floor. This treatment gives the building a profile which is less vertical and more like that of a single family house than of a three-decker. The use of fine stained glass ornament also helps to give the house an image which elevates it above the typical working class tenement house. Both the height of the building and its high quality details relate it to the house next door (form #B-212) which was built about the same time by the same owner.

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

Throughout most of the 19th-century, this section of Main Street was part of a suburban estate district. With the growth of the town during the late-19th century, this section was gradually broken up into smaller lots with more houses built closer together. The vicinity of this end of Main Street to the ever more prosperous American Optical Company factory nearby caused the area to change character as the century drew to a close.

This house and the house next door to the east (form #B-212) appear to have been built by American Optical Company president, George W. Wells, who lived just west of here on Main Street. After Wells' death, during the second decade of the 20th century, other houses were built in this same area on Walnut and Maple Streets (form #B-210) to house American Optical Company employees. During the early 20th century, 70-72 Main Street was apparently owned by American Optical. It is known to have served as employee housing in about the 1930's and 1940's. It seems likely that it may have been built for that purpose originally. However, too little is known about the practices of the company regarding housing to relate the house directly to American Optical during the earlier years. In several cases houses built by persons with economic interests in the company were apparently later owned by the company and used as employee housing (e.g., see forms #D-408 and #D-405).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases
Card file of Houses Rented by American Optical to Employees,
Southbridge Historical Society Collection

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

41. High--School Streets Historic District
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____42. Hodgson, William, Two-Family House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____43. House at 18 Walnut Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____44. House at 3 Dean Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____45. House at 34 Benefit Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____46. House at 59--63 Crystal Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____47. House at 64 Main Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____48. House at 70--72 Main Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____49. House at 91 Coombs Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____50. Judson--Litchfield House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelene Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: House at 70--72 Main Street

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: 89000581

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 _____



(B - 211)

~~Hugboat~~
70-72 Main Street

Southbridge, MA ~~MA~~

B-211
1986

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll #6 Southbridge



SOUTHBIDGE MASS
MRA



70-72 Main Street

B-211
#70-72

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294