

MAY 15 1989

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

MRA

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
C	320

Town SouthbridgeAddress 91 Coombs StreetHistoric Name n/aUse: Present residentialOriginal residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1905Source maps/visual analysisStyle Queen Anne VernacularArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric clapboardsOutbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) side porches
added (1980's)

Condition GoodMoved no Date n/aAcreage less than one acre

Setting residential street, mostly three
deckers with synthetic siding

Recorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Com-
missio

Date May 1986

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

UTM REFERENCE 18/745 710/4661 790USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-ConnSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

91 Coombs Street is significant as an example of the distinctive regional multi-family housing type known as the triple decker, 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 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.

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

One of the few relatively unaltered three deckers left standing on Coombs Street, this building has a gable front which shelters a bay window and three story porches under its facade pediment. Narrower and taller in effect than many other Southbridge three-deckers, it is also somewhat unusual for its gable roof. Nevertheless, it was originally one of at least two similar buildings on Coombs Street.

The building retains its original 2/2 sash, porch doors, wood trim, balusters and stained glass stair windows. Like most of its neighbors, this house was originally adorned with window shutters. Within the last few years side porches have been added. They do not greatly alter the overall appearance or the original facade of the structure. This building is a rare example of a well preserved three decker in a town where three deckers were a popular form of housing in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. It is also significant as an example of one of a variety of three decker styles built in Southbridge during that period.

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

During the early-20th century tree shaded Coombs Street was lined with a variety of well-cared-for three deckers in several different designs. Sometime around the 1930's and 1940's several three deckers on the street, including this one, are known to have served as housing for American Optical Company.

Available documentation does not indicate precisely who built this building or the other nearby three deckers which appeared here during the early years of the century. In 1898 only a few houses had been built along the street, yet the property had been divided into house lots. Most were owned by persons with French surnames. The lot of 91 Coombs Street was owned, together with several to the north of it, by J. M. Dupaul.

The gradual subdivision of land in this area which had once belonged to large suburban estates on Main Street occurred after about 1870, as the town's industries grew increasingly prosperous. By the early years of the 20th-century a large number of multifamily houses were being built along Main Street and in contiguous areas, apparently as a response to the continuing growth and success of nearby American Optical. This explains the development of Coombs Street as a largely three decker neighborhood.

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 Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
42. Hodgson, William, Two-Family House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
43. House at 18 Walnut Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
44. House at 3 Dean Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
45. House at 34 Benefit Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
46. House at 59--63 Crystal Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
47. House at 64 Main Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
48. House at 70--72 Main Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
49. House at 91 Coombs Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
50. Judson--Litchfield House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: House at 91 Coombs 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: 89000525

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 _____

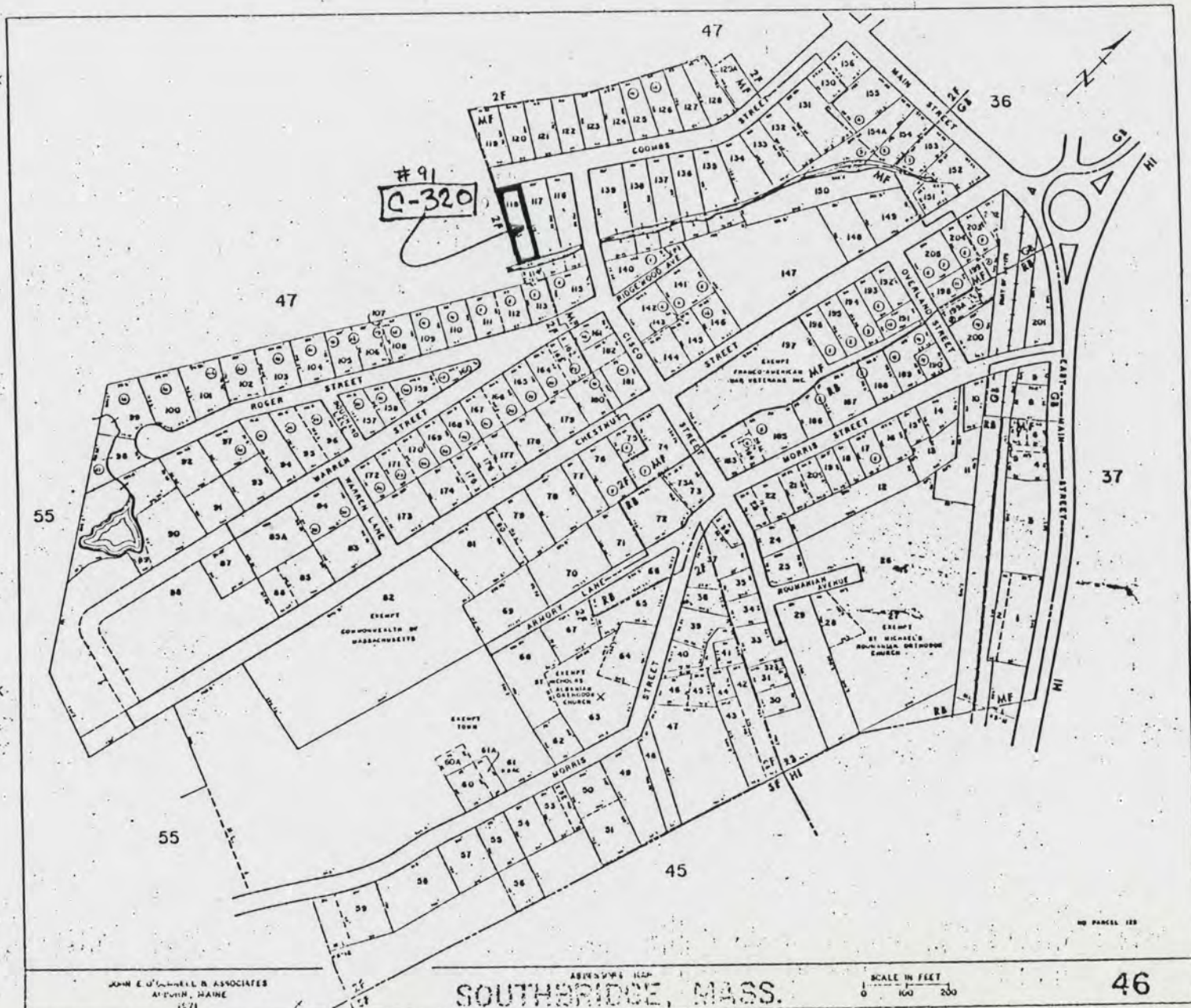


^{Haseat}
91 Coombs St., (C.320)
Southbridge, MA ^{MA}

ceccacci, 1986

Southbridge Historical Commission
Roll #6

SOUTHRIDGE MASS
M.A.



91 Coombs Street

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294