

579

FORM B - BUILDING

MAY 15 1989

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
B	205

Town Southbridge

Address 55 North Street

Historic Name St. George's Greek Orthodox  
Church

Use: Present church  
Original church

DESCRIPTION

Date 1932

Source corner stone/local histories

Style Byzantine influences

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting residential street

Recorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Com-  
mission

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 18/745 690/4662 350

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:25,000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

St. George's Greek Orthodox Church is significant for its association with the expansion and development of Southbridge's Greek community *in the later part of the early-20th* century, and for its unusual Byzantine/Classical design. 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.

Built on a central plan to recall the style of Byzantine influenced churches in Greece, St. George's Church also reflects Greek church prototypes in its use of light colored, buff brick, low pitched roofs, close eaves and Roman arched windows, doors and belfry cupolas. The use of a Greek temple front, with Corinthian columns and a full Classical entablature with pediment, as the main element of the major facade seems to have been intended as a symbol of the Greek community. The type and style of the church is similar to that used in other Central Massachusetts communities during the same period for Greek and other ethnic Orthodox churches.

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

The heart of the local Greek community, St. George's is the oldest Orthodox church building in Southbridge. The churches of the town's Albanian and Romanian communities are much more recent.

The first Greek men arrived in Southbridge about 1905 to work at American Optical. They lived on Morris, North and Mechanic Streets in tenements owned by the company. They were followed about 1908 by women and families. By 1910 there was a large enough population to support the establishment of a Greek Orthodox church. They built a church which later burned. The congregation then bought this property on North Street from the Hamilton Woolen Company and erected the present church in 1932. Hamilton Woolen is said to have donated the bell which was cast in Troy, New York about 1860.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"The Heritage of Southbridge", Southbridge News, 2 October 1979.

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

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: St. George's Greek Orthodox Church

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: 89000579

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 \_\_\_\_\_



St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, B. 205  
Southbridge, MA *MRA*  
Ceccacci, 1986  
Southbridge Historical Commission  
Roll # 6

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS  
MRA



B-205  
#55

55 North Street

B-210

JOHN E. O'CONNELL & ASSOCIATES  
ANSBURGH, MAINE  
1971

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.

SCALE IN FEET  
0 100 200

36

PARCELS OMITTED  
10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 117, 118

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294