

MAY 15 1989

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

555

MRA

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
A	105

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

ROU # 1-10

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 42 Hamilton Street

Historic Name Comins-Wall House

Use: Present commercial/residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1850

Source 1855 map. visual analysis

Style Greek Revival

Architect UNKNOWN

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards & asphalt shingles

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) Queen Anne

porch added late 19th century

Condition Good

Moved NO Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting mixed commercial & residential

UTM REFERENCE 18/745 320/4662 300

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:2,000

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

Organization Southbridge Historical Com-
mission

Date May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Comins-Wall House is significant for its association with Southbridge's Globe Village development and its regionally important gable-front, Greek Revival form. It meets National Register criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, materials, workmanship, and design. 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.

This modest Greek Revival style cottage is typical of many dwellings built off of Main Street in Centre Village at mid-century. One-and-a-half stories in height, it is of the usual three bay, side entry, gable front type which was the most common middle class house form in Southbridge from the mid to late-19th century. Like many of these smaller versions of the Greek Revival cottage, this house does not have a complete facade pediment, but rather gable returns to give a pediment effect. Typical of the best examples of Greek Revival houses, the Comins-Wall House has substantial, broadly proportioned Classical trim. The well preserved house retains its original cornice, fileted frieze, paneled corner pilasters and large entrance with three quarter sidelights, a transom and a six paneled, raised panel front door. The present front porch was probably added in about the 1880's.

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

One of the only dwellings to survive early-20th century commercial expansion along the Main Street end of Hamilton Street, this structure is also a rare survivor of a fire which destroyed much of the area in 1863. It is thus one of the few remaining examples of the middle and working class housing which was built north of Main Street in Centre Village around the middle of the 19th-century.

The earliest attribution of ownership appears on the 1855 Southbridge map as "J. Canims". It seems likely that this was a misspelling for some other name, possibly Comins or Commins.

During the 1870's the house belonged to George F. Wall, a merchant tailor and dealer in "Foreign and American woolens". Beginning as early as the 1890's and continuing on into the early years of the 20th-century, it was occupied by John T. Halpin, a dealer in provisions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases, directories

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 ~~Substantive~~ Review

Keeper Beth Sarge 6-22-89
Attest _____

22. Congregational Church Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

23. Cummings, E.B., House Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

24. Dani and Soldani Cabinet Makers and
Wood Workers Factory Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

25. Dennison School House Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

26. Dresser, Sylvester, House Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

27. Dunbar--Vinton House Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

28. Durfee, Henry E., Farmhouse Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

29. Elm Street Fire House Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

30. Evangelical Free Church Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Comins--Wall 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: 89000555

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: Y SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6/22/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Locally significant gable-front Greek Revival residence associated with period of industrial prosperity and the growth of Globe Village.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 6/22/89

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 _____



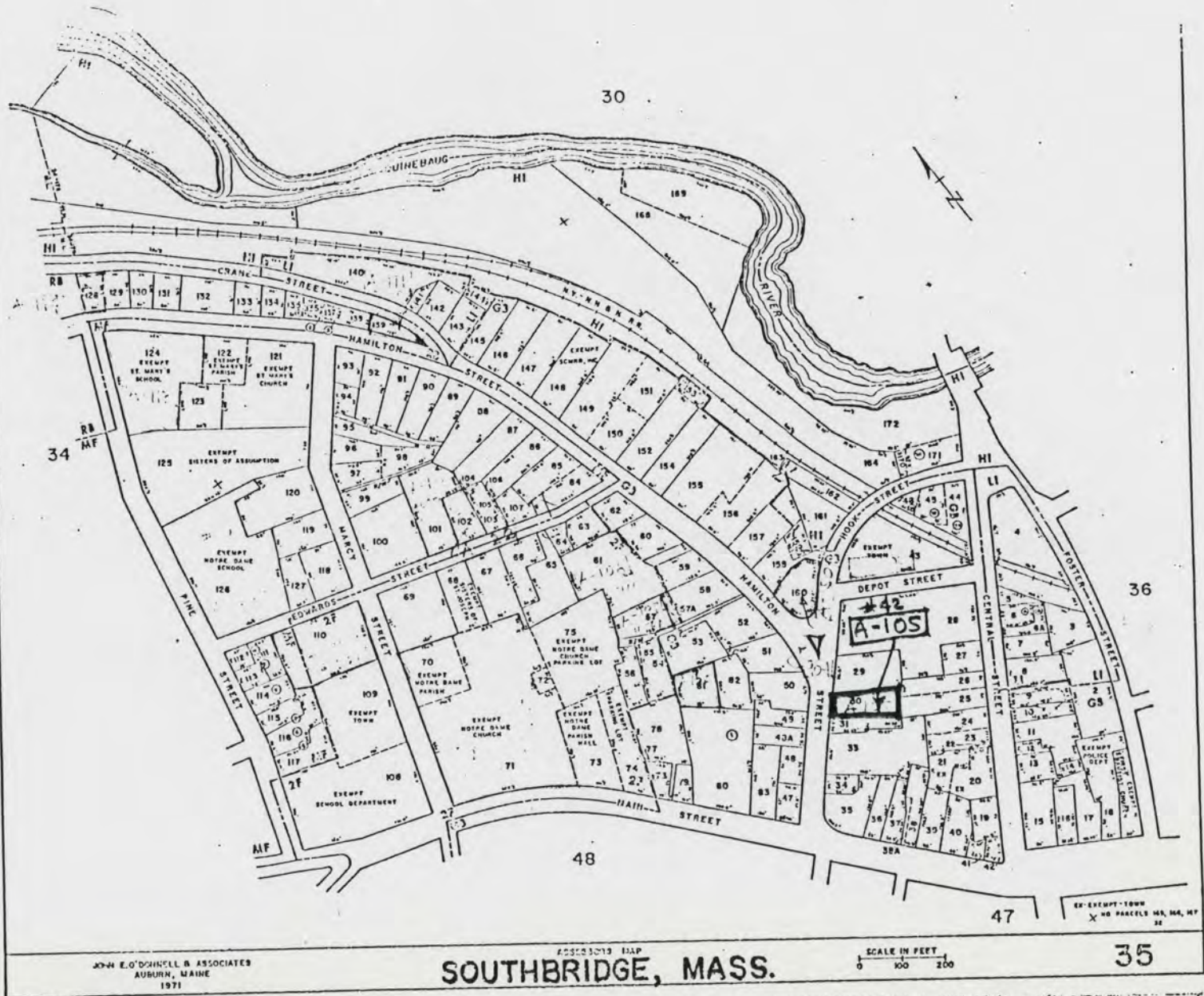
Comms - Wall House
42 Hamilton St.
Southbridge, MA ~~MRA~~

Ceccicco 1986

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll* 1-10

SOUTHRIDGE MASS
MRA



42 Hamilton Street

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294