

MAY 15 1989

547

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

MRA

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
F	601

Town Southbridge

Address 281 Eastford Rd

Historic Name Henry E. Durfee Farmhouse

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Roll 3

Use: Present vacant

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1849

Source sign & local history

Style Greek Revival

Architect UNKNOWN

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (c) barn and garage (c)

total - 2(c)

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

projecting two story side bay added later in the 19th-century

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage one acre or less

Setting outlying suburban area with rural feeling

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 18/744 695/4660 880

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass.-Conn.

SCALE 1:25,000

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

Organization Southbridge Historical Commission

Date May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Henry E. Durfee House is significant for its association with Southbridge's persistent agricultural economy 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, 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.

This one-and-a-half story Greek Revival cottage is typical of much middle class residential construction, both "in town" and rural, of the mid-19th century. Outstanding features of the house are its paneled corner pilasters, substantial frieze/architrave/cornice and its imposing entrance with moulded pilasters, architrave/cornice lintel, transom and sidelights. In a concession to more liveable space upstairs, the facade gable is highly pitched and was built without a complete pediment to allow for more and larger windows. Alterations have been made to the sides during the 19th and 20th-centuries. However, they have not greatly altered the overall character of the house. Although the general area has been built up with 20th-century suburban houses, the immediate setting for the house still includes a barn and retains much of its rural flavor.

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

The first documented owner of this house is Henry E. Durfee, a carpenter, who was married in 1849 to Maria Harrington. Durfee's parents Joseph and Augustia Clark Durfee lived nearby on the western end of Durfee Street. It is likely that the land on which the Henry Durfee Farmhouse was built was originally part of the I. Clark (1855) farm to the south, probably belonging to the family of Durfee's mother, who was a Clark. It is likely that the younger Durfee built the house for himself at about the time of his marriage. During the 1870's the house and thirty acres belonged to R. Young. In 1898 it was the property of R. G. Durfee.

This outlying section of Southbridge was made up of small farms as recently as the early-20th century. Following the construction of the Cohasset Country Club (1919) on the Wells farm (previously belonging to I. Clark) opposite the Durfee house, the area gradually was built up with suburban houses. Today, its surrounding property greatly reduced in size, the Durfee Farmhouse is a reminder of the agricultural origins of the area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Holdbrook, Vital Records to 1850, p. 87

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 L. Savage* 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: Durfee, Henry E., Farmhouse

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: 89000547

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
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

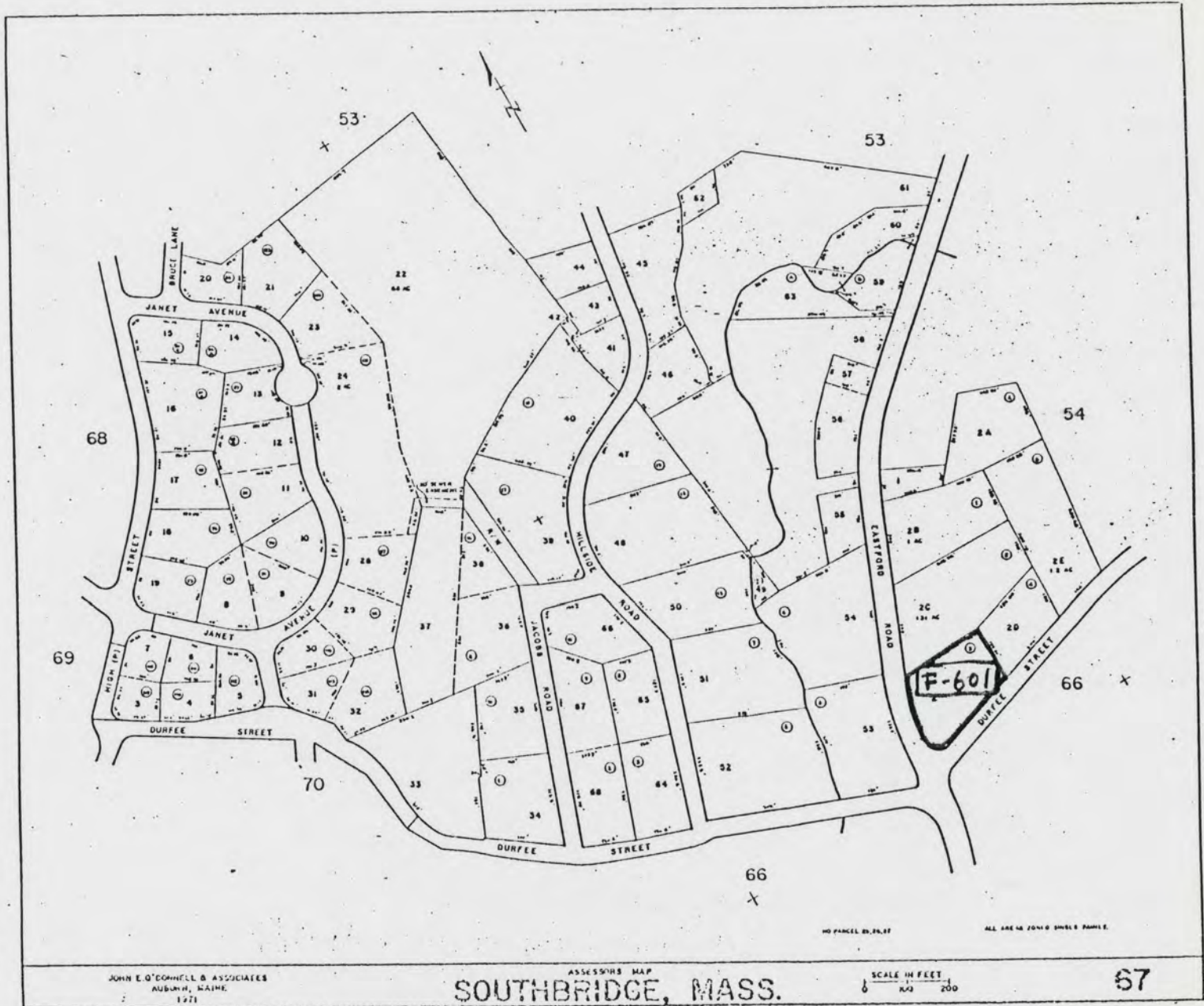
Signed _____ Date _____



Henry Durfee Farmhouse (F-601)
Southbridge MA MA,
Ceccacci, 1986
Southbridge Historical Society
Roll # 3.0

281 Eastford Rd
at Durfee Rd.

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS
MRA



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294