

MAY 15 1989

552

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

M.P.A.

## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

| AREA | FORM NO. |
|------|----------|
| F    | 617      |

Roll # 3-3

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

Town SouthbridgeAddress 83 Lebanon Hill RoadHistoric Name Ammidown-Harding FarmhouseUse: Present residenceOriginal residence

## DESCRIPTION

Date pre-1796Source style, maps, Q. Historical LeafletStyle New England  
cape-type (timber frame vernacular)Architect unknownExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings 19th c. barn (with cupola, (C)  
bracketed eaves, tongue & groove battened  
doors)Major Alterations (with dates) central  
chimney made smaller (mid-19th century)Condition ExcellentMoved No Date n/aAcreage less than an acre

Setting close to road in area with houses  
built close to one another but some feel-  
ing of rural setting in grounds-large tree  
& barn.

Recorded by S. CeccacciOrganization Southbridge Historical Commis-  
sionDate May 1986

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

- Ⓐ 18/745 520/4660 680
- Ⓑ 18/745 540/4660 340
- Ⓒ 18/745 245/4660 320
- Ⓓ 18/745 240/4660 470
- Ⓔ 18/745 180/4660 480
- Ⓕ 18/745 180/4660 520
- Ⓖ 18/745 120/4660 510
- Ⓗ 18/745 120/4660 595

UTM REFERENCE see aboveUSGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-ConnSCALE 1:25,000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Ammidown-Harding House is significant for its association with the settlement period of Southbridge's history, the subsequent persistence of its agricultural economy, and its regionally significant four-bay Cape Cod house form. It therefore meets National Register criteria A and C at the local level. It retains integrity of setting, location, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The boundaries marked on the attached assessors map are drawn to include the surviving contributing resources.

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

The least altered pre-1816 residence remaining in Southbridge, the Ammidown-Harding Farmhouse is a one-and-a-half story, four bay, central chimney farmhouse. Because pre-1796 maps are not available, it is difficult to determine the precise date of construction. Central chimney houses of this type were common in central Massachusetts before and after the Revolutionary War. Because of its small size, not a full five bay facade, and because of its traditional central chimney, an earlier date may be possible for this structure. Distinctive original features include overhanging gables on the sides, a three-light transom over the main entrance and a six panel door with moulded panels. Also of note is the 19th-century barn at the rear with bracketed eaves, cupola and tongue and groove doors.

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

Lebanon Hill Road, originally an Indian trail, was one of the earliest roads in Southbridge. Several of the town's remaining earliest farmhouses are scattered along this road. The 1796 survey of Southbridge made into a map in 1812 shows that several farmhouses, including one in the approximate location of the Ammidown-Harding Farmhouse existed along the road at that time. To quote Lucius E. Ammidown writing in the Quinebaug Historical Leaflets: "The earliest I can find out about this place it was owned by Dea Cyrus Ammidown, and next by Dea Elbridge G. Harding." At that time, about 1901, Ammidown believed the house to be as much as 100 years old.

Cyrus Ammidown, a member of one of the early families of Southbridge, and Thompson Kimberly were appointed the first deacons of the Baptist church in March of 1817. Ammidown served in that capacity until October 1821.

Elbridge G. Harding is known to have owned the property as early as 1855 and as late as 1870. He was the son of Joshua Harding, Jr., and Jemima Fisk, who lived not far from here on a farm which is now part of the Cohasset Country Club. As early as 1796 the elder Harding was active in attempting to establish Southbridge as a separate town by combining parts of Sturbridge, Charlton and Dudley. Elbridge Harding married Nancy Mason in 1821. Their children are recorded as having been born in the 1820's and 1830's. It seems likely that Harding would have acquired the Ammidown farm around the time of his marriage or shortly thereafter.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Holbrook, Vital Records to 1850 (Southbridge)

Vital Records to 1850 (Sturbridge)

Ammidown, H., Historical Collections, Vol. II, p. 51

Quinebaug Historical Leaflets, Vol. I, p. 17

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

Cover

for Keeper Sarah L. Searge 6-22-89

1. Academic Brochu

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

2. Allen, William E., House

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

3. Alden--Delahanty Block

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

4. Ammidown--Harding Farmhouse

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

5. Ashland Mill Tenement

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

6. Bacon--Morse Historic District

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

7. Beechwood

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

8. Boyer, Alexis, House

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

9. Building at 25--27 River Street

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

10. Building at 29--31 River Street

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Shelores Byers 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ammidown--Harding Farmhouse  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Southbridge MRA  
NAME:

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: 89000552

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  
\_\_\_ UTMs      \_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_



83 Lebanon Hill Rd.

(12-617)

Ammidown - Harding Farmhouse

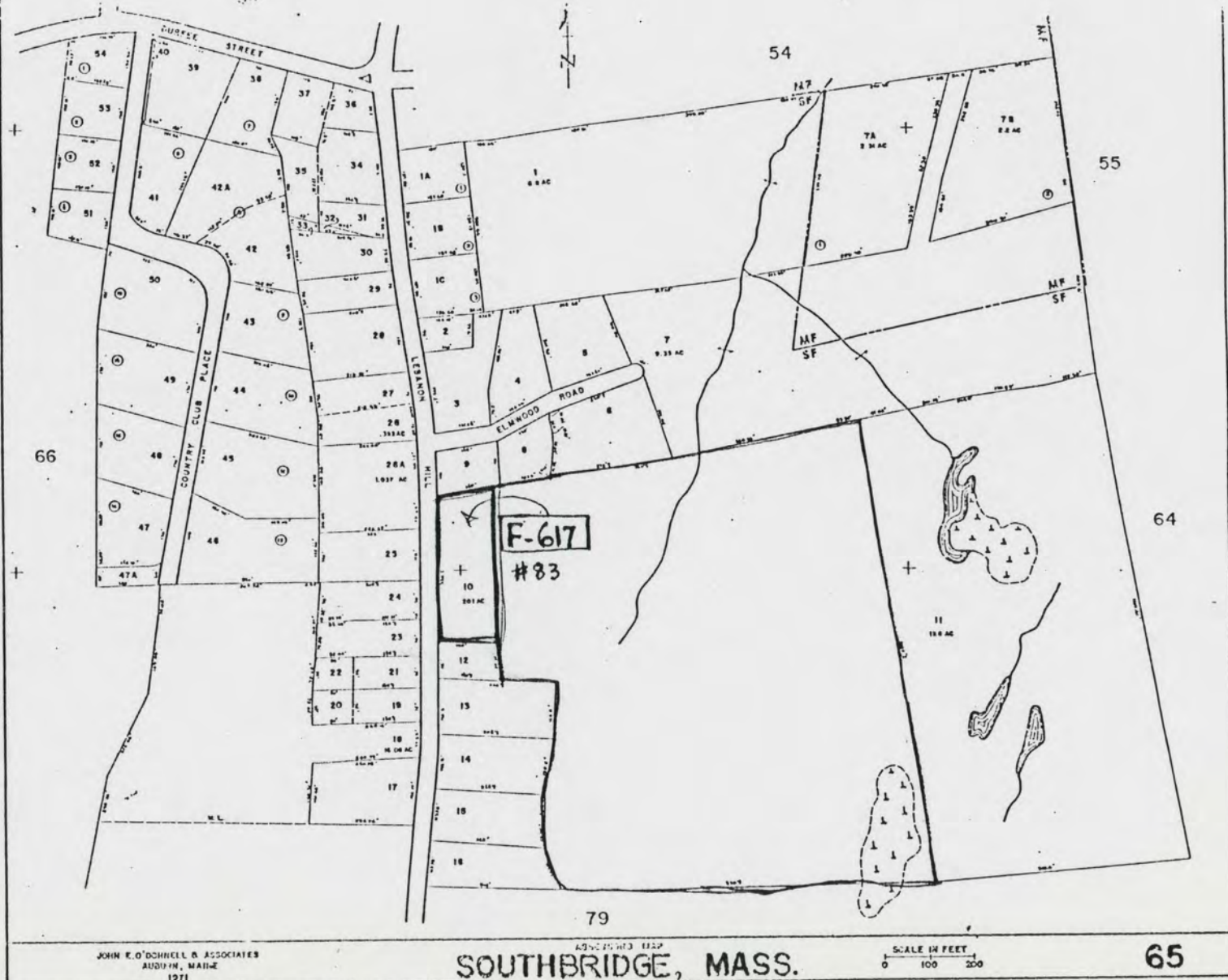
Southbridge, MA MRA

'86

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll #3-3

SOUTHBIDGE MASS  
MRA



83 Lebanon Hill Road

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294