

FORM B - BUILDING

MAY 15 1989

572

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS
MRAMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
A	148

Roll #2-16

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 SouthbridgeAddress 858 Main StreetHistoric Name Alden/Delahanty BlockUse: Present commercialOriginal commercial

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1878-1888Source maps & atlasesStyle High Victorian GothicArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric brickOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) upper portionof parapets removed from front & sides at
roofline (early 20th c.)Condition GoodMoved no Date _____Acreage less than one acreSetting mixed industrial/commercial/residentialRecorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci

ed. S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Com-

mission

Date May 1986UTM REFERENCE 18/744 330/4662 850USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-ConnSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Alden/Delahanty Block is significant for its association with the town's industrial expansion, the growth of the Globe Village, and the elaboration of commercial building late in the century. 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 high style Victorian commercial brick block is among the most outstanding commercial buildings in Southbridge. Beautifully articulated with ornamental brickwork in a variety of patterns and trimmed with rusticated and carved granite, it is of extremely high quality design and construction. Typical of commercial buildings of the 1880's, it is dark in color and blocky in shape with a flat roof. Vertical accents at the center of the facade are counter-balanced by horizontal stone coursing in contrasting light colored stone at the level of the window heads and window sills of the same material. Also typical are the stone-trimmed segmented and round arched windows and heavy brick corbelling at the roofline. Except for the removal of the corbelled gabled upper portion of the roof parapets on the front and side, the structure is almost entirely intact and unchanged from its original state. Although the glazing pattern of the display windows has been slightly altered, all the original cast iron display window piers are still in place. Unique for its excellent state of preservation, the Alden-Delahanty Block is an unusually fine example of some of the best commercial architecture to appear in Southbridge during the late-19th century.

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

The only large brick commercial block ever built in Globe Village, the Alden-Delahanty Block was erected by William E. Alden, who operated a dry goods and grocery store there. The building contained three stores on the ground floor, rental space on the second floor and a meeting hall on the third. In 1888 it housed a grocery store, dry goods store, furniture store, a milliner, a barber and a dentist. At one time the meeting hall was known as Hibernina Hall and was apparently the meeting place of the local chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish fraternal organization.

The block was purchased in 1899 by John J. Delahanty, the owner of a successful furniture store and the sole tenant of the building at the time. Delahanty had begun his business on a small scale in 1875, selling books and picture frames from a small store which he soon outgrew on Main Street. In 1884 he expanded his variety of merchandise when he bought out the furniture business of J. and W. Booth. About 1889 he took his brother, Michael, as half owner of the business, which was known as J. J. Delahanty & Company. By 1898 their furniture business had grown to occupy all three floors of the building, the basement and an additional storehouse. At that time another brother, P. F. Delahanty was employed as a salesman and a sister, Margaret Delahanty, did the bookkeeping. The business remained in the hands of the Delahanty family until 1977 when they sold it to a long-time employee who has continued to operate it at the same location under the original firm name.

Although Globe Village did have a number of store during the late 19th and early 20th century, it never developed a concentrated commercial center. Around the turn of the century, the major

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

(see cont. sheet)

maps, atlases, directories

Burns, Brian. Footsteps Through History. Southbridge: Worcester County Newspapers, 1980, p. 35.

Souvenir of Southbridge 1898. Southbridge(?): George Grant-Press Print, 1898, pp. 57-60.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: _____	Form No: _____
SOUTHBRIDGE, MA	A148
Property Name: Alden/Delahanty Bloc	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Significance Con't.

commercial buildings were the two story brick Greek Revival style Union Block at Main and Hamilton Streets and the Alden-Delahanty Block. Some village stores occupied the ground floor of residential buildings and a few small one story stores were built. Globe Village businesses were located on Main Street between Hamilton and Pleasant Streets and on the southernmost end of Pleasant Street.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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 Beth L. Savage 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 Alden--Delahanty Block
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: 89000572

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



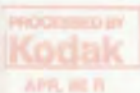
ESTABLISHED 1875 J. J. DELIHANTY AND CO. HOME FURNISHINGS

858 Main Street LA-148
Alden / Delahanty Block
Southbridge, MA MRA

1986

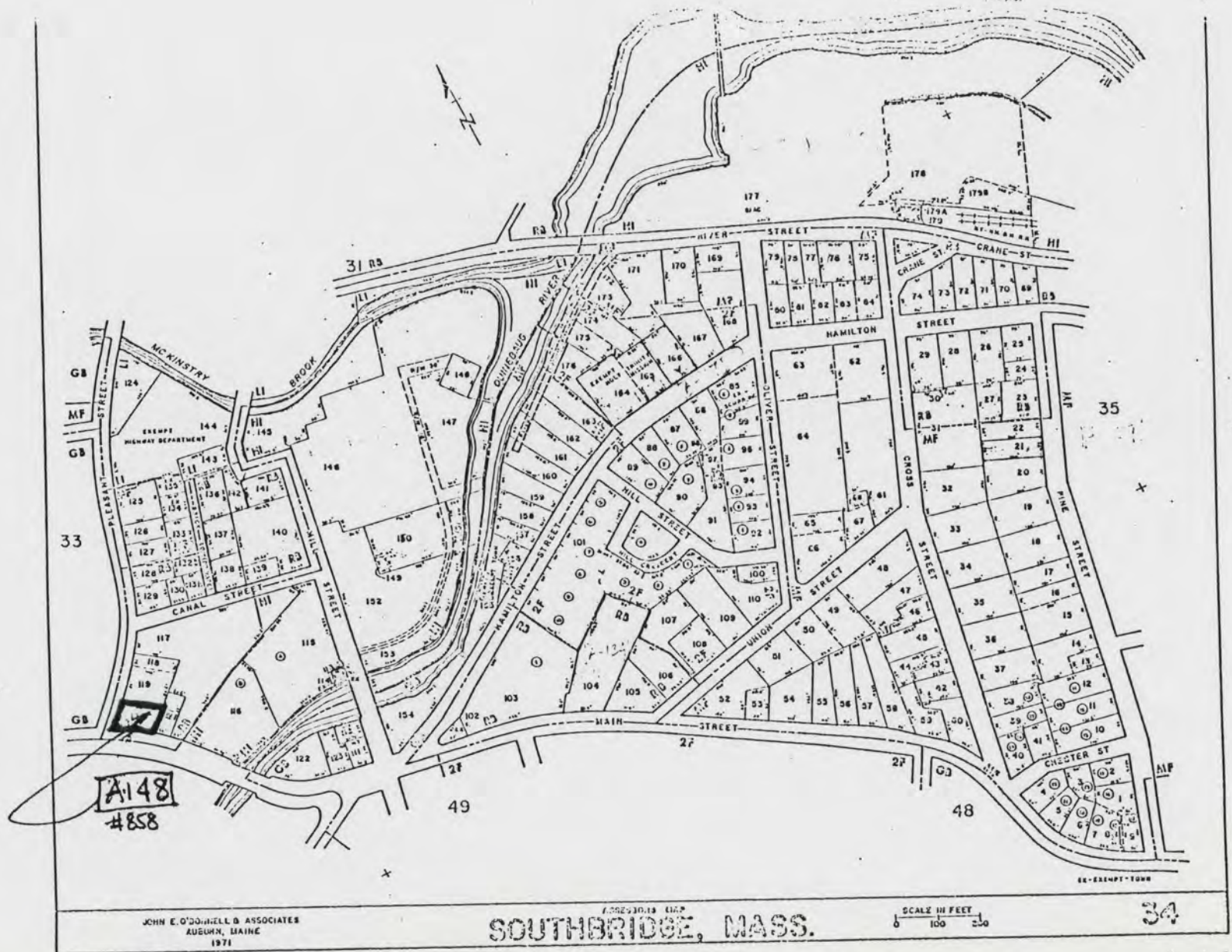
Southbridge Historical Commission

Form # A-148 1986 photo
Southbridge
858 Main Street



Roll # 2-16

SOUTHBIDGE MASS
MRA



858 Main Street

JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES
AUBURN, MAINE
1971

SOUTHBIDGE, MASS.

SCALE IN FEET
0 100 200

34

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294