

FORM B - BUILDING

MAY 15 1989

588

| AREA | FORM NO. |
|------|----------|
| B | 244 |

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Southbridge

Address 5 Torrey Road

Historic Name Vinton-Torrey House

Use: Present vacant

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1841

Source local history

Style Greek Revival

Architect UNKNOWN

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings sheds (C)

Major Alterations (with dates) two story

enclosed porch added to west side; porch is
covered with synthetic siding

Condition Good

Moved no Date _____

Acreage one acre or less

Setting fronts directly onto rural road,
surrounded by fields, another farmhouse
across the road

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

Organization Southbridge Historical Commis-
sion

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 18/747 395/4663 305

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Vinton-Torrey House is significant for its association with the persistent agricultural economy and its use of a brick Greek Revival design in a rural context. 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 the traditional two-and-a-half story, five bay, center entrance plan, this house is distinguished from earlier examples of the type by characteristic Greek Revival details. This adaptation of a traditional house form to the popular Greek Revival style occurred in the design of several other outlying Southbridge farmhouses built between the 1830's and 1860's. Unusual are its brick construction, end chimneys and shallower depth of plan. The use of the end chimney plan has, however, been found to have been commonly used in central Massachusetts when houses on this plan were built of brick. Resting on a granite foundation, the house is distinguished by brick corner pilasters, granite sills and lintels and an entrance with full length sidelights and a broad transom. A slight gable overhang, a locally popular feature seen in vernacular frame houses from the late-18th through the mid-19th century, has been expressed here in brick. Set among open fields on a rural road, the Vinton-Torrey Farmhouse still retains its original setting.

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

This section of Southbridge was settled in 1738 by John Vinton, who bought 930 acres from Samuel Morris of Woodstock. A descendant, J. Eliot Vinton, built this house in 1841 on the site of an earlier Vinton house, possibly that of the original John Vinton. An imprecise description in a mention of the house in the Quinebaug Historical Leaflets makes it unclear whether or not the ell of the house might or might not contain that earlier structure.

Numerous other Vinton farmhouses were scattered through this section of Southbridge by the mid-19th century. Across the road from the Vinton-Torrey House stands the only other well-preserved farmhouse related to this family of early settlers, the Vinton-Boardman House (form #B-243).

This farm was owned by a J. M. Vinton in 1878. By 1898 it had passed to E. T. Torrey.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Quinebaug Historical Leaflets, Vol. I, p. 37

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 |
|--|--|
| 71. Tapin, Eugene, House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 72. Tiffany--Leonard House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 73. Twinehurst American Optical Company Neighborhood | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 74. Upper Chapin Street Historic District | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 75. Vinton--Boardman Farmhouse | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 76. Vinton--Torrey House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 77. Wells, George B. and Ruth D., House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 78. Wells, H.C., Double House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 79. Wells, John M., House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 80. Wheeler, Albert H., House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____ |

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Vinton--Torrey House
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: 89000588

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 _____



5 Torrey Rd

~~Torrey~~ Vinton - Torrey Hse

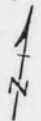
Southbridge, MA *MRA*

1986

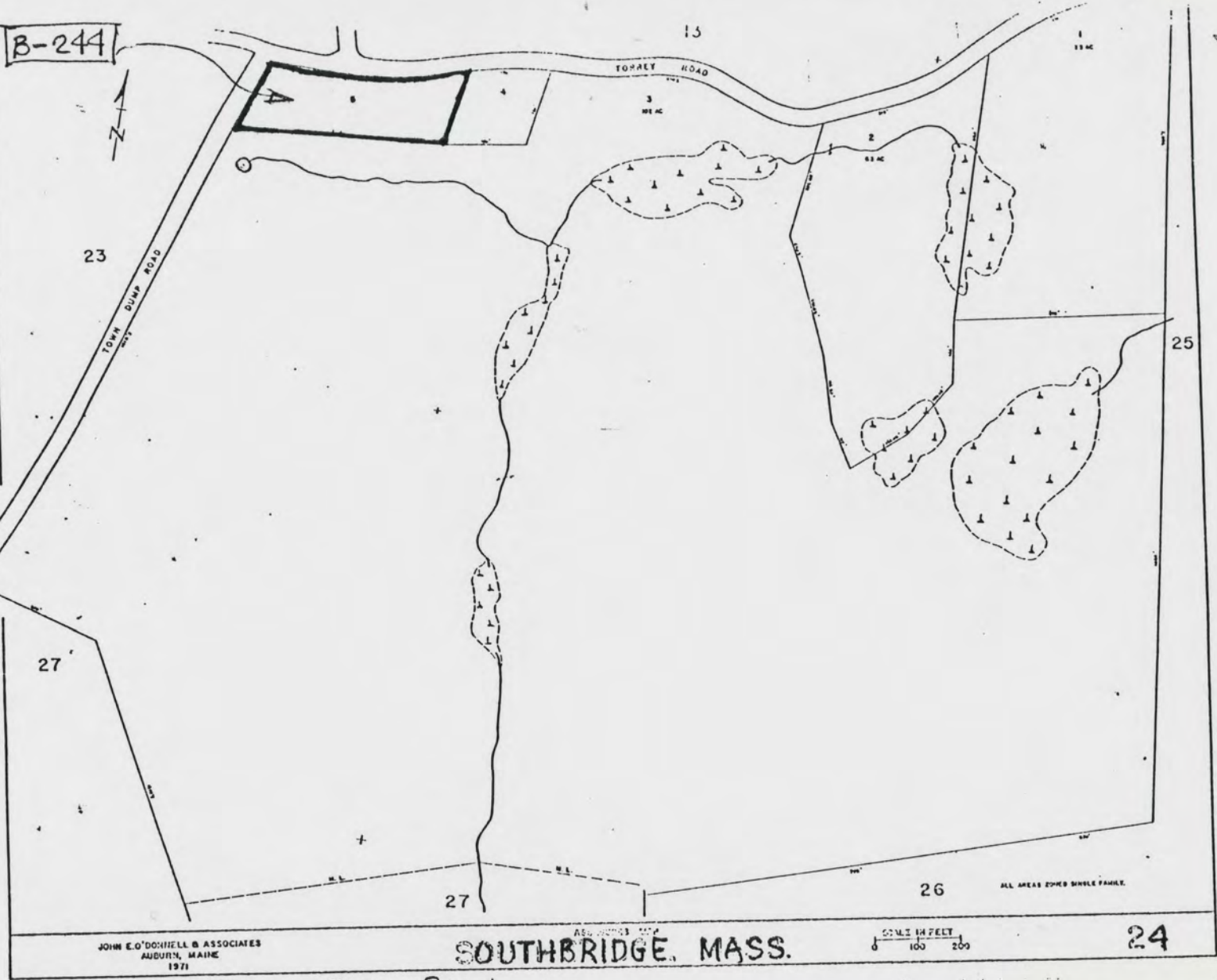
Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 6

B-244



SOUTHRIDGE MASS
MRA



Vinton, Torrey House, Torrey Road

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294