

MAY 15 1989

SOUTHBIDGE MASS

MRA

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
D	448

Town Southbridge
Address 313 South Street
Historic Name Judson-Litchfield House

Use: Present residential
Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1830-1837
Source local history, maps, deed 329/298
Style Federal/Greek Revival
Architect UNKNOWN
Exterior Wall Fabric brick
Outbuildings attached barn (C)

Major Alterations (with dates) addition of
side porch ca. 1875, addition of rear
(ca. 1870's)
Condition Excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage one acre or less

Setting residential area, 18th, 19th 20th
c. houses

Recorded by E. Woodford, A. Kavanagh,
S. Ceccacci, ed. S. Ceccacci
Organization Southbridge Historical Com-
mission
Date May 1986

Roll # 2-13

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 18/744 020A662 230

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge MA CT

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Judson-Litchfield House is significant for its association with the developing mill economy, its new gable-front orientation and Greek Revival ornament, and its use of brick as a building material. 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.

This well preserved house is a fine early example of a gable front, side entry house type, which was to be the most commonly used residential form throughout the second half of the 19th century in Massachusetts. This form, which is most often associated with Greek Revival and late styles, first appeared in the late Federal period. Scattered Examples of Federal period houses of this type exist in other central Massachusetts cities and towns.

Although closely resembling a Greek Revival period house, the Judson-Litchfield House has distinctively Federal features such as the low arched blinded fanlight in the pediment, a low arched recessed main entrance and more delicate proportions for the pediment cornice and frieze than those typical of the Greek Revival. Three-quarter length sidelights and a six-panel front door are other Federal features. In Southbridge the use of brick was much more common for

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

Mentioned in the Quinebaug Historical Society Leaflets as having been built by Samuel Judson, the house was said to have been intended "to outrival "Amidown Castle" and the Bella Tiffany or Leonard house", two imposing brick houses in the town center. (See the Centre Village Historic District form for the Federal style Amidown Castle, ca. 1820's and form #C-301 for the Greek Revival/Federal style Tiffany-Leonard House, 1830's.)

Judson's brick house was built on the site of the dwelling of Capt. Samuel Newell. That earlier frame house was moved down the hill to the west. As late as 1898 it was still part of the property accompanying the brick house. The barn of the Judson house is said to have been moved here from the "Willard place" in Sturbridge.

Samuel Judson, according to Plimpton's History of Southbridge, was one of the purchasers in 1824 of the Westville cotton mill and was still an owner in 1836. An 1828 deed records the purchase of the property on which the house was built by Samuel Judson of Uxbridge from James Wolcott, Jr.

In 1837 Judson deeded the property to Harvey Hartshorn. Born in Foxborough, Hartshorn died in 1866 at the age of 71. His occupation listed as farmer.

By 1870 the house was the home of Libya Merritt Litchfield, an owner and treasurer of the Litchfield shuttle factory at Shttleville (adjoining Westville). Libya Litchfield (1819-1886) was the youngest of seven Litchfield brothers, the children of Capt. Comins Litchfield, a

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (Continued)

maps, atlases, directories

Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Book 264/390, Book 328/298

Assessor's Records, Town of Southbridge

Plimpton, History of Southbridge, p. 37

Quinebaug Historical Leaflets, Vol. I, #4, p. 46

Newspaper clipping, no cite, Jan. 24, 1924, Southbridge clippings #3,
Worcester Historical Museum

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SOUTHBIDGE	Form No: 17533
Southbridge	D-448
Property Name: Judson-Litchfield House 313 South Street	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

carpenter, and his wife Sallie Blanchard of Charlton. Like five of his brothers, he became a millwright at a time when almost all mill machinery was made largely of wood. About 1842 when wood breast wheels began to be replaced by more effective turbines, several of the Litchfield brothers, including Libya, and a brother-in-law formed a company to manufacture shuttles for the textile industry. About 1846 they bought land and water privileges at Westville where they built a factory. This successful business became one of the town's important industries and remained so through the early-20th century. In 1924 the company made "over 700 different types of shuttles and shuttle parts" and was one of the oldest industries in Southbridge.

Today nothing remains at Westville or Shuttleville of the factories of the two industrialists who lived in this house. Significant not only for its architecture, the Judson-Litchfield House is also important for its associations with the Westville area as a manufacturing center and with the history of industrial growth and prosperity of Southbridge.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

residences during the Federal period than it was later.

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

41. High--School Streets Historic District
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____42. Hodgson, William, Two-Family House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____43. House at 18 Walnut Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____44. House at 3 Dean Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____45. House at 34 Benefit Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____46. House at 59--63 Crystal Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____47. House at 64 Main Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____48. House at 70--72 Main Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____49. House at 91 Coombs Street
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____50. Judson--Litchfield House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 6/22/89
Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Judson--Litchfield 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: 89000539

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

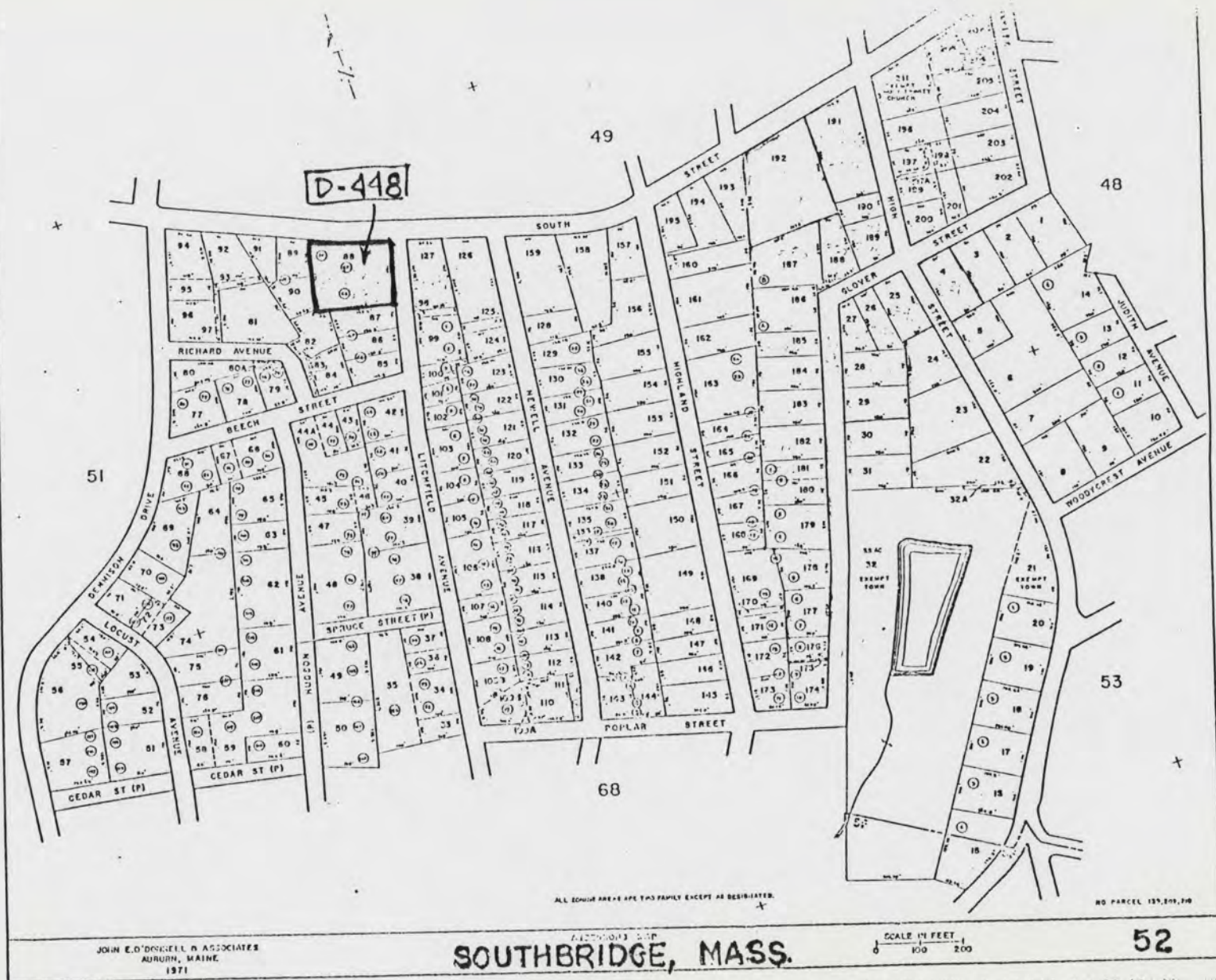
_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Judson. Litchfield House, (D-448) 313 South St.
Southbridge MA, MA
Ceccacci, 1986
Southbridge Historical Commission
Roll # 2-23

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS
MRA



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294