

522 MFA

FORM B - BUILDING

MAY 15 1989

AREA FORM NO.

C	307
---	-----

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

NATIONAL REGISTER

Town Southbridge

Address 239-241 Elm Street

Historic Name Stephen Richard House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1865

Source maps, visual analysis

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings garage, late-20th century (NC)

Major Alterations (with dates) 1880's porch on side, 1/1 sash (late-19th, early-20th c.)

Condition Good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting residential/commercial/industrial neighborhood

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

Organization Southbridge Historical Commission

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.

200#2-5

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 18/745 190/4661 400

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:25,000

The Stephen Richard House is significant for its association with the town's mid-<sup>19th</sup> century real estate development and its traditional gable block 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 house is of the traditional two-and-a-half story, five bay center entry New England house type. Although its date of construction is not clear, the double chimneys, its compact size and the high pitch of its gable roof suggest that the house was not built before the mid-19th century and quite possibly as late as the 1870's. The house is extremely plain in design. Its only ornamental features are a small front porch with jig saw trim and a double deck side porch, with exterior stairs, across the width of the south side (ca. 1880's). The side porch with exterior stairs is an architectural element commonly seen in late-19th century buildings in Southbridge and believed to be of French Canadian origin. The presence of such a detail here is fitting since Stephan Richard was French Canadian and since the neighborhood in which the house is located was known as Little Canada in 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 Vernacular appearance of the Richard House makes it difficult to date visually. Information gathered from available Southbridge maps also makes precise dating difficult for this dwelling. Both the 1855 and 1870 maps show structures standing in this approximate location. A building belonging to L. Ammidown, possibly a shoe shop, can be seen here on the 1855 map. The 1870 map shows a slaughterhouse here. Because no other building was standing in the area at those dates the exact location of the Ammidown building or the slaughterhouse is difficult to ascertain. However, the Richard House, unlike the other houses which appeared on either side of it by 1879, is oriented at an angle to the street. This fact suggests that the Richard House might be an earlier structure.

The present house can first be definitely identified on <sup>the</sup> 1878 map of Southbridge. At that date it was shown as the property of S. Richard. Stephen Richard was the first Franco-American industrialist in Southbridge and the first Franco-American voter. In 1862 he established a cutlery manufactory in Sandersdale and later in Brickville. In 1897 he formed a corporation, The Richard Manufacturing Company, with his two sons, Stephen and Joseph, and built a factory (form #D-403) across the street from his house.

Richard became an American citizen in 1865 as citizenship was a requirement for a patent or license (brevet) which he wanted. His actions prompted many other middle class French Canadians in Southbridge to become citizens in order to protect their growing commercial interests. This trend became an important stabilizing influence on the large local French-speaking population, as it gradually changed from the "French-Canadian" community to the "Franco-American" community.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

maps, atlases  
interview E. Woodford with Albert Lepain  
Gatineau, F., Histoire des Franco-Américains de Southbridge, Mass. 1919

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

61. Oakes, J.J., House Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

62. Phillips, E.M., House Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

63. Plimpton, Simon, Farmhouse Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

64. Richard, Stephen, House Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

65. Sacred Heart Church Historic District  
Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

66. Smith--Lyon Farmhouse Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

67. St. George's Greek Orthodox Church Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

68. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church--  
St. Mary's School Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

69. Stone, Lorenzo R., House Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper *Delores Byers* 6/22/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

70. Sumner, George, House 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: Richard, Stephen, House

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: 89000522

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    6/24/89 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 \_\_\_\_\_



Stephen Richard House, C-307

Southbridge MA MRA

ceccacci, 1986

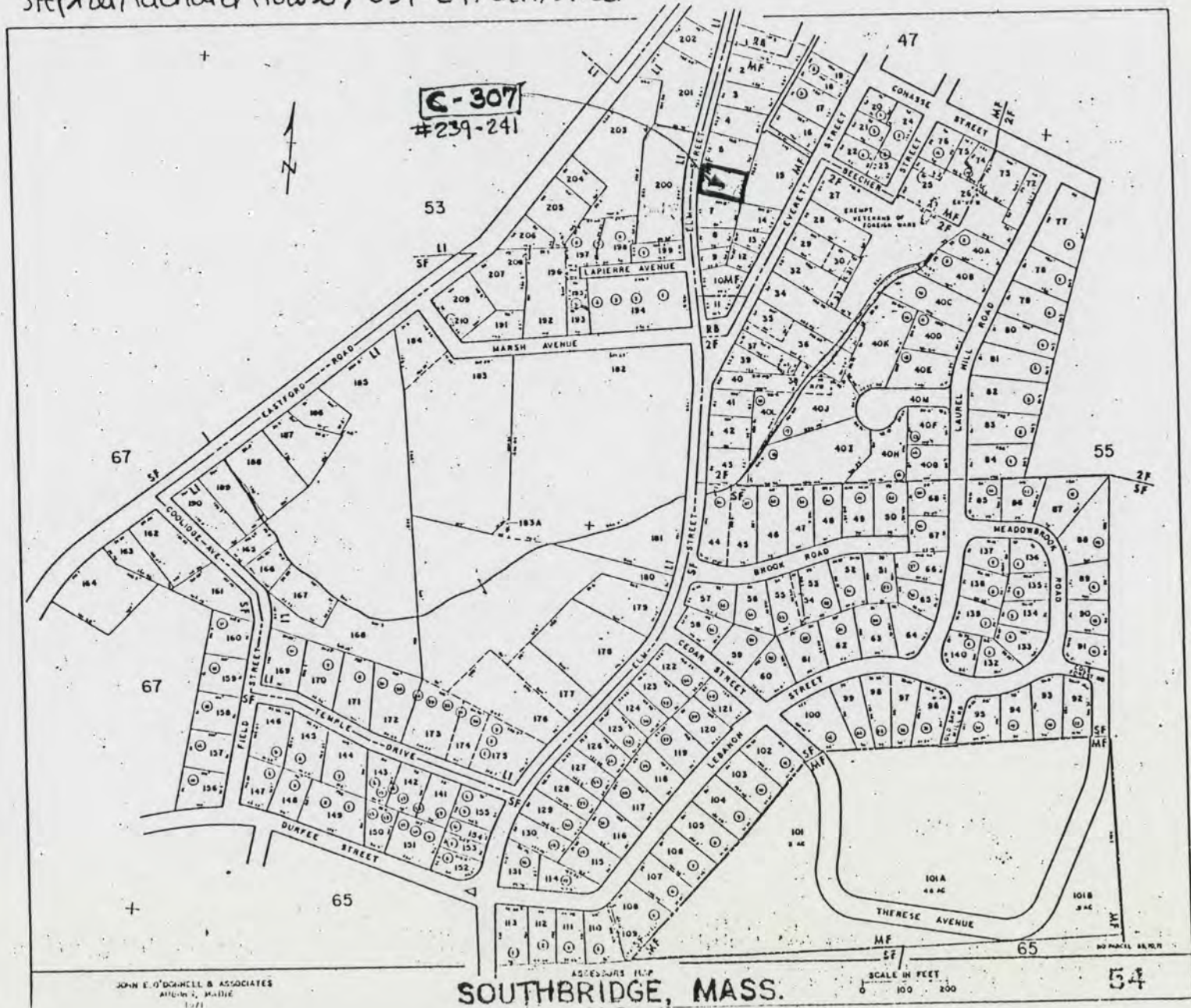
Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 2.5

239 - 241 Elm Street

Stephen Richard House, 239-241 Elm Street

SOUTHRIDGE, MASS  
MRA



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294