

MAY 15 1989

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

524

MRA

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
C	312

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Southbridge

Address 56 Everett Street

Historic Name LaCroix-Mosher House

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

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1904-1907

Source maps, directories, visual analysis

Style Colonial Revival

Architect George H. Clemence

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage, early-20th c. (c)

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage one acre or less

Setting transitional residential/commercial area

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 18/745 390/661890

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci

Organization Southbridge Historical Commission

Date May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The LaCroix-Mosher House is significant for its association with the town's ~~late 19th~~, ~~early 20th~~ century real estate development and its stylish Colonial Revival design. 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 large imposing Colonial Revival house is one of the few grand houses of its type from the turn of the century which are still intact in Southbridge today. Another large, elegant Colonial Revival residence was built about the same period on Elm Street next to the Town Hall by C.A. Paige. That house is no longer intact, a modern office building has been attached to its front. The Albert B. Wells House (ca. 1904, Daniel H. Burnham, Chicago) in the Main Street Historic District is the only other existing house of comparable size, design or importance.

Characteristic of the finest Colonial Revival mansions of the day, this house is broad in its design with an expansive hip roof, elegant dormers with swan's neck broken pediments, large windows, deep porch and Classical ornamental details. Less common but not unusual for the style is the broad cylindrical two story corner bay.

Similarities between this house and large Colonial Revival houses in Worcester designed by the well-known Worcester architect George H. Clemence, suggest that Clemence may have been the

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

The LaCroix-Mosher House was built by Joseph LaCroix, who became the president of the Hyde Manufacturing Company in 1897. Founded by J. P. Hyde about 1875, the company made knives in competition with other Southbridge cutlery firms Harrington Cutlery and Stephen Richard. Like its competitors, the company prospered.

LaCroix had first worked with Stephen Richard and had even lived for more than a year with the Richard family. About 1885 he was persuaded to join Hyde's Company, bringing many of Richard's tempering secrets with him. By 1894 he had gained one-eighth interest in the company. Hyde sold most of his stock in the company in 1897 to LaCroix and Myron B. Clemence. After Hyde's death in 1897 the company continued to prosper.

In 1905 LaCroix's son, Arthur, age twenty-one was made an officer in the company which employed about 38 and produced some 1800 knives a day. The son appears to have built a house next door at 44 Everett Street around 1910-1915. Some time during the 1920's Joseph LaCroix sold his house and both the father and son occupied the house next door. During the late 1920's and 1930's, 52 Everett Street was occupied by Ira Mosher who became a vice president, general manager and treasurer of American Optical Company.

This house was built as an extension of the suburban estate district which had existed since the early-19th century along the section of Main Street east of the central business district. During the early-20th century members of the town's important families and industrialists occupied houses in that section.

(See Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases, directories
Pankiewicz, Philip R. New England Cutlery, Hollytree Publications,
ca. 1985, pp. 153-154.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: ^{MFA} Southbridge	Form No: C-312
Property Name: LaCroix-Mosher House 56 Everett Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

architect. During the 1890's Clemence kept an office in Southbridge as well as one in Worcester. He also designed the Southbridge Armory, the Elm Street Fire House (form #D-401) and most, if not all, of the buildings for the Worcester and Southbridge Street Railway (1902-1903), including the Overlook Hotel in Charlton.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

Everett Street was first developed around the 1860's with a few smaller houses. Development continued gradually in the 1870's with middle class houses. By 1898 the section of the street which included this lot was still undeveloped, although the atlas shows that it had been divided into lots. This was the only grand house ever to have been built here.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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
51. Kinney, A., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
52. LaCroix--Mosher House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
53. LaRochelle, Napoleon, Two-Family House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
54. Maple Street Historic District	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
55. Marcy, Mrs. R., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
56. McKinstry, William, Jr., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
57. McKinstry, William, Farmhouse	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
58. Morse, H., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
59. New York, New Haven & Hartford Passenger Depot	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____
60. Notre Dame Catholic Church	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 6/22/89 Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: LaCroix--Mosher 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: 89000524

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 _____



LaCroix. Mosher House (C.312)

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll #6

Southbridge, MA *MRA*

Ceccacci, 1986

56 Everett Street

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294