

FORM B - BUILDING

568
MAY 15 1989

AREA	FORM NO.
A	130

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Roll # 1-21

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 29 Pine StreetHistoric Name Academie BrochuUse: Present schoolOriginal school

DESCRIPTION

Date 1899Source buildingStyle Colonial RevivalArchitect Chickering & O'Connell, Spring-
fieldExterior Wall Fabric brickOutbuildings (C) - 2 brick Georgian Rev.Classical parish-related bldgs. (ca. 1920)Major Alterations (with dates) side additionearly to mid-20th c., metal windows & door(ca. 1960's-1970's)Condition GoodMoved no Date n/aAcreage one acre or lessSetting in parish complex, late-19thearly-20th century single and multi-familyresidential neighborhoodUTM REFERENCE 18/745 020/4662 640USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass.-Conn.SCALE 1:25,000Recorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci
ed. S. CeccacciOrganization Southbridge Historical Com-
missionDate May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Academie Brochu is significant for its association with the expansion and development of Southbridge's French Canadian community late in the nineteenth century, and for its Colonial Revival design by Chickering & O'Connell of Springfield. 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.

The formal symmetry and brick construction of this school make it one of the most imposing buildings in Southbridge. Characterized by Classical details, a massive effect and a richness of rhythm and surface texture, the building has two consecutively projecting facade pavilions, broad hip roofs, a gable roofed facade pediment and highly articulated wall surfaces. Light colored contrast to the red brick body of the structure is provided by limestone sills, lintels and trim, yellow brick accent trim and painted metal cornice and frieze at the eaves. The appearance of the building has been somewhat altered by the replacement of original window sash and doors with inappropriate substitutes.

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

A parish school of the French Canadian church of Notre Dame, was operated in Southbridge by the Sisters of St. Anne from 1881 until 1889. In 1891 the school was resumed under the care of a group of Sisters of the Assumption of Nicolet. During these early years, the school and convent were both housed in a single building (on the site of the convent north of the present building) next to the original Notre Dame Church (no longer standing) on Pine Street. The school had a student population of about 500 in 1891. By 1899 the number had increased to 740 with twelve nuns as teachers. In that year it was decided that a separate school was needed. The present building was built at a total cost of about \$40,000: \$5,000 for the land and \$31,869 for construction. The first and second floors contained six classrooms each. A chapel with a capacity of 800 to 900 occupied the third floor. For several years this chapel was used by the parish each Sunday for masses for children because the church was not large enough to hold all its members before the creation of a second French Canadian parish (Sacred Heart) in 1908.

The new school was named Academie Brochu in honor of Msgr. George Elzear Brochu, pastor of Notre Dame Church, who made its construction possible by contributions from his own savings. Brochu was a strong-willed man who was determined to see the children in his parish receive a proper Christian education. Many of the parishioners did not see the value in having a parish school. At the time most of the parishioners were mill workers and wanted their children to work as soon as possible to help support the family. Brochu saw education as a way to escape being economically dependant upon the mills. Brochu also actively advocated the idea that being a good Catholic meant being an active citizen. He played an important role in transforming the French-Canadian community into the Franco-American community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Gatineau, Felix.

Histoire des Franco-Américains de Southbridge. Framingham:

Lakeview Press, 1919

Builders' Weekly, Vol. III, #13, p. 9, 12/24/1898

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
Cover	for Keeper <u>Betsy L. Savage 6-22-89</u>
1. Academic Brochu	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
2. Allen, William E., House	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
3. Alden--Delahanty Block	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
4. Ammidown--Harding Farmhouse	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
5. Ashland Mill Tenement	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
6. Bacon--Morse Historic District	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
7. Beechwood	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
8. Boyer, Alexis, House	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
9. Building at 25--27 River Street	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____
10. Building at 29--31 River Street	Entered in the National Register for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers 6/22/89</u>
	Attest _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Academie Brochu
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: 89000568

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 _____



Academie Brochu, (A.130) 29 Pine St.
Southbridge, MA
Ceccacci, 1986
Southbridge Historical Commission
Roll #1.21

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294