

## FORM B - BUILDING

MAY 15 1989

588

AREA	FORM NO.
B	244

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town SouthbridgeAddress 5 Torrey RoadHistoric Name Vinton-Torrey HouseUse: Present vacantOriginal residential

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1841Source local historyStyle Greek RevivalArchitect UNKNOWNExterior Wall Fabric brickOutbuildings sheds (C)Major Alterations (with dates) two story

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

Condition GoodMoved no Date \_\_\_\_\_Acreage one acre or lessSetting fronts directly onto rural road,surrounded by fields, another farmhouseacross the roadRecorded by E. Woodford, S. Ceccacci  
ed. S. CeccacciOrganization Southbridge Historical Commis-  
sionDate 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 305USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-ConnSCALE 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><br>Attest _____ |
| 72. Tiffany--Leonard House                           | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 73. Twinehurst American Optical Company Neighborhood | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 74. Upper Chapin Street Historic District            | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 75. Vinton--Boardman Farmhouse                       | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 76. Vinton--Torrey House                             | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u><br>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><br>Attest _____ |
| 78. Wells, H.C., Double House                        | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 79. Wells, John M., House                            | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 80. Wheeler, Albert H., House                        | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u><br>Attest _____ |

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Vinton--Torrey 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: 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

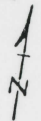
Southbridge, MA *MRA*

1986

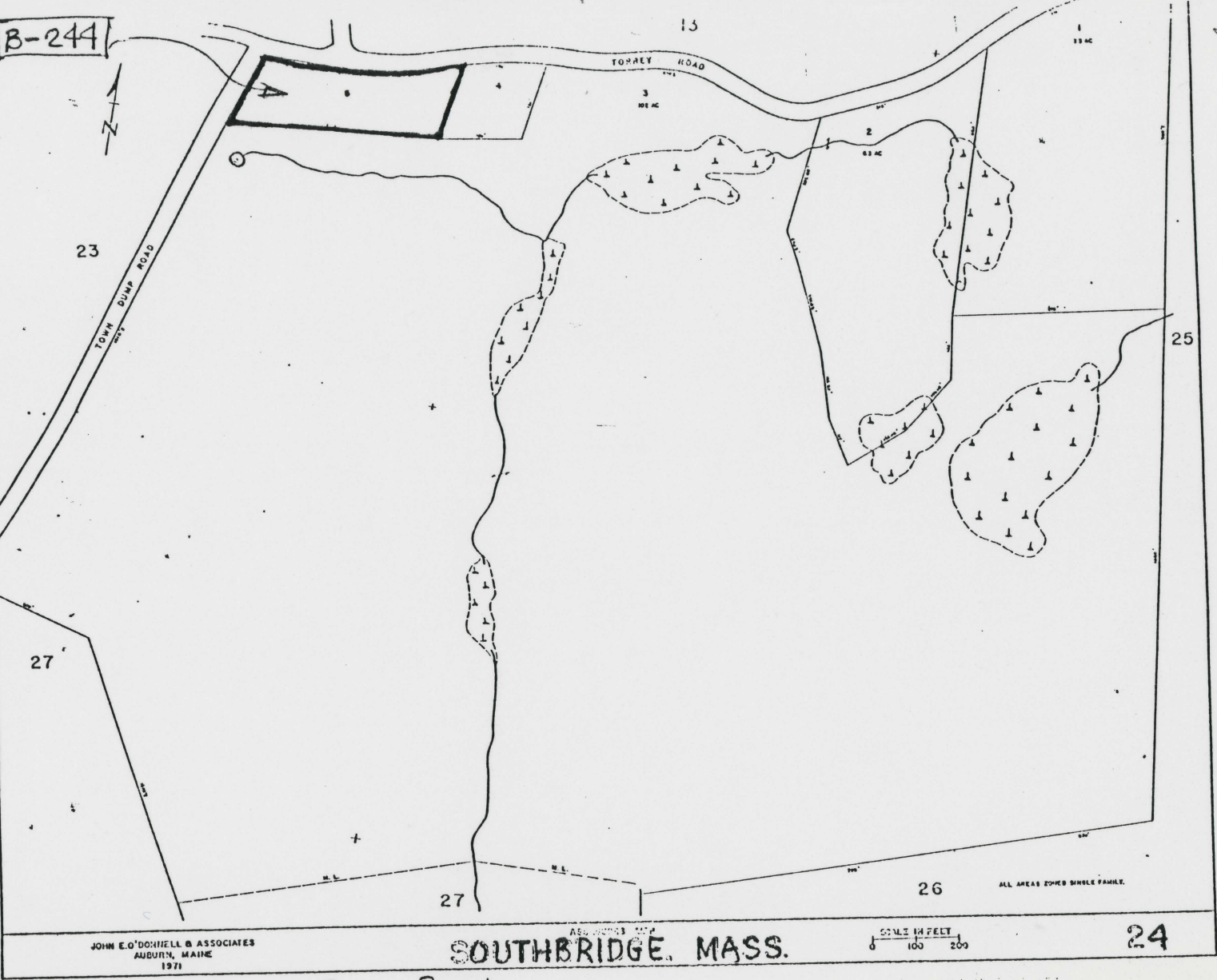
Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 6

B-244



SOUTHBIDGE MASS  
MRA



JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES  
AUBURN, MAINE  
1971

SOUTHBIDGE, MASS.

SCALE IN FEET  
0 100 200

24

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