

MAY 15 1989

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

590

MRA

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
C	301

Town Southbridge

Address 25 Elm Street

Historic Name Tiffany-Leonard House

Use: Present offices

Original residential

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

Roll #2-0

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1832

Source maps, visual analysis

Style Greek Revival

Architect UNKNOWN

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) modern rear wing added (mid-late-20th century)

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting civic, commercial, institutional area

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

Organization Southbridge Historical Commission

Date May 1986

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 18/745 330/4662 025

USGS QUADRANGLE Southbridge, Mass-Conn

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Tiffany-Leonard 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 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 brick temple-front house with its two story quadristyle porch and facade pediment is one of the most imposing 19th-century residences in Southbridge. That it was also considered to be one of the most outstanding of its own day is suggested by a comment made in the Quinebaug Historical Leaflets written around the turn of the 20th-century. This source reported that the Judson-Litchfield House (form #D-448) (ca. 1830-1837) on South Street was built so as to "outrival" Ammidown Castle" and the Be a Tiffany or Leonard house."

Although the temple form of the Tiffany-Leonard House and much of its ornament is distinctly Greek Revival, the slimness of its reeded Doric columns and the less massive treatment of the entablature and cornice are inspired by the earlier Federal style. The use of brick rather than wood construction is also more typical in Southbridge of Federal period residences than of later ones. (See Continuation Sheet)

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

Bella Tiffany about 1832, this house was owned for a much longer period by the Leonard family. It belonged to Manning Leonard in 1855 and was still owned by his heirs in 1898.

Bella Tiffany (1786-1851) was the original partner of Samuel Slater (the so-called "father of cotton manufacture in the United States") in establishing Slater & Tiffany, the first cotton mill in Webster, Massachusetts about 1812. According to Ammidown's Historical Collector (1870): "Bella Tiffany, John Tyson and Edward Howard were the chief managers - the pioneers, the moving spirits - that executed the plans of Mr. Slater in founding what is now the principal business of Webster..." As a result of a depression in cotton manufacturing which occurred due to a flood of English manufactured goods on the American Market following the close of the War of 1812, Tiffany sold out his holding in the business in 1816. He then dealt in "the commission sale of American cotton and wool manufactures" in Boston and New York. Retiring from that business in about 1832, Tiffany moved himself and his family to Southbridge "where he maintained a favorable social position." While in Southbridge, he was involved in the founding of the Southbridge bank and numerous public improvements. He also represented Southbridge in the state Legislature. His wife, Deborah, died in 1839 at the age 52.

Manning Leonard was an active Southbridge businessman and citizen during a major portion of the 19th-century. He served as clerk of the Central Manufacturing Company (form #B-203) when it was formed in 1837. By 1845 he was a holder of fifteen of *the* eighty shares

(See Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, atlases

Ammidown, H., Historical Collections Vol. I, 464-468; Vol. II, pp. 382-385

Holbrook. Vital Records to 1850, pp. 154-5, 263

Quinebaug Historical Leaflets, Vol. I, pp. 14-15, Vol. II, p. 147

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	MRA	Form No:
Southbridge		C-301
Property Name:	Tiffany-Leonard House 25 Elm Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

During the 1830's and 1840's in larger Worcester County towns, such as Worcester, houses of well-to-do families like the Tiffanys were being built which were wholly Greek Revival in character. Hints of the earlier Federal style lingered longer in smaller outlying communities like Southbridge. Other Southbridge houses built in the 1830's and 1840's, such as the Judson-Litchfield House (mentioned above) and the Hamilton Millwright's/Mill Agent's House (form # ~~D-461~~), display a blending of characteristics of both styles.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

in the company. With Chester A. Dresser he became an owner of the mill in 1858, finally withdrawing from the business in 1863. Leonard was active in conservative political circles in town and served as justice of the peace from 1849 to 1883. He was married to Mary F. Ammidown, the daughter of Ebenezer and Rebecca Fisher Ammidown, in 1840. They had several children.

At the time of the construction of this house, the section of the east side of Elm Street between Main Street and the original Congregational Church (1822) was occupied by barns and sheds and only one residence, that of Holmes Ammidown (no longer standing) which had been erected in 1830. The first Town Hall was erected on the site of the present Town Hall in 1838, several years after the construction of the Tiffany-Leonard House.

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 |
|--|--|
| 71. Tapin, Eugene, House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 72. Tiffany--Leonard House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 73. Twinehurst American Optical Company Neighborhood | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 74. Upper Chapin Street Historic District | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 75. Vinton--Boardman Farmhouse | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 76. Vinton--Torrey House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
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>
Attest _____ |
| 78. Wells, H.C., Double House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 79. Wells, John M., House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 80. Wheeler, Albert H., House | Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers 6/22/89</u>
Attest _____ |

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Tiffany--Leonard 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: 89000590

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 _____

THE SOUTHBIDGE NEWS

 The News

25 Elm Street (Form C-301)
Tiffany-Leonard House

Southbridge, MASS MRA

1986

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 2-0

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294