

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.
**116-CBD-
6**

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

Roll 27

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.

UTM:
19/268970/4683150

1. Town Worcester
Address 156 Main Street
Name Elwood Adams Hardware Store
Present use commercial
M. Champagne & N. Cloutier
Present owner Elwood Adams Realty Corp.
156 Main Street
3. Description:
Date ca.1831, ca.1865
Source plaque, 1897 account
Style 19th-century commercial vernacular
Architect unknown
Exterior wall fabric brick
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features trabeated granite store fronts, granite window sills and lintels, bracketed cornice top two floors
Altered added Date ca.1865
Moved no Date _____
5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 2, p.28
Lot 16 '9,345 sq.ft.
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 50'
Approximate distance of building from street
10'
6. Recorded by S. Ceccacci, B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date November 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Henry W. Miller
Original use hardware store
Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	<u>x</u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Elwood Adams Block, built ca.1831, was originally a two and one-half storey building which was enlarged to its present four-storey height around 1865. Unchanged from its ca.1865 remodeling, the block has a facade of six bays' width, divided by a central pier into two sections of three bays' width. At the first storey are two store fronts (used as a single store) of trabeated granite and iron posts. Windows of the upper floors have rectangular granite lintels and sills. At the roof line is a wooden cornice with modillion brackets. Side walls of the block show faint outlines of the 1831 gable end; however, no change in brickwork is evident on the building's facade, suggesting that the facade was entirely re-faced with pressed brick around 1865.

Now containing the Elwood Adams Hardware Store, Worcester's oldest business occupies a site of long-standing commercial importance. In 1782, on this site, Daniel Waldo, Sr., opened a hardware store for which he built the city's first brick building. Soon after 1782 Waldo's son, Daniel Jr., entered the business, becoming sole owner of the concern in 1791. In 1816 Waldo Jr. took Henry W. Miller as an apprentice. After 1821 Miller and George Rice purchased the business, over which Miller gained complete ownership in 1831. Miller, who bought the building from the Waldo heirs in 1865, sold the business to Elwood Adams and a partner in 1886, under whom the store was operated as Smith & Adams. Smith retired in 1891, after which the business assumed its present name.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Letter by Alice M. Rice, dated June 1897, in possession of current owners.

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. I, pp. 253-255 (Waldo biography)
vol. IV, p.606 (Adams biography)

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

Excellent multiple resource nomination for the entire city of Worcester. Both the general description & statement of significance & the individual inventory sheets are well done. Each type of property included is well justified & reasons are listed for not including others at this time (e.g. 3-deckers). Down opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

Concur with Bruce's comments on 102-L-3, 116-CBD-11, 117-E, and 130-CBD-50 and 44. Integrity and/or boundaries need to be addressed specifically on individual forms. DOBIE

116-CBD-11 - Destroyed, cannot be listed.
130-CBD-44 - I am not convinced this has lost integrity. See attached.
102-L-3 - Period of significance and categorization of bldgs need to be discussed with State.

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. ~~Both~~ BOTH TECHNICALLY AND TO DETERMINE SIGNIFICANCE. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE FORMS DID NOT CONTAIN STRONG STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE THE RESOURCE CATEGORIES WERE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED IN THE BODY OF THE NOMINATION; THEREFORE SIGNIFICANCE WAS ESTABLISHED. PBDS WERE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE

OTHER

ACCEPT
MACDONALD
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. PLEDGE WAS MISSING ON SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS.

HAER

THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE

Inventory _____

✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 116 CBD-11

Review _____

130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ ^{AM} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGMENT.

Recommend

Listing all properties ~~now~~ except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ w/NR staff + State. DOBIE

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/81

Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;

HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State

3/5/80
DOBIE

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:

KEEPER

Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & claims from State), 102-L-3 (returning to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (filing from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



Adams, Elwood, Terokua
Stone

Wotter, MRA, Ma

116-CBD-6
156 Main St.
east elevation

30 AUG 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304