

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

155  
OK



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dodge Block and Sawyer Building, Bancroft Trust Building

other names/site number Bancroft Building (preferred name)

2. Location

street & number 60 Franklin Street  not for publication

city or town Worcester  vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01609

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Brona Simon DSHPO January 9, 2002  
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Deputy State Historic Preservation officer Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrus 3/15/2002

**Bancroft Building**

Name of Property

**Worcester Co., Massachusetts**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Worcester MRA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE - business

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE - business

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE – Granite

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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7. DESCRIPTION

The Bancroft Building is located at on the northeast corner of Franklin and Portland Streets in the City of Worcester, Massachusetts. Franklin Street originates at Main Street, one block west of Portland, in the center of the city's downtown. Its façade is oriented towards Franklin Street (the present address of the building is 60 Franklin Street), and it faces the Worcester Common, a sizeable park at the rear (east) of the Worcester City Hall. The ten-story Bancroft Hotel (1912) sits on the west side of the building on the opposite side of Portland Street, and the Paris Cinema, formerly the Capitol Theatre (1926) is its neighbor on the east. On Portland Street, the Bancroft Building abuts the Capitol Building, built as part of the original Capitol Theatre complex. The building is situated in a prominent part of the city distinguished by city hall and the park, and the Bancroft Building is one of a group of historic commercial buildings erected during the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries on Franklin Street as Worcester was enjoying a period of industrial and commercial prosperity.

As it presently exists, the Bancroft Building comprises a four-story brick commercial building roughly square in plan, with ornamented facades and storefronts on its Franklin and Portland Street elevations. Originally two separate buildings, the 1869 Dodge Block and 1882 Sawyer Building, the two distinct architectural units are still evident. The Dodge Block, and the Sawyer Building, remain quite distinguishable on the exterior, while they were combined into a unified plan and design on the interior in ca. 1920.

The Dodge Block, 1869.

The Dodge Block is a rectangular four-story brick building located on the corner lot of Franklin and Portland Streets. There are four window bays on the Franklin Street elevation and eight bays on the Portland Street side. A distinctive rounded corner at the intersection also contains a bay of windows. These principal facades have textured masonry surfaces, notably pilasters at the outside ends enframing the rounded corner and dividing the long Portland Street elevation, and a panelized cornice. The window openings have slight segmental arches that are distinguished by stone blocks at the corners and at the key. A date stone (1869) is centrally placed on the Franklin Street façade between the third and fourth floors. Another carved medallion is located below it between the second and third floors; its contains the initials of the builder, Thomas H. Dodge. The building is supported by a massive foundation of cut granite blocks that extends under the sidewalks.

A postcard view of the Dodge Block dating shortly after the completion of the Bancroft Hotel shows that it had a mansard roof with a bracketed cornice at its base and dormer windows on its north, east and west elevations (fig. 1). This roof burned in 1961 and was never replaced. These pictures also provide a view of the storefront that existed on the Franklin Street elevation of the building at that period. There appears to have been a store

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entrance in the second bay from the corner flanked by display windows in the first and third bays. An entrance to rooms on the upper levels was located in the remaining bay at the east end of the façade. A shop window is shown in the rounded corner section, and apparently there was another window at the north end of the Portland façade such as exists today. This window is documented in a photograph of Franklin Street taken about 1920 (fig. 2). The storefront has been substantially altered in design and materials, although the spatial definition of the area has remained intact. The stone headers of the historic storefront have remained in place. A block at the south terminus of the curved corner section is carved with the words "Portland Street." When constructed, this commercial space was occupied by a drug store. There would have been another doorway at the south end of the Portland Street elevation that would have served as the principal entrance to living units on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the building. The treatment of the street-level wall at this location is unknown.

On the interior, Thomas H. Dodge's offices occupied all or part of the second floor. Clearly, he would have desired space in the northwest corner of the building and across the Franklin Street façade. A staircase apparently ran along the east side of the building providing access to his office as well as providing a second means of egress from the living spaces above. Based on descriptions in editions of the *Worcester House Directory* from the 1880s, there was one dwelling unit on each floor above the second. Floor plans have since been altered to the extent that the original dwelling plans are not decipherable. Likewise, all original finishes in what was the area of Dodge's office have been replaced, although the elegance of the front spaces, with its elevated ceiling height and outward views to the Common and City Hall, is quite evident.

The Sawyer Building, 1882.

The Sawyer Building is similar in scale and design as the Bancroft Block. It also is four stories in height, although its second-floor height is not as tall as those in the Dodge Block leaving the fenestration of the upper stories uneven. The Sawyer Building has a taller cornice so that the roof levels do correspond. The Franklin Street façade of the Sawyer Building is only two bays wide, although each bay contains paired windows. Like the Dodge Block, a textured and ornamental masonry surface distinguishes the principal elevation of the Sawyer Building. The cornice is arcaded and there is a band composed of brick corners between the second and third floor windows. The window groups on the second and third levels have massive stone lintel blocks that have beveled corners above the opening. The fourth-floor windows have arched heads and are incorporated into banding at the base of the cornice. The Sawyer Building began with a flat roof with the cornice area along a parapet wall. The building was exposed and fenestrated on the east and south elevations. Of note is a three-sided window bay on the east elevation of the building. Like the Dodge Block, its original street-level storefront has been replaced with one with completely new materials and signage. A historic photograph reveals two entrances on the Franklin Street elevation. One was centered between shop windows on the eastern side of the

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façade; the second was located at the western end and would have opened to stairs leading to living units above street level (fig. 3). It is possible that the existing fire stairs at the rear of the building, overlapping into the alley, were constructed with the Sawyer Building to provide egress for the flats on the upper floors. Unlike the Dodge Building, there is some suggestion of domestic plans left from these dwelling units.

The Bancroft Trust Building, ca.1920.

By 1920, the Dodge Block and Sawyer Building were joined by partially enclosing the space between them and combining their interior plan. The first and second floors that were on the same level were linked with a separate access made to the third and fourth floors of the component buildings. This connection was made via internal stairs built in the alley space at the center of the plan. (The roof-level of this stair is visible in fig. 2.) The exterior of the two-story wall joining the façades was designed to correspond with the façade of the Sawyer Building utilizing concrete rather than stone headers over the windows and extending the patterned brick band that distinguished the space between the second and third story windows. A substantial trabeated stone entranceway was created, opening into a narrow passageway that was the space between the original buildings leading to a small stair lobby in the center of the block. New one-over-one sash windows were installed throughout, which would have served to link the buildings together architecturally on both the exterior and the interior. These have been obscured by the more recent addition of metal storm windows of an uncharacteristic four-pane configuration.

The dwelling units were vacated and reconfigured as offices. An L-shaped hallway was created to link rooms in the two buildings along the north, east and west elevations. Corridors were constructed within the Sawyer Building to link the lobbies to the fire stairs at the rear of the space. The hallways along the north-south axis of the old Dodge Block connected to the fire stair via corridors at the south end of the building. Thus offices were arranged in a U-shaped plan around a central stair core. Spaces were entirely refinished to bring them up-to-date with the expected taste in offices at the time; new doors and trim were added. Bathrooms and utilities were also provided within this core. Street-level commercial space was renovated to function as a banking room and offices for the Bancroft Trust Company. The façades of the Dodge Block on Franklin and Portland Streets were altered accordingly, but it appears that the storefront in the Sawyer Building remained unchanged (fig. 3).

The Bancroft Building, ca. 1940.

The existing office floor plans were essentially retained from the previous period (fig. 4). However, most of the visible components and finishes were installed when the offices were renovated in ca. 1940. At this point, ownership of the building had changed hands and a second phase of office development took place. The Bancroft Trust Company had dissolved and the building became known as simply the Bancroft Building. An

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elevator was constructed in the core of the building and the stairs from the first to the second floor were rebuilt to wrap around it. These stairs were constructed of marble, which was also added to the floor and lower walls of the entranceway from the street. Marble tile floors were also laid in the lobbies and hallways on the upper levels. New doors with large glass panels were inserted into office entrances, and door and window trim was replaced on all floors. Wood and glass partitions were constructed to divide some of the larger existing rooms and still survive. The only alteration made to the exterior in the ca.1940 renovation was the infill of the third and fourth stories in the front of the alley space bringing complete unity to the Franklin Street façade. As with the original addition, the exterior wall was constructed of brick using the same method and decoration as existed on the Sawyer Building façade. A flat roof was constructed to enclose the space and long, narrow rooms were created on the interior. A drugstore replaced the defunct bank without significant changes being made to the space or exterior.

The street-level commercial spaces were altered again in ca. 1960, when Boulevard Drugs was opened in the former banking space in the Dodge Block. A projecting aluminum awning was constructed along both street elevations. Large plate-glass display windows were installed at the corner with the store entrance recessed into the building at the east side of the Franklin Street elevation adjacent to the central doorway to the office levels. The Portland Street elevation was infilled with a corrugated material with a centrally placed door remaining there. The storefronts in the old Sawyer Building were also updated as well with large signboards and plate-glass windows. The old headers survive in both sections: a stone header on the Dodge Block and a sheet metal header on the Sawyer Building.

The Dodge Block and Sawyer Building are essentially intact to their combination into the Bancroft Building in ca. 1920. Exterior brick walls and trim are intact to the three phases of the composite building. The period of significance includes the ca. 1940 office renovation, of which the plan and finishes on the upper floors are virtually untouched, including marble floors in hallways, wood-panel and glass office partitions, doors, wood sash and window trim (covered by metal storm windows on the exterior), and bathroom stalls. The elevator was also built in this period, although a more recent car has been retrofitted within the confines of the original shaft. The street-level stores and storefronts were significantly altered in ca.1960 and little historic fabric remains. This is a typical situation on Main Street and a planned restoration project will make the intrusive elements of the present installations more compatible with the historic fabric of the building. The demise of the mansard roof from the Dodge Block Room is regrettable but not detrimental to the historic condition of the building.

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**Archaeological Description**

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded on the nominated property or in the general area (within one mile), it is possible that sites are present. Environmental characteristics of the parcel indicate the presence of some locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of ancient sites. The property is located on a level to moderately sloping landform in close proximity to wetlands. Natural soil types in the area may have been well drained, however, urban development has resulted in made soils now characteristic for the area. A small pond is located within 1000 feet of the property in the Worcester Common located on the opposite side of Franklin Street to the north. It is unknown whether that pond exists as a natural water body or is man-made. In general, however, the potential for locating intact archaeological resources on the property, either prehistoric or historic, is low. Construction of the Dodge Block (1869), Sawyer Building (1882) and their incorporation into the Bancroft Trust Building in ca. 1920 then Bancroft Building in ca. 1940, over most of the nominated parcel, would have destroyed any cultural resources present on the property.

**(end)**

See continuation sheet

**8 Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria considerations**

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # N/A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

1869 - 1951

**Significant Dates**

1869, 1882, c1920, c1940

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Thomas H. Dodge

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Fuller & Delano, Worcester MA

**Primary location of additional data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Preservation Worcester, Worcester MA

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bancroft Building is architecturally significant for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of Worcester's late-19<sup>th</sup> century commercial architecture and its representation of the dramatic architectural and economic changes that the city experienced from that period up to the era of the Great Depression. The building retains integrity of materials, setting, feeling, workmanship, association, location, and design; and fulfills criteria A and C at the local level. The present office building was created in ca.1920 by combining the 1869 Dodge Block, facing the Worcester Common on southeast corner of Franklin and Portland Streets, with the neighboring 1882 Sawyer Building. The Dodge Block, named for its builder and principal occupant Thomas H. Dodge, is a rare, surviving example of the scale and design of the downtown commercial architecture built early in the city's industrial era. Dodge created space for a drug store on the street-level of the building and installed his law office in the front of the second story. The rest of the building was rented to working families and their boarders, including a fifth story in a mansard roof that was destroyed by fire in 1961. The Sawyer Building was also designed to contain living units above street-level stores and was built on speculation by Worcester businessman Stephen Sawyer on a lot subdivided from his house property. It represents the changing land use around the Common as Worcester's downtown commercial core expanded into peripheral residential areas. This location on the Common in close proximity to City Hall made the area very popular with bankers, lawyers, newspaper offices, and other professional services. It has been one of the pivotal areas of the city. In spite of having been later joined and altered, both the Dodge Block and the Sawyer Building retain the distinctive characteristics of the late-19<sup>th</sup> century period in which they were built, particularly in their modest scale and ornamental masonry work. Both buildings have the added distinction of having been designed by Fuller & Delano, Worcester's premier architectural firm in the era. By 1920, the architectural character of the streets facing the Worcester Green had changed again with large office blocks, department stores and theatres dominating the scene. It was at this time the upper-story interiors of the Dodge Block and Sawyer Building were combined and renovated into office space. The two buildings were joined by an entranceway and stair built in the narrow alley that formerly separated them. The combination was named The Bancroft Trust Building in acknowledgement to its principal tenant, the Bancroft Trust Company, which occupied the street-level of the Dodge Block between 1922 and 1936. In this way, the Bancroft Building is an instructive example of the practice of adapting older buildings to meet new needs and tastes in the urban environment. The significance of the Dodge Block is enhanced by its association with Thomas H. Dodge, one of the more prominent citizens of the city during the last half of the nineteenth century. Patent lawyer, industrial inventor and philanthropist, Dodge had a significant impact on the City of Worcester, including the erection of his landmark building on the Commons.

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Thomas H. Dodge

Thomas H. Dodge appeared in Worcester in 1864, coming from Washington, D.C. where he had been practicing as a patent lawyer. A native of Eden, Vermont, Dodge spent his youth in Nashua, New Hampshire, where he was introduced to the cotton manufacturing process as an employee of the Nashua Manufacturing Company. In the meantime, he pursued an education and was admitted into the practice of law in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1854. Several important inventions improving mill machinery and a treatise on the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods brought Dodge national attention. He was appointed assistant examiner of patents in the United States Patent Office in Washington in 1855. He was soon promoted to the position of chief examiner and later became chairman of the Board of Appeals. During this period, Thomas H. Dodge remained active in creating innovations in industrial processes. In 1850, he developed a means to feed paper to printing presses from rolls and increased the speed of production considerably. His patented improvements to the double-hinged mowing machine allowed it to be driven and operated by a single man, which helped spread its use by farmers. He also is credited with proposing to the U.S. Postmaster General that the department institute a policy of returning undelivered mail to its senders, thereby dispelling the need for and expense of dead-letter offices. After repeated debates in Congress, the practice was legislated. Dodge left the Patent Office in 1858 to pursue a legal career, having been admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court.

The 1864 Worcester *City Directory* identifies Thomas H. Dodge as an attorney with an office at 6 Brinley Hall and a residence at 294 Main Street. The reasons for his relocation to Worcester are not well-detailed; however, Dodge held patents on barbed wire manufacturing machinery, which was the mainstay of the city's booming industrial economy at the time. By 1867, he was advertising his services as "counsellor and patent solicitor" and had moved his practice to the Post Office Block. In this particular year, he was also recorded in the *City Directory* as a partner in the firm Dodge & Wellington, manufacturers of screw wrenches and blacksmith drills in Manchester, New Hampshire. This company was never mentioned again, but it indicates that Dodge continued to work as an industrial designer and entrepreneur while in Worcester. Thomas H. Dodge purchased a 2688-square-foot building lot on the southeast corner of Park (now Franklin) and Portland Streets from John G. Kendall on 20 July 1868.<sup>1</sup> Kendall, an agent for the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Co., had purchased a parcel containing the lot he sold to Dodge plus a lot he later sold to Stephen Sawyer from builder Adolphus Morse in 1855.<sup>2</sup> The lot was one block east of Main Street and faced the Worcester Common. At that time, the railroad paralleled Main Street west of Portland. A station and roundhouse were located on the south side of Park Street. The tracks effectively created a boundary between the commercial district on Main Street, on the west side, and residential areas that developed on the east side, until the tracks were moved east of the Commons in the 1890s.

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Worcester (Worcester), MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 3The Dodge Block

Thomas H. Dodge commissioned the Worcester architects, Fuller & Delano, to design a substantial brick commercial building for his corner lot, which was the first instance of extending the commercial district east of the railroad tracks. A marble stone in the brick wall between the third and fourth stories on the Franklin Street façade was carved with the date 1869. (Worcester resident Paul Soulliere recalls his father, who owned the building between 1940 and 1972, chiseling off the raised date around 1940. The outlines of the numerals are still discernable from the street in the proper light.) Dodge's office address was still listed as being in the Post Office Block in the 1870 *City Directory*, but this could have been an oversight or it took the owner until after the directory was published to move into the new building. The next directory (1872) records the office of Thomas H. Dodge, counsellor and patent solicitor, for the first time at "43 Park, c. Portland." It appears that Dodge occupied the second-story space in the front building. The street-level storefront was occupied nearly continuously during Dodge's ownership of the building by Bradt & Flint, druggists, who like their landlord, advertised regularly in the *City Directory*. The 1896 *House Directory* listed the Worcester & Suburban Street Railway Co. as a tenant of the Dodge Block. This may have very well been another of Thomas H. Dodge's enterprises. The rest of the second floor, and the third through fifth floors, were rented as tenement dwellings. Every two years, the Worcester House Directory recorded tenants and their boarders, with their occupations identified. The social and cultural demographics of the city are evinced in the lists of people residing at 4 Portland Street (the entrance to the living quarters were at the rear of the side elevation of the building). Worcester's various ethnic groups, white-collar and blue-collar occupations, female heads of households, single men and women, and the prevalence of boarders in the tenement economy are all evident in the directories of the Dodge Block.

As built, the Dodge Block was a substantial edifice for its time and clearly conveyed the position and wealth of its owner, particularly with his offices located above the street. Its tall mansard roof, supported by sturdy brackets and punctuated with numerous dormers, epitomized the architectural taste of the day. Historic photographs illustrate scores of buildings of this scale with mansard roofs in the city filling both commercial and residential functions. Few have survived, as the roof of the Dodge Block, too, succumbed to fire in 1961. This building was further distinguished with a rounded corner where the store entrance originally was located. There are other corner buildings in Worcester with this feature, particularly those, like the Dodge Block, that were not square in plan and whose corners formed an acute angle. A secondary entrance was located at the south end of the long Portland Street façade and would have provided access to stairs in the rear of the building. There would have been a second set of stairs in the front of the building so that Dodge and his clients could get to his office from Park Street. The concern for fire safety was pronounced even in this early period, so these stairs probably extended to the upper floors of the building as a second means of egress from the tenements.

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With its corner location, both street elevations were richly ornamented with projecting windows heads incorporating marble end and key blocks and, as mentioned, the heavy, overhanging wood cornice of the mansard roof. In addition to the date plaque on the Park Street façade, Dodge installed another stone ornament between the second and third stories emblazoned with his monogram carved in deep relief.

Stephen Sawyer

Stephen Sawyer obtained title to his 9706-square-foot property facing the Common on Park Street from John G. Kendall on 9 August 1867, less than a year before Dodge bought the neighboring lot on the west.<sup>3</sup> Sawyer gave Kendall a \$1500 mortgage on the property. City directories indicate that Stephen Sawyer and his family were residing at 9 Park Street as early as 1864. The Sawyers either moved from a location closer to Main Street or they were occupying an existing dwelling that was purchased with the property. In the 1867 City Directory, Stephen Sawyer is recorded as living at 13 Park Street. Perhaps street numbers were changing as new lots were created on Park Street east of Portland Street. Sawyer was a proprietor of Clark, Sawyer & Co., a crockery, glassware and wallpaper store at 480 Main Street. In *The Worcester of 1898*, he is pictured as a director of the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the firm that John G. Kendall represented as an agent at the time Sawyer purchased the Park Street property. In 1882, Stephen Sawyer subdivided his parcel to create a 2063-square-foot building lot between his house and the Dodge Block. On it he built a four-story brick building, designed by the architects Fuller & Delano, with a store at street-level and tenements on the upper stories. Coming over ten years after the construction of the Dodge Block, it is likely that Sawyer realized the commercial direction in which the residential neighborhood of Park Street was going. By the following year, the directories indicate that the Sawyers had moved west and up the hill to Chestnut Street. The old Park Street house became a boarding house and remained as such until it was demolished to make way for the Capitol Theatre in 1926. Sawyer conveyed the brick building to his daughter, Lucy, in 1885, who would own and rent it to tenants for the next 23 years.<sup>4</sup> He deeded the old house to his son and namesake at the same time.

The Sawyer Building

The Sawyer building appears to have been modeled after the Dodge Block in more modest and updated ways. Considering that Fuller & Delano were the architects of both buildings, it is not surprising that an effort was made to integrate the two designs. The buildings stood as a lone pair for many years but were perhaps thought of as a standard that was expected to continue down the street. Compared to the taller and more massive 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings west of Portland Street (e.g., the Bancroft Hotel), this pair appears old-fashioned, yet they represent the “big” buildings of an earlier era. The façade of the Sawyer Building echoed the four bays of fenestration on the Dodge Block, even though it was slightly narrower. And in a more stylish treatment, the windows were grouped in pairs recessed into the wall with thick stone headers and sills spanning both openings.

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A projecting panelized brick cornice was similar to the one that existed on the Dodge Block, yet the Sawyer Block did not include the by-then antiquated mansard roof. The Sawyer Building displayed new trends in design popular in 1882. Like its neighbor, the Sawyer Building contained a combination of commercial and residential functions, a popular design for the principal thoroughfares and built as investment properties by Worcester's growing community of successful middle-class entrepreneurs. (Thomas Dodge was also acquiring numerous investment properties throughout the city.) The building contained one living unit per floor. Each was large enough to accommodate a working family and one or two boarders. The initial tenant of the store space was a picture and photograph supply shop; soon an undertaker rented the space and remained there for many years.

The Bancroft Trust Building

William E. Langlois purchased the Dodge Block on 1 July 1907.<sup>5</sup> Lucy Sawyer sold her building to him on 31 July 1908.<sup>6</sup> William E. Langlois first appeared in the Worcester *City Directory* in 1891 identified as a laborer employed at 13 Blackstone Street and boarding at 139 Green Street. Two years later, Langlois was still boarding at 139 Green Street, but he was identified as a student. The 1902 *House Directory* recorded that physician W.E. Langlois, and dentist T.J. O'Connor occupied offices in the Dodge Block. In a lengthy biography published in *The Worcester of 1898*, it was stated that Thomas H. Dodge retired from "active business, and has devoted himself to the care and enjoyment of his estates" in 1883.<sup>7</sup> He maintained an address at the Dodge Block until 1906. By 1910, Langlois had moved his office to the second floor of the Sawyer Building, where it remained, with the exception of one edition of the *House Directory* where he occupied an office on the third floor, until he vacated the property in 1932. Another physician, Edward C. Rochette opened his office in the Sawyer Building in the same year. Significant changes were occurring on Park Street and the old buildings were in transition.

Between 1910 and 1914, the block between Main and Portland Streets was completely transformed. During that period, the Park Building, the Worcester Trust Company Building, the Worcester Telegram Building, and the luxury Bancroft Hotel were all erected. The site of the old train depot and roundhouse (the tracks had been removed from the Commons by 1896), an old Methodist church later occupied by a French Canadian Catholic parish, and a dwelling had been cleared to make way for the new development. The ten-story Bancroft Hotel loomed high above the Dodge Block across Portland Street. Plans were in the offing for new construction at the old Sawyer house property, which had been sold by Lucy Sawyer's brother in 1910. The opportunity was not lost on Dr. William E. Langlois. Sometime between the 1920 and 1922 editions of the Worcester *House Directory*, the Dodge Block and the Sawyer Building were joined into a single address and under a new name: the Bancroft Trust Building. The Bancroft Trust Company opened a banking room on the ground floor of the

(continued)

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Bancroft Building  
Worcester (Worcester), Massachusetts**

Section number   8   Page   6  

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Dodge Block where a drug store had operated since the building's construction. This new banking institution appears to have been established in 1922. Its president was Peter F. Sullivan, who was also Worcester's mayor at the time. Two of its three vice-presidents and a number of its 25 directors were physicians. It would seem that a group of Worcester's successful professionals and businessmen involved in real estate development in the city pooled their resources to provide loans and mortgages. William E. Langlois was not included in the list of officers and directors in the advertisements published in the 1922 *City Directory* and *House Directory*. However, Mendoza Langlois was a director of the bank, which may suggest how the bank's location was selected and the extensive renovation work was financed.

Illustrations of the building from this period, including an elevation drawing incorporated into the bank's heart-shaped logo found in the advertisements, shows the buildings joined by two-story entrance built in the alley space between them. Otherwise, no outward changes are evident. However, on the interior significant changes were made to create offices out of the former living spaces. A stair tower was built in the center of the space between the buildings and passageways were created to allow movement between the two parts. This project resulted in the historic buildings becoming functional 20<sup>th</sup> century office space in the expanding commercial and financial center developing on the south side of the Commons. Their close proximity to City Hall and the new Bancroft Hotel placed Langlois's revitalized buildings in the midst of the downtown action. In a rather shameless attempt for recognition, the bank and its new headquarters borrowed the Bancroft name from the hotel. The bank's address was 58 Franklin Street. Murray Brothers, the undertaker, continued to occupy the Sawyer Building storefront at 62 Franklin Street. The Bancroft Trust Building, with tenants on the second through fourth floors was listed as 60 Franklin Street. It was a popular address for physicians.

The Bancroft Trust Company was in liquidation by 1936 and had vacated the building. Three smaller shops took its place in the old Dodge Block: First Aid Drug Stores, Inc. (54 Franklin St.), Worcester Publishing Co. (no. 56), and Chain Curtain Stores (no. 58). The Little Hungarian Restaurant was the tenant at 62 Franklin Street. WORC radio broadcasting station had been occupying the fifth floor of the Dodge Block since 1930. After 1932, William E. Langlois no longer appeared on the lists of occupants in the *House Directories*. Only the drug store and one other tenant were recorded in 1938, and by the next issue of the *House Directory*, the Bancroft Trust Building had a new owner: the Commercial Acceptance Corporation. This corporation was owned by Paul E. Soulliere, a Worcester entrepreneur who was a partner in an insurance company (Brown and Soulliere) that had moved into 60 Franklin Street in 1940, invested in depressed real estate, and provided financial services. He was a cousin of William E. Langlois, which was likely how he became aware of the property.<sup>8</sup>

(continued)

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Bancroft Building  
Worcester (Worcester), Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 7

Between 1938 and 1940, Soulliere significantly renovated the interior of the combined buildings. According to his son, office spaces were reconfigured and new office doors and trim were installed. An elevator was built in the center space between the buildings and the stairs altered to wrap around it on the ground floor level. A local stonemason, C.V. Bianchi, installed marble tile floors in all the hallways and a marble wainscot in the ground-floor entrance hall and stairway. On the Franklin Street elevation, the alley space at the third and fourth story was walled in to the roof level to unify the façade of the joined buildings. By 1940, the building was fully occupied once more. It became known simply as the "Bancroft Building." First-Aid Drugs remained in the corner storefront. The store space in the old Sawyer Building was divided into two units. A "watch hospital" moved into the store at 62 Franklin and would remain there for many years; the shop at 64 Franklin changed hands frequently. Sometime after 1950, Soulliere took over the drug store and operated it himself, renaming it Bancroft Drugs. Substantial alterations were made to the store space and a commercial kitchen was built in the basement to provide meals to a lunch counter in the store. The present storefront and awning were constructed as part of this renovation. The storefronts of 62 and 64 Franklin Street (in the Sawyer Building) were modernized at the same time.

A fire in the chimney venting the furnace ignited the wood mansard roof in the winter of 1961. Ironically, the loss of this significant historic feature brought the two halves of the joined building more into symmetry. Other than this unexpected alteration, few changes occurred to the office levels of the building. When Paul E. Soulliere died in 1972, his son Paul inherited the property. Immediately after, the drug store space became a bank once more. The Consumer's Savings Bank opened a branch office at 54 Franklin Street and remained there for the next twenty years. The present liquor store at 64 Franklin Street opened at 62 Franklin Street in the 1950s and eventually took over both store spaces. The offices have remained inhabited. Paul Soulliere [Jr.] sold the building to Charles and Janet Birbara in 1981. In 1998, the Birbaras donated the building to Preservation Worcester.

(continued)

ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Worcester County Deeds, Book 771, Page 415.

<sup>2</sup> Worcester County Deeds, Book 547, Page 75; Morse also received a \$4500 mortgage from Kendall, recorded in Book 547, Page 76.

<sup>3</sup> Worcester County Deeds, Book 751, Page 267; mortgage on the property recorded in Book 751, Page 268.

<sup>4</sup> Worcester County Deeds, Book 1676, Page 81.

<sup>5</sup> Worcester County Deeds, Book 1856, Page 509.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Bancroft Building  
Worcester (Worcester), Massachusetts**

Section number   8   Page   8  

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<sup>6</sup> Worcester County Deeds, Book 1884, Page 480.

<sup>7</sup> p. 601.

<sup>8</sup> Per Paul Soulliere, 27 June 2001.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Bancroft Building  
Worcester (Worcester), Massachusetts

Section number   9   Page   1  

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Soulliere, Paul. Telephone Interview. 27 June 2001.

*Worcester Atlas*. 1870.

*Worcester City Directory*, 1864 – present.

*Worcester House Directory*, 1888 – present.

*Worcester's Illustrated Building Guide*. 1881.

*The Worcester Magazine*, Vol. XVI, No. 12 (Dec. 1913). Cover illustration.

Worcester, MA. Preservation Worcester, Inc. Survey files.

\_\_\_\_\_. Worcester County Registry. Deeds relating to 60 Franklin Street.

(end)

See continuation sheet

**Bancroft Building****Worcester Co., Massachusetts**

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property Less than one**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 268900 4682400  
Zone Easting Northing3  
Zone Easting Northing

2

4

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Neil Larson, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHCorganization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 2001street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Preservation Worcesterstreet & number 10 Cedar Street telephone 508-754-8760city or town Worcester state MA zip code 01609**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Bancroft Building  
Worcester (Worcester), Massachusetts**

Section number   10   Page   1  

---

## **10. Geographical Data**

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is bounded by Franklin Street on the north, Portland Street on the east and parcel lines on the south and west. See attached City of Worcester Real Property Office map.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were chosen represent the two historic building parcels that were combined when the Bancroft Building was created in ca.1920.

(end)

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bancroft Building  
Worcester, MA

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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## Additional Documentation

figure 1

Postcard view of Dodge Block (left), c1915.

Bancroft Hotel, Worcester, Mass.



See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

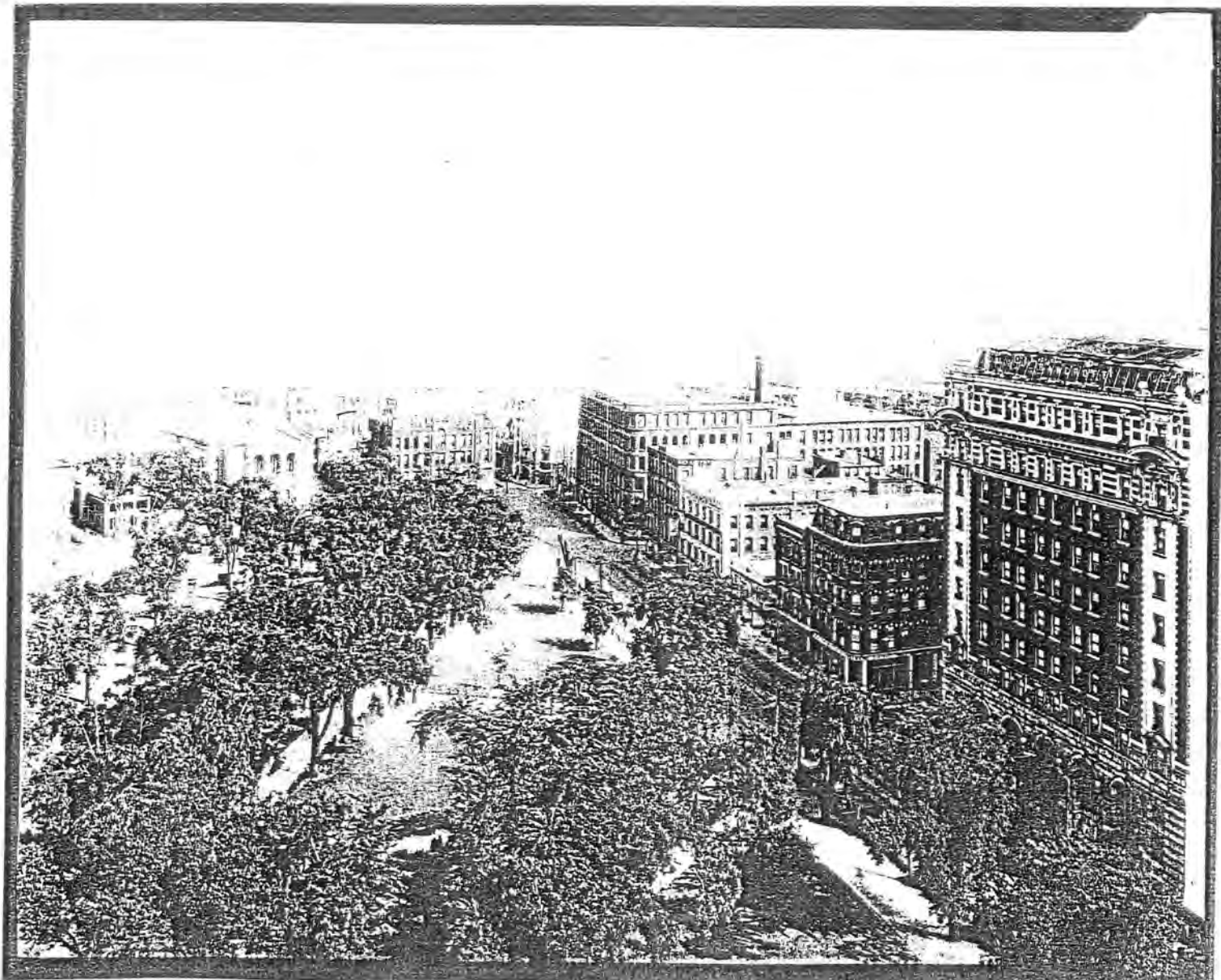
Bancroft Building  
Worcester, MA

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Documentation

figure 2

View looking southeast from Worcester City Hall, c1920.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bancroft Building  
Worcester, MA

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Documentation

figure 3

Bancroft Trust Building, northwest perspective, c1920.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

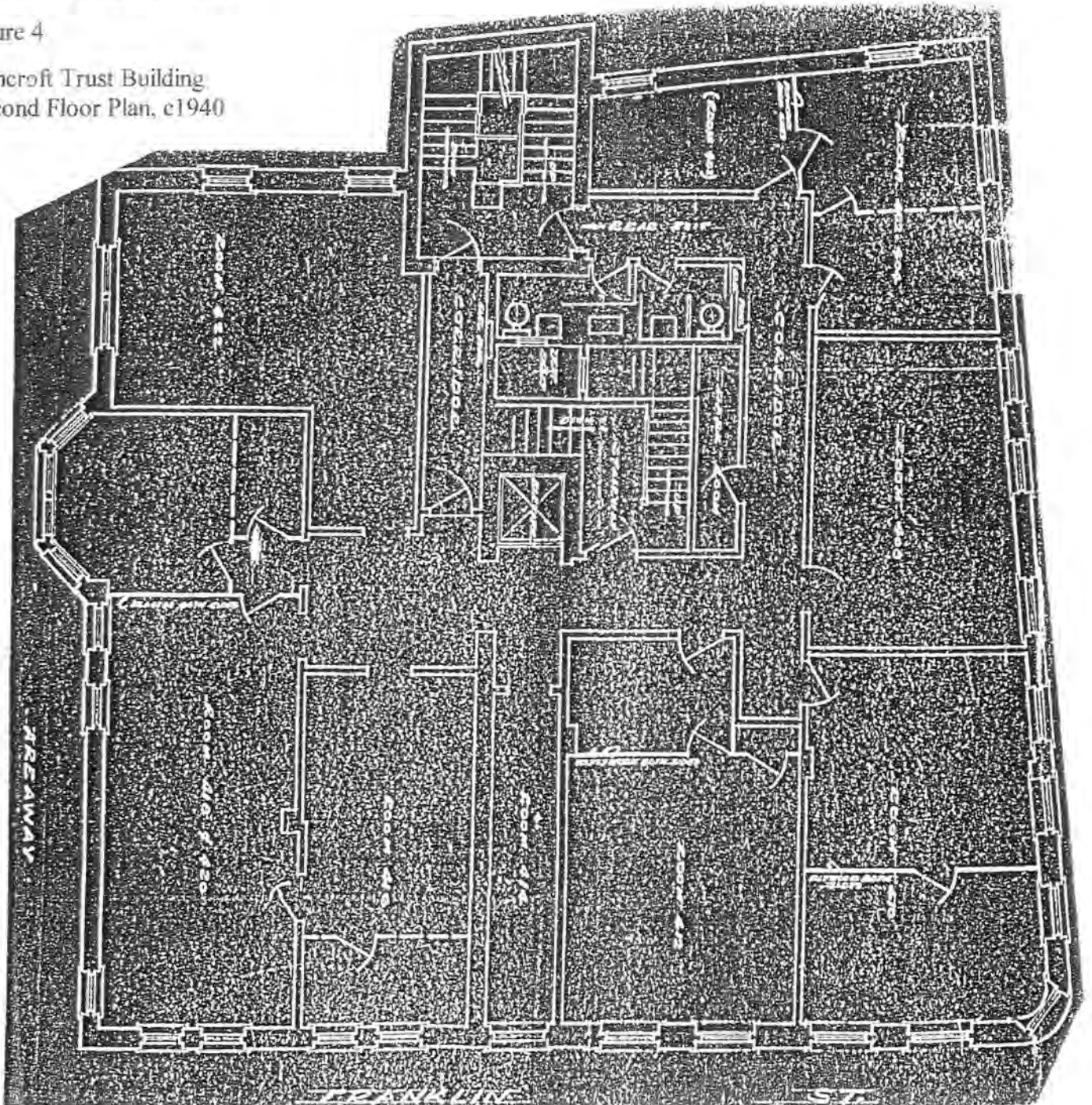
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Documentation

figure 4

Bancroft Trust Building  
Second Floor Plan, c1940



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

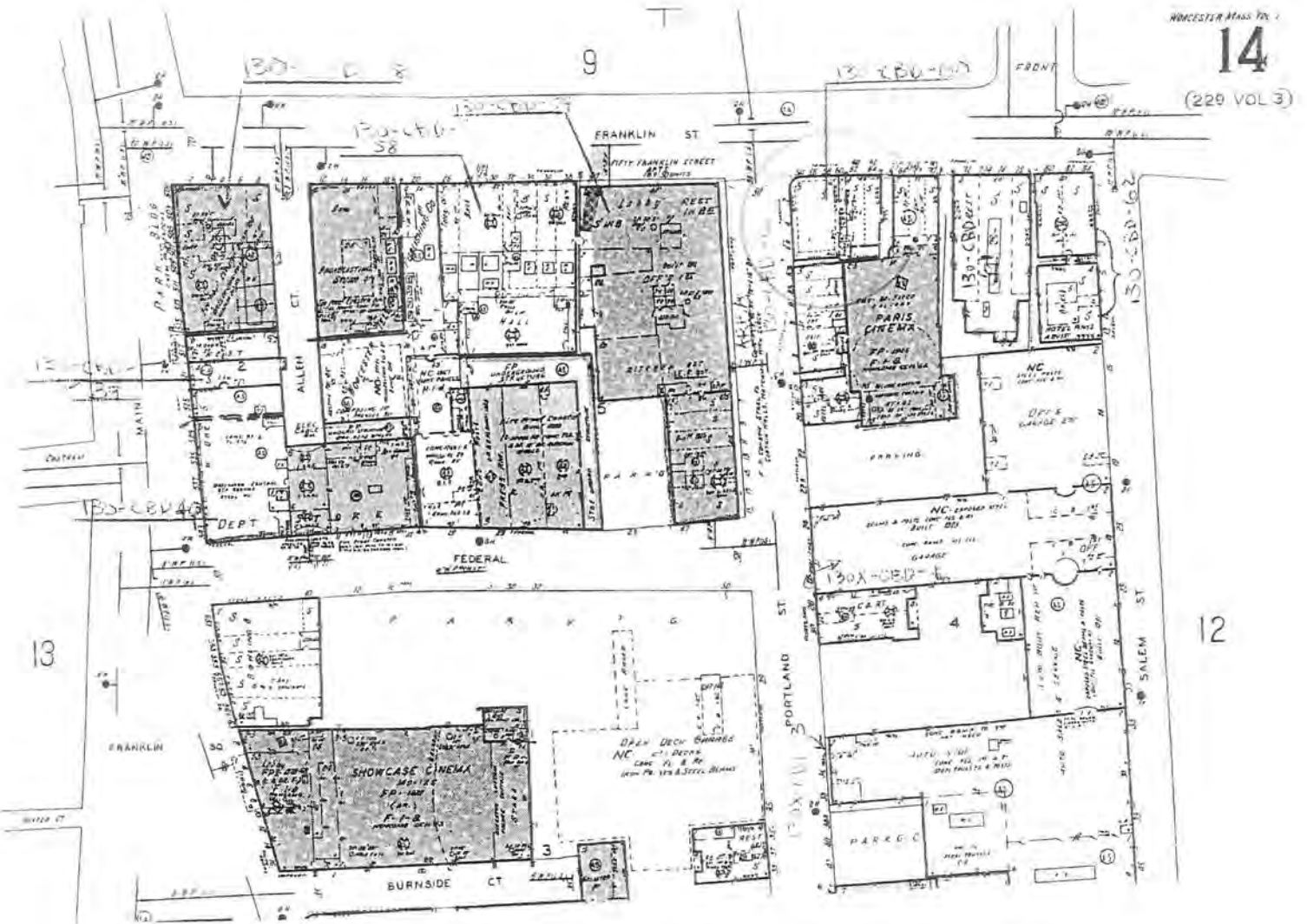
Bancroft Building  
Worcester, MA

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

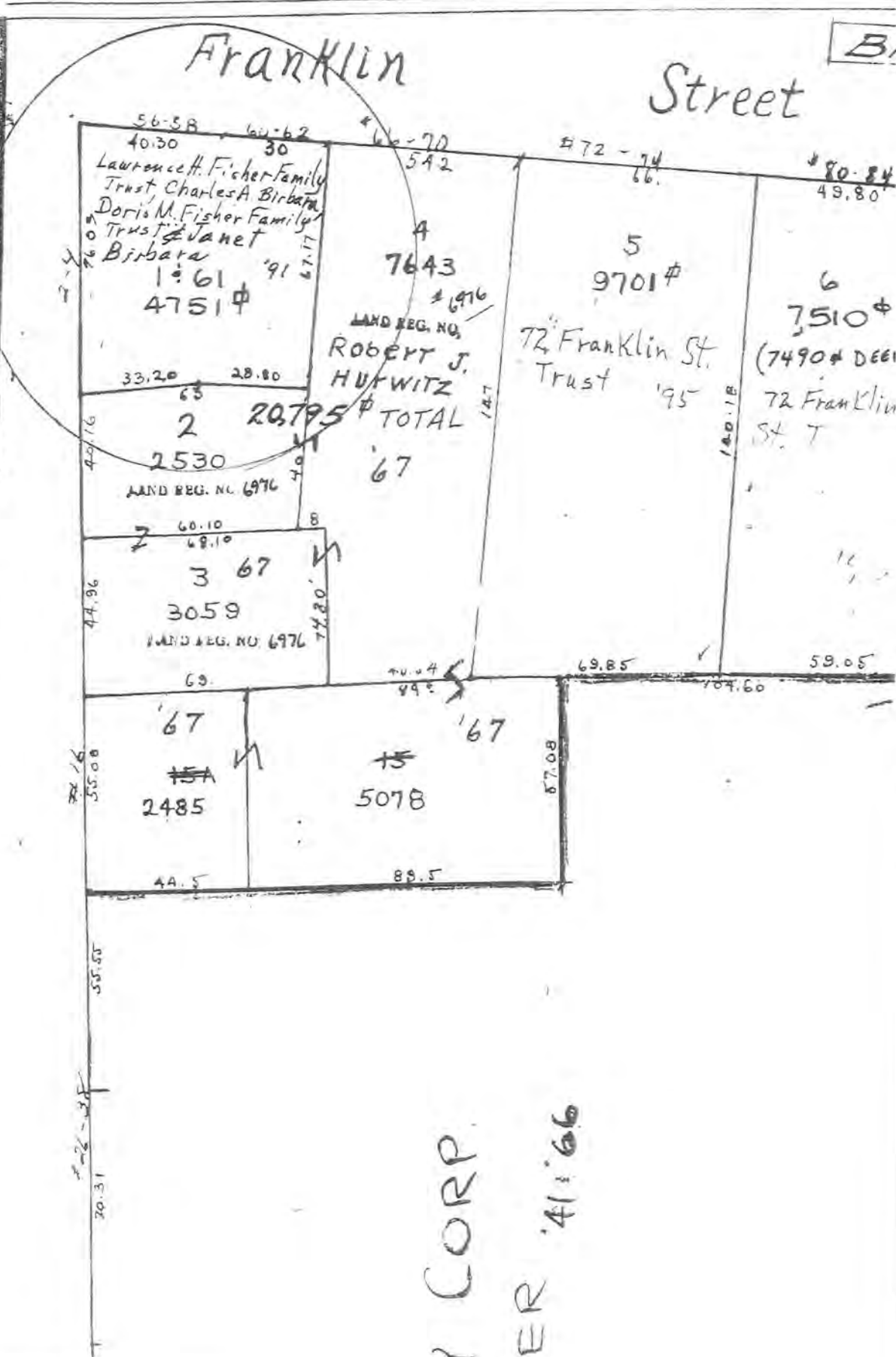
### Additional Documentation

figure 5

Sanborn Map, 1971.



See continuation sheet



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dodge Block and Sawyer Building, Bancroft Trust Building

MULTIPLE NAME: Worcester MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/02      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/13/02  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/01/02      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/02  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000155

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: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ ACCEPT    \_\_\_ RETURN    \_\_\_ REJECT    \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Nomination was missing a USGS map - State will send a replacement*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A, B, C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 3/15/2002

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



**T-NAILS SALON**  
COMPLETE NAIL CARE Tel. 754-8274

**Sancroft LIQUORS**

**COLDEST BUD ON THE COMMON**

BOTTLES LIQUORS WINE & BEER

WELCOME  
To the  
Commonwealth  
of Massachusetts  
EST. 1880

**T-NAILS SALON**  
Tel. 754-8274

PLANTING

PLANTING

Bancroft Building  
(Dodge Block & Sawyer Building)  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by: Neil Larson, 2001  
Neg. at: Preservation Worcester  
10 ~~Central~~ Cedar St., Worcester

PHOTO 1

Exterior, NW perspective



Bancroft LIQUORS

BOTTLED LIQUORS WINES & BEER

COLDEST  
BUD  
ON THE  
COMMON

T NAILS SALON

COMPLETES HAIR CARE THE T&N WAY

Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Larsen, June 2001  
Neg. at: Preservation Worcester

Photo 1: Exterior, NE perspective

91AK

X2201048-131

NH 2



T-HALS SALON

CHILDREN'S BED ON FUEL

LIQUORS

SALON

Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Larson, June 2001  
Neg. at: Preservation Worcester

PHOTO 2: Exterior NW perspective

019040. 3 01170048 1111 JUN 2 2001



Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Lanson, June 2001  
Neg at: Preservation Worcester

PHOTO 3: Exterior, SW perspective

BANCROFT  
BUILDING

60

BANCROFT  
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Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Larsen, June 2001  
Neg. at: Preservation Worcester

PHOTO 4: North elevation, detail of entrance

019K

M21304813114N 2 32



Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Larson, June 2001  
Negative at: Preservation Worcester

Photo 5: Interior, 2nd Floor, view of elevator  
and hallway, looking west from  
Sawyer Building



Bancroft Building

60 Franklin St.

Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Larson, June 2001

Neg. at: Preservation Worcester

PHOTO 6: Interior, 2nd Floor, office in NW  
corner of building



Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Larson, June 2001  
Neg. at Preservation Worcester

Photo 7: Interior, 3rd Floor. Hallway  
on west side of building

304

Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Larsen, June 2001  
Neg. at: Preservation Worcester

PHOTO 8: Interior, 3rd floor.  
Detail of door.



Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by: Neil Larson, June 2001  
Neg. at: Preservation Worcester

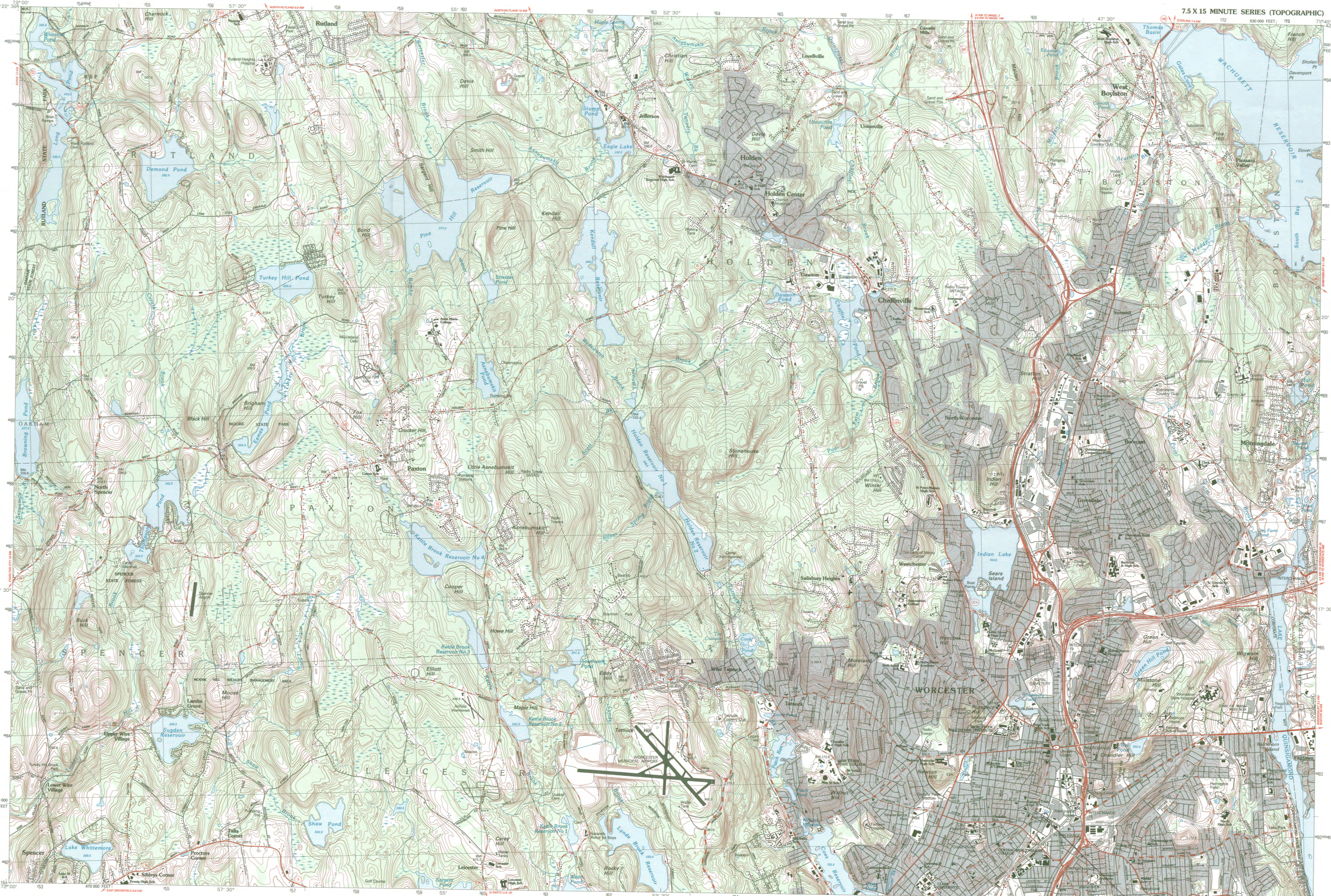
PHOTO 9: Interior, 4th Floor. office in  
NE corner of building



Bancroft Building  
60 Franklin St.  
Worcester MA

Photo by Neil Larson, June 2001  
Neg. at: Preservation Worcester

PHOTO 10: Interior, 4th floor, east side  
view of bay window

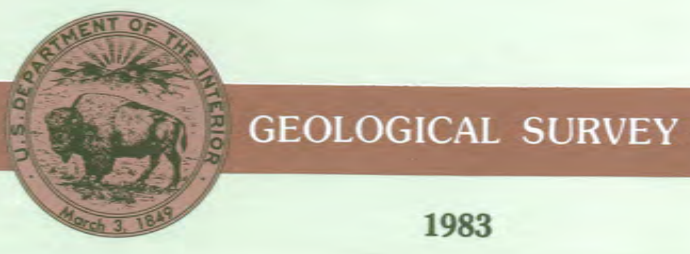


# Worcester North

MASSACHUSETTS  
1:25 000-scale metric  
topographic map



- 7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING
- Contours and elevations in meters
  - Highways, roads and other manmade structures
  - Water features
  - Woodland areas
  - Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1983  
Supersedes Paxton and Worcester North 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1965 and 1974

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator  
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, 1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER  
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

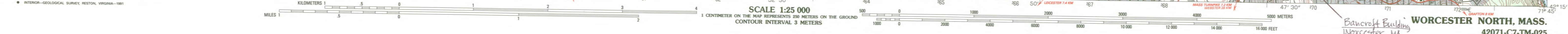
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	Diagram showing magnetic declination		1	2	3
1	3.2808	17° 26' 15" MILES		4	5	
2	6.5617	Diagram showing magnetic declination		6	7	8
4	13.1234	Diagram showing magnetic declination		9	10	
6	19.6851	Diagram showing magnetic declination		11	12	
8	26.2468	Diagram showing magnetic declination		13	14	
10	32.8085	Diagram showing magnetic declination		15	16	

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

### Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, soil
- Route marker: Interstate, U. S., State
- Railroad: standard gauge, narrow gauge
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Fault: creep, underpass
- Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House: barn; church; school; large structures
- Boundary: National, with monument; State; County, parish; Civil township, precinct, district; Incorporated city, village, town; National or State reservation; Land grant with monument; found section corner; U. S. public lands survey: range, township; section; Range, township; section line: location approximate; Fence or field line; Power transmission line, located tower; Dam; dam with lock; Cemetery, grave; Campground; picnic area; U. S. Indian monument; Windmill; water well; spring; Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave; Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation; Contour: index, intermediate, supplementary, depression; Bathymetric contours: strip mine, lava, sand; Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream; Rapid, ledge and small falls, large and small; Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp; Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland; Scrub, mangrove; Orchard; vineyard



Bancroft Building  
WORCESTER NORTH, MASS.  
Worcester, MA  
Zone 19 E: 268900 N: 468300  
42071-C7-TM-025  
1983

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



# PRESERVATION WORCESTER

*Preserving Neighborhoods For People*



*Not Rec'd yet*

October 25, 2001

Ms. Carol Shull  
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull,

I understand that the following property will be considered by the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, after being approved by the Massachusetts State Review Board on December 12, 2001:

Bancroft Building  
Worcester (Worcester County), Massachusetts

I am aware of both the incentives and disincentives of the Economy Recovery Tax Act of 1981 and the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and other consequences of National Register listing and hereby waive the right to a 60-day commenting period for responding directly to the Massachusetts Historical Commission or the National Park Service.

Should I wish to respond to the nomination after consideration by the Massachusetts State Review Board and prior to its listing on the National Register of Historic Places, I will forward my comments directly to your attention.

Sincerely,

D. Keith Chenot  
President, Board of Directors

cc: Philip Bergen, National Register Assistant, Massachusetts Cultural Commission



# PRESERVATION WORCESTER

---

*Preserving Neighborhoods For People*

December 11, 2001

Ms. Carol Shull  
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 21240

Dear Ms. Shull:

I understand that the following property will be considered by the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, after being approved by the Massachusetts State Review Board on December 12, 2001:

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Worcester (Worcester County), Massachusetts

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Should I wish to respond to the nomination after consideration by the Massachusetts State Review Board and prior to its listing in the National Register of Historic Places, I will forward my comments directly to your attention.

Sincerely,

Keith Chenot  
President  
Preservation Worcester

cc: Philip Bergan, National Register Assistant < Massachusetts Historical Commission



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 9, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Bancroft Building, 60 Franklin Street, Worcester (Worcester), MA  
WORCESTER MRA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties in the Certified Local Government community of Worcester were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Bruce Bunke, Chair, Worcester Historical Commission  
Neil Larson, Preservation Consultant  
Hon. Raymond Mariano, Mayor, City of Worcester  
Joanne Kennedy Valade, Worcester CLG Coordinator  
James Igoe, Preservation Worcester  
Everett Shaw, Worcester OPCD



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 28, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

APR 17 2002

Dear Ms. Shull:

In the weekly update of March 22, 2002, the following property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as of March 15, 2002: Dodge Block and Sawyer Block – Bancroft Trust Building, Worcester (Worcester County), MA. I am writing to request that the property be listed under its preferred name, as indicated on the cover form for the nomination—that is,

Bancroft Block (Worcester), MA

Thank you for making this change to the listing record for this historic property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brona Simon".

Brona Simon  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Bruce Bunke, Chair, Worcester Historical Commission  
Neil Larson, Preservation Consultant  
Hon. Raymond Mariano, Mayor, City of Worcester  
Joanne Kennedy Valade, Worcester CLG Coordinator  
David Leach, Preservation Worcester  
Everett Shaw, Worcester OPCD