

ref no 80000616

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no. 131-E
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2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

Roll 26

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

1. Town Worcester
Address Washington Square
Name Union Station
Present use vacant
Penn Central Transp. Co
Present owner Room 1310
6 Penn Central Plaza
3. Description: Philadelphia, Pa. 1910
Date 1909-1911
Source Worcester Magazine
Style Classical Revival (Beaux Arts
Watson and Huckel of
Architect Philadelphia
Exterior wall fabric terracotta (glazed
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features arched entries flanked
by marble Ionic columns, granite
base, cast concrete pediments on
old tower bases
towers
Altered removed Date 1930s?
Moved no Date _____
Assessors' Book 2, p. 14
5. Lot size: Lot 12 63,029 sq. ft.
One acre or less _____ Over one acre x
Approximate frontage 300'
Approximate distance of building from street
50'
6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc
Date February 1978

UTM
A/269420/4682350

7. Original owner (if known) Boston and Albany Railroad
 Original use railroad station
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates vacant (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	Exploration/ settlement	☐	Science/ invention	☐
The Arts	☐	Industry	☐	Social/ humanitarian	☐
Commerce	☐	Military	☐	Transportation	☒
Communication	☐	Political	☐		
Community development	☐				

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

Presently abandoned and open to the weather, the Union Station was built between 1909 and 1911 to replace an earlier Union Station (now demolished) on the northeast side of Washington Square. The earlier building, also owned by the Boston and Albany Railroad, had been designed by the Boston architectural firm of Ware and VanBrunt, and had been opened in 1875. By the early twentieth century, it became necessary to elevate in-town railroad tracks, making the ground level tracks of the 1875 station obsolete and requiring its replacement.

After several years in which proposed plans were altered, the present station, the main body of which was modeled after a Roman basilica, was begun in 1909. Construction of the building was delayed by the presence of part of the Blackstone Canal bed (then in use as a sewer) which required special engineering for the support of the foundation. Upon completion in 1911, the Union Station possessed two ornate baroque style towers (each 175' high) rising on either side of the three main entry arches. These towers, faced with white marble, were later removed for reasons of structural weakness. The remainder of the building is set on a granite base and faced with glazed white terracotta; the main entries are framed by marble Ionic half-columns. Although much of the building's original ornate exterior remains intact, the station's interior, including the elliptical vault of the main waiting room (80' x 128') with its plasterwork and marble trim has been largely destroyed. Constructed of steel and concrete, the building may still be salvagable for re-use.

(cont.)

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

Worcester Magazine, July 1911, pp.519-527 (illustrated article)

Mutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp.983-986 (history of Worcester's railroads)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 131-E
Property Name: Union Station	

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

9. During its major period of activity, the Union Station served the Boston & Albany, the Boston & Maine, the New York & New Haven and the New York Central Railroad Companies. During the early twentieth century the station was an object of civic pride for its vast scale, elaborate classical design and heavy train traffic. Despite the structure's present neglected state, it retains major elements of its original design and is the city's most imposing example of Beaux Arts Classical architecture, one which also served as a major local landmark by virtue of its grand scale and prominent site. At present various proposals exist for the building's preservation and re-use.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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). 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. DUBIE

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. VBDs were not necessary because

OTHER

Accept
MacDougal
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 ~~am~~ am not convinced about boundaries

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

but believe they could be OK. ~~Based~~ Based

on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.

Recommend

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

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

Return 102-L-3 to state for correction;

HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state

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

KEEPER

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

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



by Berkeley

Prestige Prints

JAN 1978

JAN 1978

Under Station

131-E

30 AUG 1979

Washington Square

Worcester MA

North elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304