

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.
101-E

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

1. Town Worcester

Address 23 Trowbridge Road

Name William Forbes House

Present use residence

Present owner Margaret Erskine
495 Richards Ave.
Paxton, Mass. 01612

3. Description:

Date 1898

Source atlases and directories

Style neo-Tudor

Architect Barker & Nourse

Exterior wall fabric stucco and wood

Outbuildings (describe) garage

Other features decorative half-timbering

paired gables, gabled entry porch,

bay windows, stone terrace

Altered storm windows Date mid-20th
century

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 11, p.2
Lots 29, 38, 39, 40A 58,033
sq.ft.

One acre or less _____ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 190'

Approximate distance of building from street

30'

6. Recorded by C. Charalambides, E.
Kuniholm ed. R.R.

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date January 1978

UTM!
19/268180/4683630

7. Original owner (if known) William Trowbridge Forbes

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

An exceptional local example of neo-Tudor architecture, the William Forbes House is a two and one-half storey structure of asymmetrical plan. Principal features of the house's exterior are its elaborate (decorative) half-timbering, steeply pitched gables, diamond-pane sash (3d storey) and stone terrace (south elevation). The house remains in nearly original condition and is among the most elaborate designs produced by the local architectural firm of Barker & Nourse. According to local tradition the Forbes House was built to replace a concrete house which had been designed during the Civil War by Elbridge Boyden for William T. Merrifield, an important local builder and real estate developer; this earlier house was abandoned for its inability to be adapted to modern plumbing, heating and electrical wiring.

The house was originally occupied by William Forbes, a Judge of Probate. Forbes was a native of Westborough who, after spending several years in Constantinople, Turkey, returned to Worcester, where he was admitted to the bar in 1877. Between 1875 and 1879 Forbes was a justice of the first District Court of Eastern Worcester. Between 1881 and 1882 Forbes was a state representative and between 1886 and 1887 a state senator. In 1888 Forbes married Harriette Merrifield, daughter of William T. Merrifield. Active in many local organizations, Harriette Forbes is known locally as the author of a history of the town of Westborough ("The Hundredth Town") and for her brief biography of Elias Carter, a Worcester architect of the late 1820s-1840s. She was an avid student of architecture, particularly interested in researching and photographing early Worcester houses. In addition, Harriette Forbes was a founder of the Worcester Equal Franchise

(cont.)

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

Worcester Historical Society. Biographical file (W.T. H. and E. Forbes)
Erskine, M. Esther Forbes, Worcester Bicentennial Commission, 1976.
Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. I, p.500; vol. IV, pp. 773-774
(W.T. and H. Forbes)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 101-E
Property Name: William Forbes House	

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

9.
Club, a group organized at a meeting in the Forbes House in 1912. The club was active locally in building support for women's suffrage. A later occupant of the house was Esther Forbes, daughter of William and Harriette Forbes, who was the author of Johnny Tremain, Paul Revere and the World He Lived In, and other novels, short stories and essays.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

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). **HISTORIAN**
Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets. **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Concur with Bunker'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. **ARCHEOLOGIST**

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 1 bps 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. BDDs were not necessary because

OTHER

ACCEPT
MURPHY
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. ALREDGE WAS MISSING
DO 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 JUDGEMENT.

Recommend ^{now} Listing all properties ~~except~~ ^{except} 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 & 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 _____



Forbes, William, House

101-E

Worcester, MA, Ma

23 Snowbridge
Rd

West & South elev

30 AUG 1979



101-E

Ferbas, William, 1905

23 Trowbridge
Rd.

North elevation

Notes for MRA, Mar

0 AUG 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE, P.C.

COUNSELORS AT LAW

THE GUARANTY BUILDING

370 MAIN STREET - ROOM 1250

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01608

TELEPHONE (617) 798-8621

FORMERLY

JUNE, FLETCHER & WHIPPLE
TILTON, ERSKINE & BERKELEY

PARIS FLETCHER
SUMNER B. TILTON
ROBERT J. WHIPPLE
LINWOOD M. ERSKINE, JR.
GEORGE AVERY WHITE, JR.
PHILIP L. BERKELEY
HENRY C. HORNER
JOHN E. HODGSON
SUMNER B. TILTON, JR.
PHILLIPS S. DAVIS
ROBERT R. KIMBALL
DOUGLAS Q. MEYSTRE

WARNER S. FLETCHER
ROBERT F. DORE, JR.
CHRISTOPHER W. PARKER
JAMES M. BURGOWNE

July 30, 1979

rec'd
AUG 13 1979

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 02202

Dear Sir:

By this letter I am requesting your assistance in resolving a matter of some concern to me which involves your department.

In April 1979, my wife received a letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission advising her that property owned by my wife at 23 Trowbridge Road, Worcester, Massachusetts was being considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Prior to receiving this form letter, in March, we had become aware of the potential nomination since a photographer came on our premises without notice to us or permission from us to photograph the house. Upon my inquiry to the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society, I was advised that the Society had not nominated our property. However, despite this assurance, I received the notice of April saying that the property was under consideration.

Since the April notice I have corresponded with the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society and the Massachusetts Historical Commission in an effort to keep the property off the National Register. I have been repeatedly assured that listing is advantageous and that it involves no restriction on the use of the property. However, my wife and I feel that listing constitutes an unwarranted invasion of our privacy. Further, and certainly more germane, we feel that based on the criteria for listing property as established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, our property does not even qualify for listing.

After some considerable effort on my part, I have obtained a copy of the report on our property which was prepared in connection with the National Register nomination. The report contains numerous inaccuracies, misstatements and blatant errors. In one instance, the report cites a marriage date of one of my ancestors which falsely illegitimizes two members of the family. Other misstatements are too lengthy to enumerate here.

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE

- 2 -

July 39, 1979

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

My wife and I request that you exercise the authority vested in you to direct that our property be removed from consideration for the National Register. We are appealing directly to you because we have never been given the opportunity to voice our objection at the local and state level and our written objections have gone largely ignored. While I have learned that a statewide meeting was held at the Charlestown Navy Yard Officer's Club at which I could have commented on the historical significance of the property, I was given no notice of this meeting, nor did I see any published in the local newspapers.

In the event that you choose not to follow the course of action outlined above, I would at least request that you conduct a formal determination under 36 CFR Sec. 63.4 (c). I am confident that site analysis and accurate examination of the records will reveal that the property does not qualify for listing.

I will await your response in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Linwood M. Erskine, Jr.

Linwood M. Erskine, Jr.

LME,Jr:jh

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	AUG 14 1979
_____	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)
_____	RECEIPTIVE MATERIAL ONLY
_____	TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)
DATE / CH. N. VAREN _____	
INITIALS _____	

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: *Worcester Muilt. Resource Nom., Mass.*

TO/FROM: *Candy Jenkins* DATE: *8-17-79*

ADDRESS: *Mass. SHPO's office* PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: *Sheffield* DIVISION: *NR*

REPORT: Properties owners, including Mr. Erskine, were notified by Mass. Historical Comm. on April 9, 1979, and nomination was approved by Review Board June 13, 1979. Mr. Erskine's property is significant within district. She will be pleased to talk to him about any errors in the nomination documentation, although she doubts there are any due to the thoroughness with which State compiled information. State Review Board members even toured city with staff. Nomination will be hand delivered by SHPO next week.

Mr. Erskine is upset because his house was broken into, and he believes that all the publicity resulting from nomination is responsible.

Sheffield 8-21-79
Shull
8-21-79
Huntington
8-21-79

PENDING

AUG 27 1979

Mr. Linwood M. Erskine, Jr.
Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple, P.C.
Counselors at Law
The Guaranty Building
370 Main Street, Room 1250
Worcester, Massachusetts 06108

Dear Mr. Erskine:

Thank you for your letter of July 30, 1979, concerning your property located at 23 Trowbridge Road, Worcester, Massachusetts, part of the City of Worcester Multiple Resource Area nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. out-5

The nomination was approved by the Massachusetts State Review Board on June 13, 1979. It will soon be forwarded to the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Ms. Patricia Weslowski, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 294 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

Listing in the National Register is Federal recognition that a property possesses cultural value and is worthy of preservation. It does not mean that the Federal Government wishes to acquire the property or place restrictive covenants on the lands.

We have contacted Ms. Candice Jenkins of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and she has informed us that the Commission considers your property to be a contributing part of the nomination. She also informed us that the Commission's records indicate that you were among the property owners notified by the State Historic Preservation Officer on April 9, 1979, of the pending nomination.

In accordance with the enclosed Federal regulations, 36 CFR part 60, after the City of Worcester Multiple Resource Area nomination has been received by the National Register, property owners will again be notified and given an opportunity to comment on the nomination. Although a property owner's consent is not required to list a property, comments will be considered during the review of the nomination by the National Register staff.

If there are errors of fact in the nomination we suggest you contact the Massachusetts Historical Commission directly. Ms. Jenkins has assured us that the Commission will be pleased to hear from you on this matter.

Concerning your reference to 36 CFR 63.4(c), the Keeper of the National Register ordinarily makes formal determinations of eligibility for listing in the National Register only when properties may be adversely affected by projects in which there is Federal involvement. If your property is included in a nomination submitted by the State, the National Register will make a decision concerning its listing in accord with the nomination procedures, 36 CFR 60. If the City of Worcester Multiple Resource Area is accepted for listing in the National Register, notice will be given in the "Federal Register." If additional information is needed to complete the evaluation, or if it is determined that the property does not meet the National Register criteria for evaluation, the nomination will be returned to the State.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know.

Sincerely,

/sgd./ Jerry L. Rogers

Jerry Rogers
Chief, Office of Archeology and
Historic Preservation

cc: Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

bcc: Director's Reading File
FHR: S Sheffield:ggk:343-6401:8/21/79
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

/Chief, OAHF

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE, P.C.

PARIS FLETCHER
SUMNER B. TILTON
ROBERT J. WHIPPLE
LINWOOD M. ERSKINE, JR.
GEORGE AVERY WHITE, JR.
PHILIP L. BERKELEY
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COUNSELORS AT LAW

THE GUARANTY BUILDING

370 MAIN STREET - ROOM 1250

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01608

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FORMERLY
JUNE, FLETCHER & WHIPPLE
TILTON, ERSKINE & BERKELEY

WARNER S. FLETCHER
ROBERT F. DORE, JR.
CHRISTOPHER W. PARKER
JAMES M. BURGOYNE

September 6, 1979

Jerry Rogers, Chief
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Re: 661

I thank you for your letter of August 27, 1979 relative to the real estate at 23 Trowbridge Road, Worcester, Massachusetts which my wife and I do not wish to have listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In your letter you refer to the City of Worcester Multiple Resource Area. My wife and I certainly have no objection to the area of the City of Worcester being listed in the Register of Historic Places. Our objection is to listing the property at 23 Trowbridge Road individually because we do not feel that it meets the criteria for listing.

You are correct that we were informed last spring that the house at 23 Trowbridge Road was proposed for nomination and since that time have written a number of letters objecting to the proposal both at the local level and the State level. My wife and I did attend the meeting held in Worcester at which representatives of the Massachusetts Historical Commission were present in an effort to find out how we could keep the property from being listed. When we pointed out that properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible, we were told that the State authorities, in effect, disregarded the 50 year period and put anything they wanted on the list on the basis of exceptional importance.

I am writing to Ms. Jenkins of the Massachusetts Historical Commission asking her to specifically define what the State Historical Commission feels makes the property at 23 Trowbridge Road to be of exceptional importance. However, I do not plan to point out to her the errors in the form B report as to the historical significance of the house until I find out from her what ones she feels make the property of exceptional importance. Knowing how the staff of the Historical Commission

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE

Jerry Rogers, Chief

- 2 -

September 6, 1979

reacted when we attended the meeting here in Worcester, I feel certain that, if I point out the errors in the report to begin with, the staff may merely choose all of the other parts of the report as being what makes the property of exceptional importance. In other words, I feel that the State Commission staff does not really care whether it is following rules and regulations and is insistent on keeping the house on the list because its actions have been questioned.

In view of the inaccuracies in the report on 23 Trowbridge Road, I think that all of the Worcester area nominations should be very closely scrutinized to make sure that they do not have as many errors as the report on 23 Trowbridge Road. As a member of a historically minded family, I am interested in historical accuracy and I think you will agree with me that there is nothing worse than sloppy historical work which gets duplicated or into print causing many problems for future historians.

I am very glad to learn from your letter that, after nominations have been received by the National Register, property owners will again be notified and given an opportunity to comment. My wife and I will plan on doing so and hope that more attention will be paid to the comments than has been the case on the local and state level.

Very truly yours,

LME,Jr:jh

Linwood M. Eskine Jr.

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Worcester Multiple Resource Area

TO/FROM: Christine Boulding

DATE: 9-18-79

ADDRESS: Mass. Staff

PHONE: 617-727-8470

STAFF MEMBER: Sheffield

DIVISION: NR

REPORT: Erskine's house is being individually nominated within the Area because of its significant architecture and historical associations. It's older than 50 years and has historical associations older than 50 years. However, one association with a poet - is less than 50 years. Erskine is referring to this particular association ~~who~~ in his objection to listing.

661

SEP 20 1979

Abington Co.
Worcester

Mr. Linwood M. Erskine, Jr.
Fletcher, Tilton, and Whipple, P.C.
Counselors at Law
The Guaranty Building
370 Main Street, Room 1250
Worcester, Massachusetts 06106

Dear Mr. Erskine:

Thank you for your letter of July 30, 1979, to Mr. Jerry Rogers, Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, concerning your property located at 23 Trowbridge Road, Worcester Massachusetts, part of the Worcester Multiple Resource Area nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Worcester Multiple Resource Area nomination was received by our office on September 20, 1979. You should be receiving a letter of notification of the nomination's pending status shortly. If you have further comments concerning the eligibility of the property, or the factual accuracy of the nomination as it concerns 23 Trowbridge Road or any other properties included in the nomination, we will be pleased to consider them during the review process. In order to have your comments considered, they must be received no later than 30 days after the date of the notification letter.

If you have further questions about the criteria for eligibility or the nomination process, please let us know.

Sincerely,

SARAH T. BRIDGES

Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National
Register

cc: Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

bcc: Director's Reading File
FHR: S Sheffield:ggk:343-6401:9/20/79

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

Sheffield 9-20-79
Mar Dougl 9-20-79
Bridges for Herrington
9/20/79

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE, P.C.

PARIS FLETCHER
SUMNER B. TILTON
ROBERT J. WHIPPLE
LINWOOD M. ERSKINE, JR.
GEORGE AVERY WHITE, JR.
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DOUGLAS Q. MEYSTRE

COUNSELORS AT LAW

THE GUARANTY BUILDING

370 MAIN STREET - ROOM 1250

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01608

TELEPHONE (617) 798-8621

FORMERLY
JUNE, FLETCHER & WHIPPLE
TILTON, ERSKINE & BERKELEY

October 2, 1979

WARNER S. FLETCHER
ROBERT F. DORE, JR.
CHRISTOPHER W. PARKER
JAMES M. BURGOYNE

Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building
440 G Street N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Attention: NOM

Re: 663

Owner - Margaret A. Erskine
495 Richards Avenue Paxton, MA 01612
Property: Worcester Multiple
Resource Area
William Forbes House
23 Trowbridge Rd., Worcester, MA

Dear Mr. Herrington:

My wife, Margaret A. Erskine, and I have received your letter dated September 27, 1979 concerning listing of the property at 23 Trowbridge Road in the National Register of Historic Places. My wife and I have been making a concerted effort to keep the house from being listed ever since we found out that the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society and the Massachusetts Historical Commission were considering nominating the house. From our point of view this is an example of bureaucracy run rampant. I am enclosing a copy of an article from the Worcester Telegram of September 21, 1979 concerning another government program. My wife and I have taken the actions that we have taken because I agree with Gerald E. St. Hilaire that "if we sit back and accept incompetence and mismanagement from our government, be it federal, state or local, we get just what we deserve."

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter which I received from Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator, for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. I received the letter during September 1979 although it contains no date. I find the omission of a date on the letter amusing as the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society and the Massachusetts Historical Commission seem to be unconcerned about dates and their accuracy. The report which Ms. Jenkins sent to me with her letter has been corrected to show that my grandparents, Harriette Merrifield and William T. Forbes,

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE

Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register

- 2 -

October 2, 1979

were married in 1884. For some time the Heritage Society and the State Historical Commission were circulating the report that they were married in 1888 which would have made my two uncles illegitimate and one of my aunts as having been conceived out of wedlock.

From Ms. Jenkins' letter, you will note that she is not concerned with the accuracy of the report on the house with regards to criteria A and B and whether these criteria have been met within the 50 year period or prior to the 50 year period as she feels the house was significant from the day it was built under criteria C. A local Worcester banker is currently building a substantial house on a substantial tract of land. I wonder if the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society and Ms. Jenkins are going to follow through on their feeling that your 50 year cut-off date does not apply and list this banker's house for nomination as an example of conspicuous consumption in a period when few houses that would meet this definition are built in central Massachusetts.

Because we seem to be getting nowhere with the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society or the Massachusetts Historical Commission, I am not sure that we are going to be as successful as Mr. St. Hilaire in changing the system. I see no point in correcting and improving upon the historical significance report on the house at 23 Trowbridge Road, Worcester as Ms. Jenkins indicates that we are stuck with having the house nominated because she feels it qualifies under criteria C without the 50 year period set forth in your criteria for evaluation being applicable. From my point of view, 50 years ago the house at 23 Trowbridge Road was just one of many big Victorian period houses in Worcester. Putting too many houses of no real significance on historic lists merely dilutes the value of the entire project.

I suspect that your office normally accepts nominations from state agencies without question and that my wife and I have little chance of your disagreeing with Ms. Jenkins' conclusions that the house was of national historic significance as of the day it was built. If this is the case, my wife and I would be willing to correct the report submitted to you by the Massachusetts Historical Commission on the property at 23 Trowbridge Road, Worcester and to furnish you with additional information which we feel is more significant than much of what is contained in the original report if you will agree that the real estate at 23 Trowbridge Road, Worcester will be omitted from any public or published lists under Section 101(a)(4) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. My mother, who just turned 90 years of age, is the principal occupant of the house. Some of the contents of the house are of considerable value from a monetary point of view and also from an historical point of view. We feel that listing the house

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE

Charles A. Herrington - 3 -
Acting Keeper of the National Register

October 2, 1979

on published or public lists would create a risk of destruction or harm to the site with which my mother would be unable to cope. The house is located in an area that is not improving from a social and economic point of view and we have already had the experience of two armed men forcing their way into the house when members of the family were in it. Fortunately, it was in the evening when there were few lights on in the house and little damage was done and only a few items taken because the intruders, one of whom held my aunt and uncle at gun point while the other went through the house, were unable to figure out the old rotary light switches. My wife and I feel that having the house on lists and called to the public's attention amounts to asking for more trouble.

I hope that you will not consider this letter to have been written by someone who is not sympathetic with history and the preservation of material or historic significance. I am at least the third generation in my family that has been interested in history. Among other activities, I am currently the recording secretary of the American Antiquarian Society and the corporate secretary of Old Sturbridge Inc. which operates Old Sturbridge Village.

Very truly yours,

Linwood M. Eskine Jr.

LME,Jr:jh
Encs.

OCT 10 1979

11-5



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

Linwood M. Erskine, Jr.
Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple
Counselors at Law
The Guarantee Building
370 Main Street
Worcester, MA. 01608

Dear Mr. Erskine:

We received a copy of Mr. Rogers' letter of August 27 as well as a copy of your own letter on August 29. I have been waiting to hear from you. After receiving your initial comments last spring, the form for the William Forbes House was revised. I am enclosing a copy; if there are still errors let me know and they will be corrected. In a nomination of this magnitude it is inevitable that a few errors will occur even when it is based on meticulous research. I regret the inconvenience this has caused you and I appreciate your close attention to detail.

This house, designed in 1898 by Barker-Nourse, is a major local example of the neo-Tudor style and so meets criteria C. It is also associated with the lives of prominent local persons like William and Harriet Forbes and so meets criteria B. Finally, it is associated with the suffrage movement and so meets criteria A. The house's significance dates from the day of its construction so the 50 year cut-off date has no relation to this case.

You will be receiving an official notification from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service that they are considering the nomination of your property. If you do not agree with our assessment of significance, you may comment directly to the National Register Branch of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation at that time.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
National Register Coordinator

CJ/mt
enc.

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.
101-E



ion
and

1. Town Worcester

Address 23 Trowbridge Road

Name William Forbes House

Present use residence

Present owner Margaret Erskine
495 Richards Ave.
Paxton, Mass. 01612

3. Description:

Date 1898

Source atlases and directories

Style neo-Tudor

Architect Barker & Nourse

Exterior wall fabric stucco and wood

Outbuildings (describe) garage

Other features decorative half-timber

paired gables, gabled entry porch,

bay windows, stone terrace

Altered storm windows Date mid-20th century

Moved no Date

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 11, p.2
Lots 29,38,39,40A 58,033

One acre or less sq.ft. Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 190'

Approximate distance of building from street

30'

6. Recorded by C. Charalambides, E.
Kuniholm ed. B.R.

Organization Pfeiffer
Worc. Heritage Pres. So

Date January 1978

(over)

UTM: A/268180/4683630

7. Original owner (if known) William Trowbridge Forbes

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

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)

An exceptional local example of neo-Tudor architecture, the William Forbes House is a two and one-half storey structure of asymmetrical plan. Principal features of the house's exterior are its elaborate (decorative) half-timbering, steeply pitched gables, diamond-pane sash (3d storey) and stone terrace (south elevation). The house remains in nearly original condition and is among the most elaborate designs produced by the local architectural firm of Barker & Nourse. According to local tradition the Forbes House was built to replace a concrete house which had been designed during the Civil War by Elbridge Boyden for William T. Merrifield, an important local builder and real estate developer; this earlier house was abandoned for its inability to be adapted to modern plumbing, heating and electrical wiring.

The house was originally occupied by William Forbes, a Judge of Probate. Forbes was a native of Westborough who, after spending several years in Constantinople, Turkey, returned to Worcester, where he was admitted to the bar in 1877. Between 1875 and 1879 Forbes was a justice of the first District Court of Eastern Worcester. Between 1881 and 1882 Forbes was a state representative and between 1886 and 1887 a state senator. In 1884 Forbes married Harriette Merrifield, daughter of William T. Merrifield. Active in many local organizations, Harriette Forbes is known locally as the author of a history of the town of Westborough ("The Hundredth Town") and for her brief biography of Elias Carter, a Worcester architect of the late 1820s-1840s. She was an avid student of architecture, particularly interested in researching and photographing early Worcester houses. In addition, Harriette Forbes was a founder of the Worcester Equal Franchise

(cont.)

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

Worcester Historical Society. Biographical file (W.T. H. and E. Forbes)
Erskine, M. Esther Forbes, Worcester Bicentennial Commission, 1976.
Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. I, p.500; vol. IV, pp. 773-774
(W.T. and H. Forbes)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Worcester

Form No:

101-E

Property Name: William Forbes
House

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

9.
Club, a group organized at a meeting in the Forbes House in 1912. The club was active locally in building support for women's suffrage. A later occupant of the house was Esther Forbes, daughter of William and Harriette Forbes, who was the author of Johnny Tremain, Paul Revere and the World He Lived In, and other novels, short stories and essays.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE, P.C.

PARIS FLETCHER
SUMNER B. TILTON
ROBERT J. WHIPPLE
LINWOOD M. ERSKINE, JR.
GEORGE AVERY WHITE, JR.
PHILIP L. BERKELEY
HENRY C. HORNER
JOHN E. HODGSON
SUMNER B. TILTON, JR.
PHILLIPS S. DAVIS
ROBERT R. KIMBALL
DOUGLAS Q. MEYSTRE

COUNSELORS AT LAW

THE GUARANTY BUILDING

370 MAIN STREET ROOM 1250

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01608

TELEPHONE (617) 798-8621

FORMERLY

JUNE, FLETCHER & WHIPPLE
TILTON, ERSKINE & BERKELEY

WARNER S. FLETCHER
ROBERT F. DORE, JR.
CHRISTOPHER W. PARKER
JAMES M. BURGOYNE

March 4, 1980

Charles A. Herrington, Acting Keeper
of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: #661

Dear Mr. Herrington:

For identification purposes, I am enclosing a copy of the letter which you wrote to me on October 29, 1979. I am also enclosing a copy of a form letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and a copy of the envelope in which this letter eventually reached my wife, Margaret A. Erskine. Rather typical of this whole matter and rather typical of the lack of attention to detail and inaccuracies of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the envelope was misaddressed.

Your letter of October twenty-ninth said that the National Register would consider my comments during the review process. I would very much appreciate hearing from you as to whether the house at 23 Trowbridge Road, Worcester, Massachusetts was kept off the list as requested and, if not, whether the request that publication of the name and location of the house be eliminated so that adequate protection to the house and my family could be provided.

I am seriously considering taking legal action for invasion of privacy against the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. However, I am reluctant to do so because this would undoubtedly cause the publicity for the house which I think is unwarranted and which I hope to avoid. If the house

FLETCHER, TILTON & WHIPPLE, P. C.

Charles A. Herrington

-2-

March 4, 1980

ends up on the National Register and the listing is not kept secret, my wife and I are quite seriously ^{considering} having the house demolished and selling the land which is of considerable value and would be of more value with the house demolished than with the house standing.

Very truly yours,

Linwood M. Eskine Jr.

LME,Jr.:lm

Enclosures

cc: Massachusetts Historical Commission

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE LISTED MAR 7 1980

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

DATE OF REVIEW

REVIEWER'S NAME (PRINTED)

DATE AGED

INITIALS



United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO: 661

OCT 29

Mr. Linwood M. Erskine, Jr.
Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple, P.C.
Counselors at Law
The Guaranty Building
370 Main Street - Room 1250
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

Dear Mr. Erskine:

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposed listing of the Worcester Multiple Resource Area, Worcester County, Massachusetts, in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register will consider your comments during the review process and will provide a copy of your letter to the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 294 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108. Although National Register regulations require that a property owner be given an opportunity to comment on a proposed nomination, an owner's permission is not required for listing.

Listing in the National Register is Federal recognition that a property possesses cultural value and is worthy of preservation. Once listed in the National Register, a property receives limited protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the effect of federally assisted projects on historic properties. Provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 provide incentives for the rehabilitation of certain structures listed in the National Register and disincentives for their demolition. Listing has no other effect on the property. It does not affect the range of actions an owner can take as long as a Federal action is not involved.

If the Worcester Multiple Resource Area is accepted for listing in the National Register, notice will be placed in the "Federal Register." If additional information is needed to complete the evaluation, or if it is determined that the property does not meet the National Register criteria for evaluation, the nomination will be returned to the State.

We appreciate your participation in the National Register commenting process.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

Margaret Erskine
493 Richards Ave.
Paxton, Ma. 01612

ERS 93 1627FAB1 02/27/80

ERSKINE
23 TROWBRIDGE RD
WORCESTER MA 01609