

In Area no.	Form no.
	130-D

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

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

Roll 30

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

1. Town Worcester  
Address 71 Pleasant Street  
Name Horatio Tower House  
Present use Funeral service

Present owner George Sessions & Sons

3. Description:

Date ca. 1848-1850

Source city directories

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric aluminum

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features Nearly square floorplan,  
entry with Corinthian columns, win-  
dow caps with carved consoles, mod-  
illioned cornice, conservatory  
eastside of house.

Altered siding Date 1970s

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

UTM  
N/268630/4682660

5. Lot size: Assessor's Book 3, p.30,  
Lot 16, 7438 sq.ft.

One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 87'

Approximate distance of building from street  
20'

6. Recorded by D. Latino, ed. B.R.Pfeiffe

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date January 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Horatio N. Tower

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates funeral service (ca. 1925 to present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

One of the best examples of Italianate architecture in Worcester, the Horatio Tower House is a two-storey frame structure, set on a rock-faced granite foundation and enclosed by a low, hip roof. The building is nearly square in plan with a small one-storey bay (former conservatory?) centered on its east wall. The house's facade (south) is symmetrical with a center entry (with fanlight), Corinthian porch, oversized first-storey windows, window caps on carved (acanthus) consoles, corner pilasters and entablature/cornice with dentils and modillions. East and north elevations of the house are finished with similar details. In contrast to the more flamboyant stucco-covered Italianate villas of the 1850s, the Horatio Tower House is more academic in its use of classical detail. In addition, the house's plan and pilasters retain elements of local Greek Revival architecture, particularly the many hip-roofed houses designed by Elias Carter between ca 1829 and ca 1845. Of the large number of Greek Revival and Italianate style mansions built along Pleasant, Chestnut and Elm Streets during the West side's early development (1830s-1850s), the Tower House, alone, remains intact.

The house's first owner and occupant until 1881, Horatio Tower, was a prominent local builder. Around 1824, Tower worked as an apprentice to Captain Lewis Bigelow during the construction of the old town hall (now demolished). In 1827, Tower worked with Zenas Studley in constructing an addition to the First Baptist Society Church on Salem Street (now demolished). Additional buildings constructed by Tower with varying partners included Antiquarian Hall, the Old Court House, the Depot of the Boston and Worcester Railroad on Front Street (1835),

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

Worcester Historical Society. Piographical file, (Emmeline Tower obit.).

Howland, H. The Heart of the Commonwealth. (1850), p.66.

Lincoln, W. History of Worcester. (1862). p. 370.

Wall, C. Reminiscences... pp. 156, 283, 292, & 293.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 130-D
Property Name Horatio Tower House	

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

9. Historical significance

an addition to the Depot after moving it to a new site (1839, with Tilley Raymond), and the B.&W.Railroad's first engine house (with Tilley Raymond and S.D.Harding), all of the foregoing have since been demolished. The most well-known building constructed by Tower is Mechanic's Hall, 321 Main Street, of which he was superintendant in the early 1850s. According to the obituary of Tower's wife, the house at 71 Pleasant Street was built by Tower, although the building's architect is not mentioned. In addition to his construction work, Tower was a director of the People's Mutual Fire Insurance Company in 1847. In 1884, local directories list Tower as "removed to New Canaan, Connecticut." From 1882 in to the twentieth century, the house was owned and occupied by Dr. Albert Wood.

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 or 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). Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

**HISTORIAN**  
Call/Accept  
Lightner  
10.30.79

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

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**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 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~~ <sup>Both</sup> 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**  
ALEST  
MURPHY  
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Knowledge 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 116 CBD - 11
- 130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ <sup>am</sup> not convinced about boundaries BUT BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~ ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Recommend listing all properties <sup>now</sup> except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ <sup>w/NR staff + state. DUBIE</sup> Return 102-L-3 to state for correction; HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state

**BRANCH CHIEF** 3/3/80

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 (holding fruit from state)

Soldha  
3/5/80

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered MAR 5 1980  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>SEE 3/3/80 REPORT</sup>



30 AUG 1979

TOWER, Heratig, House

130-D

71 Pleasant St.

South elevation

Worcester MRA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304