

FORM B - BUILDING

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

ref no 80000480

In Area no.	Form no.
	163-E

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

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

, Roll 22

1. Town Worcester
Address 40 Webster Street
Name Webster Street Firehouse
Present use fire station
Present owner City of Worcester

3. Description:

Date 1893
Source date plaque
Style eclectic
Architect Elbridge Boyden & Son
Exterior wall fabric brick
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features yellow brick facade,
yellow terracotta trim, central tower
with cresting, stylized and classical
ornament
Altered no Date _____
Moved no Date _____

UTM
19/266230/4680530

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 8, p.31
Lot 2 10,046 sq.ft.
One acre or less X Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 68'
Approximate distance of building from street
15'

6. Recorded by S. Lee
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date February 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Worcester
 Original use firehouse
 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)

Built in 1893, the Webster Street Firehouse possesses a variety of fanciful and eclectic ornament. Characteristic of firehouses of its period, the building has paired entries for fire engines (facade), a one-storey wing (south) which leads to the stairway and a tower which rises to an open belfry. Faced with yellow brick and yellow terracotta, the firehouse's facade contains a central date panel flanked by brick pilasters with stylized foliate capitals (2nd storey) and a high arched window surmounted by a decorative tower with an iron cresting. Although some of the building's terracotta tiles bear classical motifs characteristic of the 1890s, other stylized elements of the facade (particularly its cresting, capitals and hexagonal slatework) are holdovers from Victorian Gothic design. At present the Webster Street Firehouse is unaltered.

The Webster Street Firehouse was designed by the prominent local firm of Elbridge Boyden & Son and was built by Eli Belisle at a cost of \$16,000. Still in service as a fire station, the building was constructed to house Steamer Company #5 and, later, Hook and Ladder Company #4., both of which served the surrounding industrial and residential district which was known locally as New Worcester.

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

City Documents: #48, year ending 11/30/1893, Auditor's Report, pp.41-42;
 year ending 11/30/1894, Auditor's Report, p. 42.
Engineering and Building Record, vol. XXVIII, 7/27/1893, p. 147
 (building notice)

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). ^{Historian} Call/Accept
^{Lightner} 10.30.79
opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

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. ^{Architectural Historian} DOUBLE

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. VBDS were not necessary because

OTHER

Accept
AKA/DOH
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Address 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 ~~don't~~ ^{am not} convinced about boundaries

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

but believe they could be OK. ~~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. ^{DOUBLE} 3/5/80

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 (filing from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up 2.3.81

Send-back

Entered

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit



by Berkey

Prestige Prints

78

JAN 1978

by Berkey

Prestige Prints

JAN 1978

163-E³⁰ AUG 1978
Worcester, MA
40 Webster St
Webster Street Firehouse
South + east
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304