

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester

Address 7 Albert Street

Historic Name Wesley Davis Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1890

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Stick style Three-Decker

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings garage

Major Alterations (with dates) storm

doors added to main entries, 1970s

Condition good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting Urban multi-family residential,
near the end of a dead-end street

Recorded by Mona Domosh

Organization Clark University

Date February 1981

Revised by Michael Steinitz for NHC - 12/88

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

See attached map.

UTM REFERENCE 19/267310/4681000

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester South

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Wesley Davis Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a representative example of the earliest phase of three-decker development in the Main South area in the early 1890s, a development linked to the area's industrial expansion, and to an influx of ethnic immigrant employees and their families, particularly those of French-Canadian extraction. It is also one of a handful of well-preserved local three-deckers that retain elaborate, Stick style porch details. The Davis Three-Decker thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Architecturally, 7 Albert Street is a remarkably well-preserved example of the Stick style buildings that were popular in the earliest phase of three-decker construction in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Possessing the characteristic three-bay, side-hall plan, the building is clad with wood clapboard. The main facade features a full, first floor porch that extends upward in the second and third stories as a single-bay porch over the principal entry. This three-story porch retains its turned posts, balustrades, and curved, decorative support brackets. The shallow, hip roof has wide overhanging eaves with regularly spaced decorative brackets. Windows are 2/1 sash, with simple, dentilled caps in the first and second stories.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The Davis Three-Decker was built ca. 1890 in the University Park neighborhood, an area between Main Street and the New York Central Railroad tracks, southwest of downtown Worcester. The neighborhood is dominated by three-deckers, mostly built before 1905. The first known owner of the house (1890) was Wesley Davis, a physician, who lived outside the neighborhood. Subsequent owners included Robert McGregor, a laborer, who resided here in the 1890s; Joseph Messier, a laborer who owned and occupied the house in 1916; and David Moore, a laborer and resident through the 1920s. Many tenants were employed in neighborhood factories. William Locke, a machinist (here 1902-1912), and Francis Hidenfelter, a moulder (here 1908-1912), worked at the Crompton and Knowles Loom Works. Mary Kane (1900) and Elizabeth Taylor (1908) were employed by the Worcester Corset Works. The University Park area had a distinct community of French-Canadian immigrants, and the first known residents of 7 Albert Street all had French surnames. They included Eli Benoit, a moulder; Eli Benoit, Jr., a clerk; August and Charles Silgin, both armorers; and Albert Mercy, a carpenter. Subsequent residents included those of French-Canadian, Irish and Swedish extraction.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1890, 1896, 1900, 1902, 1912, 1916, 1920, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan et al. Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.
M. Cohen, Worcester's Ethnic Groups, 1976.

12/26/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- 11. Crystal Street Historic District **Substantive Review** *for* Keeper Beth J. Savage 02-09-90
Attest _____
- 12. Davis, Rodney, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 13. Davis, Wesley, Three-Decker **Substantive Review** *for* Keeper Beth J. Savage 02-09-90
Attest _____
- 14. DEan, Mary, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 15. Delsignore, Louis, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 16. Dodge, Helen, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 17. Doran, Thomas F., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 18. Drew, Elvira, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 19. Duke, Philip, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 20. Dworman, David, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89002386

Date Listed: 02/09/90

Davis, Wesley, Three-Decker
Property Name

Worcester
County

MA
State

Worcester Three-Deckers TR, Worcester MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

John B. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

02-09-90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Accompanying Documentation:

The appropriate scale for the sketch map is 1"=200'.

This information was confirmed by Ann Tait, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Davis, Wesley, Three-Decker

MULTIPLE NAME: Worcester Three-Deckers MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 12/26/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/09/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/25/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/09/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002386

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 2/9/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Sarge
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 02-09-90

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Worcester Three-Decker MRA
WESLEY DAVIS THREE-DECKER
7 ALBERT STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MHC # 1656



Kodalux

Processing Services
MAY 89 N



Kodalux

Processing Services
MAY 89 N



210



Wesley Davis Three-Decker
 7 Albert St., Worcester
 MHC #1656

215

216

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305