

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester

Address 183 Austin Street

Historic Name Edwin Johnson

Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

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

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1892

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Queen Anne

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acres less than 1/4 acre

Setting Urban multi-family residential street of late 19th and early 20th century houses.

Recorded by John Callahan

Organization Clark University

Date February 1981

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 19/267660/4682410

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Edwin Johnson Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a representative example of the multi-family residences built in the ethnic, working-class neighborhood that developed in the Piedmont district west of downtown Worcester at the end of the 19th century. It is also an unusually well-preserved and well-detailed example of local Queen Anne style three-decker design. The Johnson 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, 183 Austin Street is an unusually well-preserved and well-detailed example, representative of the late 19th century, local Queen Anne style three-decker designs. The house has the characteristic side-hall plan with side-wall jog. It is clad in wood clapboard, and has a hip roof. The asymmetrical main facade contains an entry bay with a three-tier porch, which features lathe-turned posts, cut brackets, and spindle friezes and balustrades. The porch is flanked by a three-story bay window, unusual for the use of paired, 1/1 sash windows in the front of the angled bay. Windows throughout have simple, bracketed caps. Regularly spaced brackets decorate the roof cornice overhang.

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

In the late 19th century, an ethnically mixed, working-class, multi-family residential district developed in the low-lying Piedmont area west of downtown beyond Crown Hill. Built ca. 1892, 183 Austin Street was part of an early boom of three-decker construction scattered throughout this area. The earliest known owner of the house was Edwin E. Johnson, a machinist, who resided here for over a decade, and who by 1900 operated his own local machine shop. Tenants in 1892 included C.H. Spaulding, a salesman; and Arthur Livermore, a clerk. Residents in 1900 included A.B. Morton, a printer; Charles Tower, a cutter; and L.H. Rodebaugh and W.S. Griffith, telegraphers. By 1910, the house was owned by Dean Ellis, a local physician who owned seven other houses and sixteen building lots in the city at that time. Tenants in 1910 included Leon Dwinell, a picture framer; and Albert Macumber, a plumber. By 1920, the building was owned by Nathan Patrick, who owned eight other city houses. By the 1920s, the Piedmont area had become a focus of Worcester's growing Armenian ethnic community, and by 1930, most of Austin Street had Armenian residents. Tenants of 183 Austin included Michal Markorian, a helper; and Kasper Hamparsooian, a shoemaker; as well as Cornelius Sullivan, a freight handler.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1892, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.  
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.  
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/26/89

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

- 31. Hall Charles A., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 32. Hirst, Samuel, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 33. Houghton Street Historic District **Substantive Review** Keeper Boyd X. Savage 02-09-90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 34. Hunt, Daniel, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. Hunt, David, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 36. Ingleside Avenue Historic District **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 37. Ingraham, Harry B., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 38. Johnson, Edwin, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 39. Johnson, John and Edward, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 40. Johnson, John, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Selma Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Johnson, Edwin, Three-Decker  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Worcester Three-Deckers MRA  
NAME:

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: 89002389

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 2/9/90 DATE Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Worcester Three Decker MRA

EDWIN JOHNSON THREE DECKER

183 AUSTIN STREET

WORCESTER, MA

MHC # 1616



**Kodalux**

Processing Services  
MAY 89 N



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MAY 89 N



52

53

Edwin Johnson Three-Decker, 183 Austin St.,  
Worcester, MHC # 1616

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305