

ref no 80000608

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	130-CBD-42

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.

1. Town Worcester

Address 538-540 Main Street

Name The Enterprise Building

Present use commercial/offices

Present owner Albert J. Vuona
540 Main Street

3. Description:

Date 1900

Source building notice

Style Beaux Arts Classical

Architect Fuller & Delano

Exterior wall fabric buff brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features two-bay facade, recessed bay windows, varied classical ornament - swags, cartouches, dentilled cornice

Altered store front Date mid-20th century

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p.19A
Lot 12 2,476 sq.ft.

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 28'

Approximate distance of building from street 7'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc

Date November 1977

UTM
19/268700/4682380

7. Original owner (if known) William H. Dexter

Original use commercial/offices

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

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"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Recently steam-cleaned and returned to its original appearance, the Enterprise Building is a five-storey brick row building, opulently trimmed with Beaux Arts Classical decoration. Among the building's many fine details are carved limestone cartouches (fourth storey), terracotta window surrounds and swag panels (fifth storey) and a deep, pressed metal cornice.

Marked on the 1911 Atlas of the City of Worcester as the "Enterprise Building", #538 Main Street stands out from its neighbors for the opulence of its classical ornament. The basis for the identification of this building's architect comes from three sources: first, a building notice in September of 1900 for a "brick addition" estimated to cost \$10,000 to be built for William H. Dexter and designed by Fuller & Delano; second, from the increased real estate assessment for a building at this location from \$6,500 in 1900-to \$11,500 in 1902 (the assessment on the land remained the same at \$22,300); and third, by the lack of any additions or major alterations made to Dexter's neighboring properties (all have the same plans in 1896 and 1911). Based on the foregoing, it seems likely that the use of the word addition in the notice is either a mistake or a confused description based on Dexter's ownership of neighboring properties. Dexter, who was active in the commercial development of Franklin Square (now Federal Plaza) was also the owner of the Franklin Building (also known as the Dexter Building - Form 130-CBD-44).

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

Engineering Record, vol. XLII, Sept. 15, 1900, p.262 (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

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

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). ~~Minor~~ opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

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

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 b/cp need to be discussed with State.

OTHER

ACCEPT
MACDONALD
2/23/80

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~~ ^{VBDS} were not necessary because

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. ~~Acres~~ ^{Acres} was missing on some properties but ~~is~~ ^{is} now included after the 2/11/80 corrections. The only properties that I do not recommend listing are:
✓ 116-CBD-13 - destroyed by fire MD - 10 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - does not retain integrity for individual eligibility

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~was~~ ^{am} not convinced about boundaries but believe they could be OK. ~~Based~~ ^{Based} on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.
Recommend listing all properties ~~now~~ ^{now} except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further} w/ NR staff + state. DUBIE
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction; 3/5/80
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state DUBIE

KEEPER

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:
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 file from state)
3/5/80
Spedha

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____

FRAN Shoes

Al Vuona's

Men's Clothing
Tuxedo Rentals

PUL

FLY



80 AUG 1979

130-CBD-42
Enterprise Building
538-540 Main St.
Worcester MRA, Ma
East elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304