

ref no 90000627

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	141-F

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.

UTM
19/268170/4681900

1. Town Worcester
 Address 770 Main Street
 Name Dowday-Taylor Mansion
 Present use school/offices
 Present owner Worcester Junior College,
Central N.E. College of Technology
 3. Description: 770 Main Street
 Date 1842
 Source Old-Time New England, v.XI
 Style Greek Revival
 Architect Elias Carter
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features 2-storey portico with
variation on Corinthian capitals,
decorated window caps and door trim
octagonal cupola with circular,
projecting roof supported by column
minor - see
 Altered reverse #9 Date _____
 Moved yes Date 1853
 5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 6, p.176
Lot 16 15,300 sq.ft.
 One acre or less Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 80'
 Approximate distance of building from street
35'
W. C. H. Seaman
 6. Recorded by ed. B.R. Pfeiffer
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
 Date November 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Levi A. Dowley
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates institutional (collegiate), after 1957

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> x </u>				

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

Designed by Elias Carter, the Dowley-Taylor Mansion is the most well-preserved example of the large number of elaborate Greek Revival style mansions built in Worcester from the late 1820s until the late 1840s (of which less than six remain). Characteristic of Carter's Worcester designs, the Dowley-Taylor Mansion is a two-storey frame house with a two-storey Corinthian portico along its facade (east), hip roof and cupola. The house's facade is symmetrical, consisting of a center-entry (Corinthian surround with entablature, cornice, anthemion and acroteria), flanked on each side by two floor-to-ceiling windows with moulded caps set on acanthus brackets (the friezes of these caps contain anthemion appliques). At the facade's second storey are five symmetrical spaced windows, each with a cap identical to the first storey window caps. The corners of the house are trimmed with pilasters which rise to acanthus and lotus capitals. The cupola consists of an octagonal enclosed structure (with 6/6 windows bearing original stained glass) surrounded by a circular porch supported by columns with lotus and acanthus capitals. Alterations to the house have included the removal of the parapet (with carved eagle over the entry) and the replacement of sash (ca.1900).

Completed in 1842, the Dowley-Taylor House was first occupied by Levi Dowley, a leather merchant and incorporator of the Quinsigamond Bank. Known to have had a shoe and leather store on the east side of Main Street, near Pleasant Street, as early as 1825, Dowley suffered financial failure in 1847 and was forced to sell his house to Ethan Allen, a gun manufacturer. In 1853 Allen responded to the growing commercial value of the house's

(cont.)

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

Carruth, Louise. Old Worcester Houses (scrapbooks)
Worcester Telegram. June 24, 1957.
 Forbes, Harriette W. "Elias Carter, Architect, of Worcester, Mass."
Old Time New England, vol. XI, #2. October, 1920. pp. 58-
 Nutt, C. History of Worcester and Its People, vol. II, pp. 1082, 1089,
 1098.
 Rice, P.P. Worcester of 1898, p.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 141-3
Property Name: Dowley-Taylor Mansion	

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

9.
original site by selling the land and moving the house to its present location south of the business district.

Anecdotally, Mrs. Harriette Forbes (biographer of Elias Carter) recorded that during the brief period in which Ethan Allen lived in the house he "was aroused one night and discovered a thief about to take off with the family silver. Mr. Allen was a large vigorous man and the thief was small; the thief was given a vigorous flogging with a cane and then put in the cake closet. Back in bed Mr. Allen's anger got the better of him and he went down once more to repeat the chastisement." After Allen the house was occupied by several families including Jonathan Grout, owner of Davis and Banister, stationers and booksellers, and Dr. Frank Kelley, one-time Mayor of Worcester. In 1882 the house was purchased by Ransom C. Taylor, a prominent local real estate developer and speculator, regarding whom more biographical information has been recorded with the Building Survey Form #191-A, 36 Butler Street, Taylor's earlier house named "Larchmont". In 1952 the last of Taylor's descendants to occupy the house sold it and in 1957 Worcester Junior College converted the house to classroom use.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

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

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10/30/79

Common with Ames'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. **DVB/E**

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 1 bays 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** TECHNICAL 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
MARC/APR
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. EVIDENCE 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
- 130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Review _____

- ✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am not~~ ^{am} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~ ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGMENT.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Recommend Listing all properties ^{now} ~~except~~ these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to NR staff + state. DVB/E} 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 (listing from state)

Soldha
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____ ^{SEE 3/3/80 REPORT}



141-F

Powley-Taylor Mason

770 Main St

Worcester, MA

South + east
elevations

30 AUG 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304