

FORM B - BUILDING

ref no 80000549

In Area no.	Form no.
	153-C

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

1. Town Worcester
 Address 886 Main Street
 Name South Unitarian Church
 Present use Holy Trinity Church,
Armenian Apostolic
 Present owner Apostolic Holy Trinity
Church

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

Roll 8

3. Description:
 Date 1894
 Source building notice
 Style Romanesque Revival
 Architect Arch't Earle & Fisher, Norcross Br
 Exterior wall fabric rock-faced sandston
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features square-plan tower with
rounded side tower, arched entry,
transomed windows, slate roof
 Altered no Date _____
 Moved no Date _____
 5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 6, p. 37
19/267530/468/510 UTM Lots 31 & 34 18,288 sq.ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 142'
 Approximate distance of building from street
30'
 6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc
 Date December 1977

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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) South Unitarian Society

Original use church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u> X </u>
Architectural	<u> X </u>	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 1894, the former South Unitarian Church is an unusual example of its style, with an asymmetrical plan and complex roof. Exterior walls are of rock-faced sandstone, laid up in courses of regularly alternating widths. The building's facade (east) contains a high gable with tripartite windows and an arched window providing light to the church hall. At the building's northeast corner is an arched entry set in a gabled porch, behind which is a square-plan tower and semi-circular side tower. Both north and south elevations bear the same high-quality stonework as the facade. Alterations are restricted to the re-pointing of a small portion of the tower **and the removal of a belfry.**

The South Unitarian Society was established in 1890, partly through the efforts of Rev. Austin Garver, pastor of the First Unitarian Church (Second Parish) of Worcester. The congregation's first minister was George W. Kent. Early meetings of the society were held at the Freeland Street Schoolhouse, at Pilgrim Church Hall, and finally in a storefront on Main Street, opposite 886 Main Street. Early in 1894 the congregation commissioned plans for a church from Earle & Fisher, architects; construction apparently took place in the same year.

(cont.)

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

Engineering and Building Record, VOL. XXII, 1/20/1894, p. 132
(building notice)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp. 886-887.

Worcester	153-0
Property Name: South Unitarian Church	

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

9. The South Unitarian Society, formed to "provide for the needs of those living in the southern part" of the city, was one of more than a half dozen new congregations organized during the 1880s and 1890s as a result of the growth in population of the Main Street-South area. Of the other congregations formed at this time, the Pilgrim Congregational Church and St. Mark's Episcopal Church also built Romanesque Revival style churches designed by Earle & Fisher. Constructed by the Norcross Brothers, the South Unitarian Memorial Church is a fine and very well-preserved example of Romanesque Revival architecture.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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 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). **HISTORIAN**
Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

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 #4. Integrity and/or boundaries need to be addressed specifically on individual forms. **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 bldgs need to be discussed with State.

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. **OTHER**
ACCEPT
MURPHY
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. FURTHER WAS MISSING IN SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS. **HAER**
Inventory _____
Review _____

THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE
✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 116 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ ^{AM} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE OK. **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**
ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend Listing all properties ^{now} ~~except~~ ^{except} these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further w/NR staff + state.} **BRANCH CHIEF** 3/3/80
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction;
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state
3/5/80
DUBIE

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below: **KEEPER**

Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & demo from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding info from state) **3/5/80**

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



South Unitarian Church

153-C

886 Main St

Worcester MA, Ma

East + north
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