

FORM B - BUILDING

ref no 8000631

In Area no.

Form no.

141-N

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

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

Roll 3

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

1. Town WorcesterAddress 15 Oread StreetName C. H. Fitch HousePresent use boarding house

Present owner Leo J. & Annette S. Dutran
150 Church St., Northboro, Ma. 01532

3. Description:

Date ca 1878Source city atlases & directoriesStyle Victorian - see reverseArchitect unknownExterior wall fabric brickOutbuildings (describe) none

Other features double bow front, center
entrance with porch set between
bays, low hip roof, central gable,

brackets, sandstone trimAltered minor Date _____Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessor's Book 6, p.27
Lot 17, 15,100 sq.ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____Approximate frontage 100'

Approximate distance of building from street

25'

6. Recorded by W. & M. Seaman
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.Date January 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Charles H. Fitch
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates boarding house (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	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)

First occupied in 1878, 15 Oread Street is an unusual example of Victorian architecture. The house's two and one-half storey height (with narrow windows beneath the eaves), hip roof, deep brackets and double bow front are reminiscent of Italianate style houses built in Worcester during the 1850s. However, the house's rock-faced sandstone foundation, stone banding, decorative brick-banding, central (decorative) gable with balcony, and open entry porch with jig-saw railing and grilles are more characteristic of local Victorian Gothic architecture. In addition to the house's many fine details, the property possesses a retaining wall, gateposts and steps of dressed granite along its Oread Street frontage.

Charles Fitch, who lived here from 1878 until his death in the early twentieth century, was a boot manufacturer who, in 1850, became a principal in the firm of Otis, Fitch and Company. Shortly after the formation of this firm, Benjamin Otis retired and the company was renamed Fitch and Otis. From 1863 to 1866, the firm was known as Dike and Fitch; later names were C.H.Fitch and Company (1866-1886) and Fitch, Cox and Staple. Characteristic of Worcester's boot and shoe industry which reached its peak in the 1870s and 1880s, Fitch manufactured heavy grades of workboots at his Mulberry Street Factory.

Located in the vicinity of Main Street South, an area which has recently undergone widespread abandonment and demolition of former houses, the Fitch House is a rare reminder of the area's Victorian development with the names of many of Worcester's manufactures.

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

city atlases & directories.

Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester, p.233.

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

Accept
MacDonald
2/28/80

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

MAR 5 1980



JUN 1979



by Berkeley

Winchester MA

141-N

30 AUG 1979

MA

15 Oread St.

Fitch, C. H., House

West + South

elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304