

ref no 24000524

FORM B - BUILDING

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

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
|             | 88-D     |

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

Roll #21

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

1. Town Worcester

Address Bancroft Tower Road

Name Bancroft Tower

Present use park observation tower

Present owner City of Worcester

3. Description:

Date 1900

Source Nutt, History of Worcester  
vol. I

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect Earle & Fisher

Exterior wall fabric boulder stone

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features central arched passage  
way, rectangular and circular plan  
towers, crenellations, faces  
directly north and south

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

part of Salisbury Park  
5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 20, p.15

Lot 1 - see map 88  
One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage not applicable

Approximate distance of building from street

30'

6. Recorded by C. Denallie  
ed. E.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres.Soc

Date December 1977

UTM  
19/267100/4684760

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Stephen Salisbury III

Original use park observation tower

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/ | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | settlement   | <input type="checkbox"/> | invention      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> | humanitarian   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community development | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Political    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

The Bancroft Tower is a two and one-half storey structure built of boulders and cobbles, trimmed with rock-faced granite. Asymmetrical in elevation, the tower has an open arch at its center, which is flanked by two square-plan towers which rise to observation platforms surrounded by crenellated parapets. Rising from the top of the western tower is a smaller, circular-plan tower which rises to crenellations. In excellent original condition, the Bancroft is the last of three stone observation towers built in Worcester parks in the late nineteenth century. (The other two were the Davis Tower in Lake Park and the Institute Tower in Institute Park, both demolished). Of the three, the Bancroft Tower was by far the most elaborate.

Situated at the crest of Bancroft Hill in Salisbury Park, one of the highest points in Worcester, the Bancroft Tower was designed by the important local firm of Stephen Earle and Clellan Fisher. The tower was constructed in 1900 for Stephen Salisbury III at a cost estimated to have been \$15,000. Both the tower and the hill on which it stands are named in honor of the historian, George Bancroft, a Worcester native. During his lifetime Salisbury retained ownership of the parkland and tower, which were given to the city by the terms of his will in 1907.

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

Worcester Historical Society. Local Parks File.

Sunday Telegram, Sept. 23, 1900.

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. I, pp. 222-224, 441.

Osborn, B.H. In and About Worcester, pp. 26, 65.

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 & 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-dickers). <sup>Historian</sup> Call/Accept  
Lightner  
10-30-79  
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

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. <sup>Architectural Historian</sup> DOUBLE

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 bps need to be discussed with State.

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. ~~Both~~ <sup>both</sup> 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. PBDS were not necessary because

OTHER

ALERT  
AKK/DOH  
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Pledge was missing on some properties but ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> 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 - 10 CBD-11

Review \_\_\_\_\_

130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ <sup>am</sup> not convinced about boundaries

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGMENT.

Recommend listing all properties <sup>now</sup> except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~hold others~~ <sup>to discuss further w/NR staff + State. DOBIE</sup>  
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 & claims from State), 102-L-3 (returning to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (listing from State)

Soldner  
3/5/80

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



Bancroft Tower Road

30 AUG 1979

88-D Worcester MRA, MA

MAR 5 1980

Bancroft Tower Rd

South elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304