

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

1648

Town WorcesterAddress 31 Jefferson StreetHistoric Name Patrick Murphy Three-DeckerUse: Present residentialOriginal residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1900Source Worcester House DirectoryStyle Queen Anne style Three-DeckerArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard and shingleOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition very good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acreSetting Late 19th/early 20th centuryurban, multi-family residential streetRecorded by Montine JordanOrganization Clark UniversityDate February 1981

Revised for HHC by Michael Steinitz -12/88

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

See attached map

UTM REFERENCE 19/269530/4681510USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester NorthSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Patrick Murphy Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant for its association with the earliest focus of three-decker development on Grafton Hill, a neighborhood whose residents were primarily of Irish descent. It is also an unusually well-preserved and exceptionally well-detailed example of local Queen Anne style three-decker construction. The Murphy Three-Decker thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Architecturally, 31 Jefferson Street is a remarkably well-preserved, ornately detailed example of the use of Queen Anne style elements in three-decker construction. The house has the characteristic side-hall plan, with a side-wall jog. It is clad in wood clapboard, with a band of cut shingle between the second and third floors. The gable-on-hip roof has a wide cornice overhang, containing regularly spaced decorative brackets. The facade has an entrybay with a double-leaf, panelled door, flanked by an angled, three-story bay window. The corners where the bay window meets the roof cornice are decorated with large corner brackets with pendants, as is the jog corner on the side wall. On the main facade, a full-length first floor porch wraps around the bay window, and extends back to the side wall jog. The porch is supported by turned posts and has small, jigsaw brackets; it is also decorated with a spindle balustrade, and ball-and-spindle frieze.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The Murphy Three-Decker was built ca. 1900 in the early core of the Irish residential neighborhood that developed on the northwest slope of Grafton Hill. By the early 20th century, many Irish families were moving from the older, inner city districts to more stylish, new houses on the East Side hill slopes. The first known owner of 31 Jefferson Street was Patrick B. Murphy, a laborer who resided here. Residents in 1900 included Michael J. O'Reily, a dentist; Mary M. O'Reily, a stenographer; Theresa Carroll, a teacher; Helen Carroll, a clerk; and Patrick and George Brown, agents. The Murphy family still lived here in 1912. Tenants at that time included Jeremiah O'Leary, a mattress maker; Daniel O'Leary, a helper; and Michael J. McGrath, a fireman. In the 1920s the building was owned and occupied by Jeremiah Donohue, a foreman. In 1930, tenants included Elizabeth Fogarty, a waitress; Mark McDougal, a hostler; Mary McDougal, a machine operator; and John Casey, a wire worker.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1900, 1904, 1912, 1920, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Decker MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

51. Massad, Anthony, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

52. McCafferty, Elizabeth, Three-Decker
Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth L. Savage 02-05
90

Attest

53. McCarron, Andrew, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

54. McDermott, John B., Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

55. McGrath, Patrick, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

56. McGuinness, Patrick, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

57. McPartland, Frank, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

58. McPartland, James, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

59. Munroe, Sarah, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

60. Murphy, Patrick, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register KeeperHelmut Byers 2/9/90

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Murphy, Patrick, Three-Decker

MULTIPLE NAME: Worcester Three-Deckers MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 12/26/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/09/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/25/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/09/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002404

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/9/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



PATRICK MURPHY THREE-DECKER
31 JEFFERSON STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MMC # 1648

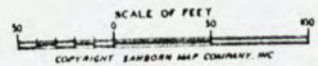
Worcester Three Decker MA

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SEE VOLUME FOUR

SEE VOLUME FOUR



Patrick Murphy Three-Decker
31 Jefferson St., Worcester
MHC # 1648

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305