

10/ no 8000 0629

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	141-K

1. Town Worcester
 Address 839 Main Street
 Name E.T. Smith House (old name)
 Present use club

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

Present owner Homer J. Wheaton, Post #479, Veterans of Foreign Wars

3. Description:
 Date 1889
 Source city directories
 Style Queen Anne

Roll 3

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

Architect unknown
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard & shingle
 Outbuildings (describe) stable (1889)
 Other features elaborately decorated porches at 1st and 2d floors, oriel window with stained glass, stable with tower

Altered addition to north wall Date mid-20th century
 Moved no Date _____

UTM
 19/207810/4681610

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 6, p.30 Lot 22 13,691 sq.ft.
 One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 102'
 Approximate distance of building from street 20'

6. Recorded by G. Sharalambides & E. Kuniholm, ed. B.R. Pfeiffer
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc
 Date October 1977

7. Original owner (if known) Elliott T. Smith

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates club (post-1945)

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

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

Built in 1889 for Elliott T. Smith, #839 Main Street, now Post #479 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is a good example of a type of Queen Anne style house which was popular during the 1880s and 1890s throughout Worcester. The house is a two and one-half storey frame structure with an asymmetrical floor plan and an asymmetrical facade (west). The facade has porches with elaborate wood turnings (1st and 2d stories), a high granite stoop with original iron railing, decorative shingling and a high gable set off-center. Other characteristic elements of Queen Anne design include an exterior chimney with sandstone and terracotta trim and an oriel window with stained glass (both on the south wall). The property also contains an original stable with a rounded corner tower and a ventilator/cupola. Currently well-maintained, the Smith House is one of the few houses extant from Main Street south's nineteenth-century development as one of Worcester's most prestigious residential neighborhoods.

Elliott Smith, a native of Rockland, Maine, was born in 1833 and first came to Worcester in 1849. After working as a gate tender for the Western Railroad for three years, Smith went to work for "Hitchcock & Murray Arms Manufacturers". In the winter of 1857 Smith went to New Orleans "in the lightning rod business" but returned to Worcester shortly thereafter. By 1858 Smith had established himself as a grocer; with the growth of the business, a wholesale branch (E.T. Smith & Co.) was established and in 1874 a "large brick block" was built by the firm on Washington Square. After 1893 the firm moved to Summer Street. Smith died in Worcester in 1913, after which his house was sold to Dr. Richard Shannahan, city police surgeon, and in 1945 the property was sold to a veterans' organization from which the present owner received title.

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

Nutt, C. History of Worcester and Its People, vol. III, p.281

Rice, F.P. Worcester of 1898, pp. 747-749 (illustration)

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

HISTORIAN

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).

Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

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. 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~~ BOTH 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. VBDs WERE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE

OTHER

ACEDT
MURPHY
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. PLEASE WAS MISSING IN 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

Review _____

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

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ ^{am} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BUT BELIEVES THEY COULD BE OK. ~~AS~~ ASKED

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend Listing all properties ^{now} ~~except~~ ^{except} these 3.

Return 116-CBD-11 to State w/NR Staff + State. DOUBLE
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction; DOUBLE
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 & claim from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding fruit from state)

Soldner
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



30 AUG 1979

141-K

Smith Elliot, Heese

839 Main St.

Worcester MRA, Ma

West & South elevation



141-K³⁰ AUG 1979

Smith, Elliott, House

839 Main St

Worcester MA, Ma

South elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304