

FORM B - BUILDING

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

80000617

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
|             | 141-B-2  |

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

Rolls 5,8

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

1. Town Worcester  
Address 8 Claremont Street  
Name Franklin Wesson House  
Present use residential  
Present owner Mary Garabedian and Rose Paloian

3. Description:  
Date ca. 1874  
Source city directories  
Style High Victorian Gothic  
Architect A.P. Cutting  
Exterior wall fabric brick  
Outbuildings (describe) none  
Other features three-and-one-half store tower, pointed arch windows and entry, porch/dormer at 3d floor, buttresses  
Altered not significantly Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 6, p. 36 Lot 7 8,900 sq.ft.  
One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximate frontage 77'  
Approximate distance of building from street 25'  
W. and M. Seaman  
6. Recorded by ed. B.R. Pfeiffer  
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.  
Date December 1977

UTM  
19/267610/4681660

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Franklin Wesson

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates lodging house (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |               |                            |               |                         |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Aboriginal            | <u>      </u> | Conservation               | <u>      </u> | Recreation              | <u>      </u> |
| Agricultural          | <u>      </u> | Education                  | <u>      </u> | Religion                | <u>      </u> |
| Architectural         | <u>  x  </u>  | Exploration/<br>settlement | <u>      </u> | Science/<br>invention   | <u>      </u> |
| The Arts              | <u>      </u> | Industry                   | <u>  x  </u>  | Social/<br>humanitarian | <u>      </u> |
| Commerce              | <u>      </u> | Military                   | <u>      </u> | Transportation          | <u>      </u> |
| Communication         | <u>      </u> | Political                  | <u>      </u> |                         |               |
| Community development | <u>      </u> |                            |               |                         |               |

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

Worcester's most elaborate High Victorian Gothic style house, the Franklin Wesson House is a two-and-one-half storey brick structure which rises from a plinth of hammered granite to a hipped roof covered with hexagonal pattern slates. Having a side-hall plan, the house is entered on its facade (south) through a three-and-one-half storey tower with a high hip roof. The tower rises in stages, having buttresses and a pointed-arch entry at the first storey, narrow pointed-arch windows with sandstone springers and keystones at the second storey, paired rectangular windows and blind pointed arches with oculi at the third storey, and a gabled dormer and trifoliate lights at the roof. East of the tower is a three-side bay which rises to a dormer and porch at the third storey. Windows throughout the house are set in pointed-arch frames with sandstone keystones and springers. Extending around the house at the level of the springer of first and second storey windows and between the first and second stories are belt courses of decorative brickwork. Dormers throughout vary, but all are decorated with aprons and open strap work. With the exception of a two-storey wooden porch at the house's northeast corner, the building is in original condition. Surrounding the property is a fine, original retaining wall of dressed granite. Plans and elevations of the Wesson House were published in Bicknell's Wood and Brick Buildings With Details (New York, A.J. Bicknell & Co., 1875 - vol. I, plates 47 and 48.

(cont.)

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

Bicknell, A.J. Wood and Brick Buildings with Details. (New York A.J. Bicknell & Co., 1875) vol. I, plates 47-48.  
Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester, pp. 207, 208 and 296.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:  
Worcester

Form No:  
141-B-2

Property Name: Franklin Wesson  
House

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

9. First occupied between 1874 and 1875, the Wesson House was built for Franklin Wesson, a founder of Worcester's arms industry. In 1871 Wesson and a partner formed the firm of Wesson and Harrington for "the purpose of manufacturing a shell-ejecting revolver". This firm later became Harrington and Richardson, the city's major gun manufacturer. Wesson occupied 68 Claremont Street until the 1890s, after which the property was sold to Charles Forbes, an attorney, and later to F. Thayer, secretary of A.D. Thayer Co., cloth manufacturers.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13  
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

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-deckers). <sup>HISTORIAN</sup> Call/Accept  
<sup>Lightner</sup> 10.30.79  
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

Concern with Ames' 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. VBDs were not necessary because

OTHER

ACCEPT  
MAX ROYAL  
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Address was missing on 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 not~~ <sup>am not</sup> convinced about boundaries

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

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

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend

Listing all properties <sup>now</sup> except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~hold others~~ <sup>to discuss further</sup> w/NR staff + state. <sup>DOUBLE</sup>

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;

HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State

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 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



TRUCKS  
ENTER

 SMALL  
**EASY!**  
**PARK**  
**AND**  
**ENTER**  


JUN 1979



by Berkey

80 AUG 1979

141-B-2  
Wesson, Franklin, House  
8 Claremont St.  
Worcester, MA, Ma  
South & east  
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304