

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

1628

Town WorcesterAddress 56/58 Olga AvenueHistoric Name Charles Magnuson  
Three-DeckerUse: Present residentialOriginal residential

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1912Source Worcester House DirectoryStyle Colonial Revival Three-DeckerArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard and  
shingleOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition very good

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage less than 1/4 acreSetting Early 20th century, urban  
multi-family, residential street;  
rear of property looks out on  
Green Hill Park.Recorded by Michael SteinitzOrganization Clark UniversityDate June 1980

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 19/270410/4683760USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester NorthSCALE 1:25,000

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Charles Magnuson Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a residence associated with the last surge of 20th century three-decker development in the Belmont Street area, a mostly Scandinavian, working-class neighborhood. It is also an unusually well-preserved and well-detailed example, representative of a popular local variation of Colonial Revival three-decker design. The Magnuson 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, 56/58 Olga Avenue is a representative example of Colonial Revival three-decker construction in the Belmont Street neighborhood. The house has the characteristic side-hall plan, and has a gable roof. It is clad in wood clapboard, with wood shingle on the porch and bay windows. The asymmetrical facade consists of an entry bay containing a three-tier porch supported by square posts, flanked by a three-story, round bay window. A second, angled bay window projects from the side wall. Large, regularly spaced brackets decorate the roof cornice overhang. Windows have 2/1 sash, set in simple surrounds.

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

The Magnuson Three-Decker was built ca. 1912 at the eastern edge of the Belmont Street neighborhood, during the last major surge of three-decker construction in this part of the city. In the early 20th century, this area was still dominated by Swedish, Swede-Finn, and Finnish families, and many residents worked as skilled metal tradesmen for nearby American Steel and Wire or other local metal fabricating industries. The house was first owned and occupied by Charles Magnuson, a foreman at Worcester Metal Goods, who lived here through the late 1920s. Tenants in 1912 included August Johnson, a machinist; and Frank Smith, a cabinet maker. In 1920, tenants were Johnson and Charles Frodigh, an adjustor. Residents in 1930 included August Johnson; Roland Frodigh, a bookkeeper; and Charles Frodigh.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1912, 1920, 1930.

L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1922.

J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/26/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA  
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- 41. Johnson, Paul, Three-Decker *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 42. Kaller, Erick, Three-Decker (146 Eastern Ave.) *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 43. Kaller, Erick, Three-Decker (148 Eastern Ave.) *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 44. Larson, Swan, Three-Decker *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 45. Levenson, Morris, Three-Decker *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 46. Lumb, Thomas, Three-Decker (80 Dewey St.) *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 47. Lumb, Thomas, Three-Decker (44 Winfield St.) *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 48. Lundberg, Charles, Three-Decker *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 49. Magnuson, Charles, Three-Decker *Entered in the National Register for* Keeper Melrose Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 50. Mark, John, Three-Decker *Substantive Review for* Keeper Beth J. Savage 02-09-90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ~~OWNER OBJECTION~~ *Nominating*

PROPERTY NAME: Magnuson, Charles, Three-Decker

MULTIPLE NAME: Worcester Three-Decker MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002434

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Worcester Three Decker MA  
CHARLES MAGNUSON THREE DECKER  
56-58 OLGA AVENUE  
WORCHESTER, MA  
MHC # 1625



**Kodalux**

Processing Services  
MAY 89 N



**Kodalux**

Processing Services  
MAY 89 N

308

Charles Magnuson Three-Decker  
56/58 Olga Ave.,  
Worcester  
MHC # 1628



0 100  
FT

309

SEE  
VOLUME  
FOU



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305