

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1623

2392
Town WorcesterAddress 215 Cambridge StreetHistoric Name Catherine Ahern
Three-DeckerUse: Present residentialOriginal residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1888Source Worcester House DirectoryStyle Italianate Three-DeckerArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric wood clapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition very good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acreSetting Late 19th/early 20th century
urban, multi-family residential area;
on a major street, adjacent to a mid-
20th century garage/used car lot.Recorded by Michael SteinitzOrganization Clark UniversityDate June 1980

Revised for MHC 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 19/267140/4680470USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester SouthSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Catherine Ahern Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a representative example of the earliest phase of three-decker development in the Cambridge Street neighborhood, an ethnically mixed, working-class residential area that expanded with the growth of nearby industries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is also one of the best-preserved, well-detailed examples of Italianate three-decker design in the area. The Ahern 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, 215 Cambridge Street is a remarkably well-preserved and finely detailed example of Italianate three-decker design. The building is sheathed in wood, and has a moderately pitched hip roof. It is quite unusual in that it presents its long, six bay elevation to the street as the main facade. The end bay entry consists of double-leaf, panelled doors. The entry and adjacent window bay are sheltered by a projecting, single-story portico, supported by chamfered posts. Porch details include decorative cut brackets, small cornice brackets, and an open balustrade. Regularly spaced, paired brackets decorate the roof cornice overhang. Windows have 2/2 sash, and retain original window cap moldings.

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

Built by 1888, the Catherine Ahern Three-Decker was part of the late 19th century, multi-family residential development that took place in the industrial district defined by the three rail lines that radiated southwest from downtown Worcester. The location of new factories along these transport corridors attracted a largely immigrant work force, and families who located along Cambridge Street were mostly of French-Canadian, Irish, and English extraction. Many were employed in nearby metal processing or textile factories as machinists, wireworkers, or carpet weavers. The earliest known owner of 215 Cambridge Street was Catherine Ahern. John Ahern, a laborer, lived here from ca. 1888 through 1910. Other residents in 1888 included John Roberts and John O'Connor, both machinists. In 1900, residents included William Taylor, Charles North, and Beaumont Brooks, all machinists. Occupants in 1910 included Frank Silk, a porter; and Gustaf Nystrom, a clerk. By 1920, the house was owned as a rental property by Alphonse Beaulieu, a carpenter who owned three other houses in the neighborhood, and who continued to own 215 Cambridge through 1930. Occupants in 1920 included Phillip Barre, a carpenter; George Gross, a pressfeeder; and Eugene Graveline, a helper. In 1930, tenants included Alvin Hinkley, an assistant foreman; and Edwin Sward, a toolmaker, both employed at the nearby screw manufacturing plant of the Reed and Prince Company.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1888, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 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-Deckers MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

COVER

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

1. Ahern, Catherine, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2. Anderson, Ludwig, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

3. Baker, Peter, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

4. Battelle, Marion, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

5. Beaver Street Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

6. Blodgett, Lydia, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

7. Bostrom, Eric, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

8. Bousquet, Henry, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

9. Carlson, Eric, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

10. Crabtree, Thomas, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Worcester MRA (Worcester Three-Deckers)

for Keeper

Attest

B. J. Savage
02-08-90

Silvius Byers 2/9/90

Silvius Byers 2/9/90

Silvius Byers 2/9/90

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Silvius Byers 2/9/90

Silvius Byers 2/9/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ahern, Catherine, Three-Decker
NAME:

MULTIPLE Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
NAME:

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: 89002392

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 _____



CATHERINE, AHERN THREE DECKER
215 CAMBRIDGE STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MHE# 1623

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA



CATHERINE AHERN THREE DECKER
215 CAMBRIDGE STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MRC # 1623

Worcester Three-Decker MA



Catherine Ahern Three-Decker
215 Cambridge St., Worcester
MHC # 1623

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305