

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

116-B

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

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

Roll 29

UTM:

19/268840/4683280

1. Town Worcester
Address 31 Harvard Street
Name Salem Copeland House
Present use institutional offices
Present owner Family Service Organization of Worcester, Inc
3. Description:
Date ca.1847
Source deeds, city directories
Style Greek Revival
Architect see reverse side #9
Exterior wall fabric clapboard
Outbuildings (describe) brick stable
Other features pedimented facade, papyrus & acanthus capitals, scroll work decoration around gable window anthemia (stylized honeysuckle flower design) additions to south
Altered wall sash Date 1960s?
Moved no Date _____
5. Lot size: Assessors' Bk. 2, pg. 30
Lot 14 & 16 19,513 sq. ft.
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 150'
Approximate distance of building from street 20'
Recorded by R. Moore
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc
Date December 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Salem Copeland

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates institutional (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Built on a lot which Salem Copeland bought from Harrison Bliss in 1846 for \$80.00, the Copeland House is one of two ornate, temple-front houses extant in Worcester. (The other is the Arad Alexander House - see Form #143-J). Two stories high, of frame construction, the Copeland House has a pedimented facade with a portico supported by four fluted columns which rise to papyrus and acanthus capitals. The facade is faced with matched boarding, as are the facade and north wall pediments, both of which contain elaborate foliate decoration. Facade windows are set beneath moulded caps on consoles. Alterations to the building are minor, consisting of the replacement of original sash with smaller-pane wood sash and the construction of an addition at the building's southwest corner; nonetheless, the Copeland House remains essentially intact.

Salem Copeland (1815-1891) was a native of Thompson, Connecticut who came to Worcester around 1838 and, soon after, became foreman at the Providence Screw Company. When the Providence Company moved to Rhode Island, Copeland became a tool maker at the Washburn Wire Mill on Grove Street; between 1846 and 1850 Copeland worked at the Court Mills for the tool manufacturing firm of Thompson, Skinner & Co. Around 1865 Copeland began manufacturing hardware on his own, eventually forming the Copeland Hardware Manufacturing Company. Among the claims of Copeland's obituary is that he "made the first iron planing machine ever used." At the same time that Copeland was employed by Thompson, Skinner & Co., local directories list him as a builder. In 1863 Copeland sold #31 Harvard Street to David Scott, a druggist, who lived here until 1869 when he built a Second Empire style house (now demolished) on the southern half of

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

Copeland's original lot. In 1870 the house was sold to Horace Sheldon, a merchant, who sold it to Edward Brown, county treasurer, in 1883.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds

Proceedings, Worcester Society of Antiquity (1896)

"Twenty Years On
Harvard Street"

Albert Waite Papers, Box 6

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

ACCEPT
AKA DOBIE
2/23/80

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:

Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & claims from SHIPB), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (filing from state)

S. D. D. H.
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____

2.3.81

SEE 3/3/80 REPORT



Prestige Prints

by Berkeley

80 AUG 1979

Copeland, Samuel, House

116-B Worcester MRA, Ma

31 Harvard St

east + north elevations

Prestige Prints

by Berkeley

JAN 1978

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304



Worcester Multiple 16-B
Resource Area

Family Service Organization of Worcester, Inc.

COUNSELING ON FAMILY AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS

RUSSELL A THOMPSON, PRESIDENT
MRS. EDWIN R. FOLEY, SECRETARY
JOHN L. VIRGILIO, TREASURER

WALTER A. OLSON, ACSW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOSEPH SAMARA, ACSW, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

31 HARVARD STREET, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01608
AREA CODE 617 756-4646

(ur)

(Ma)

October 9, 1979

Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of Interior, Pension Building
440 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Re: 663
Attention NOM

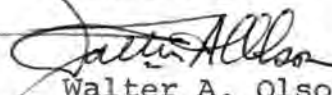
Dear Mr. Herrington,

Persuant to the nomination of Family Service Organization of Worcester, Inc., 31 Harvard Street, Worcester, Mass., 01608, - Samuel Copeland House, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, please find enclosed a resume of the House as well as a photograph taken October 5, 1979.

We feel that this data may assist in applying your eligibility guidelines for listing.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Walter A. Olson, ACSW
Executive Director

Encl.
WAO:cg



MEMBER OF UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS
AND
FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



OCT 11 1979

20 10/23

10/23

Resume of the House at 31 Harvard Street

In the early 1800's the land on which we are now located was the high point of farmland noted for its view of Mt. Wachusett and acres of meadows and pastures.

In 1845, Dr. John Green, who had an estate on Main Street, decided the time had come to extend the lines of the town westward, laying out a street parallel to Main, on the crest of the hill thus cutting into pastureland and woods where long had been the Doctor's gardens. As Dr. Green had received his degree in medicine from Harvard, he gave that name to the new thoroughfare just opened through his ancestral acres. In 1859, Dr. Green founded the Worcester Free Public Library. The immediate continuance of the street to the north was due to the enterprise of citizens who had purchased the old Dix property and proceeded to lay out a new street there.

In 1854, Harvard and Dix Streets were pronounced public, at which time began the laying of gas, water and sewer pipes. Then, the development of the wide sidewalks lined with maple and chestnut trees which resulted in Harvard Street being considered one of the most beautiful streets in Worcester.

From this beginning, the location attracted the professional and business people who built substantial houses, many of them designed by Eldridge Boyden whose own house was built on a lot he had bought from Dr. Green soon after building the Green Mansion. Mr. Boyden was the architect of Mechanics Hall which was dedicated in 1857.

As we are now at No. 31 Harvard Street, it may be interesting to concentrate on its past ownership. The house with the Greek Revival columns was built by Mr. Samuel Copeland who was noted for his love of flowers and his conservatory on the side of the house. He sold the house to Mr. David Scott who in turn sold it to Mr. Horace Sheldon, the owner of a dry goods store in the Mechanics Building. Before his death in 1886, he had sold his house to Mr. Edward A. Brown, the much respected Treasurer of Worcester County. Mr. Brown with his wife and three daughters enjoyed this home for many years; the oldest daughter, Anna, being married from here before Mrs. Brown died.

The other two daughters continued to live here and care for their father. After Mr. Brown's death, they found the care of the conservatory and grounds which extended to Lancaster Street an increasing burden, their father having done much of the maintenance himself. An account of these activities recalled by a neighbor that "the lot (#31) is a long one and while this affords an opportunity for Mr. Brown's horticultural tastes in the summer - when the winds sweep down with snowy wings, the city ordinances demand that sidewalks

be kept free from icy winter's accompaniments. At such times, after doing duty on Harvard Street, Treasurer Brown marches around (the Bates property on Dix Street) to Lancaster Street and illustrates the biblical statement that 'in the sweat of his face shall man eat bread' ".

Living across the street from the sisters was a young man who was working as an apprentice for Mr. Darius A. Putnam, the family undertaker, friend and neighbor. Seeing the sisters' need for a "man in the house", Mr. Putnam confidentially suggested, as dependable and honest, his young helper. On Christmas Eve in 1916, George Longstreet was warmly welcomed into his new home.

He continued to work and study in his chosen field, and three years later leased property at 7 Highland Street ready to start business in his own quarters. But this proved disastrous in more ways than one, what with water damage, heating bills for coal and various other woes. With encouragement from the Misses Sally and May Brown and his own continuing enthusiasm and determination to achieve his goal, a new sign appeared on their front lawn:

George H. Longstreet, Undertaker
31 Harvard Street

A gradual remodelling took place, with an apartment for the family living quarters upstairs while downstairs the front and back parlors became the new funeral parlors.

When the Bates property at 29 Harvard Street became available in 1936, George purchased it, demolished the house and landscaped the lot as a little park, complete with an acquired Victorian fountain surrounded by pink roses. This made a suitable setting for the already impressive adjoining property and was much admired and photographed by passersby in all seasons.

The red brick building was the former carriage house and living quarters for David, the Bates' Black coachman. This building was put to use for the Longstreet motor equipment but the park was later sacrificed to asphalt for parking.

Some years before, in 1954, Harvard Street had been widened to become a busy one-way thoroughfare. The gorgeous trees were cut down and the sidewalks narrowed. By this time, many of the family homes were torn down or put to other uses. During George Longstreet's more than fifty years on Harvard Street, he witnessed all the changes but was determined to keep the main house with the stately pillars intact.

There are those of us who are grateful, not only for the survival of the house but also for the use to which it is put as a continuing community service, the Family Service Organization.

Marguerite J. Longstreet
August, 1974

*

Historical references are taken from a published pamphlet "Twenty Years of Harvard Street" given as an address in 1896 to the Worcester Historical Society by the Hon. A. S. Roe, a resident of the street. More recent references are from newspapers and also personal reminiscences.

M.J.L.



Family Service Organization of
Worcester, Mass
31 HARVARD Street (TAKEN
Oct. 1979)