

FORM B - BUILDING

80006575

In Area no.	Form no.
	116-L-11

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

1. Town Worcester
 Address 53 Elm Street
 Name Katz & Leavitt Apartment House
 Present use residential

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

Present owner Louis J. Busconi
2 Wood Rd., Hopkinton, Ma. 01748

3. Description:

Date ca 1926
 Source city atlases & House directories
 Style eclectic-derived from Venetian Gothic
 Architect Lucius Briggs
 Exterior wall fabric brick & tile
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features central section of facade decorated with glazed tile, tile balconies parapet with partial balustrade
 Altered no Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

Roll 14

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

UTM: 19/268460/4682850

5. Lot size Assessor's Book 3, p.34 Lot 11, 15,896 sq.ft.
 One acre or less Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 220'
 Approximate distance of building from street 20'

6. Recorded by W.&M.Seaman ed. B.R.Pfeiffer
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
 Date February 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Isador Katz and Eli Leavitt

Original use apartment house

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Built in 1926, the Katz and Leavitt Apartment House is architecturally unique in Worcester. The building is five-stories high and is faced with buff brick on all elevations, except for the central section of its facade (south) which is faced with ornate, glazed tile. Making extensive use of Venetian Gothic precedent, this tile section rises from a pointed arch entry (first storey). Above windows of the third, fourth and fifth stories are panels containing a variety of Gothic motifs (quatrefoils, pointed arches, crockets and finials) executed in various colors of glazed tiles. At the roof line are pointed-arch balustrades set between sections of brick parapet. Unaltered, #53 Elm Street also has its original cast-stone stoop and retaining wall. Local tradition states that the building's tiles were imported from Europe, although there is no evidence to support or disprove this assertion.

Lucius Briggs, the architect of 53 Elm Street, was Worcester's leading architect of ca 1900-1930. Among Brigg's most prominent public buildings are the Worcester Consolidated Street Railway Car barn and the Worcester War Memorial Auditorium at Lincoln Square. #52 Elm Street is the most flamboyant of Brigg's designs and illustrates the strong taste for revivalist styles which existed during the 1920s.

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

city atlases & directories.

Worcester Historical Society. Biographical File (Lucius Briggs).

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

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). Opposition is high. Minor problems w/ some properties are listed on attached sheets.

HISTORIAN
Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

Common with Amie'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. DUBIE

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

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 bldg 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
ACCEPT
ALM/20/80
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Purchase 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:
✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 10 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Inventory _____
Review _____

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~was~~ ^{am} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~ ^{BASED} ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Recommend listing all properties ~~except~~ ^{now} except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further w/NR staff + State. DUBIE}
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction; ^{3/5/80}
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state ^{DUBIE}

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 & clean from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (likely fruit from state)

S. Delpha
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.5.81 Re-submit _____ ^{SEE 3/13/80 REPORT}



JUN 1979



by Berkey

80 AUG 1979

116-L-11

Katz + Louvitt Apartment House

53 Elm St

Worcester MRA, Ma

South elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304