

FORM A - AREA

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

BR	1889 - 1898
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester
Name of Area (if any) Providence Street
Historic District
Present Use residential

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black & white) Indicate on back of each photo street addresses for buildings shown. Staple to left side of form.

General Date or Period ca. 1926-1930

General Condition good to excellent

Acreage 1.39 Acres

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization for MHC

Date December 1988

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient).

See Attached Map.

The Providence Street Historic District includes 10 residential buildings and 7 period garages. Its boundaries follow the historic subdivision boundaries of the 10 building lots of the district. To the north the district is bounded by the grounds of the Worcester Girls' Club. To the east, the boundaries are defined by a service alley and the rear lot lines shared with those of Woodford Street buildings. The west side of Providence Street opposite the district is occupied by Gaskill Field, a school athletic field. The buildings on Providence Street immediately south of the district have seen widespread alterations, and no longer retain their architectural integrity.

Contributing/Non-contributing status

Buildings: 16 CB, 1NCB

UTM REFERENCE A 19/269640/4680800
B 19/269670/4680620
C 19/269640/4680610
D 19/269610/4680790
USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester South
SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Providence Street Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a representative subdivision of stylish three-deckers built in the late 1920s on the city's East Side, and as a neighborhood initially occupied primarily by middle-class Jewish families who relocated here from older, inner-city neighborhoods. The houses of the Providence Street Historic District also represent an unusually well-preserved collection of buildings of Craftsman and Colonial Revival design, one of the outstanding surviving groups of houses from the last phase of local three-decker construction. The Providence Street Historic District 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 areas within the community.

The three-deckers of the Providence Street Historic District represent an outstanding row of impressively sited, well-detailed, and remarkably preserved houses. Together, these houses form a particularly dramatic streetscape from the last phase of Craftsman/Colonial Revival style three-decker design in the city. Within the district, 127-139 Providence Street are set atop steeply sloping front yards that enhance further the vertical dimensions of their forms. Of the ten three-deckers of the district, only one, 139 Providence Street, has lost its integrity due to the application of modern siding. In general, the houses of the district reflect well the simpler, rectilinear massing of local three-decker construction of the 1920s. The seven houses of 127-129 Providence Street are nearly identical in design. All have hip roofs and asymmetrical facades with projecting, three-tier porches capped by gables with diamond-paned lights in the pediments. The porches are supported by square columns, and feature arched openings in the first tier, peaked openings in the second, and

(CONTINUED)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

By the late 1920s, suburban three-decker development had extended south along the Providence Street corridor to subdivision lots that faced Gaskill Field, the athletic field of Worcester Academy. Here a row of stylish three-deckers were built between 1926 and 1930, probably all by the Dorman Building Company. The houses attracted a group of middle-class Jewish families, many of whom located here from the older, established Jewish neighborhood on lower Providence Street on the north side of Grafton Hill. In 1930, four of the houses in the Providence Street Historic District, 129, 131, 135 and 137 Providence Street, were owned by Hyman Zive, a realtor who owned 10 other local buildings. Two others, 141 and 143 Providence Street, were owned by John Johnson of Millbury. Frank Sacks, a grocer, owned 145 Providence Street. Only two of the houses in the row were occupied by their owners in 1930: Abraham Sadowsky, a painter, resided at 127 Providence Street; and Wolf Swidler, a presser, lived at 133 Providence Street. The residents of these houses were for the most part employed in white-collar jobs or as business operators. Many were engaged in clothing-related occupations, and/or worked in the Green Street area, the focus of the city's Jewish business district. Residents of 127 Providence Street in 1930 included Lena Shulman, a clerk; and Daniel Sigalove, a compositor. Those at 129 Providence Street included Myer Cohen, a tailor; John Shack, a realtor; and Samuel Epstein, a painter. Residents of 131 Providence Street included Nathan Lubin, a clothing merchant; Abraham Belding of the American

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

(CONTINUED)

Worcester Directory, Worcester Street Directory, 1926, 1930.

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

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No:
Property Name: Providence St. HD	

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

Historical Significance (cont)

Malt and Hop Company; and Emil Gurwitz, president of the Mecantile Printing Company. Residents of 133 Providence Street included Aaron Lowe, a tailor; Edward and John Foley, clerks; and George Fortin, an insurance agent. Occupants of 135 Providence Street included Barnet Adelsky, a clothing merchant; and Samuel Blatt, owner of a hat and cap business. Residents of 137 Providence Street included Maurice Goldstein, an insurance agent; Wolfe Miller, a pedlar; Israel Adrinn, a dealer in burlap bags; and Philip Loew, operator of a local chain of movie houses. At 139 Providence Street, tenants included Jacob Stein, a tailor and furrier; Albert Finn, owner of Finn's Auto Exchange; and Abraham Kaplan, a tailor. The houses at 141 and 143 Providence Street are double three-deckers with six apartment units in each house. Residents of the former in 1930 included Morris Brustein, an accountant; Abraham Baker, an insurance agent; Julian Tagman, a baker; Albert Neal, a clerk; Michael O'Connor, a chauffeur; and Benjamin Cramer, a floorman. At 143 Providence, tenants included Benjamin Gratt, a painter; Hyman Isaacson, of the Elite Shop, a clothing store; Jacob Zieper, a manager; Albert Dworman, a carpenter; Israel Ogintz, a tailor; and Albert Cohen, a clerk. Residents of 145 Providence Street included Hyman Carp, a meatcutter; Jacob and Morris Goldstein of Martin's Shoes; and Samuel Caplan, a clerk.

Architectural Significance (cont)

rectangular openings with solid brackets in the third tier. The second and third tiers also have small, spindle rails. Most of these houses are clad in wood clapboard on the first story, with wood shingles on the upper two stories. However, 131 and 133 Providence Street are clad in wood clapboard, with shingle bands between stories. On all, the front porches are flanked by triple windows on each story. Shallow, squared, three-story side bays also have triple windows, and are capped by gables with pediments. In general windows have 6/1 or 8/1 sash, and some have diamond-pane lights. 141 and 143 Providence Street are Craftsman style double three-deckers of nearly identical design. Both have hip roofs with unusual raked overhangs that shelter long, regularly spaced brackets. The symmetrical facades have central, projecting, three-tier porches with gable caps. The porches are supported by paired, square columns, and feature peaked openings with keystones in the third tier. The porches are flanked on either side by shallow, square, three-story bays with triple windows. Three-story, shallow side bays also have triple windows. Windows retain 4/1 and 6/1 sash. These houses are clad in wood clapboard on the first story, shingle on the upper two stories. Simpler in design is 145 Providence Street, with its side-hall plan, asymmetrical facade, and gable roof. A projecting first floor, entry bay portico has pedimented gable. The main facade has triple windows; windows throughout have 6/1 sash. The first and second story side walls are clad in wood clapboard. Elsewhere, the house is covered in wood shingle. The District also contains six garages from the same period of construction as the residences. All have cinder block walls, and are located at the rear of the house lots.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

DISTRICT DATA SHEET
 PROVIDENCE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
 WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

<u>MAP-BLOCK-LOT</u>	<u>MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS-RESOURCE</u>
35-23-7	1889	Sadowski Three-Decker /garage	127 Providence St.	c1930	Col.Rev.	2C-B
35-23-6	1890	Zive Three-Decker /garage	129 Providence St.	c1928	Col.Rev	2C-B
35-23-5	1891	Zive Three-Decker /garage	131 Providence St.	c1926	Col.Rev	2C-B
35-23-4	1892	Swidler Three-Decker /garage	133 Providence St.	c1928	Col.Rev.	2C-B
35-23-3	1893	Zive Three-Decker	135 Providence St.	c1928	Col.Rev.	1C-B
35-23-2	1894	Zive Three-Decker	137 Providence St.	c1928	Col.Rev.	1C-B
35-23-1	1895	Stein Three-Decker /garage	139 Providence St.	c1928	Col.Rev.	1NC-B 1C-B
35-23-51	1896	Johnson Three-Decker /garage	141 Providence St.	c1926	Craftsman	2C-B
35-23-50	1897	Johnson Three-Decker /garage	143 Providence St.	c1926	Craftsman	2C-B
35/23/49	1898	Sacks Three-Decker	145 Providence St.	c.1926	Craftsman	1C-B

TOTAL: 16 Contributing Buildings
 1 Noncontributing Building

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

61. Nelson, Christina, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

62. O'Brien, Richard, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

63. O'Connor, James, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

64. O'Connor, James--John Trybowski Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

65. Perry Avenue Historic District Substantive Review

Keeper

Bella L. Sauge 02-09-90

Attest

66. Petterson, Lars--Adolph Carlson Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

67. Petterson, Lars--Fred Gurney Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

68. Petterson, Lars--Silas Archer Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

69. Petterson, Lars--James--Bidy Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

70. Providence Street Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/9/90

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Providence Street Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: Worcester Three-Deckers MRA

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: 89002381

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

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



PROVIDENCE ST. H.D.
WORCESTER, MA

Worcester Tree Pecker MRA



PROVIDENCE ST. H.D.

WORCESTER, MA

Worcester Three Decker Mkt



PROVIDENCE ST. H. D.
WORCESTER, MA

Worcester Three Decks MPA



PROVIDENCE ST. H.D.
WORCESTER, MA

Worcester Three Decks MRA



PROVIDENCE ST. H. D.

WORCESTER, MA

Worcester Three Pecks MRA

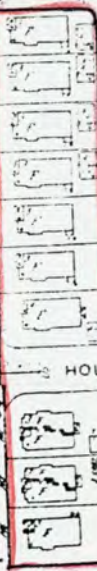
THE GASKILL FIELD
(WORCESTER ACADEMY ATHLETIC FIELD)



Providence Street Historic District, Worcester

PROVIDENCE

PROVIDENCE



N WOODFORD

WOODFORD

KOPING NOT OPEN

CHELFORD

VERNON HILL

PLAYGROUND

Swimming Pool

SWAS

415

WABASH AV

WABASH AV

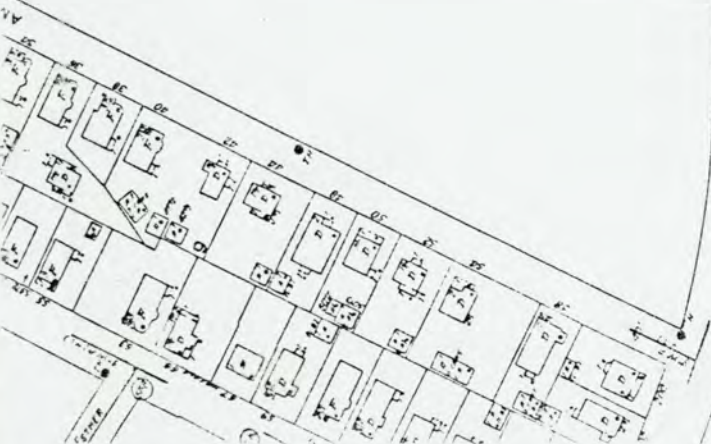
LOXWOOD

CHELFORD

MERRILL MANOR

ANITE

STOCKTON



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305