

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

143-C

1. Town Worcester

Address 132-142 Green Street

Name Crompton Loom Works

Present use industrial/warehouse

Present owner Worcester Green Realty Co.
142 Green St.

3. Description:

Date 1860; later additions

secondary sources--see

Source Bibliography

Style Italianate with alterations

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick

none significant

Outbuildings (describe) visible from street

Other features arched second storey win-
dows along most of the facade, brick
quoining, 3rd floor added

Altered see reverse #9' Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size Assessor's Book 4, p. 22
Lot 13--19,896 Lot 14--5,000 sq.
One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____ ft.

Approximate frontage 250'

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by S. Lee, ed. B. R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date November 1977

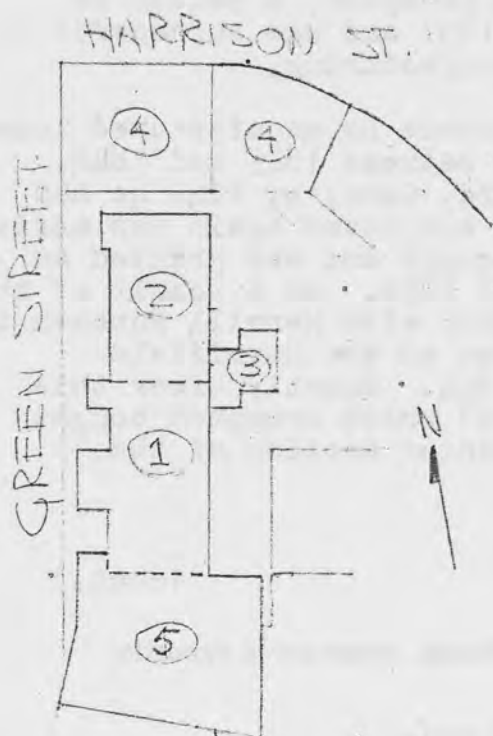
UTM:

19/269190/4681840

(over)

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.



7. Original owner (if known) Crompton Loom Works

Original use factory for the manufacture of power looms

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates general industrial after 1915

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	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)

With sections dating from 1860, the former Crompton Loom Works is among the oldest factory buildings in Worcester and has important historical associations with one of Worcester's largest industries. Although the company was not founded until 1851, the invention of the first power loom capable of weaving fancy goods (upon which its initial success was based) was patented by William Crompton in 1836, the same year in which he first came to the United States. William Crompton, a native of Lancashire, England, returned to England in 1837 and was successful in introducing his looms into English cotton manufacturing.

By 1840, Crompton had returned to Worcester where he manufactured looms until a fire destroyed his factory in 1845. Between 1845 and 1848, Crompton lived in Millbury, Mass. and Hartford, Conn; by 1849 he had become "mentally incapacitated for business" and never again was active in manufacturing. Crompton's son, George, sought and was granted an extension of his father's patent rights until 1858. As a result of this extension, George Crompton formed a partnership with Merrill Furbush in 1851 and, together, the two manufactured looms at the Merrifield building until it was destroyed by fire in 1854. Shortly after this fire, the firm rented space at the "Red Mills" which Crompton bought in 1860 and demolished to make way for the center section of the present structure.

(cont.)

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

Worcester Historical Society. Local Industry File.

Worcester Commercial. Vol 1. no. 11, March 1893, pp. 400-410.

Crompton, George. The Crompton Loom.

Hyde, A.W. Worcester, Its Past and Present, p. 131 (illustration)

Nutt, Charles. History of Worcester and Its People, vol. III, pp. 857-860.

Rice, Franklin P. Worcester in 1898, pp. 460-467.

Washburn, Charles. Industrial Worcester, pp. 87-89.

2.

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

9. In 1859, Furbush withdrew from the business which then remained under George Crompton's direction until his death in 1886. During this period the business expanded rapidly, resulting in major additions to the Green Street factory (see below). Among the firm's most famous inventions was a broad loom, designed by George Crompton in 1857, which quadrupled the productivity of his father's earlier power loom and which caused manufacturers to abandon earlier narrow cassimere looms in favor of the more productive broad looms.. Crompton was awarded the only medal given for textile machinery at the Paris Exposition of 1867 for this loom. In the 1870s, Crompton obtained patents on improvements to the design of the Keighley dobby loom which he introduced into the United States; Crompton also invented the Crompton gingham loom during this period. Although Crompton also held patents on machinery unrelated to looms, only looms were manufactured at the Green Street factory, with the exception of machinery for the manufacture of gunstocks, which Crompton made between 1861 and 1865 for fire-arms manufacturers.

After 1886, the business was incorporated with Crompton's widow as president of the firm, a position occupied by her son Charles after her death in 1895. By 1897, the firm had merged with its chief competitor to form the Crompton and Knowles Loom Works. In 1900, the Cromptons sold their interest in the company. After 1915, the company ceased production at the Green Street factory, although it remains a major local industry.

The Crompton Loom Works Factory is a complex building, the result of many additions built by the Crompton Loom Works and by the Crompton and Knowles Loom Works. The earliest section of the building (#1 on map) stands south of the present tower and was built in 1860. This structure was two stories high with a deep gabled pavilion at its center and smaller flanking end pavilions with arched gables. Between 1881 and 1886, the roof of the south end pavilion was removed while that of the north end pavilion was replaced by an extra storey and a high hip roof, creating the tower on the Green Street facade. At the same time the building was extended northward (Section #2 on map) where it ended in a three-storey pavilion with hip roof. Some time after 1888, probably around the turn of the century, a third storey was added to the entire structure, replacing the original gabled roof and bringing the building to its present appearance. At the rear of the factory (east) is a boiler room (Section #3 on map) which may date from 1860. Other sections of the building (#4 and #5 on map) postdate 1911 and 1922 respectively.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

HISTORIAN

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). *Call/Accept Lightner 10-30-79*
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

Concur with Bruce'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. *DOUBLE*

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 bps 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
M. D. D. 2/28/80*

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. PLEASE WAS MISSING IN SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS.

HAER

THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE

Inventory _____

✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 116-CBD-11

Review _____

130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ ^{AM} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend

Listing all properties ~~except~~ ^{now} these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{with NR staff + State. DOUBLE}

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;

HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State

*3/5/80
DOUBLE*

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 (holding from State)

*Soldner
3/5/80*

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



JUN 1979



by Benley

JUN 1979

30 AUG 1979

143-C

132-142 Green St.

Crampton Loom Works

West Elevation

Worcester MRA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304