



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

September 15, 1981

Ms. Carol Shull,
Acting Keeper
National Register Division
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Ms. Shull:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission requests that the Emory Bannister House in Worcester be removed from the National Register in accordance with 36 CFR 1292.17. The Bannister House, which was listed as part of the Worcester Multiple Resource Area on March 5, 1980, was demolished on July 30, 1981. This unfortunate action took place despite concerted efforts by the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society in cooperation with the owner to find a means of preserving it.

Enclosed you will find supplemental material, including a letter from the owner consenting to the removal.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/mt
encls.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D SEP 23 1981

 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

 INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

 TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS



THE PAUL REVERE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

WORCESTER MASSACHUSETTS 01608

RECEIVED

SEP 16 1981

September 8, 1981 MASS. HIST. COMM.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary of State
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Attention: Ms. Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Re: 3 Harvard Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

As agreed in our recent telephone conversation, enclosed please find a brief statement from The Paul Revere Life Insurance Company joining in the Massachusetts Historical Commission's request to remove the Emory Bannister House from the National Register. The Company was disappointed that there was not enough interest to save this building.

Please send us a copy of your request and explanation to the keeper of the National Register.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated attention.

Very truly yours,

Suzanne Fay Glynn

Suzanne Fay Glynn
Assistant Counsel

SFG/paj
Enc.

cc: Worcester Heritage Preservation Society
71 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01609



THE PAUL REVERE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

WORCESTER MASSACHUSETTS 01608 TEL (617) 799-4441

September 8, 1981

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Secretary of State
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

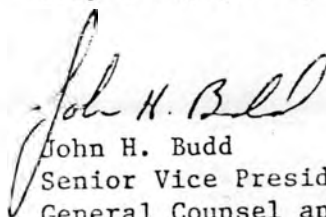
Attention: Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Re: 3 Harvard Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Weslowski:

The Paul Revere Life Insurance Company, as owner of the former residence located at 3 Harvard Street, concurs in the Massachusetts Historical Commission's request that such former residence be removed from the National Register.

Very truly yours,



John H. Budd
Senior Vice President
General Counsel and
Secretary

JHB/paj

NEWS LETTER

Volume 10, Number 4- July-August 1981

ANTIQUÉ SHOW WILL GO IN SPRING OF '82

The Society's Antiques Show at Horticultural Hall has been postponed again -- this time to the spring of 1982. Inability to obtain a license to hold the show at first suggested cancellation. A reversal of the initial decision by the city's License Board came too late to allow preparation for a fall show this year, so Monnie Rockwell and her committee reluctantly decided to postpone until next spring.

NO. 3 HARVARD STREET GONE

The Emory Bannister house at 3 Harvard Street fell to the wrecker's ball July 30th following a nine month attempt to find a buyer willing to move this 1847 Greek Revival residence to a new location.

Designed by Elbridge Boyden, the Paul Revere Life Insurance Company last October offered the house to our Society, plus \$5,000 to help move it, if we could locate a suitable site by May 31. Exploration of available lots in areas of compatible architecture (and many that were not) ended in dismal failure by mid-May in spite of some very encouraging near-misses.

At that point, Paul Revere, anxious to have us succeed, extended the deadline to June 30 giving WHPS a chance to "go public" with appeal advertisements in both the Worcester Telegram, the Evening Gazette, and Worcester Magazine. Essentially, these ads offered the house FREE to anyone who had or could find a suitable lot, and would move the house onto it.

About fifty inquiries came in by phone, letter and personal visit. On June 30 there were three "solid possibles." Another week's extension was granted. One more serious interest surfaced just after July 4. When that lead and the others fell through by July 7, we knew we were licked. The four Doric porch columns of the house were salvaged and are safely stored away awaiting future use.

In every way, the Heritage Society appreciates and thanks the Paul Revere Company and everyone involved who tried so hard to save the late Boyden-Bannister house!

MEMBERS ARE LIFE BLOOD

Anna Mays and her membership committee are mounting a major effort to obtain new members complete with mailings, telethons, and personal follow-ups. Preliminaries will be completed in September. The drive will commence in October with mailings early in the month and the telethon on the 19th and 20th. The committee currently includes Fran

Bannister, Emory, House
(Worcester Multiple Resource Area)

Property

Area

REMOVE

Demo

BOUNDARY REVISION

INCREASE

DECREASE

MOVE

State

MA - Worcester

Working Number

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

demolished - remove from N.R.

Patrick Andrus, Historian - 10/22/81

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS BOUNDARY REVISION IS ACCEPTED ☐ This property is removed from the National Register William H. Brown DATE 10.22.81

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Patrick Andrus

DATE 10/22/81

for CHIEF, BRANCH OF REGISTRATION

THIS FORM IS TO BE FILED WITH THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION.

State notified _____ Federal Register _____ Control Cards _____ ADP _____

INT: 880-78

Ref mo 90000569
FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

116-K

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

Roll 29

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

1. Town Worcester

Address 3 Harvard Street

Name Emory Bannister House

Present use residence

Present owner Marjorie A. Tucker

3. Description:

Date 1847

Source Albert Waite Papers

Style Greek Revival

Architect Elbridge Boyden

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) no none

Other features facade with pedimented
gable, rock-faced granite foundation,

Doric porch

exterior chimney, 2' addition,
Altered front door Date 1905

Moved no Date _____

Assessors' Book 2, p.32
5. Lot size: Lot 4 6,175 sq.ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 60'

Approximate distance of building from street
8'

R. Moore

6. Recorded by ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date November 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Emory Bannister
Original use residence
Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Among the first houses built on Harvard Street after its opening, the Bannister House is a well-preserved example of Greek Revival architecture, one which is unusual for its four-bay facade. The structure rests on a foundation of rock-faced granite; the facade is framed by corner pilasters and has a pedimented gable. Across the first storey of the facade is a Doric porch behind which are three floor-to-ceiling windows and an entry framed by fluted pilasters. Alterations to the structure are minor, consisting of an exterior chimney (south), new front door, and 2' wide addition (north) all added in 1905 by Samuel J. Howard. The Bannister House was built by the Partridge Brothers (of Barre, Massachusetts) from plans drawn by Elbridge Boyden. One of Boyden's earliest known designs, the Bannister House is the only building of its type for which an architect has been identified.

Emory Bannister (born 1809) came to Worcester from Southborough, Massachusetts around 1828 to work as a clerk at the Old Central Hotel (corner of Main and Exchange Streets - demolished) which was then owned by his brother. Beginning in 1833, Bannister worked in the store of Col. Samuel Spurr (corner of Main and Central Streets) until 1839, when he became a bookkeeper and clerk for Osgood Bradley. Between 1854 and 1861 Bannister served as postmaster; later he served as city assessor (1867), alderman (1872) and Worcester representative to the General Court (1874). Bannister was also a trustee of the Mechanics' Bank of Worcester.

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

Albert Waite Papers, Box 6.
Carruth, Louise. Old Worcester Houses (unpublished scrapbooks at Worcester Public Library)
Proceedings: Worcester Society of Antiquity (1896) pp. 272-273.

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

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). DOBIE
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

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. DOBIE

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 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
AKK/DOBIE
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. ALTHOUGH 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 - 16 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 JUDGMENT.

Recommend

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

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;

HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State

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

KEEPER

Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & demo from State), 102-L-3 (returning to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding info from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



WORCESTER HERITAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

71 PLEASANT STREET • WORCESTER • MASSACHUSETTS • 01609

June 10, 1981

Patricia L. Weslowski, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

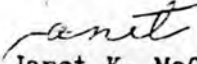
Dear Pat:

We understand that if a building listed in the National Register is moved, it may retain its National Register status if the new location is approved prior to the move.

This Society has been offered the Emory Bannister House, located at 3 Harvard Street, if it can be moved by June 30th. The enclosures explain our present predicament. Three separate parties are attempting to make the necessary arrangements to move the house.

In the event one of them is successful, we request that you be authorized by the Commission to make the decision as to whether or not the new site is compatible.

Very truly yours,


Janet K. McCorison
Executive Director

encl.



The Emory Bannister House - 3 Harvard Street

Among the first houses built on Harvard Street, the Emory Bannister House is a well preserved example of Greek Revival architecture. Built in 1847, it is unusual for its four bay facade. The structure rests on a foundation of rock faced granite and its facade is framed by corner pilasters with a pedimented gable. Across the first storey is a Doric column porch behind which are three floor-to-ceiling windows and an entry framed by fluted pilasters. Alterations to the exterior of the structure have been minor: a chimney to the south, a new front door, and a two-foot addition on the north side - all added in 1905 by Samuel J. Howard. The Bannister House was built by the Partridge Brothers of Barre from plans drawn by Elbridge Boyden. One of Boyden's earliest known designs, this house is the only building of its type for which an architect has been identified.

Emory Bannister, born in 1809, came to Worcester from Southborough about 1828 to work as a clerk in the Central Hotel, then owned by his brother, at the corner of Main and Exchange Streets (now demolished). From 1833 to 1839 he worked in Col. Samuel Spurr's store at the corner of Main and Central. He then became a bookkeeper and clerk for Osgood Bradley, served as postmaster (1854-1861), city assessor (1867), alderman (1872), and Worcester representative to the General Court (1874). He was also a trustee of the Mechanics Bank of Worcester.

Have a House; Just Move It

By PETER P. DONKER
Of the Telegram Staff

"FREE HOUSE," the newspaper advertisement read.

But like most things free, there was a hitch. As the advertisement explained, "...you move it."

Still, an eight-room, two-and-a-half-story Greek Revival style home is not offered free for the taking every day and more than 20 people called the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society after the announcement in the classified ads appeared. Many of the callers appeared to be seriously interested, according to Mrs. Janet McCorison, the society's executive director. They have been told to take a look at the house and come in to the society to see the plans and discuss the project.

Mrs. McCorison said the house offer is legitimate and was made after the society found itself stymied in its efforts to find a place of its own for the 1847 home.

Purchased by the Paul Revere Life Insurance Co. last year to expand parking next to its national home office in Worcester, the company offered the house free to the Heritage Preservation Society. It requested, however, that the house be moved by May 31 from its 3 Harvard St. location. The society figured it could give it a try. It estimated the cost of moving, site preparation at a new location and building of a new foundation would total about \$35,000.

But after more than five months of trying and with the insurance company extending its deadline until the end of this month, Mrs. McCorison said the Preservation Society has so far been unable to come up with a suitable location for the historic home.

The society, she said, would have preferred a site in Worcester's historic Crown Hill neighborhood of Greek Revival homes but everywhere it found an empty lot, the society ran into roadblocks, according to Mrs. McCorison.

With a 33-foot front, Mrs. McCorison said the house "cannot be moved down every street. It is quite wide."

Some lots were too small for the house, or the cost of site development was too high.

Other lots were not available for purchase.

Checking towards the Elm Park neighborhood on one side and the



Telegram Photo by LEO E. MEYER

House offered free for the moving.

Piedmont neighborhood on the other side of Crown Hill, the society ran into similar problems.

It has been a very frustrating experience, according to Mrs. McCorison.

One suggestion was to move the house to a vacant lot on Pleasant Street and have it used for office space. But this plan fizzled, too.

"We seemed to have reached dead-end," Mrs. McCorison said. So the society turned to advertising. The ad ran in the Worcester News and the May 31 Sunday Telegram.

Calls came in from people in Worcester but also from communities and as far away as Berlin and West Brookfield. The man from West Brookfield, a carpenter, was thinking about disassembling the house before moving it, Mrs. McCorison said.

She described the house as structurally sound and while the cost of

moving and site preparation would be substantial, she said it would still offer several advantages: the house is spacious; it would be far less expensive than building a new one, it is a handsome home and it would offer a lot more house for the investment.

As the advertisement explained: "You may acquire this house without payment to the Society," and the taker would have to agree to move the house at his or her expense before June 30, anywhere in Worcester County, but with location in Worcester preferred.

Still another stipulation before one is allowed to truck the house away is that the new owner has to preserve its outside appearance. After all, the 1847 home is placed on the National Register.

Mrs. McCorison said the society has not given up yet on the house. But with time growing short, "we felt we should try every avenue."

Hence the advertisement.

Bannister, Emory, House
(Resource Name)

Worcester
(County)

80000569
(Reference Number[s])

MA
(State)

3 / 8 / 2018
(Date Form Completed)

WACC
(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING _____ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED ☒ 3. NHL _____ 4. TR _____ 5. MRA _____ 6. OVERSIZED _____ 7. NPS UNDOCUMENTED _____ 8. DOE- OWNER OBJECTION _____ 9. RESTRICTED _____

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ();
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ();

2. _____
(Cause for Removal)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Removed)

3. _____
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If Multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If Multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

_____/_____/_____
(Target Date)

COMMENTS: (Where found or source of replacement)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Found/Replaced)