

2401

AREA

FORM NO.

BA

1565

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester

Address 50 Dorchester Street

Historic Name Patrick McGrath
Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1894

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Queen Anne

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard and

Outbuildings none shingle

Major Alterations (with dates) porch
balustrades replaced

Condition good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreeage less than 1/4 acre

Setting Late 19th century urban,
multi-family residential neighborhood
in a row of three-deckers on a steep
hillslope.

Recorded by Montine Jordan

Organization Clark University

Date February 1981

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).

Indicate north

See attached map.

UTM REFERENCE 19/269460/4681270

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Patrick McGrath Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant for its association with the early Irish working-class, residential development of the western slope of Grafton Hill in the late 19th century. It is also an unusually intact, well-detailed example of early Queen Anne style three-decker design in the earliest core of three-decker development in the Grafton Hill/Vernon Hill area. The McGrath Three-Decker 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 buildings within the community.

Architecturally, 50 Dorchester Street is a remarkably intact, well-detailed example of the earliest phase of Queen Anne style local three-decker design. The house has the characteristic hip roof, side-hall plan, and side-wall jog. The asymmetrical main facade has an end bay entry with panelled double doors. The entry bay is flanked by a projecting, three-story bay window. The outstanding feature of the house is its full-length, first floor porch, which wraps around to the side-wall jog. The porch retains its turned posts, ball-and-spindle frieze, and solid decorative brackets, although the balustrade spindles have been replaced. The porch roof cornice overhang has solid paired decorative brackets. Heavy brackets also decorate the main roof cornice overhang, and larger brackets mark the corners. The house is clad in wood clapboard, with a shingle band between the second and third stories.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Built ca. 1894, the McGrath Three-Decker was built as part of a row of similar houses on the lower western slope of Grafton Hill. By the last decade of the 19th century, many of Worcester's Irish families were relocating out of the older low-lying, high density neighborhoods at the edge of downtown to newly built three-decker districts on the hill slopes of the East Side. The Dorchester Street area formed an early core of modestly stylish three-decker construction in the newly developing Grafton Hill neighborhood. The first known owner of 50 Dorchester Street was Patrick J. McGrath, a carpenter, who lived here. Tenants in 1894 included Edward Burke, a laborer; William Burke, a helper; John Rollison, a stone cutter; and Sarah Rollison, a teacher. The McGrath family continued to own and occupy the house through 1910, when other residents included Joseph Turffs, a barber; and William Mahooney, a linotyper. By 1920, the owner was John F. Lee, a shipper, who also resided here. Lee owned the building through 1930. Other residents during this period included Edward Duncan, a clerk; Dennis Healey, a chauffer; and Fred Bjurstrom, a foreman.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1894, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan, Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Decker MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- 51. Massad, Anthony, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 52. McCafferty, Elizabeth, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth L. Savage 02-08-90
Attest _____
- 53. McCarron, Andrew, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 54. McDermott, John B., Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 55. McGrath, Patrick, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 56. McGuinness, Patrick, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 57. McPartland, Frank, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 58. McPartland, James, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 59. Munroe, Sarah, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 60. Murphy, Patrick, Three-Decker ^{Entered in the} National Register Keeper Helene 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: McGrath, Patrick, Three-Decker

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: 89002407

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 _____

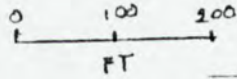
Signed _____ Date _____



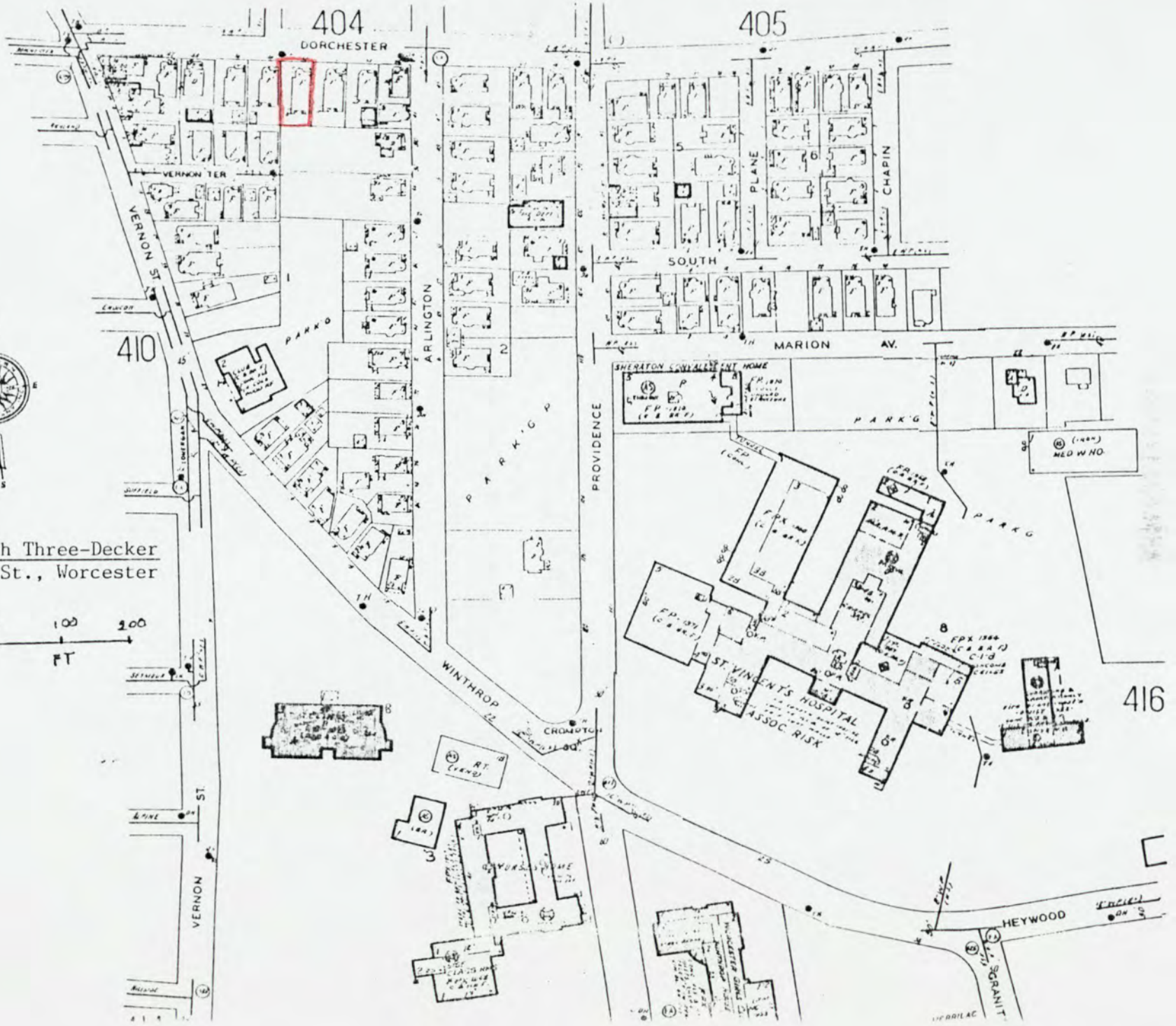
Worcester Three Decker MA

PATRICK McGRATH THREE DECKER
50 DORCESTER STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MHC # 1565





Patrick McGrath Three-Decker
50 Dorchester St., Worcester
NHIC # 1565



404
DORCHESTER

405

410

416

SHERATON CONVALESCENT HOME
F.P. 1210
F.P. 1212
(F & B 847)

(1443)
MED W HO.

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL
ASSOC. RISK

WINTHROP

HEYWOOD

VERNON ST

ARLINGTON

PROVIDENCE

MARION AV.

SOUTH

VERNON TER

VERNON ST

PLANE

CHAPIN

VERNON ST

SCRANTON

HEBRILAC

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305