

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

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

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.

Town Worcester

Address 21 Jefferson Street

Historic Name Bridget Shea Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1888

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Queen Anne style Three-Decker

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard and cut shingle

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) Replacement of original porch balustrade and posts.

Condition very good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting urban, multi-family residential street

Recorded by Montine Jordan

Organization Clark University

Date February 1981

Revised by Michael Steinitz for MHC -

UTM REFERENCE 19/269410/4681520

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Bridget Shea Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant for its association with the earliest focus of three-decker development on Grafton Hill, a neighborhood whose residents were primarily of Irish descent. It is also an unusually well-preserved example of the modestly designed Queen Anne style three-deckers that characterized this late 19th century hillside, working class area. The Shea 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, 21 Jefferson Street is a remarkably well-preserved example of the use of Queen Anne style elements in three-decker construction. The house is clad in wood clapboard and cut shingle, with simple cornerboards. The hip roof shelters large decorative corner braces set in the cornice overhang. The building has a typical side-hall plan with a side-wall jog. The asymmetrical main facade contains an entry bay with a single-story, projecting porch, flanked by a three-story, projecting square bay window. The bay window has shingled window skirts between stories. The double-leaf, panelled entry door contains geometric pattern stained glass lights with pedimented caps. Second and third story windows in the stairwell above the entry also have small, stained glass lights. Other windows have 1/1 or 2/1 sash, and decorative casements and caps.

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

The Shea Three-Decker is located in the early core area of the Irish residential district that developed on the northwest slope of Grafton Hill in the last decade of the 19th century. More fashionable, multi-family, working-class neighborhoods developed on the hillslopes of Worcester's ethnic East Side as families moved out of the older, central city residential districts. The earliest known owner of 21 Jefferson was Bridget Shea, and the Shea family resided here until ca. 1920. Residents in 1890 included Jeremiah and Michael Shea, both machinists, and Sven and Pontus Roos, both molders. In 1910, besides the Sheas, residents included Morris Moriarty, a laborer; John Moriarty, a clerk; and John Strozina, a weaver. By 1920, the building was owned by Michael Doherty, a watchman, and later a flueblower for the Boston and Albany Railroad. Doherty owned the building through 1930. Residents in that year included Thomas McGinn, a janitor; and Michael Innis, a garage foreman.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Worcester Directory; Worcester House Directory, 1888, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/26/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Decker MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

71. Provost, Arthur, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

72. Reed, Frank, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

73. Ridyard, Albert, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

74. Ridyard, B. E., Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

75. Riordan, John, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

76. Roynane, Catharine, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

77. Shea, Bridget, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

78. Simpson, Clara, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

79. Smith, Ellen M., Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

80. Stoliker, Edna, Three-Decker

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Betsy Savage 02-09-90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Shea, Bridget, 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: 89002400

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
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

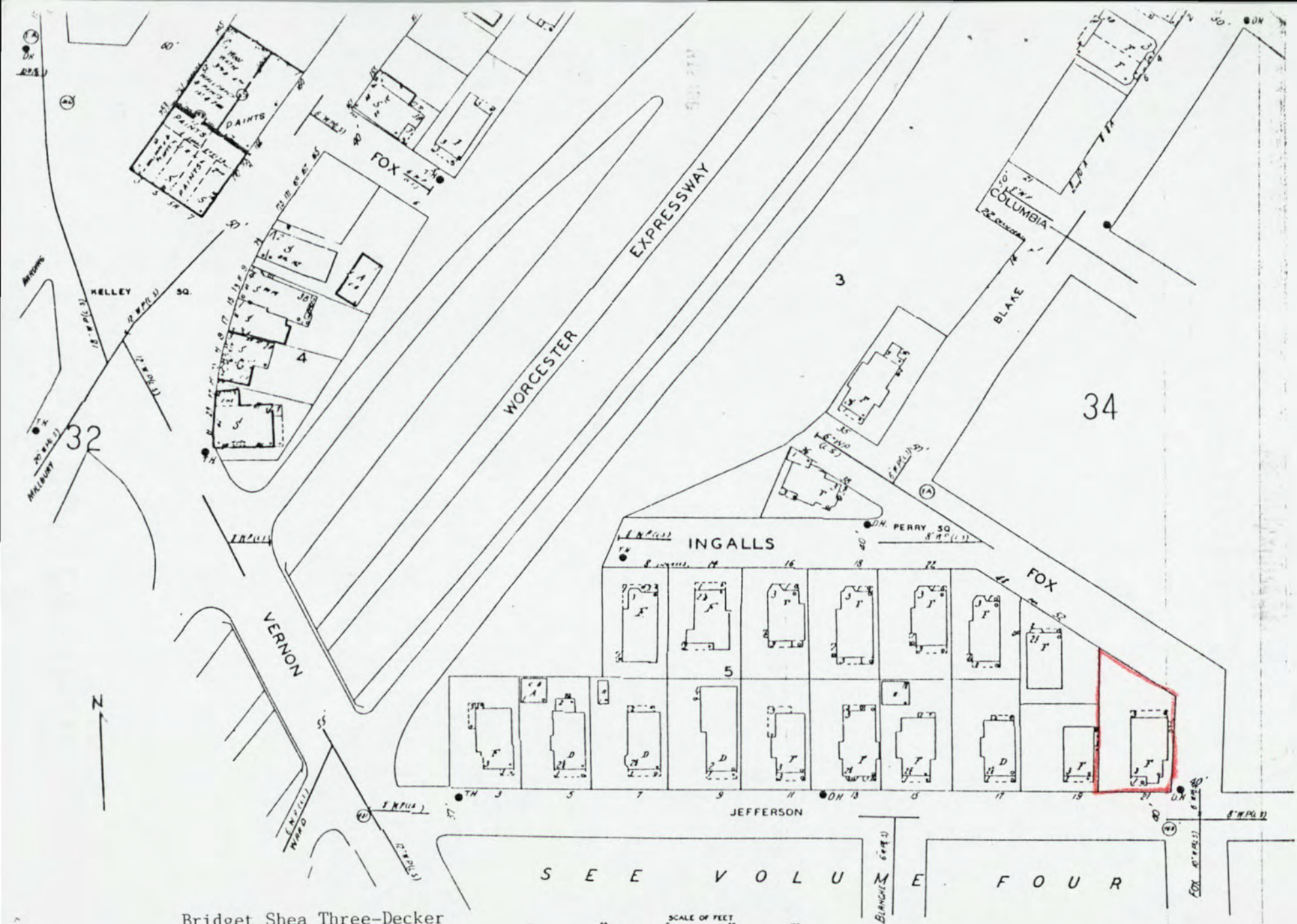
Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



BRIDGET SHEA THREE DECKER
21 JEFFERSON STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MHC # 1650

Worcester Three Decker MHA



Bridget Shea Three-Decker
 21 Jefferson St., Worcester
 MHC # 1650

SCALE OF FEET
 COPYRIGHT SANBORN MAP COMPANY, INC.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305