

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

103-M-2

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

Roll 21

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 15 Elizabeth Street
Name Joel Flagg House *Gale, George*
Present use residence

Present owner Daniel J. Rutherford

3. Description:

Date 1848-1849

Source Worcester Deeds

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features corner pilasters, pedi-

mented gable, over-sized 1st-storey

window, Doric porch on two sides

Altered shutters Date mid-20th century

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 1, p.27

Lot 9 23,649 sq.ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 160'

Approximate distance of building from street

30'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date April 1979

(over)

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

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)

The Joel Flagg House is an excellent local example of Greek Revival style architecture, consisting of a two-storey frame structure with a side hall floor plan. The house's facade is framed by corner pilasters which support an entablature and cornice which are carried across the gable to give the appearance of a pediment. Extending around the house's west and south sides is an open Doric porch behind which the first storey has oversized 6/6 windows. Except for a small shed dormer on its south side, the Flagg House is substantially unaltered.

Once a common building type (particularly during the 1840s and 1850s when hillsides around the central business district became the city's first suburbs), Greek Revival style houses such as 15 Elizabeth Street have become increasingly rare. Together with the nearby Leonard Sturtevant House (Form 117-F) the Flagg House is among the last unaltered houses of the 1840s and 1850s extant on Chandler Hill. The lot on which the house stands was sold to Joel Flagg (occupation unknown) by David Messinger, a land speculator, in May of 1848. By 1849, #15 Elizabeth Street was occupied by Flagg, who lived here until his death (ca. 1854), after which the house was sold to George Gale, a paper manufacturer, in 1859. Gale occupied the house from 1860 until the turn of the century.

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

City atlases and directories

Worcester County Deeds. Book 435, p.479, 5/1/1848 (Messinger to Joel Flagg)
 Book 611, p.644, 6/2/1859 (Mary Flagg, widow, to George W. Gale)

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). 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 #4. Integrity and/or boundaries need to be addressed specifically on individual forms. DOUBLE

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. PBDS were not necessary because

OTHER

Accept
M. G. G. G.
2/28/80

of the scale mapping clearly delineated boundaries. A fence was missing on 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
- 130-CBD-44 - does not retain integrity for individual eligibility

Review _____

- ✓ 102-L-3 I ~~don't~~ am not convinced about boundaries but believe they could be OK. ~~Based~~

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.

Recommend now listing all properties except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ to discuss further w/ NR staff + State. DOUBLE
Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

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 (filing from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



by Bertay
Prestige Prints
JUN 1979
80 AUG 1979

103-M-2

15 Elizabeth St.

Gale, George, House
west & south

elevations

Worcester MRA, Ma

by Bertay
Prestige Prints
JUN 1979

Roll 34

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304