

FORM B - BUILDING

80000597

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

In Area no.

Form no.

129-C

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

Roll #23

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 408 Pleasant Street
Name Pleasant Street Firehouse
Present use fire station
Present owner City of Worcester

3. Description:

Date 1873
Source date plaque
Style Victorian
Architect unknown
Exterior wall fabric brick
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features pedimented facade and
side pavilion, cupola/bell tower,
recessed wall panels with corbelling
granite trim
Altered doors Date mid-20th century
Moved no Date _____
Lot size: Assessors' Book 6, p.8
Lot 2 6,215 sq.ft.
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 50'
Approximate distance of building from street
20'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer & S. Lee
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date February 1978

(over)

UTM: 5.
19/267710/4682640

7. Original owner (if known) City of Worcester
 Original use firehouse
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	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)

Begun in 1873 and completed in 1874, the Pleasant Street Firehouse is the oldest fire station in use in Worcester. The building was one of three which were begun in 1873, perhaps in response to the two great fires which had devastated Boston (1872) and Chicago (1871). The other two buildings were located on John Street (now demolished) and Lamartine Street (severely altered, now used as a police station). Considering the date of its construction and the sophistication of Worcester architects (who were then designing buildings in the Victorian Gothic and Second Empire styles), the Pleasant Street Firehouse appears curiously out-dated for its era. The building's pedimented facade (originally with two arched entries), slightly projecting side pavilion with a pediment and circular light, and the open cupola (used originally for a fire alarm bell) centered on the building's roof are reminiscent of Federalist and Greek Revival style public buildings of the first half of the nineteenth century rather than the more "picturesque" Second Empire and Victorian Gothic public buildings which were being built in Worcester during the 1870s. More in keeping with the period of the building's construction are its window lintels and recessed wall panels with corbelled cornices.

In 1873 the city purchased the Pleasant Street lot from Daniel Waldo Lincoln for \$460.60. Although city documents offer an accounting of the building's cost, no architect is named; instead, the Auditor's Report notes merely that a total of \$407.75 was paid for plans for the Lamartine Street and Pleasant Street Firehouses. Although evidence suggests that the Lamartine Street building was designed by the firm of Earle & Fuller

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) the lack of stylistic similarity between the two buildings as well as the lack of documentation preclude any attribution for the design of the Pleasant Street Firehouse.

City Document #28, year ending 11/30/1873, p. 389.

Taylor, Anthony. "Architectural Neighborhoods of Worcester", unpublished manuscript.

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 or 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 Lighten 10-30-79}
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

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}

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
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. BIDS WERE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE

OTHER

ACCEPT
N/A
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. FLEMING 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~~ ^{now} 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 ~~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

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 fruit from state)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



129 C80 AUG 1979

408 Pleasant St.

Pleasant Street Firehouse

Worcester MA, Ma

East - north elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304