

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

1625

Town Worcester

Address 68 Mason Street

Historic Name Charles A. Hall 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. 1896

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) none

Condition excellent

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting urban multi-family residential neighborhood

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization Clark University

Date May 1980

Revised by Michael Steinitz for NHC - 12/88

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 19/267290/4681980

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Charles A. Hall Three-Decker possesses intergrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building is a representative example of the extension of multi-family residential houses westward from downtown Worcester at the end of the 19th century, as employment opportunities in the city's factories and businesses continued to expand. The building is also a remarkably well-preserved example of the use of Queen Anne style design in local three-decker construction during the period. The Hall 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, 68 Mason Street is an unusually well-preserved example of Queen Anne style three-decker construction in Worcester. Sheathed in wood clapboard and cut shingle, the building has a characteristic side-hall plan, with a side-wall jog. The asymmetrical main facade contains an entry bay with a projecting first floor porch, flanked by a projecting squared bay window. Although found in other Worcester neighborhoods, the squared bay variation was uncommon in the southern part of the city. Here the bay is decorated with cut shingle bands and window overhangs between stories, contains paired windows of 1/1 sash topped by bracketed crowns, and is capped by a projecting roof gable. Porch details include turned posts and heavy, curved decorative support brackets characteristic of the neighborhood. The entry has a double-leaf, panelled door. Regularly spaced decorative brackets, and larger, more elaborate corner brackets are located in the roof cornice overhang. Window sash is 1/1 and 2/1, with bracketed crowns, and geometric design stained glass windows light the stairwells.

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

Erected ca. 1896, the Hall Three-Decker is located at the southern periphery of a concentration of three-deckers built along Dewey Street and Bancroft Street in the last decade of the 19th century, in a mixed neighborhood of cottages, three-deckers, and factories southwest of downtown Worcester. The house was originally owned by Charles A. Hall, a salesman, and remained in the Hall family until ca. 1920. In the 1920s, it was owned and occupied by John J. Conway, a moulder. Besides Charles Hall, early residents (in 1898) included A.B. Southwick, a machinist; and Harold Smith, a shipper. Occupants in 1912 included Nelson Polter, an engineer; Charles Streeter, a conductor; Lawrence Miller, a clerk; and George Kester, a provisions merchant. Residents in 1920 included Ernest Harris, a razor maker; and James Conway, a confectioner.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1896, 1898, 1912, 1920, 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 Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA  
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- 31. Hall Charles A., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 32. Hirst, Samuel, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 33. Houghton Street Historic District **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth Savage 02-09-90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 34. Hunt, Daniel, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. Hunt, David, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 36. Ingleside Avenue Historic District **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 37. Ingraham, Harry B., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 38. Johnson, Edwin, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 39. Johnson, John and Edward, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew Byers 2/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 40. Johnson, John, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Andrew 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: Hall, Charles A., 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: 89002423

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Worcester Three Decker MRA

CHARLES A. HALL THREE DECKER

68 MASON STREET

WORCESTER, MA

MHC # 1625



**Kodalux**

Processing Services  
MAY 89 N



**Kodalux**

Processing Services  
MAY



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305