

FORM B - BUILDING

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

ref no 80000495

In Area no.	Form no.
	165-H

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

Roll 13

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

1. Town Worcester  
Address 699 Southbridge Street  
Name St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Present use church  
Parish of St. Matthew's  
Present owner Episcopal Church

3. Description:  
Date 1894  
Source cornerstone  
Style Gothic Revival  
Architect Stephen Earle (Earle and Fisher)  
Exterior wall fabric granite & sandstone  
Outbuildings (describe) none  
Other features pointed arch entry  
surmounted by rose window, square tower with circular plan side tower, buttresses  
Altered parish house Date mid-20th  
rebuilt century  
Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

UTM 19/267980/4680390

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 7, p.36  
Lot 27  
7,168 sq.ft.; Lot 28 5,379 sq.ft.  
One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximate frontage 250'  
Approximate distance of building from street  
10'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer  
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.  
Date January 1978

(over)

AT-1-1

7. Original owner (if known) St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Original use church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

Constructed of rock-faced granite and ornamented with Bothic and Romanesque motifs, St. Matthew's Church was constructed by the Norcross Brothers and remains in original condition. The building's Southbridge Street facade consists of the high gable of the nave (with rose window) beneath which is a slight porch with pointed-arch entry. North of the nave is a square-plan tower which rises in stages to a belfry, crenellated parapet and low, pyramidal roof. At the tower's northwest corner is a circular-plan side tower which rises to a conical (stone roof) and finial. Side elevations of the church have side aisles of stone construction above which are stucco-covered clerestories. Immediately south of the church and connected to it by a passageway is a modern parish house.

St. Matthew's was the first of four Episcopal missions to be founded in Worcester, through the encouragement of William Huntington, rector of All Saints Episcopal Church from 1862 to 1883, later the rector of Grace Church in New York City. Named for the writers of the four Gospels, these missions were founded between 1869 and 1908. Money began to be raised for St. Matthew's in 1869; land was purchased at the corner of Southbridge and Washburn Streets, where a wooden chapel was built in 1871. In 1874 the mission was reorganized as a parish, one of whose prominent members was manufacturer Matthew J. Whittall (Form 177-D-1). The parish's first rector was Henry Mackay. By 1880, when the first church was consecrated, the parish had fifty members. In 1882 additional land was purchased and a hall constructed.

(cont.)

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

Engineering and Building Record, vol. XXIX, 1/20/1894, p.132 (building notice)

Worcester's Columbian Tribute (1893) p. 113 (photo)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp.854-857 (photo)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 165-H
Property Name: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9. Movement to construct the present building began in 1890 with the purchase of its lot. A rectory was built in 1890, but the church was not begun until 1893. The cornerstone was set in May of 1894 at a ceremony attended by Bishop William Lawrence, who also consecrated the building on May 22, 1896. In addition to his other gifts to the parish, Matthew Whittall made a gift of \$30,000 toward the construction costs of the new church.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 383 + 13  
Maps 2, 63

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). Opposition is high. Minor problems w/ some properties are listed on attached sheets.

**HISTORIAN**  
Call/Accept  
Lightner  
10-30-79

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.

**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 bldg 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. WBDs WERE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE

**OTHER**  
ACCEPT  
M.M. ROYAL  
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. RELEVANCE WAS MISSING ON SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS. THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE  
✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 116 CBD-11  
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am not~~ <sup>am</sup> NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. BASED ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

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

3/5/80  
DOUBLE  
**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 & demo from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding from state)

Soldner  
3/5/80

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered MAR 5 1980  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>SEE 3/13/80 REPORT</sup>



Roll 33

JUN 1979



by Berkey

190 AUG 1979

Worcester, MA, Ma

165-H

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

699 Southbridge

West & North  
elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304