

ref no 20000615

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	130-CBD-68

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

Roll #27

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 24-44 Southbridge Street
Name Stevens Building
Present use commercial/vacant

Present owner Stevens Properties
36 Portland Street

3. Description:

Date 1851-1860; ca.1867; 1870-78

Source city atlases, directories

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick, granite

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features continuous trabeated

granite store fronts along South-
bridge Street, corbelling,
bracketed cornice

roof raised
Altered central Date ca.1906
section

Moved no Date _____

UTM: 19/268740/4682270
5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p.10
Lot 6 13,375 sq.ft.
One acre or less .x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 200'

Approximate distance of building from street
10'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc

Date November 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Daniel and Charles Pardon Stevens

Original use commercial/light industry

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> X </u>	Exploration/	<u> </u>	Science/	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	settlement	<u> </u>	invention	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> X </u>	Social/	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	humanitarian	<u> </u>
Community development	<u> X </u>	Political	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Stevens Building is one of Worcester's most imposing commercial blocks of the mid-nineteenth century. Built in several sections, the block is a four-storey structure with finished elevations facing Southbridge Street and Burnside Court. The building is covered by a low pitched roof except over the center 13 bays of the Southbridge Street facade, where there is a full fifth storey covered by a flat roof. North and south of the central five-storey section, the building's walls are divided into bays by brick piers which rise to corbelling; at the roof a deep wooden cornice is supported by paired brackets. Along the Southbridge Street facade are continuous, trabeated store fronts of hammered granite. Other features of the building include granite window sills and lintels, a granite name plaque and copper cornice over the five-storey section of the facade.

The first portions of the present structure were built between 1851 and 1860 for an unknown owner. Containing three store fronts, the original structure is probably contained in the central sections of the present block's Southbridge Street facade. Around 1866-1867 the Stevens Brothers apparently bought the earlier block and extended it northward to Burnside Court, where they moved their "sash, door and blind" factory in 1867. By 1870 the two brothers owned the entire block to Myrtle Street and had built the southernmost seven bays of the present structure as a free-standing block. Between 1870 and 1878 this southern section was connected to the rest of the structure and the building was made to appear substantially as it does today. In 1906 the block was damaged by a major

(cont.)

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

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. III, pp.162-163.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 130-CBD- 68
Property Name: Stevens Building	

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

9.
fire, at which time the copper cornice (and perhaps the fifth storey) was added to the central section of the Southbridge Street facade.

The Stevens brothers were both born in Charlton, Mass. (Daniel, 1818-1888; Charles, 1829-1885). In 1849 Charles Stevens went to California in search of gold, returning to Worcester in late 1849. In 1850 both brothers went to California and returned to Worcester around 1853, at which time they worked as painters. In 1854 they began manufacturing sash, doors and blinds on Main Street. Later business interests included a flour and grain business which they established in the Stevens Building and further real estate development along Southbridge Street. In the mid-1860s Charles and Daniel Stevens built a new house on the site of a home they had occupied since the early 1850s. (See Individual Building Form 142-A-1)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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). ^{Historian} Call/Accept
^{Lightner} 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. ^{Architectural Historian} 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 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. BDDs were not necessary because

OTHER

Accept
MacDougal
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. ~~Alredge~~ ^{Alredge} was missing on some properties but ~~is~~ ^{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 ~~don't~~ ^{am} not convinced about boundaries

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

but believe they could be OK. ~~Based~~ ^{Based}

on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.

Recommend ^{now} listing all properties ~~except~~ ^{except} these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further} w/NR staff + State. ^{DOUBLE} 3/5/80
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



80 AUG 1979

steves Bulfinch

130 - CBD - 68

wereos for MR A, Ma

24-44

Southbridge St

West elevations



Sketch 15 30 AUG 1979

130-CBD-68

Stevens Building

24-44 across to MRA, MA

Southbridge St

South & east
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304