

## FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

130-M

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 WorcesterAddress 38 Chatham StreetName Cathedral Church of St. PaulPresent use church

Present owner Roman Catholic Bishop of  
Worcester  
49 Elm Street, Worcester

## 3. Description:

Date 1869Source cornerstoneStyle Victorian GothicArchitect Elbridge Boyden & SonExterior wall fabric rock-faced graniteOutbuildings (describe) none on lot

Other features entry porch with pointed  
carved (foliate) capitals, corner tow  
with crenellations, buttresses,  
pinnacles

\_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

UTM: 5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p. 19A,  
lot 7 28,102 sq. ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 150'

Approximate distance of building from street  
10'

S. Lee

6. Recorded by ed. B.T. PfeifferOrganization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.Date January 1978

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church

Original use church

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>  x  </u>  |
| Architectural         | <u>  x  </u>  | Exploration/<br>settlement | <u>      </u> | Science/<br>invention   | <u>      </u> |
| The Arts              | <u>      </u> | Industry                   | <u>      </u> | Social/<br>humanitarian | <u>      </u> |
| Commerce              | <u>      </u> | Military                   | <u>      </u> | Transportation          | <u>      </u> |
| Communication         | <u>      </u> | Political                  | <u>      </u> |                         |               |
| Community development | <u>      </u> |                            |               |                         |               |

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

Begun in 1868 and completed (with the exception of its tower) in 1874, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (also known as St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church) is perhaps Worcester's finest Victorian Gothic church building. The church has a traditional plan of nave and transept with covered side aisles. The building's major facade (north) is asymmetrical with a square-plan tower (west), gable with pointed arch windows, and a secondary tower with stone turret (east). The major tower rises in stages with buttresses at its corners; above the ridge of the nave this tower has a belfry formed by pointed arches; above the tower is surrounded by a crenellated parapet with pinnacles at its four corners. Also on the facade is an open porch made up of pointed arches set in polished granite columns. The side walls of the church are divided into bays of equal size, each containing a pointed arch window at the ground level and a smaller one at the clerestory. Unlike most local Roman Catholic churches (which were designed by several Boston architects chosen by the archdiocese), St. Paul's was designed by a Worcester architect, Elbridge Boyden. The building is constructed of gray granite and cost \$200,000 to build. In 1889 the tower was completed, based on Boyden's original plans of which a water-color rendering is in the collection of the Worcester Historical Society.

St. Paul's Parish was formed by John Power, rector of St. Anne's Parish, who purchased the site of St. Paul's Church in 1866. A building fund was established in 1867 and the basement of the present building completed in 1869. Services were held in the basement beginning July 4, 1869, until the

(cont.)

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

Worcester Historical Society. Architectural drawings.

Worcester Telegram, 4/29/1923.

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, pp. 870-874 (photo.)

Stevens, C.E. Worcester Churches, p. 113 (architect's drawings)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Worcester

Form No:

130-M

Property Name:

Cathedral Church of St. Paul

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

9. main church hall was completed. By 1889 the congregation had grown to 3600 members. Land neighboring the church was gradually purchased. In 1906 a women's home was founded, in 1912 a parochial school was opened, and in 1914 a convent was completed. At the height of the church's activity its property housed more than three hundred people in its homes for women, "working girls" and orphans.

In 1903 the interior of the church underwent a redecoration, thought to have cost \$100,000. According to contemporary accounts, a main altar of white marble, bronze gates for the sanctuary, sculpted stations of the Cross and gold mosaic tiles in the sanctuary were all added at this time. A more recent modernization of the interior, including addition of new stained glass windows, was carried out in the late 1960s, and in 1978 the building's exterior was steam cleaned.

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). <sup>Owner</sup> opposition is high. 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 44. 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~~ <sup>both</sup> 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. BPS were not necessary because

OTHER

Accept  
MacDonald  
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Pledge 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 - 16 CBD-11

Review \_\_\_\_\_

130-CBD-44 - does not retain integrity for individual eligibility

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~was~~ <sup>am</sup> not convinced about boundaries

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

but believe they could be OK. ~~Based~~

on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.

Recommend listing all properties <sup>now</sup> except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;~~ <sup>Return 102-L-3 to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11</sup> to discuss further w/ NR staff + State. DOUBLE

BRANCH CHIEF

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 & clean from State), 102-L-3 (returning to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (eligibility from State)

Soldner  
3/5/80

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 5 1980



Prestige Prints  
by Berkeley

JAN 1978

JAN 1978

30 AUG 1979

130-M  
Cathedral Church of St. Paul  
38 Chatham St  
Worcester MA, Ma  
North & West  
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304

YF

Worcester Multiple Resource  
+ Center.

5-11-79

St. Paul's Cathedral  
38 High Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

MA

Dear Mr. Herrynton,

This is acknowledge your recent  
letter to the Roman Catholic Bishop of  
Worcester concerning the possible listing  
of "Worcester Multiple Resource Area,  
38 Chatham St. Worcester, Mass."

We are tax-free as a charitable  
organization. However, we would  
be interested in being listed as a National  
Historic Place.

Any correspondence may be  
addressed to me at the above address.

Sincerely yours in X's.

John S. Keeleher P.P.

To

Charles A. Herrington

Acting Keeper of the National Register

Washington, D.C.

20243.

Oct 22. 1979

OCT 30

10/1/79