

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

116-L-32

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

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

1. Town WorcesterAddress 18-20 West StreetName Merrill Double HousePresent use residential

Present owner David Limric
40 Grove Street
Wellesley, Ma. 02181

3. Description:

Date ca. 1879Source city atlases & directoriesStyle Victorian GothicArchitect unknownExterior wall fabric brickOutbuildings (describe) none

Other features symmetrical plan, decorated
window lintels and other trim
of cast concrete, porch columns with
foliate capitals, three storey high bay
windows with jurkin-head roofs, original
slate work

Altered no Date _____Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p. 27,
Lot 32 7,578 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____Approximate frontage 61'

Approximate distance of building from street

10'

6. Recorded by C. DeMallie
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.Date February 1978

(over)

UTM:
19/268230/4682800

7. Original owner (if known) Enoch Merrill, heirs

Original use double residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	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)

In unaltered condition, the Merrill Double House is an excellent local example of Victorian Gothic architecture. The house is two and one-half stories high, of brick construction, and is arranged symmetrically about a center party wall. The building's facade (east) has paired entries at its center, an entry porch supported by columns with stylized foliate capitals, bay windows flanking the entries, steep gables with barge boards and jurkin-head dormers. On both side elevations (north and south) are rectangular plan bays which rise to a wood-sheathed third storey and steeply pitched roofs with jurkin-head gables. An extremely unusual detail of the house is its "cast-stone" trim which consists of window lintels, sills and foundation facings. Although Worcester manufacturers are known to have been making "cast-stone" (concrete) trim in the 1870s, the Merrill House is the earliest building with concrete trim to have been identified.

The house was first occupied in 1879 by William A. Denholm (#18), a dry-goods merchant, who founded the Boston Store in 1879, a business which later became the city's largest department store. In 1881, #20 West Street was occupied by Frederick Clark, a provisioner. #18-20 West Street was apparently built as an investment by the heirs of Enoch Merrill, a variety-store owner who had built his own home on this site in the 1840s. In plan and detail the Merrill Double House resembles several other double houses (of frame construction - now altered) built on the West Side during the early 1880s, although no architect has yet been identified for any of them.

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

City atlases and directories

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

ACCEPT
MURPHY
2/28/80

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

KEEPER

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

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). Downer opposition is high. Minor problems w/ 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

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. VBDS WERE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. ALREDGE 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

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ ^{AM} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES

BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend

Listing all properties ^{now} except these 3.

Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ w/NR staff + State. DOUBLE

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:

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 (listing from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry _____

2.3.81

Re-submit _____

SEE 3/3/80 REPORT



Double Merrill Double Hole
Worcester MRA, MA

by Berkey

Prestige Prints

JAN 1978

by Berkey

Prestige Prints

JAN 1978

30 AUG 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304