

FORM B - BUILDING

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

ref no 80000587

In Area no.

Form no.

117-A-1

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 Worcester

Address 25 Union Street

Name Salisbury Factory Building-25
Union Street

Present use Factory & restaurant

Present owner A. J. Realty Co.
90 Grove Street, Worc.

3. Description:

Date 1879

Source date plaque

Style elements of Victorian Gothic

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric red brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features sandstone string courses
& window trim; plaque bearing initials
"S.S."; parapet with stepped central
section.

sash(4th storey)
Altered elevator shaft . Date 1978-79
added

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 2, p. 1,
Lot 19 13,176 sq.ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 125'

Approximate distance of building from street

7'

6. Recorded by S. Ceccacci, S. Lee
& B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization WHPS

Date revised March 1979

(over)

UTM
19/269200/4683340

7. Original owner (if known) Stephen Salisbury III

Original use Factory

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Same (restaurant added 1976)

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)

#25 Union Street is a five-storey brick factory building of rectangular plan (54' x 135') with its facade (west) on Union Street. Bearing simple trim, the facade displays Victorian Gothic elements in its buff sandstone string courses, corbelling, parapet and bracketed entry hood. Side walls of the building are unornamented and have evenly spaced windows of 9/9 sash set in brick surrounds with arched heads. Alterations to the building consist of a brick elevator shaft (north wall), modern single-pane sash (fourth storey) and a minor five-storey addition (south-east corner) all built in 1978-1979.

The building was one of three factories built by Stephen Salisbury III between 1876 and 1879 on the site of the Court Mills which had been built by his father, Stephen Salisbury II, between 1829 and 1832. The Court Mills were the first factories in Worcester which leased loft space and provided power to small manufacturers. The success of the system of ownership, which freed small companies from the expense of property ownership, set the pattern of Worcester's industrial development, a development dominated by many small firms based on their founders' inventions. Throughout the nineteenth century the Salisbury family played a major role in the city's industrial development by building factories to accommodate the city's growing industry. #25 Union Street was built by Stephen Salisbury III for the use of the Munroe Organ Reed Company which occupied the building from December of 1879 until 1889. During the 1890s the factory was occupied by the firm of Porter & Gardner, last manufacturers. In 1903 the building was sold by Salisbury and has since been occupied by a succession of small firms.

(cont.)

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

Plumber & Sanitary Engineer, Vol. II, 9/15/1879, p. 333 (building notice)

Worcester Columbian Tribute, p. 16.

Worcester Illustrated Business Guide (1881) p. 110.

Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester, p. 194.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Worcester	117-A-1
Property Name: Salisbury Factory Building	

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

9.

The Munroe Organ Reed Company was established in 1860 and incorporated in 1869 when it employed ten men and occupied one half of a floor at #23-25 Herman Street, near the Junction Shop. Improvements in organ reed design were patented by the company and led to its gradual expansion in the early 1870s. During the last half of the 1870s, the company experienced rapid growth, based in part on the addition of new products including keyboards ("in Ivory and Celluloid", bellows cloth, "Springs of every description") and "Stop Knobs". By 1881 the Munroe Organ Reed Company employed two hundred workmen at 25 Union Street and had manufactured more than 25,000,000 "Munroe Patent Organ Reeds". In addition, the firm produced 35,000 "Orguinettes" annually for the Mechanical OrguINETTE Company of New York. By 1889, changes in public taste had led to a decline in business and the disbandment of the firm.

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. VBDs were not necessary because

OTHER

ACCEPT
AKA/DOUGLAS
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Address 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 - 116 CBD-11

Review _____

130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am not~~ ^{am} not convinced about boundaries

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~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

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

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 & demo from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (listing fruit from state)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



Solisbury Factory Building

25 Union St.

Worcester MRA, MA

JUN 1979

by Berkeley

Prestige Prints

JUN 1979

117-A-180 AUG 1979

25 Union St.
north + west
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304