

Worcester MRA

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	153-L

listed

4 1984

Oct.



Worcester

Address 30 Wyman Street

Historic Name Worcester Corset Co. Factory

Present industrial

Original " "

DESCRIPTION: Present Owner: Deane-Lyman Partnership
1895-1909 Original: Worcester Corset Company

Source building notices

Style utilitarian industrial

Architect Arthur F. Gray of Boston

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) no

Moved no Date

Approx. acreage 102,159 sq. ft. over one acre

Setting industrial complex in multiple family residential neighborhood.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

see attached assessors map and sketch map

Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Society

Date February, 1978

Assessors Map # Book 7, sheet 5, lots 1-7

(Staple additional sheets here)

UTM references 19/267400/4681060

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and

evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.) The Worcester Corset Company Factory, bounded by Wyman, Hollis, and Grand Streets, was built in several stages between 1895 and 1909, all of which were apparently designed by Arthur F. Gray of Boston. Bearing a date plaque of 1895, the building's oldest section fronts on Hollis Street between Wyman and Grand Streets. In 1901, a notice was published locally stating that enlargements of the plant were being considered, however, no addition seems to have made prior to 1909. In 1909, notices for three different additions appeared, and a plaque on the western portion of the Wyman Street section bears the date "1909." While the western portion of the Grand Street side of the property bears no date, it seems likely also to have been built in 1909. The additions to the factory were constructed

(continued)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The Worcester Corset Company Factory of 1895-1909 possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. As one of Worcester's major industries by the early 20th century, it is closely associated with the city's rapid economic development during that period. Additionally, it is representative of the type and method of construction typical of late 19th century industrial structures in New England. Thus, the factory meets Criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places. The Worcester Corset Company grew out of a business founded in 1861 by David Hale Fanning. Fanning, a native of Connecticut, born in 1830, had worked in various locations in central Massachusetts before coming to Worcester in 1857. Between 1857 and 1861 Fanning worked as a salesman; in 1861, he was refused entry into the Union Army for reasons of health. Unable to serve in the Civil War, Fanning entered manufacturing by the establishment of the Worcester Skirt Company which made hoops for hoop-skirts. As the popularity of hoop-skirts declined, the company began to manufacture corsets. In 1888 Fanning had the business incorporated under the name of the Worcester Corset Company, changed to the Royal Worcester Corset Company in 1901. At the height of the business's success, it employed more than 2,000 people locally and was one of Worcester's major industries. Fanning, for whom the city's girls' trade school was named, was known locally as a philanthropist. The Corset Company went into receivership in the 1920's, was refinance and continues in operation until the early 1940's when it finally went under permanently. At that time the property was bought by the Burwick family of Worcester who have owned it since. *continued below*

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Engineering Record, Vol. XXXII, 6/22/1895, p. ix (bldg. notice).

The Commercial Review, Vol. IX, no. 7, 11/9/1901, p. 34 (addition notice)

Worc. County Weekly Record, Vol. VII, no. 11, 3/20/1909, p. 6; Vol. VII, no. 12, 3/27/1909, p. 6; Vol VII, no. 17, 5/1/1909, p. 8 (addition notices)

Worc. County Weekly Record, Vol. VI, no. 52, 1/2/1909, p. 6 (addition notice)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, Vol. III, pp. 211-213 (Fanning bio.)

Architectural Significance (Con't) by the nationally known Norcross Brothers. Of simple brick construction with some decorative brickwork and stone trim, drawn from the Renaissance Revival, the factory's most striking features are its square towers located on Wyman and Grand Streets.

* From the 1940's until 1983 the property was leased to H. Brown Shoe Co. which manufactured work shoes and boots, and special order combat boots for the military. The company is still in business but has just finished moving its operation to the South.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Worcester Corset Company Factory
(Worcester MRA)
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Working No. MAY 3 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 5/31/84 - 6/17/84
Action: ☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 6-15-84
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Recom./Criteria RETURN
Reviewer MAC DOUGAL
Discipline ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
Date 6/15/84
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☒ technical corrections cited below
☒ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☒ summary paragraph
☒ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

> PLEASE PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY BEING NOMINATED. ALTHOUGH THE DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES THE HISTORIC EVOLUTION OF THE STRUCTURE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE BUILDING'S APPEARANCE IS NOT AVAILABLE.

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☒ applicable criteria IF THE PROPERTY IS SIGNIFICANT AS TYPICAL OF THE TYPE AND METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ENGLAND INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES IT NEEDS TO BE STATED WHAT THE FEATURES ARE THAT MAKE IT TYPICAL.
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

☒ 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property PLEASE PROVIDE ACREAGE TO THE NEAREST ACRE. -- NOT SQUARE FOOT DIMENSIONS.

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ☒ Maps PLEASE PROVIDE AN ORIGINAL USGS MAP. XEROXED MAPS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. MORE THAN ONE PROPERTY MAY BE LOCATED ON A MAP.
- ☒ Photographs PLEASE LABEL PHOTOGRAPHS AND LOCATE THE PHOTO VIEWS ON THE SKETCH MAP
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed D. BYERS / B. MacDONALD Date 6/15/84 Phone: _____

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	153-L

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

See attached assessors map and sketch map

Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Society

Date February, 1978

Assessors map # Book 7, Sheet 5, Lots 1-7

(Staple additional sheets here)

Town Worcester
Address 30 Wyman
Historic Name Worcester Corset Co. Factory

Use: Present industrial
Original industrial

DESCRIPTION: Present Owner: Deane-Lyman Partnership
Date 1895-1909 Original: Worcester Corset Company
Source building notices

Style utilitarian Romanesque Revival
Architect Arthur F. Gray of Boston
Exterior wall fabric brick
Outbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates) no

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 1½ acres

Setting industrial complex in multiple family residential neighborhood.

UTM references 19/267400/4681060

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This brick U-shaped utilitarian Romanesque Revival factory building, bounded on three sides by Wyman, Hollis and Grand Streets, was constructed in two periods. The north and east wings, built ca. 1895, are four stories high plus a full basement and feature two square towers, one each on Wyman and Grand Streets. The south wing on Grand Street, built ca. 1906, is five stories high plus a full basement. A third tower rises at its west end. Both sections of the complex were designed by the Boston architect, Arthur F. Gray, and were constructed by the nationally known Norcross Brothers. Although built in two stages, the separate wings of the building are well integrated. The first three levels of each wing are composed of (continued)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The Worcester Corset Company Factory of 1895-1909 possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. As one of Worcester's major industries by the early 20th century, it is closely associated with the city's rapid economic development during that period. Additionally, it is a well preserved and distinctive example of the type and method of construction typical of late 19th century industrial structures in New England. Thus, the factory meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. The Worcester Corset Company grew out of a business founded in 1861 by David Hale Fanning. Fanning, a native of Connecticut, born in 1830, had worked in various locations in central Massachusetts before coming to Worcester in 1857. Between 1857 and 1861 Fanning worked as a salesman; in 1861, he was refused entry into the Union Army for reasons of health. Unable to serve in the Civil War, Fanning entered manufacturing by the establishment of the Worcester Skirt Company which made hoops for hoop-skirts. As the popularity of hoop-skirts declined, the company began to manufacture corsets. In 1888 Fanning had the business incorporated under the name of the Worcester Corset Company, changed to the Royal Worcester Corset Company in 1901. At the height of the business's success, it employed more than 2,000 people locally and was one of Worcester's major industries. Fanning, for whom the city's girls' trade school was named, was known locally as a philanthropist. The Corset Company went into receivership in the 1920s, was refinanced, and continued in operation until the early 1940s when it finally went under permanently. At that time the property was bought by the Burwick family of Worcester who have owned it since. From the 1940s until 1983 the property was leased to H. Brown Shoe Company which manufactured shoes and boots, and special order combat boots for the military. The company is still in business but has just finished moving its operation to the South.

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Worc. County Weekly Record, Vol. VI, no. 52, 1/2/1909, p. 6 (addition notice)
Nutt, C. History of Worcester; Vol. III, pp. 211-213 (Fanning bio).

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Worcester	1
Property Name: Worc. Corset Co. Factory	

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

Architectural Significance (Continued)

recessed window bays with segmental arched window openings separated by brick piers. These bays, and thus the windows, are wider on the later wing. A restrained granite and corbelled brick beltcourse runs between the third and fourth floors on the entire building. The original boldly corbelled brick cornice of the earlier wings is continued as an intermediate cornice on the ca. 1906 wing, uniting the two phases of construction. The top floor of each wing has Romanesque Revival round-arched windows, with raised brick window heads. The cornice of the south wing is composed of several courses of raised brick. The roof is flat, with the exception of the three projecting towers. These towers have pyramidal roofs with bracketed projecting eaves. The Romanesque Revival detailing is carried through in the Spanish tiles which cover the tower roofs.

The primary entrances to the building are at the base of each tower, in round-arched openings with molded brick extrados. Fleur de lis tie rod ends and circular terracotta plaques identifying the building ornament the entrance bays. Secondary entrances are in several window bays in the courtyard. The courtyard is partially paved and partly grass-covered. In the courtyard stands a tall smokestack and a brick, one-story boiler building with a hipped, slate-covered roof.

Historical Significance (Continued)

The Worcester Corset Factory is typical of late New England factory or mill buildings in its masonry construction, with bearing walls that are substantially thicker on the lower levels to provide adequate structural support for heavy machinery. The building's multi-story recessed window bays, separated by smooth brick piers and holding multiple-light double hung-wood sash are also typical of the building type. In addition, the use of towers in factory construction was almost standard in late-nineteenth century factory design. Also representative is the building's interior with its open floor plan, heavy decking and utilitarian character.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 1-3-84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Worcester Multiple Resource Area
State Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Worcester Corset Company
Factory

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Toussaint 10-4-84

2. Malvern Road School

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Brown 10-4-84

3. Claremont Street Historic
District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

TS

4. Richmond, Willard, Apartment
BlockEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Selena Byers 11/7/85

5. Russell (The)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Selena Byers 11/7/85

6. Aurora Hotel

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Patrick Andrews 4/28/88

Beth L. Savage 4/28/88

7. Holy Name of Jesus Complex

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Selena Byers 6/8/88

8. Vendome and the St. Ives

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Beth L. Savage 02-02-90

9. Shaarai Torah Synagogue

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

5/10/90

10.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Worcester Corset Company Factory
(Worcester MRA)
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

- ☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Working No. 5/3/84
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 10/5/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-4-84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept / etc
Reviewer W. M. Jr.
Discipline A.G.
Date 10.4.85
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Worcester Corset Factory
Worcester, MA MRA
Lyman, 4/84, photo #1 of 8

South wing, photographer facing
north. Juncture of c.1895 and c.
1906 building is just to ~~left~~ of
tower. right



Worcester Corset Factory

Worcester, MA *NRA*

Lyman, 4/84, photo #2 of 8

South wing, photographer facing
northwest. Facade on Grand Street,
c.1906 wing.



Worcester Corset Factory

Worcester, MA *MRA*

Lyman, 4/84, photo #3 of 8

North wing, photographer facing
southwest. Upper stories of c.
1895 wing.



Worcester Corset Factory

Worcester, MA *MRA*

Lyman, 4/84, photo #4 of 8

North wing, photographer facing
southeast. Street level view of
entrance in tower on Wyman Street.



Worcester Corset Factory

Worcester, MA *MPA*

Lyman, 4/84, photo # 5 of 8

East wing, photographer facing
south. This wing and north wing
were built c. 1895



Worcester Corset Factory
Worcester, MA *MRA*
Lyman, 4/84, photo #6 of 8

View of courtyard interior and
north wing from the tower in the
south wing, photographer facing
north.



Worcester Corset Factory

Worcester, MA *MRA*

Lyman, 4/84, photo #7 of 8

View of courtyard and north wing
from the tower in the south wing,
photographer facing north west.
Roof of boiler house in foreground.



Worcester Corset Factory
Worcester, MA *MA*
Lyman, 4/84, photo #8 of 8

View of courtyard from roof of east
wing, photographer facing west.
South wing and tower to ~~right~~
left



Worcester Corset Company Factory

Worcester MRA, Ma

③

STREET

102, 159 $\frac{1}{2}$

1-7 incl. ~~to 100~~ ~~to 100~~

LAND REG. NO: 2236

UNIVERSAL
ESTATES
INC.
74

STREET

ALBERT ST.
9-6

HOLLIS

STREET

BOOK No. 7 SHEET No. 5

DRAWN BY

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304



FRANCIS J. McGRATH
CITY MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF WORCESTER
MASSACHUSETTS
01608

W
ced support

RECEIVED

MAR 22 1984

MASS. HIST. COMM.

March 20, 1984

Ms. Valerie A. Talmage, Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Talmage:

On behalf of the City of Worcester, I would like to voice my support for the nomination of the Royal Worcester Corset Works Building to the National Register of Historic Places. This building is reflective of the type of site that is a big part of Worcester's industrial past and should be recognized.

As you are aware, the Deane/Lyman Partnership intends to rehabilitate this structure into 158 units of market rate housing. This bold action should be rewarded by allowing these developers to benefit from historic rehabilitation tax benefits. Linking historic preservation with development incentives is vital to the revitalization of older communities like Worcester. By nominating the Corset Building, the Commission can help Worcester continue its efforts to showcase Worcester as a growing and revitalized City, while strengthening its image as the "Heart of the Commonwealth".

Again, I urge the Commission to nominate the Royal Worcester Corset Works Building to the National Register. This nomination is crucial to this project and the UDAG grant that will be used to assist development.

Sincerely yours,

City Manager

PH/tlb