

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

See attached map.

Town Worcester

Address 12 Summerhill Avenue

Historic Name Swan Larson

Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1918

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Colonial Revival

Architect possibly Swan Larson

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings garage

Major Alterations (with dates) first floor porch enclosed, mid-20th century.

Condition excellent

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting Urban, early 20th century, single- and multi-family residential neighborhood.

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization for MHC

Date December 1988

UTM REFERENCE 19/269290/4687290

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Swan Larson Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant for its association with the suburban, multi-family residential development of the Greendale section of northern Worcester in the early 20th century, when both streetcar connections and employment opportunities in nearby factories drew white- and blue-collar families to the area. It is also an unusually well-preserved, well-detailed example of Colonial Revival three-decker design. The Larson Three-Decker thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

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

Architecturally, 12 Summerhill Avenue is an unusually well-preserved and well-detailed example of local Colonial Revival three-decker design. The house has the characteristic hip roof and side-hall plan, and is clad in wood clapboard, with shingle bands between stories. The asymmetrical main facade features a projecting three-tier porch with a pedimented-gable portico. The porch is supported by single and paired square columns. It is flanked by a three-story bay window. A second three-story, square bay window is located on the side wall, and is capped by a projecting pedimented gable. Windows have 6/1 and 4/1 sash. The wide roof cornice overhang has regularly spaced decorative brackets.

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

Built ca. 1918, the Larson Three-Decker was constructed as part of the early 20th century sub-division of the Greendale area of northern Worcester as a multi-family residential district, both a streetcar suburb and for many employed at the nearby Norton Company and other north Worcester industries. The area was also a major focus for the city's Swedish immigrant community, many members of which were recruited to work at the Norton Company. The first known owner of 12 Summerhill Avenue was Swan Larson, a carpenter, who lived at 6 Summerhill Avenue, and who owned four other houses in the neighborhood. Tenants in 1920 included Albert Anderson and Ernest deVillers, both foremen at the Norton Company; and William Bolshaw, a downtown bank teller. In 1930 the house was owned by Nellie Clifford. Residents in that year included Harry Michaels, a carpenter; William Cavanaugh, a fireman; and Howard Lane, a clerk at the Norton Company.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1918, 1920, 1930.
L. J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/24/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

41. Johnson, Paul, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

42. Kaller, Erick, Three-Decker (146 Eastern Ave.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

43. Kaller, Erick, Three-Decker (148 Eastern Ave.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

44. Larson, Swan, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

45. Levenson, Morris, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

46. Lumb, Thomas, Three-Decker (80 Dewey St.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

47. Lumb, Thomas, Three-Decker (44 Winfield St.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

48. Lundberg, Charles, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

49. Magnuson, Charles, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

50. Mark, John, Three-Decker

Substantive Review

for

Keeper

Beth A. Savage 02-09-90

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Larson, Swan, Three-Decker
NAME:

MULTIPLE Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 12/26/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/09/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/25/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/09/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002443

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/9/90 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

 count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

 historic current

DESCRIPTION

 architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

 acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

 sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Worcester Three Decker MHC
SWAN LARSON THREE DECKER
12 SUMMER HILL AVENUE
WORCESTER, MA
MHC #1846



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Swan Larson Three-Decker, 12 Summerhill Ave., Worcester, MHC # 1846

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305