

W/ MO 80000585

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no. 116-CBD- 13
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2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

1. Town Worcester

Address 240 Main Street

Name Old State Mutual Building

Present use bank

Present owner Barry L. Krock and
Beverley R. Gold
5 Meadowbrook Rd.

3. Description: Worcester

Date 1870

Source exterior date plaque

Style Second Empire

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric granite

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features slight central pavilion

arched windows, Ionic pilasters,
mansard roof with dormer, remnant
of iron railing as cresting
entry moved in

Altered center bay Date 1950s?

Moved no Date _____

Assessors' Book 2, p.27

5. Lot size: Lot 21 3,713 sq.ft.

One acre or less ☒ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 25'

Approximate distance of building from street

10'

6. Recorded by S. Ceccacci and
B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date November 1977

Roll 27

UTM
19/268940/4683030

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) State Mutual Life Insurance Company

Original use offices for State Mutual, until 1897

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates bank and offices, present

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)

One of the few Second Empire style blocks remaining in Worcester's commercial district, the Old State Mutual Building is a three and one-half storey brick structure, faced with dressed granite. The building's three-bay facade is arranged symmetrically about a shallow central pavilion which rises to a low pediment bearing the date "1870". At the first storey bays are separated by Ionic pilasters and at the second and third stories by pilasters with moulded capitals. The building's mansard roof contains a single dormer with a segmented pediment. Of surprisingly formal design for so small a building, the Old State Mutual Building is one of Worcester's finest Second Empire style buildings.

Incorporated in March of 1844, the State Mutual Life Insurance Company was the fifth life insurance company to be established in the United States. Business began on June 1, 1845 with "a guaranteed capital of \$100,000 which was "retired" in June of 1865 after which the company was run as a "purely mutual" concern. An important local business, the firm's founders and directors were among the city's most prominent citizens. From 1845 until his death in 1853, Governor John Davis was president of the company, followed by Isaac Davis (1853-1882) and Governor Alexander H. Bullock (who died in the same month he assumed the position of president), industrialist Phillip L. Moen (1883) and Col. A.G. Bullock (1883-1910).

The business's earliest location was at 100 Main Street "in (the) rear of the old Central Bank." Around 1870 the firm formed a real estate partnership with the Merchants' and Farmers' Fire Insurance Company to build the block at #240 Main. The two companies shared space in the building

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

from its completion in 1872 until the late 1880s, when State Mutual took over use of the whole structure. By 1894 State Mutual had outgrown the 1870 block and had begun construction on a much larger building to which its headquarters moved after 1897, 340 Main Street (see Form 116-CBD-23)

Worcester Commercial Magazine, vol. I, no.9, Jan. 1893, p.334 (article and photos)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp. 1023-1024.

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 bgs 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
AKK 2/24/80
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 - 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

Listing all properties ~~except~~ ^{now} 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 & clean from State), 102-L-3 (returning to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



30 AUG 1979

116-CBD-13
Old State Mutual Building
240 Main St.
wrecks for MRA, MG
east elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304