

FORM B - BUILDING

2447

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1848

Town Worcester

Address 141 Vernon Street

Historic Name George Fontaine
Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1918

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Colonial Revival (Gambrel)

Architect unknown Three-Decker

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard and
shingle

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition poor; significant
deterioration of some sheathing

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting Early 20th century, urban,
multi-family, residential street.

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization for MHC

Date December 1988

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.

UTM REFERENCE 19/269290/4680510

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester South

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The George Fontaine Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant for its association with the development of the Vernon Street corridor as a stylish single- and multi-family residential district on the crest of Vernon Hill in Worcester's ethnic East Side. It is also a remarkably ornate and well-detailed example of gambrel-roof three-decker design popular locally in the early 20th century. The Fontaine 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, 141 Vernon Street is an unusually ornate and finely-detailed example of gambrel roof style three-decker design popular in the second and third decades of the 20th century. The house has the typical side-hall plan with side-wall jog. On the asymmetrical main facade, a three-tier porch is integrated into a smaller gambrel portico that projects out from the gambrel face on the third story. The porch is supported by multiple Tuscan columns on the first tier. Shingled piers on the second tier frame an open central balustrade. On the third tier there is a semi-circular opening with a central keystone. The gambrel apex has a semi-circular light with keystone insets. On the main facade, the porch is flanked by a two-story bay window with unusual 25/1 sash. Long shed dormers are located on the third story gambrel roof. Side walls have triple windows with unusual, small rectangular and diamond pattern lights.

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 George Fontaine Three-Decker was part of the continued development of fashionable multi-family residences along the Vernon Street street-railway corridor on the crest of Vernon Hill, in Worcester's ethnic East Side. The first owner of the house was George Fontaine, an inspector, who lived here through 1930. The only tenant listed here in 1918 was Mrs. Harry Harper. Tenants in 1920 included Israel Feingold, a partner in Saul H. Feingold, dealers in woolens and manufacturers of cloaks; and Norman Nield, a machinist for the Norton Company. In 1930, tenants included Charles Gallagher, a timekeeper; Mrs. Catherine O'Connor; and John Flaherty, a mixer for 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.

12/26/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 21. Elm Street Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper Shelton Byers 1/1/90 | |
| | | Attest <u>Barry Savage 02/09/90</u> | |
| 22. Erikson, Knut, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 23. Euclid Avenue--Montrose Street Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 24. Fay Street Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 25. Flagg, Levi, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 26. Fontaine, George, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 27. Friberg, Andrew, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 28. Giguere, Thomas, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 29. Gullberg, Evert, House -Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 30. Hadley, Gilbert, House -Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers 2/9/90</u> | |
| | | Attest _____ | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fontaine, George, 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: 89002447

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

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



GEORGE FONTAINE THREE DECKER
141 VERNON STREET
WORCESTER MA

MHC # 1848

Worcester Three Deckers MDA

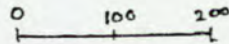


Kodalux

Processing Services
MAY 89 N



George Fontaine Three-Decker
141 Vernon St., Worcester
MHC # 1848



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VERNON HILL PLAYGROUND

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305