

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	116-L-10

12/11/78 30000574

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

Roll 14

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.

1. Town Worcester

Address 41 Elm Street

Name Joseph Davis House

Present use Worcester Redevelopment Authority - offices

Present owner Worcester Redevelopment Authority

3. Description: Authority

Date 1884
date placque and "Waite Source Papers"

Style shingle style

Architect Peabody & Stearns of Boston

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features gambrel and pitched roof with dormers, bay windows, overhang, decorative shinglework, panelled chimneys

Altered porch enclosed Date mid-20th century

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p. 33
Lot #3 27,837 sq. ft.

One acre or less Over one acre

Approximate frontage 80'

Approximate distance of building from street 10'

Recorded by W. & M. Seaman
ws. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc

Date February 1978

UTM:
19/268540/4682850

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Joseph Estabrook Davis
 Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Worcester Natural History Society (after 19530;
 offices (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	<u>x</u>	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Designed by the prominent Boston firm of Peabody and Stearns, the Joseph Davis House is one of Worcester's best examples of Shingle Style architecture. The house has an irregular plan with major elevations facing south and west. The south facade has a porch (partially enclosed) at its first storey, above which at the west end is a bay window surmounted by a steeply pitched, overhanging gable; the east end of the south facade contains the dormered slopes of a two-storey gambrel roof. The west elevation is asymmetrical, containing several gables and a central bay window, one wall of which contains a decorative panel bearing the building's construction date. Other features of the house include a tall oriel (east elevation) which lights stair landing, interior and exterior chimneys, and a variety of decorative shingling. Although a new road passes immediately east of the house (where a neighboring house once stood), the Davis House remains in largely original condition, having undergone the partial enclosure of its porch and the removal of the porch railing. The Davis House, which was illustrated in The Engineering and Building Record in 1888, was also the subject of extensive interior photographs, showing the house's original furnishings (photos now in the collection of the Worcester Historical Society). An additional fine detail of the property is its low wall of granite (laid in a broken course) with a rounded coping of brown sandstone.

(cont.)

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

City atlases and directories

Albert Waite Papers

The Engineering and Building Record, vol. XVII, 5/5/1888, p. 322
 (Illustration)

Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, vol. XXXII, no.2,
 May 1973, pp. 114-131 (Peabody and Stearns)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 116-L-10
Property Name: Joseph Davis House	

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

9. Joseph Davis, the son of Isaac Davis (see Survey Form #116-L-13) was born in Worcester in 1838 and in the 1860s was married to May Waldo Lincoln, granddaughter of Governor Levi Lincoln. During the 1870s and 1880s the couple lived at 53 West Street (see Lincoln Estate - Elm Park Area - Form 116-L) until the present house was built on the side lawn of Lincoln's mansion. Davis lived at 41 Elm Street until 1890 when he sold the house to William Rice and moved to Boston. Rice, who became president of the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company in 1891, was involved in wire manufacturing from the age of 18 (1852) when he worked as a clerk for Ichabod Washburn & Co. Around 1889 Rice established the wire manufacturing firm of William E. Rice Company in Connecticut, later moving the company to Holyoke, Massachusetts. In 1865 Rice's firm merged with I. Washburn & Moen Co. In 1867 Rice traveled in England where he purchased new rod-rolling equipment which was installed in the Washburn & Moen North Works in 1868-1869 and soon became an important factor in the company's success. During the late 1860s Rice also served as treasurer and general manager of the Quinsigamond Wire Works, which was merged into Washburn & Moen in 1868. In 1877 Rice founded the Worcester Wire Company at South Worcester. In 1899 Rice, who was then president of the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company and of the Worcester Wire Company, was instrumental in promoting mergers which led to the formation of the American Steel and Wire Company, later the United States Steel Company. After 1899 William Rice retired from active business. #41 Elm Street remained in the Rice family until 1953 when Albert W. Rice (son of William Rice) gave the property to the Worcester Natural History Society.

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). Opposition is high. Minor problems w/ some properties are listed on attached sheets.

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

Concur with Amey's comments re 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. DUBIE

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

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 block 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
MacDonald
2/28/80

of the scale mapping clearly delineated boundaries. A legend was missing on some properties but is now included after the 2/11/corrections.

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

The only properties that I do not recommend listing are
✓ 116-CBD-13 - destroyed by fire MA - 116 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - does not retain integrity for individual eligibility

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~don't~~ ^{am not} convinced about boundaries but believe they could be OK. ~~Based~~ ^{Based} on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.

Recommend listing all properties ^{now} except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~hold it~~ ^{to discuss further} w/NE staff + state. DUBIE
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction;
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state

BRANCH CHIEF

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 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 _____ SEE 3/3/80 REPORT



Davis, Joseph, House
116-2-10⁸⁰ AUG 1979
41 Elm St
Worcester MRA, Ma
West + south elevations

by Barkey

Prestige Prints

JUN 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304