

24 no 20000825

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
	141-D-1

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

1. Town Worcester

Name of area (if any) Castle Street Row
Houses (#4-18 Castle Street)

3. General date or period ca.1873

4. Is area uniform (explain):
in style? yes (Second Empire)

in condition? yes (good)

in type of ownership? yes (private)

in use? yes (residential)

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

Roll 4

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date February 1978

UTM:
19/267990/4681890

(over)

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

Worcester's largest block of row houses, the Castle Street Row contains eight units, each of which is built of brick, two and one-half stories high rising from a high basement. Each house has a side-hall floor plan, three-sided bay window, bracketed entry porch and mansard roof with dormers. The lower four units of the row (#4-10) are arranged symmetrically around two sets of paired entries, while the upper four units have individual entries and are arranged at staggered heights which reflect the slope of the hill. With the exception of modern asphalt-shingle roofs and some modern pointing, the row retains most of its original simple features.

The site of the Castle Street Row was part of a much larger tract of land on which Eli Thayer had founded the Oread Institute, a women's college, in 1849. Built at the head of Castle Street, the Oread Institute was a large Gothic Revival building with corner towers and crenellations; the building's castle-like appearance influenced the naming of surrounding streets. In the early 1870s Thayer subdivided a portion of the Oread campus and sold off building lots to help liquidate a \$20,000 mortgage on the property. Thayer apparently set the circumstances for the creation of a dense rowhouse district by creating small narrow lots, virtually all of which were purchased by Larkin Gates, a local builder. Between 1868 and 1873, Gates built forty-two individual houses in the area, divided among eight Second Empire style rows. Of these houses only the Castle Street row remains intact.

Although designed as modest, single-family homes, many of the houses of the Castle Street Row and neighboring rows were subdivided into apartments by the 1880s, while others contained a large number of boarders. Despite the apparent economy of the row-house type and despite Thayer's and Gates's efforts to establish it in the vicinity of Main Street South, row houses have been rare throughout Worcester's history, Castle Street containing the city's largest concentration.

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

City atlases and directories

Taylor, Anthony. "Architectural Neighborhoods of Worcester", unpublished manuscript.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 141-D-1
Property Name: Castle St. Row House District	

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

Property List

Address	Assessor's Data	Present Owner
4 Castle St.	1604 sq. ft. Book 6, p. 26 Lot 24	Joseph G. & Helen F. Zuromskis 260 Old Mill Road Shrewsbury, Mass. 01545
6 Castle St.	1568 sq. ft. Book 6, p. 26 Lot 23	"
8 Castle St.	1572 sq. ft. Book 6, p. 26 Lot 22	"
10 Castle St.	1588 sq. ft. Book 6, p. 26 Lot 21	"
12 Castle St.	1612 sq. ft. Book 6, p. 26 Lot 57	Charles Zuromskis 7 Oakland Dr. Auburn, Mass. 01501
14 Castle St.	1630 sq. ft. Book 6, p. 26 Lot 56	"
16 Castle St.	1693 sq. ft. Book 6, p. 26 Lot 55	"
18 Castle St.	1350 sq. ft. Book 6, p. 26 Lot 54	Sophie M. Palubinskas 147 Lake Ave. Worcester, Mass. 01604

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

Excellent multiple resource nomination for the entire city of Worcester. Both the general description or 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. **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Concur with Bruce's comments on 102-L-3, 116-CBD-11, 117-E, and 130-CBD-50 and #4. Integrity and/or boundaries need to be addressed specifically on individual forms. **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 bldg 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
MARC
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. PRESENCE WAS MISSING ON SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS. THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

- ✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 10 CBD-11
- 130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ ^{am} CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~ ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGMENT. **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Recommend Listing all ^{now} properties ~~except~~ ^{except} these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further} w/NR staff + State. DOBIE
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction; **BRANCH CHIEF** 3/3/80
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 & claim from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (Lily 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}



Castle Street Row

141-D-1

4-18 Castle St.

Worcester MA, MA

South east

elevations

30 AUG 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304