

FORM B - BUILDING

2426

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1842

Town WorcesterAddress 454 Pleasant StreetHistoric Name John Wescott Three-Decker

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

Use: Present residentialOriginal residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1892Source Worcester House DirectoryStyle Queen Anne Three-DeckerArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard and wood shingleOutbuildings none

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

Major Alterations (with dates) some porch balustrades replaced (mid-20thC)Condition excellent

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting Late 19th/early 20th century mixed multi-family residential and commercial area on major city street.

UTM REFERENCE 19/267570/4682640USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester NorthSCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Michael SteinitzOrganization for MHCDate December 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The John Wescott Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a representative example of the working-class residences built in the late 19th century to the west of downtown along the Pleasant and Chandler Street corridors through the Piedmont neighborhood. It is also an unusually well-preserved and well-detailed example of local Queen Anne style three-decker construction from this period. The Wescott 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, 454 Pleasant Street is a remarkably well-preserved and unusually ornate example of local Queen Anne three-decker design. The house is unusual in the presentation of its long side as the main facade, an adaptation to the relationship of its long, narrow lot to Pleasant Street. The asymmetrically placed main entry consists of panelled, double doors, sheltered by a three-tier porch with lathe-turned posts, large decorative brackets, and open balustrades. The porch is flanked by a three-story bay window. The house is clad in wood clapboard, with wood shingles on the bay window and on the porch/entry bay, as well as in bands between stories elsewhere. The hip roof has a wide cornice overhang which shelters decorative paired brackets and large corner brackets. Windows have 1/1 sash, and in the third story have caps with sawtooth molding.

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

By the 1890s, much of the area in the Piedmont neighborhood west of Crown Hill was already built up as a mixed residential district of single- and multi-family houses, with both blue- and white-collar residents. Irish and French-Canadian families were present, along with native-born, although in the early 20th century, the area became more heavily dominated by ethnic families. The Wescott Three-Decker was built ca. 1892 as part of the major boom of three-decker construction in the neighborhood. The first owner was John Wescott, who in 1890 ran a grocery on Pleasant Street, and lived at 45 Abbott Street. The Wescott family owned the building for the next two decades, as well as neighboring 2 Mason Street and 75 West Street. By 1920, the owner was Daisy Hinkly, who also owned 2, 5, and 7 Mason Street. In 1930, the owner was Mrs. Ellen Mulcahy, a widow, who lived here, and who owned two other city buildings and three building lots. Earliest known tenants (1892) were L.N. Vaughn, a spokemaker; William Irwin, a cutter; Wilbur Hobbs, a teller; and George Davis, a machinist. Residents in 1910 included Charles Macomber, a blacksmith; and Jessie Peabody, a driver. In 1920, occupants included Otis Morse, a machine operator; Lillie LeClaire, a bookkeeper; Harry Humes, a fitter; and Michael Grogan, a painter. Besides Ellen Mulcahy, residents in 1930 included four other Mulcahys: Daniel, a steam-fitter; Francis, a grocer; K. Celia, a teacher; and David, a chauffeur. Three members of the Ryan family also lived here: Frank, a porter; Helen, a cashier; and May, a hairdresser.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1890, 1892, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/26/90

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

81. Stone, Edward, Three-Decker Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]
Keeper
Attest

Helene Byers 2/9/90

82. Troupes, John, Three-Decker Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]
Keeper
Attest

Helene Byers 2/9/90

83. View Street Historic District Substantive Review

[Signature]
Keeper
Attest

Beth L. Savage 07/09/90

84. Wescott, John, Three-Decker Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]
Keeper
Attest

Helene Byers 2/9/90

85. Woodford Street Historic District
Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]
Keeper
Attest

Helene Byers 2/9/90

86. Zemaitis, Anthony, Three-Decker Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]
Keeper
Attest

Helene Byers 2/9/90

~~87. Holland Towne House~~

~~substantive review~~
Keeper
Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wescott, John, 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: 89002426

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 _____



Worcester Three Decker MA
JOHN WESCOTT THREE DECKER
454 PLEASANT STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MHC # 1842



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305