

FORM B - BUILDING

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

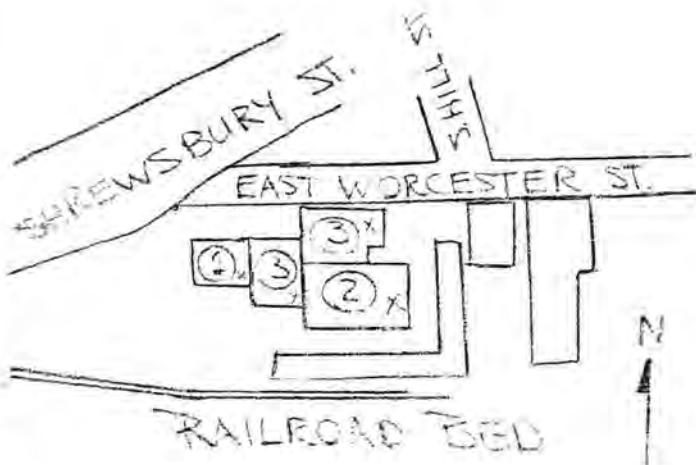
In Area no.

Form no.

131-G

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

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



1. Town Worcester

Address 12 East Worcester Street

East Worcester Schoolhouse

Name & Norcross Bros. Factory

Present use commercial (Trade Center
Building)

Present owner Howard Realty Co.
12 East Worcester St.

3. Description:

Date 1863, 1876, ca. 1881, ca. 1893

Source secondary sources (see Biblio.)

Style utilitarian brick construction

Architect Elbridge Boyden & Son

(Section #1 on Map)

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features Section #1-three story
height with hip-on-hip roof,
granite sills and lintels; other
sections sandstone trim, corbelled
cornice

Altered additions see dates
Date above

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book, 4, p. 1

Lot 15--34,002 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 275'

Approximate distance of building from street

15'

6. Recorded by S. Lee, ed. B. R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date November 1977

UTM

19/269840/4682500

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Worcester (1863); Norcross Bros.

Original use Grammar school; additions designed for manufacturing

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial (mid 20th century)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

#10 East Worcester Street is a three-storey brick building, built in three sections between 1863 and 1893. The building's earliest portion (section #1 on map) is one of Worcester's oldest remaining schoolhouses. Built in 1863 on the site of the Pine Meadow Burial Ground (from which the last graves were removed in 1876), the structure was known as the East Worcester Grammar School until 1893 when it was sold to the Norcross Brothers. The schoolhouse, designed by Elbridge Boyden & Son and built by H.W. Eddy and Moses Taft at a cost of \$11,706.25, was apparently modelled after the Salem Street Schoolhouse (now demolished) which was then considered to be the best school building in the city. In its present form the former East Worcester Schoolhouse has a rectangular floor plan, paired entries on its north and south elevations, rock-faced granite window trim and a hip-on-hip roof.

Around 1880-1881 the Norcross Brothers, nationally famous builders who were known for their work with Henry Hobson Richardson, bought land adjoining the East Worcester Schoolhouse and built a planing mill (see #2 on map). By 1893 the Norcross Brothers had bought the schoolhouse from the city, converted it to offices and built extensive additions (see #3 on map) connecting the schoolhouse and planing mill. These additions and the planing mill are built of common brick, three stories high with flat roofs, corbelled cornices and rock-faced sandstone trim. It was in this factory that the Norcrosses "made their own doors, window-sash and finishing... doing the same in such an economical manner that they became the despair of other firms doing

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

City Documents, #18, Jan. 1864, pp. 31, 138 & 144; #29, Jan 1875 p. 400; #30, Jan. 1876, p. 142; #36, Jan. 1882, p. 100.

Worcester Magazine, Oct. 1903, pp. 114-115.

Mutt, Charles. History of Worcester and Its People, Vol. IV, pp. 635-636 (O.W. Norcross, biography; list of buildings built by Norcross Brothers.).

Rice, F. Worcester of 1898, pp. 695-703 (list of buildings constructed by Norcross Brothers, p. 701)

Washburn, Charles C. Industrial Worcester, p. 286.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Worcester

Form No:

131-G

Property Name: East Worc. School-
house & Norcross Bros. Factory

2.

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

9.

the same line of work." The firm was incorporated in 1902 and remained in business at this location until 1918. Principals in the company were James A. Norcorss (1831-1903) who managed the business's financial affairs, and Orlando W. Norcross (1839-1920) who was more active in the construction part of the business. For a more detailed account of the firm's influential position in American architecture, see "C.W. Norcross, Richardson's 'Master Builder': A Preliminary Report" in The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, vol. XXXII, no. 2, May 1973, pp. 104-113.

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 & 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
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Concern with Bureaucratic 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. **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 bps 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 MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. ALREDGE WAS MISSING TWO SAME 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 - 16 CBD-11
- 130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Review _____

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ ^{AM} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend ^{now} Listing all properties ~~except~~ these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ w/NR staff + State. DOBIE
Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State
3/5/80
DOBIE

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

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 (filing from State)

Soldha
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____

MAR 5 1980



BURNHAM HYDRONICS
ELJER

AMERICAN PLUMBING & HEATING SUPPLY CO.

Shepard SIGNS

**TRADE
CENTER
BLDG.**

MID-STATE OXYGEN INC.
WE HAVE OXYGEN, ACETYLENE, ARGON, CARBON DIOXIDE, HELIUM, NITROGEN, AND ALL OTHER GASES.

LY CO.

**CAUTION
SLOW DOWN!**

131-G

12 E. Worcester St

K. Worcester School - Worcester

north + west Entry

elevations

Worcester MRA, Ma

20 AUG 1979



131-G

80 AUG 1979

E. Worcester School - Worcester Factory

12 E. Worcester

St. Worcester MRA, MA

North + west elev.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304