

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

163-C

ref no 80000414

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

Exp. 10 A

Roll 22

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 651 Park Avenue
Name Stearns Tavern
Present use bank & offices
Present owner (Home Federal Sav.&Loan)
Salloom Realty Trust
3. Description: 14 Brookline St., Worc.
Date ca. 1812 (see reverse#9)
Source see reverse #9
Style Federalist vernacular
Architect unknown (if any)
Exterior wall fabric clapboard
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features center entrance facade
with side-lighted entry (& fanlight)
side entries with moulded caps,
twin chimneys
entry porch removed
Altered bldg. resotored Date 1974
Moved from 1030 Main St Date 1974
Assessor's Book 8, p. 24,
5. Lot size Lot 11, 21,258 sq.ft.
One acre or less X Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 161'
Approximate distance of building from street
15'
6. Recorded by D.Latino, ed. B.R.Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date January 1978

UTM
19/266060/4680720

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Charles Stearns

Original use tavern

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residence, commercial, bank (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	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

Now used as a bank, the Stearns Tavern is a two-storey timber frame house with a symmetrical center-entrance facade and twin (interior) chimneys. Located at the building's northeast corner is a two-storey wing which contains the present bank-hall. The building's main entry contains an unusual six panel door set between sidelights and surmounted by a low fanlight. Side entries to the house (north & south) are set in moulded architraves and capped by entablatures and cornices. Originally located at 1030 Main Street, The Stearns Tavern was moved to its present location in 1974 at which time it was restored and converted to bank use. The building's construction date is uncertain although exterior evidence and one nineteenth-century source point to 1812 as a likely date.* At the time of the building's move, an enclosed, one-bay entry porch was removed from the facade to reveal the present doorway. In all, the building's present condition and decorative details mark it as Worcester's best example of Federalist Vernacular architecture.

According to secondary sources, the tavern was built by Charles Stearns and opened in 1812. The opening was marked by the erection of a Liberty Pole nearby. After a relatively brief ownership, Stearns sold the tavern to Deacon Uriah Stone, who kept it for a few years. Between 1824 and 1830, the tavern was operated as a hotel by Joseph Curtis, who sold the property to C.M. Delant around 1837.

* Construction dates of ca 1750 were estimated at the time of the move based on the heaviness of the building's framing; while it is possible that the frame dates from the mid-eighteenth century, it

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

Worcester Evening Gazette. 11/6/1974.

Worcester Sunday Telegram. 12/15/1974.

Worcester Telegram. 9/10/1960. (photograph with porch).

Carruth, L. Old House Notebooks. (at Worc. Public Library).

Mange, P. Our Inns from 1718 - 1918. p. 25.

Spears, J. Old Landmarks... p. 67.

Wall, C. Reminiscences... p. 39.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Worcester	163-C
Property Name: Stearns Tavern	

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

9. Historical significance

is unlikely that any of the building's exterior details pre-date 1812.

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). ^{Historian} Call/Accept
^{Lightner} 10-30-79
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.
Concur with Bruce's 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. ^{Architectural Historian} DOBIE

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 bgs 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
AKK 12/24/80
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. ~~Reference was missing~~
on some properties but ~~is~~ ^{is} now included after the 2/11/80 corrections.

HAER

The only properties that I do not recommend listing are

Inventory

✓ 116-CBD-13 - destroyed by fire MD - 116 CBD-11

Review

130-CBD-44 - Does not retain integrity for individual eligibility

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ ^{am} not convinced about boundaries

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

but believe they could be OK. ~~is~~ ^{is} based

on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.

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

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 (filing from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up 2.3.81

Send-back

Entered

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit



Stearns Taron

163-C

30 AUG 1979

651 Park Ave.

Worcester MA, MA

West elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304