

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

130-CBD-
59

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

Roll 28

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 50 Franklin Street
Name The Bancroft Hotel
Present use commercial/apartments
Present owner Lewis Busconi
2 Wood Rd.
3. Description: Hopkington, Ma. 01748
Date 1912-1913
Source dedication article
Style Beaux Arts Classical
Architect Esenwein & Johnson of Buffalo
Exterior wall fabric brick
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features granite, marble and terra-
cotta trim, arcaded basement, pedi-
mented window frames, banding at top
two stories
rear wing added 1925
Altered entry awnings Date mid-20th
removed century
Moved no Date _____
UTM 5. Lot size: Assessors' Bk. 3, pg. 13
19/268900/4682380 Lot 16 33,502 sq. ft.
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 117'
Approximate distance of building from street
10'
6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date December 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Bancroft Realty Company

Original use hotel

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial/residential apartments, after 1964

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	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)

Built at the height of Worcester's prosperity, the former Bancroft Hotel is an opulent example of Beaux Arts classical design. The building is of steel-frame construction, nine stories high, rising from an arcaded base of rusticated marble. Upper floors of the building are faced with brick and trimmed with terracotta blocks near the building's corners. At the second storey are elaborate window pediments on consoles. At the eighth storey corner bays are framed by consoles and segmental arches, within which are single windows set in surrounds with broken pediments and garlands. The building's top two stories are banded with terracotta. Finished elevations face Franklin Street (north) and Portland Street (east). Upon completion the building's Portland Street side extended approximately 2/3 of its present length; it was enlarged southward in 1925, in the same style as the original part of the hotel.

The Bancroft Hotel, built between 1912 and 1913, was the city's most opulent hotel, described by historian Charles Nutt as "one of the most representative institutions of the city, originated by the public spirit of a new generation of leaders in city affairs... erected by Worcester money and conducted by Worcester men." Interest in building a luxury hotel began in 1910 when Alfred Aiken "took the initial step by enlisting the aid of Frank A. Dudley, president of the United Hotels Company, and the cooperation of the Board of Trade." Bancroft Realty Company was formed in 1911 and plans were prepared for the construction of a hotel of 225 rooms which could later be expanded to 320 rooms. Before construction began, the decision was made to construct the building to the larger size. The construction was carried out by the company of George Blake Long of

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

The Worcester Magazine, vol. XVI, no.10, Oct. 1913, pp. 301-314
(illustrated article)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp. 1038 and 1941-1043

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 130-CBD- 59
Property Name: Bancroft Hotel	

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

9.
Chattanooga, Tennessee at a final cost of \$1,250,000. An illustrated article in The Worcester Magazine at the time of the building's dedication shows the major public rooms with their original fittings. Again according to Charles Nutt, "the Bancroft Hotel since its opening has been the center of all important social functions. It has stimulated social life and created a new interest in dancing, receptions, and other functions." Named for George Bancroft, historian, the building was operated as a hotel until 1964.

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

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

ACCEPT
AK/DOH
2/28/80

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Spedden
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



JAN 1978

JAN 1978

Prestige Prints

by Berkeley

80 AUG 1979

130-CBD-59

Bancroft Hotel

50 Franklin St.

Worcester MA, MA

East + north
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304