

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAR 18 1975

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

G.A.R. Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Bull Mansion

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

55 Pearl Street

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

Massachusetts

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

025

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE

027

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER: offices and meeting space**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Worcester, Francis McGrath, City Manager

STREET &amp; NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Massachusetts

STATE

01608

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grand Army of the Republic Hall is a High Victorian-Stick Style structure of random ashlar Connecticut granite with smooth faced light grey granite trim. Located near Worcester center in a commercial area, the building faces north on Pearl Street. It is set back from the street with an elaborate fence bordering the sidewalk. Pearl Street slopes downward from the west to the east and this geographical feature results in a basement level, visible from the east elevation, originally used for the professional offices of the owner.

The structure is 2½ stories high with the third floor partially obscured by the steeply sloped slate roof. A flight of ten steps on the right side of the northern facade leads to the front door. The double doors are protected by a shallow stone porch embellished with carving, polished granite columnettes and ornamental ironwork forming a railing on top. Over the doorway is a granite lintel with the carving "Post 10 G.A.R." Calvert Vaux, the architect, balanced the facade with the impressive sculpturally emphatic doorway to one side and a large tower to the other side. The steeply pitched slate "tower" originally had iron cresting and is placed behind one of the two symmetrical gables on the north facade. These large gables have ornamental truss and bargeboard woodwork. Small iron finials, originally positioned at the peaks of the gables, have been removed. The northeastern corner of the building has a stone corbel, part of the tower structure, formed at the second floor level. The windows, 2/2 sash, decrease in size as they move upwards. The lintels on the first and third floors are rectangular blocks of granite with two small carved rosettes. The second floor has segmental lintels with one larger rosette to each block. The lintels are of the lighter colored granite and are connected by a band course of the same. Another ornamental horizontal band made of cast iron is visible from the north side of the building. This frieze is at the cornice level of the tower and marks a step down in the level of the roof.

The eastern side of the building has an entrance at the basement level, located in the base of the tower. This door is protected by a bracketed stone balcony surmounted by iron railing. A projection with stone corbel is found at the second story southeastern corner of the tower, identical to that at the northeastern corner. This eastern elevation, as the others, has gables projecting from the roof to form window openings for the third floor. These gables have truss and bracket woodwork. A 2½ story bay projects from the southeast corner of the building to balance the tower.

The c.1920 addition to the southeast is of slightly different style but uses the same stone. The stone on the side facing Pearl Street was taken from a portion of the fence. The other three walls of the addition are of yellow brick. The architect for the addition was Stephen Earle and the builder was O.W.Norcross, both of Worcester.

The stone fence that separates the house from the street is said to have cost \$10,000 when it was built in 1876. It is of heavy cast iron in sections about 6' wide, set between heavy posts of dressed granite. It rests on a granite wall, each section being stepped down to fit the grade of the sidewalk.

The basement level originally housed the medical offices of the owners. Massive doors of black walnut and mahogany with heavy trim were installed throughout the

cont'd

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

house. The windows had inside blinds which are still in place today. Ebony and oak were also used for decorative effect in the panelling. The dark woodwork is heavy and used extensively throughout the house. Large mirrors and elaborate gas fixtures have always been considered as important assets to the house and are mentioned as integral parts of the house in the deeds.

The only exterior alterations to the mansion have been the addition to the rear, the removal of some of the cast iron ornamentation, and the removal of some of the fence. As a whole, the house has a feeling of richness and solidity.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1876                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Calvert Vaux

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated in a commercial area of parking lots and nondescript 20th c. buildings, the Grand Army of the Republic Hall, 1876, is significant as an architectural landmark designed by Calvert Vaux. It is historically significant in its relationship to the Wessons, an important wealthy family in Worcester, and as a vestige of a former period of opulence and craftsmanship.

The G.A.R.Hall was constructed as a professional residence for Dr.George Bull and his wife Sarah, and was the gift of Danial B.Wesson, father of Sarah, at a cost of \$125,000. Wesson had made his fortune in the gun manufacturing business. The house proved too expensive for a young doctor to maintain and Dr.Bull soon found his wife and his residence unsatisfactory. In 1882 he separated from both to go west.

No tenants could be found and in 1889 the house was sold to Helen M.A.Marble, wife of Dr.John O.Marble. As an interesting coincidence, Helen Marble was the daughter of Ethan Allen who also made his fortune in gun manufacturing. In 1903 the house was sold again to Warren D.Hobbs of Boston. Hobbs gave use of the house to his daughter and her husband, Dr.Howard Beal. Following the departure of the Beals in 1913, the home was sold to the George H.Ward Post 10 of the G.A.R.

The house had steadily lost value and the G.A.R. was able to purchase the building for its assessed value of \$ 21,600. Numerous auxileries and affiliated bodies were also quartered in the new hall. In 1922-23 a campaign was initiated to raise funds for the construction of an addition to the rear of the building. The addition was constructed with stones from an original \$10,000 fence which were used as the building material for the street side to match the main building. The addition housed a meeting hall and museum. The basement level which had once held the professional offices of the owner was converted to use for card and smoking rooms.

As the 20th c. progressed and the members aged, the membership of the G.A.R. post steadily dwindled. What had once been the largest G.A.R. post in the country could soon only boast of a few members. In 1931-31 the trustees found the expense too great to carry on and the hall was deeded to the City of Worcester with a number of stipulations attached. The city is now obliged to maintain the hall for the use of patriotic groups.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. American Architect and Building News, April 8, 1876.
2. Nutt, Charles, History of Worcester and its People, New York, 1919.
3. Worcester Magazine, March 1913.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. .25 acre

HR-UTM OK

UTM REFERENCES

A | 19 | 2618710 | 46182690  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mindy Arbo, N.R. Editor and Janet McCorison, Worcester Heritage Society

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

1/23/75

STREET & NUMBER

40 Beacon Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth R. Amador*

TITLE

Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/11/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*R. B. Mortensen*

DATE

3/13/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Huntz*

3/12/75

Property

G. A. R. Hall

Worcester

State

Massachusetts

Working Number

2.19.75.275

75600303

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 2  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

OK pl  
2.21.75

**HISTORIAN**

Accept  
W.R. Luce  
2/24/75

Not stick style

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Accept  
Shorman  
2-24-75

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
3-5-75

**BRANCH CHIEF**

accept  
Hunt  
3.10.75

**KEEPER**

Wm  
3/12/75

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAR 13 1975

Federal Register Entry 5-6-75

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 19 1975

DATE ENTERED MAR 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

G.A.R.Hall

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Worcester

STATE

Massachusetts

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Worcester Telegram and Gazette Inc.

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

same

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

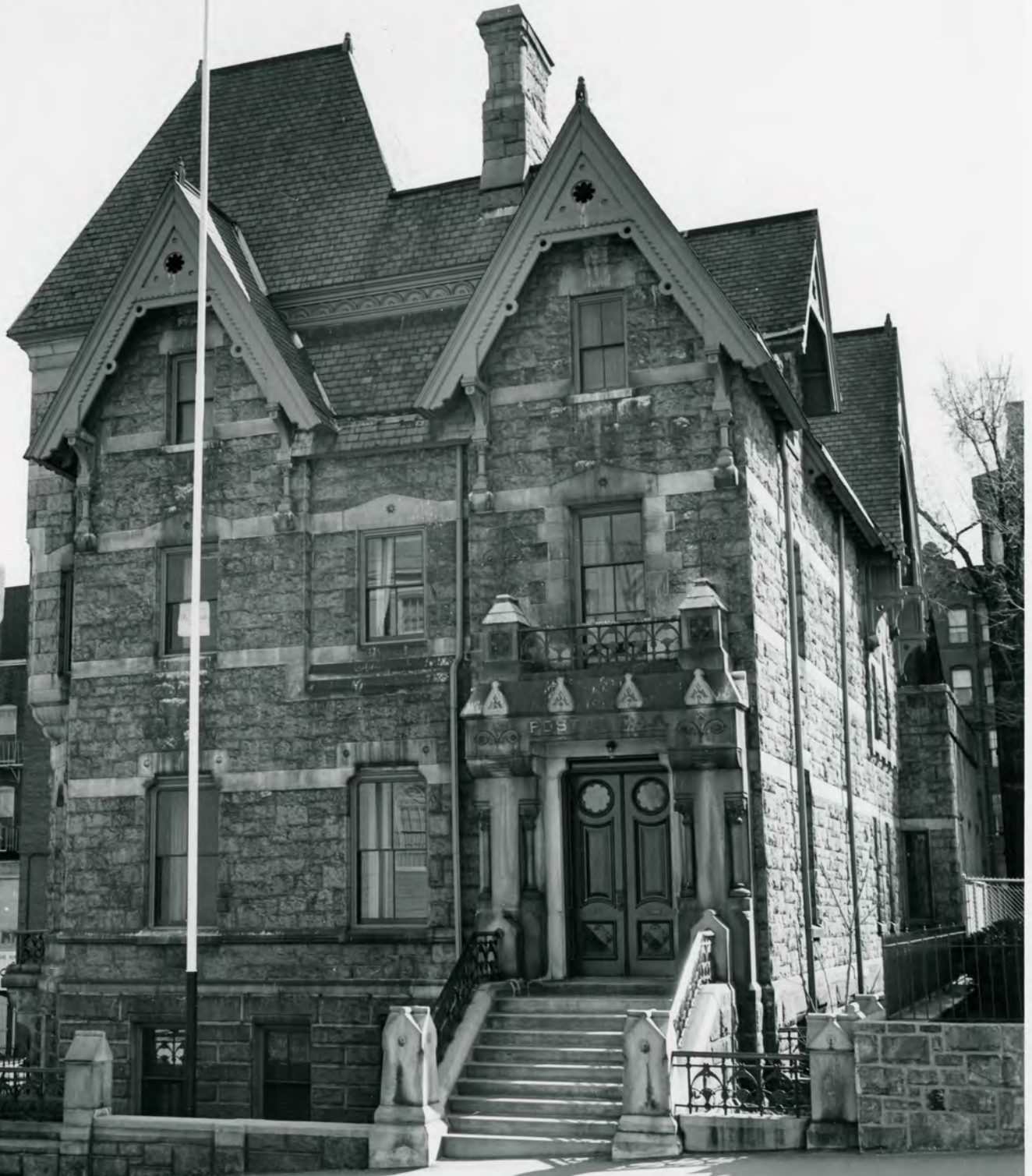
2

north facade and east elevation

#1082

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1082



Lyon Co.  
MEN'S WEAR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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DATE ENTERED MAR 13 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

G.A.R.Hall

AND/OR COMMON

same

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Worcester

STATE

Massachusetts

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Marvin Richmond

DATE OF PHOTO

1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT

same

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

1

north facade

#2082

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#2082

REORDER BY NUMBER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

G.A.R. Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Bull Mansion

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Worcester

STATE Mass.

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey

SCALE

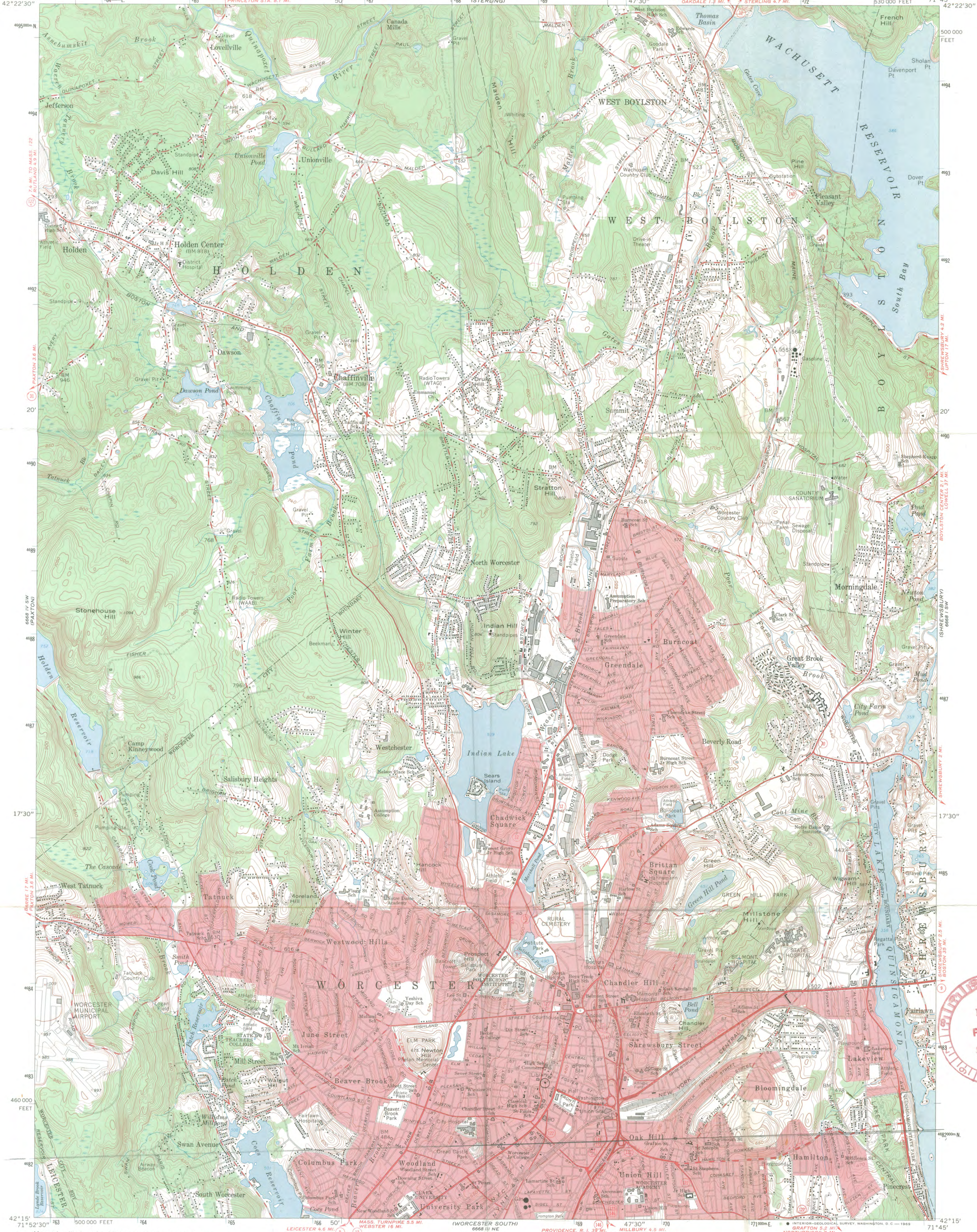
1:24,000

DATE 1960

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

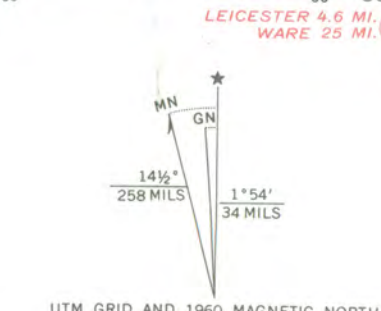
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



82x6  
-A+H Hall

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
Topography by plane-table surveys 1934. Revised 1960  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



LEICESTER & WARE 25 MI. (1)

MASS. TURNPIKE 9.5 MI. (1)

WORCESTER SOUTH 6.68 MI. NE (1)

PROVIDENCE, R. I. 39 MI. (1)

WILLYSBURY & S. MI. (1)

NORTHBRIDGE 12 MI. (1)

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

1 MILE  
1 KILOMETER

G.A.R. Hall, Worcester, MA  
UTM reference:  
19/268710/4682690

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

State Route

WORCESTER NORTH, MASS.  
N4215—W7145/7.5

1960

AMS 6668 IV SE—SERIES V814

UNDERWOOD BROS. COMPANY  
Map & Book Co.  
Shelburne, Mass.

RECEIVED  
FEB 19 1975  
NATIONAL REGISTER



*National Trust for Historic Preservation*

740-748 JACKSON PLACE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 382-3304

CHAR Hall

Dear Charles--

I understand that Massachusetts has approved the National Register application for the Salisbury Mansion and two other Salisbury houses (they are all together) in Worcester, Mass., and that the nomination is on its way to your office.

Anything that you could do to expedite this would be very much appreciated by me and by people in Worcester--my hometown.

Regards,

Carleton Knight, III

February 21, 1975

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 18 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
L G.A.R. Hall	Worcester Worcester County
Wyman, Francis, House	Burlington Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Joseph D. Early  
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald  
Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Asadon  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
40 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02103

PR MMott 3/14/75

Margherita



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

# Massachusetts Historical Commission

294 Washington St, Boston, Massachusetts 02108 (617) 727-8470

8 October 1975

Ms. Kate Cole  
National Register Office  
Office of Archeology and Historic  
Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
18th and C Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Cole:

Enclosed for your files is a copy of recent publicity on the G.A.R. Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts. The article appeared in the Evening Gazette on October 1, 1975.

The G.A.R. Hall was accepted in the National Register on March 13, 1975.

Sincerely yours,

Judy D. Dobbs  
National Register Editor  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

/jd

enclosure

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	OCT 10 1975
_____	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)
_____	INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT
_____	TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)
DATE ACTION TAKEN	_____
INITIALS	_____

**Other Opinion and Comment**

Accepted in National Register 3/13/75

# GAR Hall — a Worcester Memento

By MARGARET ERSKINE

The remarkable piece of Victorian architecture known as the GAR Hall on Pearl Street belongs to the city of Worcester, houses several veterans organizations, and is the temporary headquarters of the Worcester Bicentennial Commission. It is undoubtedly one of the best preserved examples of this period of architecture in the city.

It was built in 1876 as a private, 15-room home for Dr. and Mrs. George Bull. Mrs. Bull's father was Daniel Wesson of Springfield, Mass., who had made a fortune in the manufacture of guns. He had the house designed by Calvert Vaux and built at a cost of \$125,000 as a wedding gift to his daughter.

Vaux was born and trained as an architect in England. He had been persuaded to come to America by Andrew Jackson Downing, the famous architect and landscape designer. He had worked for many years with Frederick Law Olmstead on the design for Central Park in New York City. Many of the buildings still standing in the park were designed by Vaux.

### Parks and Buildings

By the time he received the commission for this house, he had ended his partnership with Olmstead and was working alone. He was still doing a great deal of designing in connection with the development of parks and buildings in them at Niagara Falls, Buffalo, N.Y., and other cities.

The house was designed in what was called the "villa" style. Everything is deliberately off center, quite in contrast to earlier New England buildings, like Mechanics Hall, where everything is carefully balanced between the right and the left.

The architect wanted it to be decorative and interesting to look at, so he used two colors of granite for the exterior, with red granite pillars by the doorway, a slate roof, carved wooden cornices around the high-pitched gables, and cast iron ornaments everywhere. The iron pieces which used to be on the tops of the roof are gone now, but they were very similar to the ones still attached to the wall around the house.

The main entrance is off Pearl Street, up a short flight of steps, and through double doors with ornamental etched glass panels. The lower entrance, through a courtyard, went into what were the doctor's offices. An overhanging roof gave shelter to someone coming to call for the doctor in bad weather.

### Complementary Motif

The inside was made to be just as interesting as the outside. Every room has very elaborately carved woodwork, and a fireplace with either colorful tiles or ornamental brass and marble borders. The parlor and library downstairs have huge mirrors surrounded by frames of inlaid and



Architect's sketch of the former Bull House, now the GAR Hall on Pearl Street, Worcester, as the sketch appeared in *The American Architect and Building News* April, 1876, edition.

carved wood. The windows have sets of shutters with movable louvers to adjust the amount of light coming into the room. Every doorknob, latch and hinge is ornamented with a design made to complement the woodwork.

Dr. Bull and his wife were not happy in their new home and they left it in 1882, he to go west, and she to go home to her father. In the following years it was owned by two other doctors, first Dr. John Marble, and then Dr. Howard Beal.

In 1913, the building was bought by the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of veterans of the Civil War. The Worcester Chapter was one of the biggest and most active in the United States at the time. They immediately decided to add a large meeting hall with a dining room below. Stephen Earle was the architect they chose. The hall itself is of a rather uninteresting design, but he had the great good sense to make almost

no changes to the main house, and to use stones from the wall surrounding the gardens which were once connected with it to make an exterior which carefully matched the original building.

At that time all the rooms were furnished with massive oak chairs and tables, carpets in oriental designs, and cases to hold memorabilia, all donated by local merchants. The great brass lighting fixtures were all still in place and the walls were hung with prints and paintings depicting heroic exploits of the war. The men were justly proud of their new headquarters.

### Gift to the City

When the GAR bought the building, members intended that it should eventually be given to the city. In 1931, the time came when the last few members could no longer afford to maintain it and so it was decided to Worcester, to be used by veterans and other patriotic organizations.

Most of the furnishings are now gone, as well as the original lighting fixtures. The floors downstairs have been covered in an unfortunate black and white linoleum tile. Leaks in the roof have caused a good deal of damage to the rooms in the upper stories. The soot of the city and the flocks of pigeons who live around the house have stained the exterior.

In spite of these problems, it stands as a well built, well preserved building of its period. It was an age of great craftsmanship and every part of the building gives testimony to the pride and skill of the workmen who built it.

The offices of the Bicentennial Commission are on the first floor and are open every weekday. They would be glad to show anyone who is interested that part of the building. The other offices, which are used by several veterans' groups, are not ordinarily open to the public.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION		3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER		4. NUMBER	
1. TYPE OF ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> PREAPPLICATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION (Mark appropriate box) <input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Opt) <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION		a. NUMBER  b. DATE Year month day 19 76 12 30		a. NUMBER 75050496  b. DATE Year month day ASSIGNED 19 75 06 16			
						Leave Blank	
4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT a. Applicant Name : Massachusetts Historical Commission b. Organization Unit : c. Street/P.O. Box : 294 Washington Street d. City : Boston e. County : Suffolk f. State : Massachusetts g. ZIP Code: 02108 h. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : Elizabeth Reed Amadon, S.H.P.O. (617) 727-8470				5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO. 046-002-284			
7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT Worcester County G.A.R. Hall Development Project, Worcester  "Clean, repair and repaint interior surfaces" Source of non-federal match is funds of the City of Worcester.				6. PRO-GRAM (From Federal Catalog) a. NUMBER   1   5   9   0   4   b. TITLE Historic Preservation			
				8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT A-State B-Interstate C-Substate District D-County E-City F-School District G-Special Purpose District H-Community Action Agency I-Higher Educational Institution J-Indian Tribes K-Other (Specify): Enter appropriate letter <input type="checkbox"/> A			
10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.) Commonwealth of Massachusetts				11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING 5,689,170		12. TYPE OF APPLICATION A-New B-Renewal C-Revision D-Continuation E-Augmentation Enter appropriate letter <input type="checkbox"/> A	
13. PROPOSED FUNDING a. FEDERAL \$ 1,900 .00 b. APPLICANT 1,900 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 3,800 .00		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: a. APPLICANT 9 b. PROJECT 3		15. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 15a or 15c) A-Increase Dollars B-Decrease Dollars C-Increase Duration D-Decrease Duration E-Cancellation F-Other (Specify): Enter appropriate letter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
20. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code) National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240				18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY Year month day 1976 12 30		19. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 25-76-00643-00	
22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved. b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached: (1) Office of State Planning <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2) <input type="checkbox"/> (3) <input type="checkbox"/>						21. REMARKS ADDED <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE Elizabeth Reed Amadon, Exec. Dir. and S.H.P.O.		a. TYPED NAME AND TITLE		b. SIGNATURE <i>Ely R. Amadon</i>		c. DATE SIGNED Year month day 19 76 12 30	
24. AGENCY NAME Department of the Interior				25. APPLICATION RECEIVED Year month day 19 77 1 6			
26. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT National Park Service				27. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Grants Administration Div.		28. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION	
29. ADDRESS 18th & C Sts., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240				30. FEDERAL GRANT IDENTIFICATION 25-76-00643-00			
31. ACTION TAKEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. AWARDED <input type="checkbox"/> b. REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> c. RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT <input type="checkbox"/> d. DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> e. WITHDRAWN		32. FUNDING a. FEDERAL \$ 1,900 .00 b. APPLICANT 1,900 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 3,800 .00		33. ACTION DATE Year month day 19 77 1 28		34. STARTING DATE Year month day 19 77 1 28	
35. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number) Stephen D. Newman (202) 523-5472				36. ENDING DATE Year month day 19 80 1 27		37. REMARKS ADDED <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
38. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION		a. In taking above action, any comments received from clearinghouses were considered. If agency response is due under provisions of Part 1, OMB Circular A-95, it has been or is being made.				b. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.) same as #35	

SECTION I—APPLICANT/RECIPIENT DATA

SECTION II—CERTIFICATION

SECTION III—FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/21/77  
Reviewer INITIALS: *goff*  
NR DOE March 13, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: <sup>10</sup> G.A.R. Hall

OTHER NAMES: Bull Mansion - *see*

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 55 Pearl Street

CITY/TOWN  Worcester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3rd

STATE  Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

COUNTY code  
Worcester 027

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)  PRIVATE  STATE  LOCAL GOV'T  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)  N. ATLANTIC  MID ATLANTIC  SOUTHEAST  MIDWEST  
 SOUTHWEST  ROCKY MOUNTAIN  WEST  PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

INTERIOR  
- Substantially intact-1  
- unknown - 4  
- not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR  
- Substantially intact-2  
- unknown -5  
- not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS  
- Substantially intact-3  
- unknown -6  
- Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -  EXCELLENT  DETERIORATED  UNALTERED  ORIGINAL SITE  
 GOOD  RUINS  ALTERED  MOVED  
 FAIR  UNEXPOSED  Reconstructed  Unknown  
 Unexcavated  Excavated

ACCESS -  Yes-restricted  Yes-unrestricted  No access  Unknown

historic district? YES  NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES  NO   
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES  NO   
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:  YES  NO Saved? YES  NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- private residence  
now- offices and meeting ~~place~~ <sup>hall</sup>

## SIGNIFICANCE:

- |  |                                       |   |  |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC    | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS    | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics     | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             | <input type="checkbox"/> health         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION    | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE -4        | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      | <input type="checkbox"/> settlement     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART                               | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION  | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     | <input type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY     | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             |  | <input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS                    | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION    | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    |  | <input type="checkbox"/> planning       |

## Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: ECLECTIC

architect/m.builder: CALVERT VAUX  
STEPHEN EARLE (addition)  
landscape/garden designer:  
interior decorator:

engineer:  
artist/artisan:  
builder/contractor: O.W. NORCROSS  
(addition)

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal DANIAL B. WESSON. OF GUN MANUFACTURING CO. -  
HAD HOUSE BUILT AS WEDDING PRESENT FOR DAUGHTER  
SARAH WESSON BULL AND HUSBAND (S) DR. GEORGE BULL.  
events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1876

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: c. 1920

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1/4

Rock-faced

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) GRANITE, 2 1/2 STORIES OVER HIGH

BASEMENT, MODIFIED L SHAPE, GABLED AND HIPPED ROOF SECTIONS WITH  
STICK STYLE DORMERS, INTERIOR CHIMNEYS WITH CORBELED CAPS, FRONT  
OFF-CENTER GLAZED DOUBLE-DOOR ENTRANCE, WITH SLIGHTLY PROJECTING 1-STORY  
ENGAGED PORCH, PROMINENT FRONT GABLES WITH BRACKETS AND ELABOR-  
ATE BARGEBOARDS, CONTRASTING STONE BANDING LINKED TO SILLS AND LINTELS;

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) ADDITIONAL BASEMENT ENTRANCES; LAVISH

INTERIORS; INCLUDE EBONY AND OAK PANELING AND ELABORATE GAS LIGHT  
FIXTURES; REAR ADDITION, 1920; MINOR EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS

ECLECTIC. EXAMPLE OF THE WORK OF NOTED ARCHITECT CALVERT VAUX; BUILT FOR

DANIAL B. WESSON OF THE SMITH & WESSON GUN MANUFACTURING CO., AS A  
WEDDING GIFT FOR HIS DAUGHTER SARAH WESSON BULL.