

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

103-G

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

Roll 21

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 21 Catherine Street
Name Draper Ruggles House
Present use nursing home
Present owner Doris A. Bastille
16A Northampton Street
01605
3. Description:
Date ca. 1848
County Plan Index and
Source exterior architecture
Style Greek Revival
Architect unknown
Exterior wall fabric aluminum
none
Outbuildings (describe) significant
Other features square floor plan with
hip roof, two-storey portico with
reeded columns, pilasters,
enclosed entry porch
siding-----ca. 1970
Altered entry & hood Date ca. 1875
westward on
Moved same lot Date ca. 1889
5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 1, p. 12
Lot 4, 4B, 15. 23,737 sq. f.
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 100'
Approximate distance of building from street
50'
6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date January 1978

UTM:
19/269680/4683950

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Draper Ruggles
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates nursing home (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> </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> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> x </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> </u>				

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

The Draper Ruggles House is an extremely important local example of Greek Revival architecture. Basically square in plan (with a rear ell), the house rises two stories from a rock-faced granite foundation to a low hip roof. The house's symmetrical facade has a two-storey portico supported by reeded columns; the center bay of the portico is occupied by a projecting entry pavilion which is framed by pilasters and has a balcony at the second storey. The portico's columns and the pilasters, which trim the corners of the house, support a wide entablature and cornice. Alterations to the house consist of a two-storey porch on the west elevation (ca.1910-1930), exterior wooden stairs on the east elevation (ca.1960), and a Victorian entry hood and double doors (ca.1880). With the exception of the Victorian entry, no alterations have been made to the original fabric of the building.

The Ruggles House is a rare survivor of a type of Greek Revival house (hip roof, square plan, two-storey portico) which was popularized by Elias Carter, an early local architect. Although many houses of this type were built in the 1830s and 1840s, only the Dowley-Taylor House (Form 141-F), the Levi Lincoln House (moved to Sturbridge Village) and the Ruggles House remain substantially intact. Although no architect is known for the Ruggles House, the building's overall appearance and its unusual reeded columns (a detail employed by Elias Carter in the now altered Butman-Sargent House, 14 Hammond Street, Worcester) suggest Carter, who is known to have returned to this area in the late 1840s to supervise construction of the Lyman School for Boys in Westborough, Mass.)

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

City atlases and directories

Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester, pp. 132-133.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 103-G
Property Name: Draper Ruggles House	

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

9.

Shown on the 1851 Map of Worcester, the Ruggles House is likely to have been built shortly after 1848 when much of the surrounding area (northward to Grant Square) was opened for development.

Draper Ruggles, about whom little personal information is available, was a member of the manufacturing firm of Ruggles, Nourse & Mason. Located in rented space in the Court Mills (demolished), the firm purchased a patent for "the most improved form of cast-iron plow" from Jethro Wood in 1838 and added it to their line of agricultural implements. By 1851 the company manufactured over twenty kinds of plows and occupied most of the Court Mills, employing more than two hundred people. During the mid-nineteenth century, Ruggles, Nourse & Mason maintained show rooms for their tools in the second floor of the Quincy Market Building in Boston. In 1854 the firm received medals at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in New York for a variety of products, including "Armsby's patent corn shovel". In 1856 Draper Ruggles withdrew from the firm and later the company was purchased by Oliver Ames of Boston. During the second quarter of the nineteenth century Ruggles, Nourse & Mason was one of the largest manufacturers of agricultural implements in Worcester, at a time when Worcester led the nation in this line of manufacturing.

In the 1860s the house passed into the possession of Jesse Moore (occupation unknown). Moore lived in the Ruggles House until around 1892, when he moved into 25 Catherine Street (see individual building form). Prior to the construction of 25 Catherine Street the Ruggles House was located further east, toward Windsor Street; around 1889-1890 it was moved westward on its original lot, to its present location.

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
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets. **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

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. **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
MURDOGH
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. ADDRESS WAS MISSING ON SOME 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 - 116 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Review _____

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ ^{AM NOT} CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. BASED

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend Listing all properties ~~except~~ ^{now} these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further} w/NR staff + State. DUBIE

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;

HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:

KEEPER

Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & claims from State), 102-L-3 (returning to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding info from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



by Berkeley

Prestige Prints

JUN 1979

103-G⁹⁰ AUG 1979

Ruggles, Prater, House

21 Catharine St.

Worcester MRA, Ma

South + east

elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304