

Ref no 80000534

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

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

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
	142-C

1. Town Worcester

Name of area (if any) ^{Sold 1890 or 1891} Sargent Street
Manufacturing District

3. General date or period 1866-1892

4. Is area uniform (explain): no (Second
in style? Empire & utilitarian)

in condition? yes (fair)

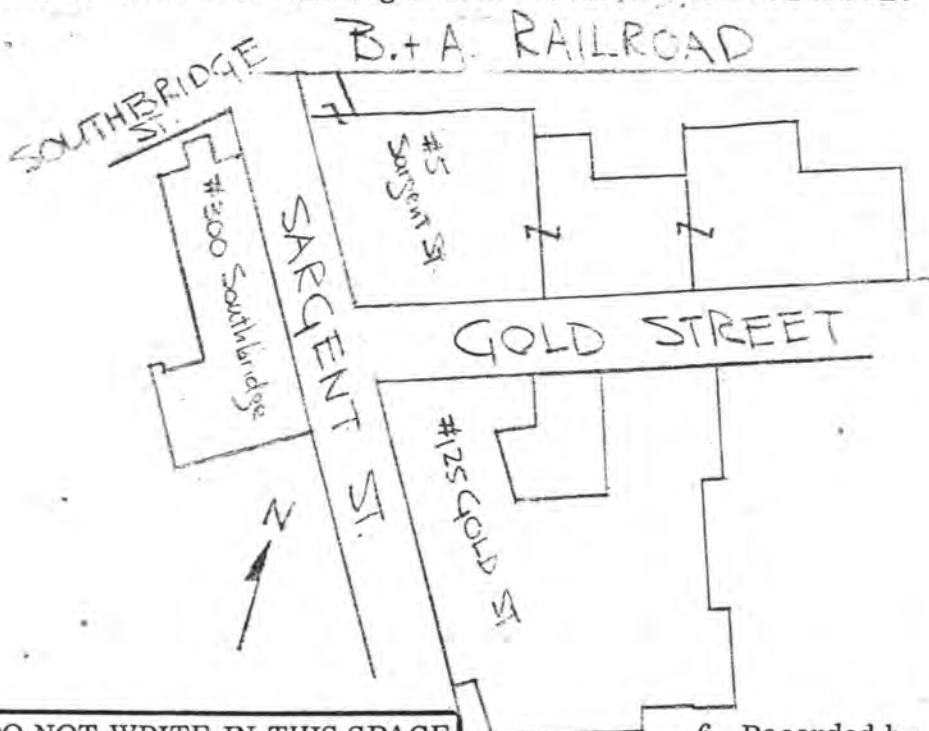
in type of ownership? yes (private)

in use? yes (commercial/industrial)

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

Roll 13 and 15

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by S. Lee
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date revised February 1979

(over)

UTM
19/268500/4681590

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The Sargent Street Manufacturing District is located immediately east of the junction of the Boston and Albany, the Norwich and Worcester, and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroads. The construction of these railroad beds in the mid-nineteenth century led to the development of the surrounding area as one of Worcester's major manufacturing centers, known as the Junction. Having developed into a densely built industrial district by the early twentieth century, the Junction remained an active center of manufacturing until the mid-twentieth century when the decline of the city's center and the departure of many firms brought about the demolition of many factories and left the area with only fragmented remains of its industrial past. Containing three factories, the Sargent Street Manufacturing District has historical associations with two important local industries (the manufacture of machine cards for the textile industry and the manufacture of building materials), and preserves a sense of the Junction's former industrial character. Particularly important is the Sargent Card-Clothing Factory (300 Southbridge Street), one of Worcester's earliest remaining factory buildings and a unique example of a once important building type. Included in the district are:

300 Southbridge Street - The Sargent Card-Clothing Factory, built in 1866, is one of the most architecturally significant factory buildings in Worcester. The structure is built of brick, two stories high with a third storey enclosed by a mansard roof; the walls are divided by piers into even bays, each of which rises to a corbelled head and corbelled cornice. Centered in the building's west end is a square-plan tower which runs to four stories (original hip-on-hip roof removed in twentieth century). On its west face the tower contains the building's major entry, a date plaque and a name plaque. The tower's north, west and south elevations are framed by corner piers which support blind arches at the fourth storey. Set within each arch is a single oculus. The Sargent Factory is remarkably similar to that of T.K. Earle (also a card manufacturer) built in 1857 (demolished). The Sargent Factory's plan and details are characteristic of a large number of factories built in Worcester during the last half of the nineteenth century, including the first factories built for the use of individual firms. During the 1880s the plan was modified by the elimination of mansard roofs and by lowering of tower heights until the tower's position was merely occupied by a projecting stairhall. Subsequent demolitions of earlier factory buildings have left the Sargent

(cont.)

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

Worcester Historical Society. Biography file. (E. Sargent, obit.)
Worcester Commercial, vol. I, no. 3, 7/1892, pp. 122-124 (Whitcomb Co.)
Worcester Illustrated Business Guide (1881) p. 58 (illustrations
300 Southbridge and 5 Sargent)
Rice, F. Worcester of 1898, pp. 497-499 (Whitcomb Co.)
Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester, pp. 77-79 (Sargent Co.), pp. 118,
122-124 (Whitcomb).

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 142-C
Property Name: Sargent Street Manufacturing District	

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

7. Factory and the Ashworth and Jones Factory (Survey Form #173-B) as the only well-preserved examples of their type.

In 1866, Joseph B. and Edward Sargent, brothers, whose father operated a successful card-clothing factory in Leicester, formed the Sargent Card-Clothing Company and built 300 Southbridge Street. By 1881, the firm was among the largest of its type in the United States, manufacturing "Machine Cards for Cotton, Wool and Flax machinery." Involved in a complex series of partnerships, the Sargent Card-Clothing Company acted "as special agents for the James Smith Woolen Machinery Company of Philadelphia" by 1881. By 1886 the business had become a part of the Sargent Hardware Company and in 1890 the business was sold to the American Card Clothing Company, a conglomerate which purchased all but two card-clothing factories in the United States. Biographical information regarding the Sargent brothers is scarce, as neither seems ever to have lived in Worcester. Still in use for industrial purposes, the Sargent Factory Building is an important survivor of Worcester's industrial past and should be preserved, should a threat to its continued existence arise.

5 Sargent Street - Bearing a stylistic resemblance to the Sargent Factory, the Rice and Griffin was built prior to or during 1890. Originally the building was three stories high with a corbelled cornice and piers dividing its south wall into five equal bays. The structure was enclosed by a pitched roof which was removed in the early twentieth century when the present fourth storey was added. The Rice and Griffin Manufacturing Company was founded in 1866 (according to its advertisements) although the firm is not listed in city directories until 1869. In 1872 the company was first listed at 5 Sargent Street, where it remained until 1905. Principals in the firm were Erving F. Rice (1838-1896), Robert S. Griffin (1835-1902) and W.F. Knowlton (who withdrew from the company before 1872). The company began with the manufacture of "mouldings, doors, sash & blinds"; in the 1870s the manufacture of architectural ornament was expanded. In 1875 the company advertised that it had "the only Machine in New England that will work circle rope mouldings, cutting right and left." An illustration of an ornate Victorian cottage (more of a decorative fantasy) accompanies the 1875 advertisement, showing some of the company's products. It seems likely that much of the Victorian wood-work that remains on Worcester buildings was made in this factory. Expansion of the business resulted in the addition of a small wing on Sargent Street (ca. 1890), additions along Gold Street and the addition of a fourth storey (early 20th century) to the 1870 factory building.

(cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Community: Worcester	Form No: 142-C
Property Name: Sargent Street Manufacturing District	

3.

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

7. 125 Gold Street-- The Whitcomb Manufacturing Company Factory, built in 1892, is a two-storey brick building of utilitarian design. Founded in 1849 by Carter and Alonzo Whitcomb as C. Whitcomb Company, the firm became the first successful manufacturer of copying presses in the United States. Having rented in several different locations, the company occupied the rear portion of 5 Sargent Street from 1877 until 1892. During this time the firm advertised its products as "metal planers, shears, punches and copying presses." In 1905 the Whitcomb Manufacturing Company merged with four other firms to form the Whitcomb=Blaisdell Machine Tool Company.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

4.

Community:

Worcester

Form No:

142-C

Property Name: Sargent Street
Manufacturing District

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

7.

Property List

Address	Assessors' Data	Present Owner
300 Southbridge Street	Book 5, p. 12 Lot 13--31, 254 sq. ft.	Aaul Talbert
5 Sargent Street	Book 5, p. 12 Lot 10--11, 955 sq. ft.	Max H. Rubenstein, Trustee
134 Gold Street	Book 5, p. 12 Lot 6A--10, 938 sq. ft.	Selbro Realty Corp.

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

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

ACCEPT
MURPHY
2/28/80

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

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). ~~Down~~ 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. DOUBLE

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. VIDS WERE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. PLEDGE WAS MISSING ON SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS.

THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE

✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 16 CBD-11

130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

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

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

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

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

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 _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry _____

2.3.81

Re-submit _____

SEE 3/3/80 REPORT



Prints

key

JAN 1978

JAN 1978

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

142-C³⁰

Worcester M.R.A., Ma

5 Sargent St

Sargent St. Manufacturing District

South + east
Southbridge elevations

Roll 15



TALBERT
TRADING
CORP.
WARE-1 BROAD ST. N.Y.C.

Coca-Cola
No. 10000

Miss Worcester

Roll 15

JAN 1978

JAN 1978

Prestige Prints

by Berkeley

30 AUG 1978

Western R.R. #

142-C

Seabridge
300 Seabridge St

Sergeant St. Monterey District

West & South

elevations



Roll 15

JAN 1978

Prestige Prints

by Berkeley

JAN 1978

Prestige Prints

by Berkeley

Scutabridge
142-C
Soylent St. Manufacturing District
125 Gold St.
Westchester MA
West & South
Educations
30 AUG 1979



142-C AUG 1973
Worcester, MA
300 Southbridge St.
Sergeant St. Manufacturing District
East & north
Southbridge elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304