

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

165-I

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

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

1. Town WorcesterAddress 705 Southbridge StreetName South Worcester Branch LibraryPresent use branch libraryPresent owner City of Worcester

3. Description:

Date 1913Source cornerstoneStyle Classical RevivalArchitect Henry D. WhitfieldExterior wall fabric yellow brickOutbuildings (describe) noneOther features limestone trim, Tuscan
entry columns, carved swag panels,earred window frames, slight
parapetAltered no Date _____Moved no Date _____5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 7, p. 36
Lot 25 9,974 sq.ft.One acre or less X Over one acre _____Approximate frontage 100'Approximate distance of building from street
20'6. Recorded by B.R. PfeifferOrganization Worc. Heritage Pres. SocDate January 1978

UTM

19/267950/4680310

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Worcester

Original use branch library

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

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)

The South Worcester Branch Library is a one-storey brick building set on a high basement. The building's facade is symmetrical about a projecting center pavilion. The building's entry is approached by two flights of granite stairs with solid limestone railings. All exterior trim is made of dressed limestone and is derived from a variety of classical/Renaissance sources. Among the building's many fine details are eared window frames with moulded caps, Tuscan columns at the entry, carved stone panels and a stepped parapet. Along the property's South-bridge Street frontage is a low granite curbing.

Built in 1913, the South Worcester Branch Library was one of three branch libraries built in Worcester as the result of a \$75,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie in 1912. Prior to the construction of these three branches, access to the Worcester Public Library was limited to the main library on Elm Street (now demolished) and several delivery points. By 1908 the city's expansion had created neighborhoods distant from the downtown area, resulting in a movement to build branch libraries. As with the other two libraries built with Carnegie donation (the Quinsigamond Branch Library - Form 192-A and the Greendale Branch Library - Form 33-A) the South Worcester Branch Library was built on land donated by local industrialists, in this case by Alfred Thomas and Matthew J. Whittall whose carpet factories were nearby (see Form 177-D). It is unclear how architects and designs for the new libraries were selected (there may have been a competition); however, the strong similarities of plan and scale among the three buildings suggest that much of the

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) building's design had been predetermined either by the city of Worcester by Carnegie. At present the South Worcester Branch Library is in excellent, original condition.

City Document #58 for 1913. Auditor's Report, p. 145 (architect)
Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp. 779-781 (photo)

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.
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} ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

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 1800s 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
AKC/DOBIE
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. ~~ALREADY WAS MISSING~~
IN 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

Review

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

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

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

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~~ ^{to discuss further} w/NR staff + State. ^{DOBIE}

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 & demolition S.H.R.B.), 102-L-3 (returning to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit



JUN 1979



JUN 1979



Winchester AIAA, MA

165-I

South Winchester Branch Library

705 Southbridge

South & East
elevation

80 AUG 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304