

DEC 26 1989

2405

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA

FORM NO.

1686

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester

Address 8 Dix Street

Historic Name John Riordan Three-  
Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1888

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Queen Anne

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Wood clapboard and

Outbuildings none shingle

Major Alterations (with dates) porch  
balustrade replaced

Condition good

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting Urban late 19th century,

multi-family residential neighborhood.

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization for MHC

Date December 1988

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

See attached map.

UTM REFERENCE 19/268750/4683290

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The John Riordan Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a rare survival of the earliest phase of local three-decker development in the multi-family, working-class and middle-class residential neighborhood that developed northwest of downtown Worcester in the late 19th century. It is also one of the few well-preserved examples of the earliest local phase of Queen Anne three-decker design, unusual in many of its details. The Riordan Three-Decker thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

### **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.**

Architecturally, 8 Dix Street is a remarkably well-preserved example of the first, experimental phase of local Queen Anne three-decker design. While the house has the characteristic side-hall plan and hip roof, it also features several elements that were not widely used in the building boom of the 1890s. On the asymmetrical main facade, the single-story entry porch is supported by unusually heavy, bevelled posts with solid brackets. The entry is flanked by a projecting, three-story square bay window, rather than the subsequently more popular, angled bay window. A large, square three-story window bay is also located on the side wall. Large, decorative corner brackets are located in the roof cornice overhang. The house is clad in wood clapboard, with a shingle band between the second and third stories on the main facade.

### **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.**

Built by 1888, the Riordan Three-Decker was part of an early Irish, working-class, residential district that was located northwest of downtown Worcester, within easy walking distance of central city businesses and factories. The Dix-Wachusett Street area was one of the earliest, pre-electric streetcar, three-decker residential areas to develop in the city, and it appears to have attracted a group of white-collar and skilled blue-collar residents. The first known owner of 8 Dix Street was John Riordan, a bookkeeper, who lived here. Tenants in 1888 included G.W. Chamberlin, a woodturner; Edward Chamberlin, a clerk; and C.H. Goodell, a stenographer. Riordan continued to own the house through 1900, when residents included A.V.B. Cutter, a nickel plater; John Phelon, a carpenter; and B.A. Whitcomb, a provisions merchant. By 1910, the house was owned by Peter Martin, a machinist, and the Martin family continued to live here through the next two decades. Tenants over this period included John Staff, a stage carpenter, who lived here in 1910; and Ross Stuart, a printer, who resided here through the 1920s.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1888, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930  
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.  
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/26/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Worcester Three-Decker MRA  
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- |     |                                  |                                     |          |                              |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| 71. | Provost, Arthur, Three-Decker    | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 72. | Reed, Frank, Three-Decker        | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 73. | Ridyard, Albert, Three-Decker    | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 74. | Ridyard, B. E., Three-Decker     | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 75. | Riordan, John, Three-Decker      | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 76. | Roynane, Catharine, Three-Decker | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 77. | Shea, Bridget, Three-Decker      | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 78. | Simpson, Clara, Three-Decker     | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 79. | Smith, Ellen M., Three-Decker    | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper | <u>Helene Byers 2/9/90</u>   |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |
| 80. | Stoliker, Edna, Three-Decker     | Substantive Review                  | ✓ Keeper | <u>Betty Savage 02-09-90</u> |
|     |                                  |                                     | Attest   | _____                        |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Riordan, John, Three-Decker

MULTIPLE NAME: Worcester Three-Deckers MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 12/26/89      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/09/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/25/90      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/09/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002405

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2/9/90    DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Worcester Three Decker MRA

JOHN RIORDAN THREE-DECKER

8 DIX STREET

WORCESTER, MA

MHC # 1686

Working Together

Kodak



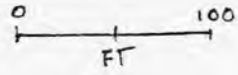
Working Together

Kodak



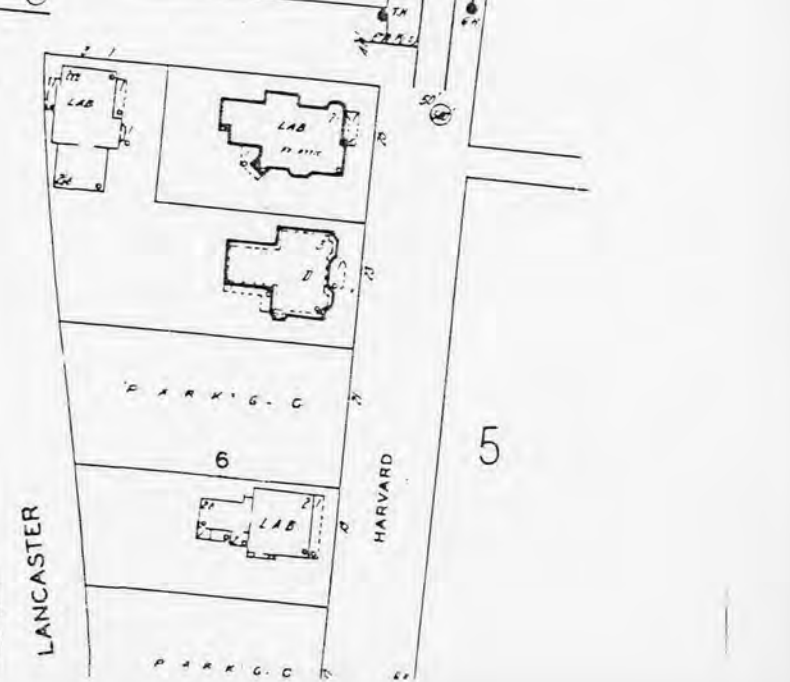
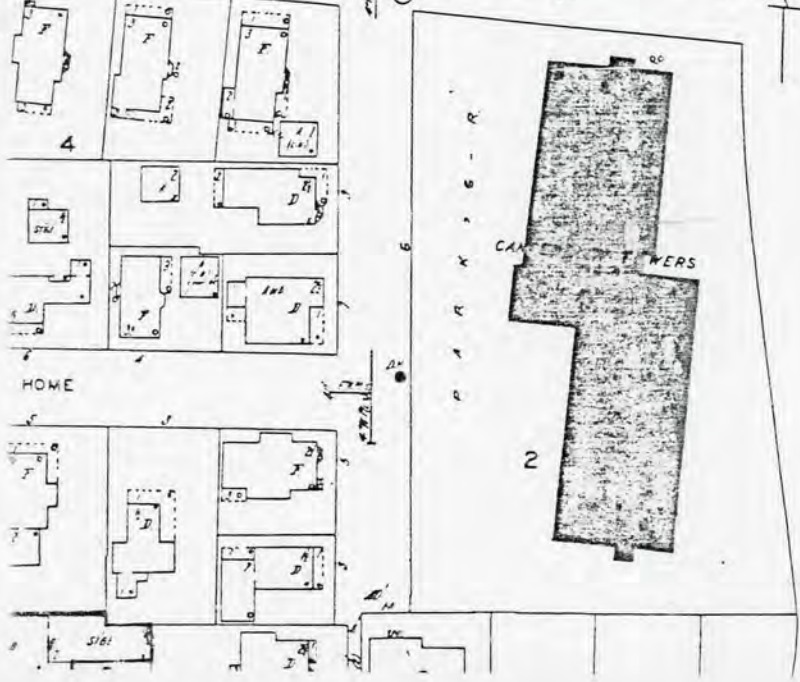
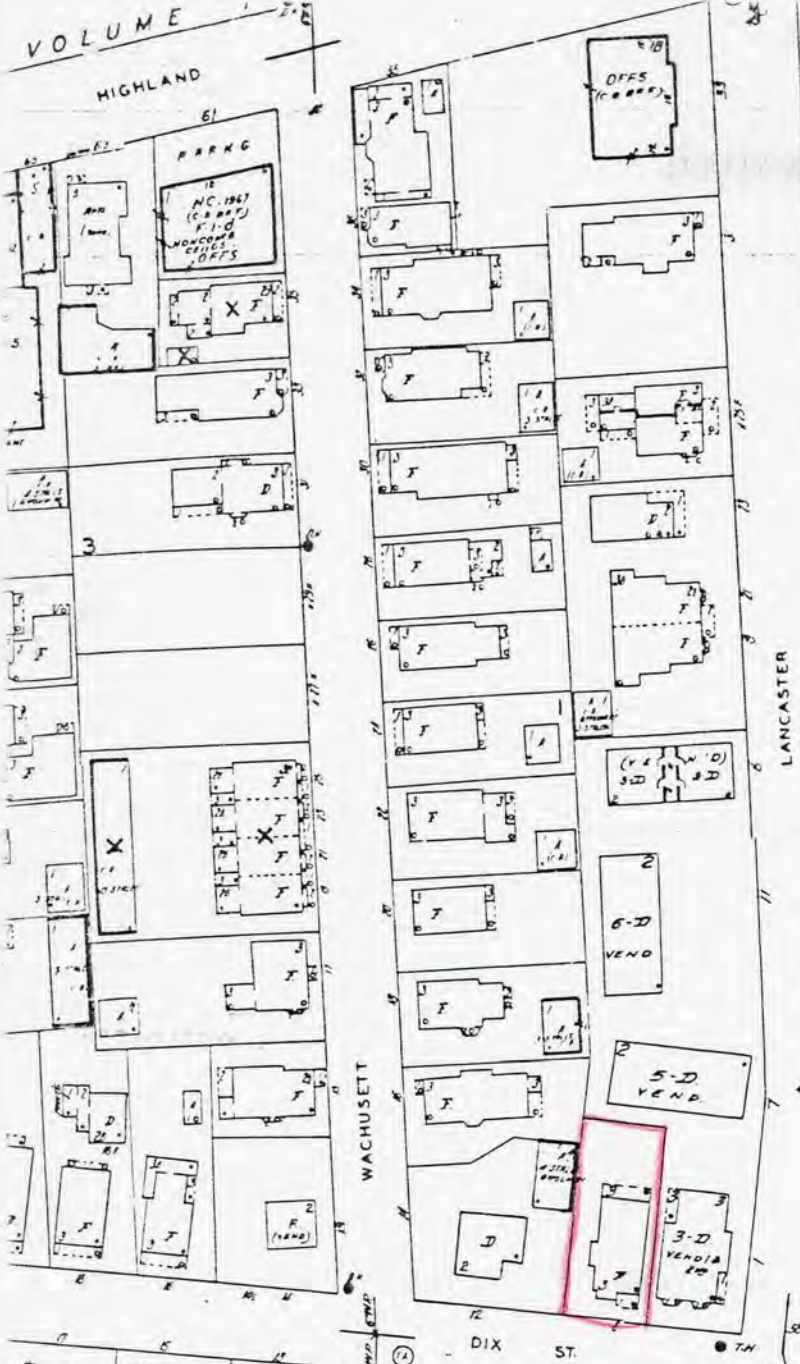
BUILDINGS MARKED WITH AN X  
HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED.  
REDEVELOPMENT SITE

ENTIRE SHEET  
URBAN RENEWAL SITE



John Riordan Three-Decker  
8 Dix St., Worcester  
MHC # 1686

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305