

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

142-G

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

Exp. 2 Roll 2

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

1. Town Worcester

Address Ionic Avenue

Name Masonic Temple

Present use meeting halls and head-
quarters for several chapters of
Masons

Present owner Worcester Masonic

3. Description: Charity and Education
Association

Date 1914

Source Worcester Magazine

Style Classical Revival

Architect George C. Halcott

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features monumental Ionic
colonnade, pedimented entry frame
with bronze doors, rusticate brick-
work

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

Assessors' Book 3, p. 9
5. Lot size: Lots 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15,
16, 16A & 17 53,602 sq.ft.
One acre or less _____ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 271'

Approximate distance of building from street

20'

W. & M. Seaman

6. Recorded by ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date November 1977

(over)

UTM
19/268550/4682030

7. Original owner (if known) Masonic Charitable and Educational Association

Original use Masonic Temple for the use of all Worcester chapters

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 Masonic Temple is a monumental brick building approximately four and one half stories high with a rectangular floor plan. The structure's facade sits on a high basement and is framed by wide piers of brick laid up to give the appearance of rustication. Set between the piers are eight Ionic columns between which are windows set in blind-arch frames (1st storey) and decorative brick panels (second storey). At the facade's center is an elaborately decorated entry set in an eared architrave and surmounted by a pediment on consoles. Above the facade's columns are an entablature and cornice above which is a series of square lights, surmounted by a brick parapet. Side elevations of the building repeat much of the brickwork, cornice and moulded trim of the facade, but lack columns and decorated window surrounds. At present the Masonic Temple is in original condition.

Freemasonry got its first foothold in Worcester in 1793 when Isaiah Thomas founded the Morning Star Lodge. As with so many other social and fraternal organizations, the Masons grew rapidly in numbers during the nineteenth century, particularly toward the turn of the century. By 1910 a committee was established to look into building a new headquarters, as the Masons' temple of nearly fifty years on Pearl Street had been outgrown. Land was purchased on Mower's Avenue, now Ionic Avenue (the street name was reportedly changed due to the imposing quality of the Masonic Temple's Ionic colonnade). Construction was carried out in 1911, from plans drawn by Mr. George Halcott, the superintendent of public buildings of the City of Worcester. At the time

(cont.)

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

Worcester Magazine, Sept. 1914 (Article and photos.)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp. 927-935 (history of Masonic chapters in Worcester)

Rice, F. Dictionary of Worcester, p. 62.

Rice, F. Worcester of 1898, pp. 267-271.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 142-G
Property Name: Masonic Temple	

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

9.

of its completion the building contained a drill hall and banquet hall on the first floor, a "Grecian Chamber" on the second, an "Egyptian Chamber" on the third, and a Gothic Chapel. The heaviness of the building's details and its scale make it one of the finer examples of Classical Revival architecture in Worcester.

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~~ **OTHER**
ACCEPT
MURPHY
2/28/80
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

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. FURTHER WAS MISSING IN 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 - 116 CBD-11

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

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

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

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~~ w/NR Staff + State. **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 (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



142-8

Mazen. Temple

Ionic Avenue

North elevation

Worcester MRA, Ma

30 AUG 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304