

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.
116-CBD-5

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

Roll 27

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

1. Town **Worcester**
Address **144-148 Main Street**
Name **Armsby Building**
Present use **commercial/residential**
Present owner **Dial Away Co., Inc.**
352 West Boylston St.
West Boylston, Mass. 01583
3. Description:
Date **1885**
Source **exterior date plaque**
Style **Panel Brick**
Architect **Stephen C. Earle**
Exterior wall fabric **brick**
Outbuildings (describe) **none**
Other features **five-storey height,**
granite sills, lintels and courses;
ornamental brickwork on upper stories
mid-20th
Altered **store fronts** Date **century**
Moved **no** Date _____
5. Lot size: **Assessors' Book 2, p.28**
Lot 26 9,510 sq. ft.
One acre or less **x** Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage **60'**
Approximate distance of building from street
7'
S. Ceccacci
6. Recorded by **ed. B.R. Pfeiffer**
Organization **Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.**
Date **November 1977**

UTM:
19/268970/4683190

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Armsby Estate

Original use commercial/residential block

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	X	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)

Combining elements of Victorian Gothic design and its offshoot, "Panel Brick" architecture, the Armsby Building is among the most ornate and well-preserved examples of its period in downtown Worcester. The building is five stories high with a symmetrical facade, which at the first storey contains an arched entry flanked by one store front on each side. (Although faced with modern materials, these modern store fronts merely cover original trim.) Upper floors contain eight evenly spaced windows at each storey; windows are trimmed with rock-faced sandstone lintels and sills. Separating the windows (vertically) are panels of decorative brickwork. At the roof line is a slight corbelling which supports a paneled parapet. At the parapet's center are a decorative gable and date stone.

Designed by Stephen Earle, one of the city's most prominent architects, the Armsby Building was constructed at a cost of \$30,000 by C.A. Vaughan. As originally planned, the structure contained two store fronts at street level and a boarding house on the upper floors. The block was apparently built as an investment by the estate of George F. Armsby, who had been secretary of the Munroe Organ Reed Company in Worcester prior to his move to Vineyard Haven in 1879.

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

Sanitary Engineer, vol. XI, April 23, 1885, p.441; vol. XI, May 21, 1885, p.527 (building notices)
Worcester House Directory, 1888, 1896, 1912.

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

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.

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

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. DUBIE

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
AKA/DK/SL
2/28/80

of the scale map which clearly delineated boundaries. Acreage was missing on some properties but ~~it~~ is now included after the 2/11/corrections.

HAER

The only properties that I do not recommend listing are

Inventory _____

Review _____

✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 116-CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~was~~ am NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

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

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend now listing all properties except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~hold 102-L-3~~ to discuss further w/NR staff + State. DUBIE
Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

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

KEEPER

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 (listing from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



JAN 1978

by Bertkey



JAN 1978

80 AUG 1979

Armstrong Building
116-CBD-5
Worcester, MA, Ma
144-148 Main St.
east elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304