

FORM A - AREA

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

CW	1854 - 1856
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester

Name of Area (if any) Crystal Street
Historic District

Present Use residential

General Date or Period ca. 1892

General Condition very good to
excellent

Acreage .92 Acres

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization for MHC

Date December 1988

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black & white) Indicate on back of each photo street addresses for buildings shown. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient).

See Attached Map.

The Crystal Street Historic District includes 3 residential buildings and two modern garages. The boundaries were selected to include the row of three three-deckers that face University Park. A steep hillslope rises to the rear of the row. Houses along Crystal Street to the north and south of the district are far less uniform in character, are generally of a much later construction date, and have seen more extensive alteration. Boundaries follow the historic lot lines of the subdivisions on which the district's houses were built.

Contributing/Non-contributing status

Buildings: 3C, 2NC

UTM REFERENCE A 19/267090/4680840
B 19/267100/4680760
C 19/267040/4680760
D 19/267040/4680840

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester South
SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Crystal Street Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as stylish row of park-side three-deckers, built in the late 19th century as rental units for the more prosperous, skilled blue-collar and white-collar residents of the Main South neighborhood. The development of the Crystal Street three-deckers was also linked to the area's growth in this period both as a streetcar suburb and as a residential area for employees of nearby factories. The houses of the district are also a particularly ornate group of Queen Anne style three-deckers, one of the best-preserved rows of 19th century three-deckers in the city. The Crystal Street Historic District 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 areas within the community.

Architecturally, the three houses of the Crystal Street Historic District represent a group of remarkably well-preserved, and unusually well-detailed Queen Anne style three-deckers. Set on the hillslope overlooking University Park, 30, 32 and 34 Crystal Street are nearly identical in appearance. The houses have the characteristic side-hall plan with side-wall jog. Each has an asymmetrical main facade with a recessed, side-bay entry sheltered by a small, gabled portico. The portico of 30 Crystal Street is supported by lathe-turned posts, but on the other two houses these have been replaced by simple, square posts. A corner turret with a conical cap is situated opposite the entry on each building. The houses are all clad in wood clapboard, with cut shingles on the curved turret surfaces and in a band between the second and third stories of each house. Many windows have simple bracketed caps. Single and paired cut brackets decorate the roof cornice overhangs.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

In the late 19th century, the area around University Park southwest of downtown Worcester was subdivided and developed as an ethnic, multi-family residential neighborhood. Residents were drawn to the area by employment opportunities in the factories located along the nearby railroad corridor. The opening of electric street railway service along Main Street also made the area an easy commute for those who worked downtown or in other parts of the city. Many families of Irish extraction located in the neighborhood, and the area around University Park was also a focus for a group of French-Canadian families. In particular, the streets facing University Park offered an attractive residential setting, and on the west side of the park, a row of stylish three-deckers was built ca. 1892. The houses appear to have been developed by James Harrop, who lived at 30 Crystal Street, and who owned all three houses for over 35 years. In 1892, Harrop was employed as a wool sorter, but six years later he was a dry goods merchant, and by 1916 he was listed as a real estate agent. The stylish Crystal Street three-deckers attracted a group of skilled blue-collar and white-collar residents. Besides, James Harrop, residents of 30 Crystal Street in 1900 included Albert Baker, a foreman; and Fred Israel, a patternmaker. In 1912, tenants included Charles Bragg, a superintendant; Frances Bragg, an operator; and Charles Morley Jr., a machinist. In 1920, tenants included Frank Wood, a weaver; and Everett Harrop, an engineer. The neighboring three-deckers also attracted skilled mechanics,

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

(CONTINUED)

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1892, 1900, 1912, 1920, 1930.
- L. J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.
- J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Form No:

Worcester

Property Name: Crystal Street HD

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

(HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE)

many probably employed within easy walking distance of their homes. Residents of 32 Crystal Street in 1892 included Morton Smith, and John Fox, both machinists. In 1900, tenants included Harry Laycock, an overseer; and James Hollinrake and John Fox, both machinists. In 1912, occupants included Charles Hull, a foreman; and William Smith, a machinist. Similarly, in 1892, the residents of 34 Crystal Street included Joseph Geoffry, R.M. Cook, and George Kemp, all machinists. Residents here in 1912 included Elmer Schoonmaker, a weaver; Edwin Davis, a bookkeeper; and George Damon, an organ maker.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

DISTRICT DATA SHEET
 CRYSTAL STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
 WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

<u>MAP-BLOCK-LOT</u>	<u>MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS-RESOURCE</u>
7-10-C	1854	Harrop Three-Decker /2 garages	30 Crystal Street	c1892	Queen Anne	1C-B 2NC-B
7-10-B	1855	Harrop Three-Decker	32 Crystal Street	c1892	Queen Anne	1C-B
7-10-A	1856	Harrop Three-Decker	34 Crystal Street	c1892	Queen Anne	1C-B

TOTAL: 3 Contributing Buildings
 2 Noncontributing Buildings

12/26/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 11. | Crystal Street Historic District | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Beth J. Savage
02-09-90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 12. | Davis, Rodney, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Helene Byers 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 13. | Davis, Wesley, Three-Decker | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Beth J. Savage 02-09-90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 14. | DEan, Mary, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Helene Byers 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 15. | Delsignore, Louis, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Helene Byers 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 16. | Dodge, Helen, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Helene Byers 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 17. | Doran, Thomas F., Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Helene Byers 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 18. | Drew, Elvira, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Helene Byers 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 19. | Duke, Philip, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Helene Byers 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 20. | Dworman, David, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Helene Byers 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89002379

Date Listed: 02/09/90

Crystal Street Historic District
Property Name

Worcester
County

MA
State

Worcester Three-Deckers TR, Worcester MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

02-09-90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Accompanying Documentation:

The appropriate scale for the sketch map is 1"=200'.

This information was confirmed by Ann Tait, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Crystal Street Historic District

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: 89002379

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/9/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Swasey
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 02-09-90

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Worcester Three - Pockets MA
CRYSTAL STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
WORCESTER, MA
30, 32, 34, CRYSTAL STREET





Worcester Three Decade's MRA
CRYSTAL STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
30, 32, 34 CRYSTAL STREET
WORCESTER, MA



224



Crystal Street Historic District
Worcester

224

217

MESSELI & MORSE CO
BUILDERS & MASONS SUPPLIES

SCHE OF THE ADLY AN OF
ULGOS IFS
FRANKLIN A.P.A.
ALL BUILDINGS

UNIVERSITY PARK

Pond

WOLPOLE

WOLPOLE

CAN'D DELRY

CAMBRIDGE

CRYSTAL

WOLPOLE

SIMONSON DR

WOLPOLE

WOLPOLE

WOLPOLE

WOLPOLE

WOLPOLE

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305