

ref no 80000542

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	143-D

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

Roll #25

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

1. Town Worcester
 Address Ash Street
 Name Ash Street Schoolhouse
 Present use warehouse
 Present owner Albert Fierer
231 Moreland St.
Worcester 01609

3. Description:
 Date 1860
 Source City Documents
 Style Italianate
 Architect Elbridge Boyden
 Exterior wall fabric brick
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features square plan, paired entries
low hip roof, recessed wall panels with
corbelling, bracketed cornice
 Altered cupola removed Date 20th
century
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Bk. 5, pg.4
Lot 21, 13,422 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 100'
 Approximate distance of building from street
10'

6. Recorded by S. Lee & R. R. Pfeiffer
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
 Date December 1977

UTM
19/269110/4681880

7. Original owner (if known) City of Worcester
 Original use schoolhouse
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates warehouse

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>x</u>	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Ash Street Schoolhouse, now used as a warehouse, is the second oldest school building extant in Worcester; the building was one of nine new schoolhouses built by Worcester in the wave of civic pride and expansion (1848-1855) which followed the establishment of city government in 1848. Of these nine schools, only the Ash Street School and the Oxford Street Schoolhouse remain - see Form 130-0. The Ash Street Schoolhouse is a three-storey brick building with a square floor plan and low hip roof. Each elevation is divided into four equal bays by piers which rise to corbelling at the head of each bay. On the building's north and south elevations, two entries (one for boys, the other for girls) occupy the center two bays of the ground floor; rising above these entries on the south elevation is an original fire escape. The building has a deep cornice supported by paired brackets. Except for the removal of its octagonal cupola, the Ash Street Schoolhouse is unaltered.

An object of considerable local pride, the Ash Street Schoolhouse was frequently the subject of illustrations in city directories of the 1850s, in Worcester in 1855 (H.F. Howland) and in Zepheniah Baker's Cottage Builder's Manual (Worcester 1856) where it was shown as a model double house (plates 11-13). Failing to cite the building's name, architect and original use, Baker prepared floor plans which show parlors, bedrooms, kitchens, etc. curiously squeezed into the confines of the building's square plan. In their plans Baker proposes that the parlors be located at the second storey, citing this location as a sophisticated detail of
 (cont.)

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

Worcester Magazine. June 19, 1935.
City Documents. No. 3, p. 56.
Baker, Zepheniah. Cottage Builder's Manual. pp. 134-135.
Nutt, Charles. Hist. of Worc. Vol. II, p. 693.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 143-D
Property Name: Ash Street School	

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

9.

city houses. Despite the effort to adapt the building's design to residential use, Baker's illustration retains the appearance of a schoolhouse.

The Ash Street Schoolhouse is situated at the crest of a hill, immediately west of Green Street and is visible from many parts of the city. Most of the residential quarter, which the school served, has been demolished, leaving the schoolhouse as an important and rare survivor of the area's development in the 1840s-1860s.

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 or 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-dickers). **HISTORIAN**
Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets. **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Concern 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 b/cp need to be discussed with State.

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. **OTHER**
ACCEPT
MacDonald
2/28/80
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

of the same maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Evidence was missing on some properties but is now included after the 2/11/80 corrections. **HAER**
Inventory _____
Review _____
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 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 ^{now} properties ~~except~~ 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; 3/5/80
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state DUBIE

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 (holding file from state) **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**



WRIGHT'S
FLOORING
SUPPLY
CO.
WASHINGTON
PLANTING CO.

Ash Street Schoolhouse

143-D³⁰

Weston MA, MA

Ash St.

Weston south
elevations

AUG 1979

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304