

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

116-L-37

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

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

1. Town WorcesterAddress 57 Elm StreetName Alexander Marsh HousePresent use residentialPresent owner Charles W. Patterson,
trustee 57 Elm St.

3. Description:

Date 1848Source Albert Waite PapersStyle Greek RevivalArchitect unknownExterior wall fabric clapboardOutbuildings (describe) noneOther features rock-faced granite founda-
tion, corner pilasters, pedimented
gable, entry with side lights, Doric
porchdecorative
Altered applique on Date 1860s (?)
front door

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors" Book 3, p. 34,
Lot 7 7019 sq. ft.One acre or less x Over one acre _____Approximate frontage 67'Approximate distance of building from street
10'6. Recorded by B.R. PfeifferOrganization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.Date March 1979DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

Alexander Marsh

7. Original owner (if known)

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

The Alexander Marsh House is an excellent unaltered example of the side-hall type of Greek Revival house which enjoyed widespread popularity in Worcester during the 1840s and early 1850s. The house rests on a foundation of rock-faced granite and has corner pilasters, a pedimented gable on its facade and a Doric porch. The main entry has a four-panel wooden door (with jigsaw decoration perhaps added ca.1860) set between side lights. East of the entry, the facade has two floor-to-ceiling windows of 6/9 sash; elsewhere the house has 6/6 sash. Of the houses built by Governor Levi Lincoln in his first efforts to develop his Elm Street estate in the 1830s and 1840s, only the Alexander Marsh House remains unaltered on its original site.

In October of 1848 Levi Lincoln sold #57 Elm Street to Alexander Marsh of Southborough. At the time of this sale, the property was described as containing "a new dwelling house in the process of completion", which presumably was occupied by Marsh in 1849. Alexander Marsh (1805-1890) came to Worcester as a piano dealer and maintained a store in the American House Block from 1849 to 1858. After 1858 Marsh became a manufacturer of barometers and a "dealer in patent rights", with offices in the Union Block on Main Street. In 1875 Marsh built a brick house at the rear of his original lot (now #2 Oak Street - see Lincoln Estate - Elm Park District, Form 116-L) to which he moved in 1875 or 1876.

(cont.)

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

Worcester County Deeds Book 440, p. 620. Lincoln to Marsh, 10/17/1848.

Albert Waite Papers.

Rice, F. Worcester of 1898, p. 683 (Henry Marsh)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 116-L-37
Property Name: Alexander March House	

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

9. After 1875, #57 Elm Street was the home of Henry Alexander Marsh (1836-1914), son of Alexander Marsh. The younger Marsh studied under Edward Everett Hale while Hale was minister of the Church of the Unity in Worcester. In 1853, Henry Marsh became a clerk at the Central Bank (of Worcester), rising to cashier (1862) and later to president of the bank (1892). Marsh served as city councilor (1867-1869), alderman (1878-1881) and mayor of Worcester (1892-1894). In 1903, when the Worcester Trust Company was formed by the consolidation of several local banks, Marsh became vice-president of the new company. Marsh lived at 57 Elm Street until his death in 1914.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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). ^{Owner} opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

HISTORIAN
Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

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}

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
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 bldg 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. BIDS WERE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE

OTHER
ACCEPT
MURPHY
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. ALREDGE WAS MISSING ON SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS.

HAER

THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE

Inventory _____

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

Review _____

- ✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ ^{AM NOT} CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend Listing all properties ^{now} 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 & demo from State), 102-L-3 (returning to State for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



Marsh, Alexander, House

80 AUG 1979

Worcester, MA, Ma

116 - L - 37

57 Elm St.

South elevation

Prestige
by Berkeley

JUN 1979

Prestige Prints
by Berkeley

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304