

DEC 26 1988

2371

FORM A - AREA

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

AX	1581 - 1586, 1888
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester

Name of Area (if any) Houghton Street
Historic District

Present Use residential

General Date or Period ca.1920-1926

General Condition fair to excellent

Acreage 1.13 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 Houghton Street Historic District includes 7 residential buildings and 3 period garages. Its boundaries follow the historic subdivision boundaries of the building lots of the district. The district is bounded on the north by Palm Street and on the south by Dorchester Street. Residences on the west side of Houghton Street west of the district are from a distinctly earlier phase of three-decker construction, and most have lost their integrity due to alterations. Immediately to the south of the district is a playground. To the east the district is defined by the boundaries of the Arthur Street subdivision.

Contributing/Non-contributing status

Buildings: 9C, 1NC

UTM REFERENCE A 19/270230/4681440
B 19/270210/4681320
C 19/270200/4681320
D 19/270190/4681440

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North
SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Houghton Street Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a fashionable, ethnically mixed, skilled blue-collar and white-collar, three-decker suburban subdivision of the 1920s. Located in the Grafton Hill area, the Houghton Street Historic District also represents an unusually well-preserved collection of ornate, Colonial Revival style three-deckers, one of the outstanding groupings of such buildings to survive in the city. The Houghton 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.

Built between 1920 and 1926, the three-deckers of the Houghton Street Historic District represent a remarkably intact group of unusually ornate, well-detailed houses built in the Colonial Revival style. Visually striking with their unusual massing and substantial, three-tier porching, these houses represent an architecturally outstanding collection of three-deckers from this period. Only one house, 63 Houghton Street, has lost its integrity due to the use of modern siding. At the northern end of the district, 49, 53 and 57 Houghton Street are notable for their complex forms and projecting porchwork. A particularly fine example is 49 Houghton Street. The house has the typical hip roof and side-hall plan, and the asymmetrical main facade has a three-story bay window. A full-length first-story porch extends to a second, side-wall bay window. In the entry bay, the porch rises to three tiers, capped by a projecting gable with pediment. The porch is supported by single, paired,

(CONTINUED)

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

By the 1920s, new three-decker construction had extended eastward out of the Grafton Hill neighborhood where the earliest concentrations of these houses had been located on the western and northern slopes. The development of the Houghton Street Historic District between ca.1920 and 1926 was part of this extension of three-decker development into the highland area of new subdivisions along the Grafton Street corridor. The fashionable, Colonial Revival three-deckers built on Houghton Street attracted a mix of skilled blue-collar and white-collar families from the city's older, ethnic East Side neighborhoods. Many commuted by car or streetcar to work places downtown or in other parts of the city. In 1930, the majority of the residents of Houghton Street were members of the city's Jewish community. However, the early residents also included Irish, French-Canadian, and Armenian families. The first houses built in the district (ca.1920) were 61, 63 and 65 Houghton Street. Wilfred Trottier, a carpenter who owned 7 other neighborhood buildings, was the first owner of 61 Houghton. Soon after, the house was owned and occupied by Louis Romanoff, a clerk. Residents of the house in 1930 included Romanoff; Thomas Kennedy, a leatherworker; Joseph Cote, a salesman; and Paul Desilets, a barber. The first owner of 63 Houghton Street was Joseph Gordon, owner of the Royal Clothing Company, a downtown business. Residents in 1930 included Gordon; Al Rowe, operator of the Royal Collateral Loan

(Continued)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1920, 1926, 1930.

L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1922.

J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No:
Property Name: Houghton St. HD	

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

Architectural Significance (cont)

Both houses retain 6/1 sash windows, and feature the liberal use of brackets in the roof cornice overhang, in the gable pediments, and in the porch cornice. On 147 Dorchester Street, an additional projecting side-wall bay window, capped by a pedimented gable, faces Houghton Street. While 65 Houghton Street presently exhibits serious deterioration, 147 Dorchester Street is in excellent condition. The district also retains three garages from the same period of construction as the residential buildings. These buildings have cinder block walls and are located at the rear of the building lots on which they stand. One is of three bays and the other two four bays.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No:
Property Name: Houghton St. HD	

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

Historical Significance (cont)

Company; Israel Abelski, who operated a trucking business; and Harry Nemshin, employed in men's furnishings. Joseph Crock, a pedlar, is the first known owner of 65 Houghton Street, where he also resided. His tenants in 1930 included Jacob Kotlier, a salesman; and Romeo Raymond, a linotype operator. Four additional houses were added to the row over the next six years. In 1930, 49/51 Houghton Street was owned and occupied by Andrew Schultz, a chef at the nearby Worcester Academy. Simeon Piragas, a wireworker, owned 53/55 Houghton Street, where he also resided. Anthony Sepas, a wiredrawer, owned and occupied 57/59 Houghton Street. Joseph Morris owned 147 Dorchester Street. Residents of 49/51 Houghton included Arthur Green, a railroad brakeman; and Simon Miniassian, a tailor. Residents of 53/55 Houghton included Alphonse Bouthillette, a foreman; and Anthony Mavros, a confectioner at the Posner Square Spa. Tenants of 57/59 Houghton included Peter Snyder; and William Cohen, operator of the Boston Auto Exchange. In 1930, 147 Dorchester Street was occupied by Joseph Lemanski, a laborer; Edward Merritt, a manager; and several adult members of the Ruch family: Max, a pedlar; Hyman, a grocer; Lena, a bookkeeper; Louis, a clerk; and Robert, also a clerk.

Architectural Significance (cont)

and triple posts, and on the second and third tiers has unusual, double peaked openings. The house is clad in wood clapboard, with shingle bands between stories. Its windows retain 2/1 sash, with floral pattern stained-glass in the bay windows. Neighboring 53 Houghton Street, with a pedimented gable roof, is simpler in massing. Here, triple windows were used, rather than a projecting bay window in the main facade. This house also features a full-length first story porch that rises to three tiers in the entry bay, capped by a projecting gable with pediment. Windows retain 4/1 and 6/1 sash, and the house is clad in wood clapboard, with shingle bands between stories. 57 Houghton Street has a hip roof and a projecting, three-tier porch capped by a gable with pediment. In this case, the porch is supported by slender, triple Tuscan columns. The asymmetrical main facade has triple windows, as does a shallow, squared, projecting side bay. Windows retain 4/1 and 6/1 sash with geometric pattern stained-glass in the bay window. Even simpler in form is 61 Houghton Street, a gable-roofed house unusual for its surviving full-length, three-tier front porch, supported by heavy posts, and with open balustrades. The house has a side-hall plan. Windows retain 6/1 sash, and have simple caps. Regularly spaced brackets decorate the roof and porch cornice overhangs. 63 Houghton Street is similar to 61 Houghton, but has lost its shingling and cornice brackets with modern siding. Both 65 Houghton Street and 147 Dorchester Avenue differ from the other houses of the district in their unusual, symmetrical facades. Both have gable roofs and are clad in wood clapboard, with shingle bands between stories. On the main facade, a projecting central porch is capped by a pedimented gable, and is supported by substantial, square Doric columns. The porch is flanked on either side by a three-story, angled bay window.

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Staple to Inventory form at bottom

DISTRICT DATA SHEET
HOUGHTON 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>
18-3-193	1581	Shultz Three-Decker /garage	49 Houghton St.	c1926 c1930	Col.Rev.	2C-B
18-3-192	1582	Piragas Three-Decker	53 Houghton St.	c1926	Col.Rev.	1C-B
18-3-191	1583	Sepas Three-Decker	57 Houghton St.	c1926	Col.Rev.	1C-B
18-3-189	1584	Romanoff Three-Decker	61 Houghton St.	c1920	Col.Rev.	1C-B
18-3-188	1585	Gordon Three-Decker /garage	63 Houghton St.	c1920 c1930	Col.Rev.	1NC-B
18-3-187	1586	Krock Three-Decker /garage	65 Houghton St.	c1920 c1930	Col.Rev.	2C-B
18-3-186	1888	Morris Three-Decker	147 Dorchester St.	c1922	Col.Rev.	1C-B

TOTAL: 8 Contributing Buildings
1 Noncontributing Building

12/26/89

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

- 31. Hall Charles A., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 32. Hirst, Samuel, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 33. Houghton Street Historic District **Substantive Review** Sr Keeper Betty Savorse 02-09-90
Attest _____
- 34. Hunt, Daniel, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 35. Hunt, David, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 36. Ingleside Avenue Historic District **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 37. Ingraham, Harry B., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 38. Johnson, Edwin, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 39. Johnson, John and Edward, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 40. Johnson, John, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** ✓ Keeper Alvina 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: 89002371

Date Listed: 02/09/90

Houghton 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 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: Houghton 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: 89002371

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 at C
REVIEWER Savage
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 _____



HUGHTON ST. H.D.

WORCESTER, MA

Worcester Three Peaks MRA



HUGHTON ST. H.D.
WORCESTER, MA

Worcester Three Decker MRA



H OUGHTON ST. H.D.,
WORCESTER, MA

Worcester Three Decks VRA

Houghton Street Historic District
Worcester



408

407

406

HAMILTON

CAROLINE ST

HALE

FLOWER

WORCHESTER

ALMONT AV

134

13

14

VILLAGE

15

LEON

453



SCALE OF FEET



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305