

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

ref no 90000417

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
	155-I-1

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

1. Town Worcester
 Name of area (if any) Worcester Academy - National Register District
3. General date or period 1889-1911
4. Is area uniform (explain):
 in style? no (mixed Victorian)
 in condition? yes (good)
 in type of ownership? yes (Worcester Academy)
 in use? yes (private boarding school)

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

Roll 25

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
 Date November 1977

(over)

UTM
19/269700/4681400

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The portions of Worcester Academy included in this nomination have been selected to include the school's Victorian classroom and dormitory buildings and to exclude later, twentieth-century construction on the campus's southern portion. Included in this nomination are portions of Lot 5 shown in Assessors' Book 4, p.35 and portions of Lots 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48, shown in Assessors' Book 4, p.33. For measured boundaries, see Map 155-I; the approximated area of land included in this nomination is 212,800 square feet. Buildings which stand within the bounds of this district are:

1. Walker Hall, built 1889 (Fuller & Delano, architects): a two and one-half storey classroom building of Romanesque Revival design, this building is of brick construction with rock-faced sandstone trim. Major features include a wide sandstone entry area, arched windows (1st storey), arched windows with transoms (2d storey), gabled dormers and a slate-covered hip roof.

2. The Megaron, built 1906 (architect unknown): a one-storey brick structure of Romanesque Revival design, the Megaron has a symmetrical facade (south) with evenly spaced arched windows and a gabled entry porch which bears a name plaque. The Megaron was planned as a single large room to provide a social center for the campus. Both the building's name and its intended function consciously imitated the megaron as it existed in classical antiquity.

3. Adams Hall, built 1892 (architect unknown): Adams Hall is a one and one-half storey brick structure of rectangular plan with a high hip roof. Of late Gothic Revival design, the building's major features include a buttressed entry porch with pointed-arch entry and elaborate tracery in the entry transom, sandstone trim, window labels, and a central dormer with name plaque and carved stone finial. The building's interior contains a dining hall. Adams Hall is in unaltered condition.

4. Dexter Hall, built 1892 (Fuller & Delano, architects): a three and one-half storey brick dormitory with a symmetrical facade (west) containing central and end pavilions. The main entry is framed by a sandstone surround of engaged Ionic columns supporting a broken pediment, behind which is a sandstone and iron railing. Other decorative trim consists of sandstone mouldings, stone panels, a wooden cornice with modillions and fanlights in gables.

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

- Engineering and Building Record, vol. XIX, March 2, 1889, p.xi (Walker Hall);
vol. XXIV, Oct. 31, 1891, p. xii (Dexter Hall)
- Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, vol. XXXII, no.2, May
1973, p.129 (Daniels Gymnasium)
- Barker & Nourse, Illustrations... (Kingsley Laboratories)
- Nutt, C. History of Worcester and Its People, vol. II, pp. 730-734
- Ward, George Otis. The Worcester Academy: Its Locations and Principals
1834-1882

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
Worcester

Form No:
155-I-1

Property Name: Worcester Academy

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

7.
5. Kingsley Laboratories, built 1897 (Barker & Nourse, architects): A three-storey brick building with a hip roof and central, octagonal cupola, the Kingsley Laboratory Building has a symmetrical facade, arranged about a three and one-half storey central pavilion. Elements of the building's design are derived from Romanesque Revival architecture, such as its rock-faced sandstone trim, sandstone entry arch with foliate carving and arched third-storey windows. The building remains in largely original condition.

Buildings numbered 6 to 10 (inclusive) were included in an initial survey of the campus, but have not been included in this nomination.

11. 81 Providence Street, built 1886-1896 (architect unknown): 81 Providence Street is a two and one-half storey frame house of simple Queen Anne style design. Among the building's features are some decorative shingling, eyebrow dormers and a Tuscan entry porch with a low pediment over the entry. Built for Worcester Academy, this building's original use is unclear.

12. 60 Penn Street, built ca. 1890 (architect unknown): a two-storey frame house with elements of Queen Anne style architecture, #60 Penn Street was built by an individual and has a history unrelated to Worcester Academy. Although compatible in period with the surrounding campus, this structure does not contribute to the area's significance.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Worcester Academy was founded in 1834 as the Worcester County Manual Training School by a group of Baptists seeking to establish "an academy that would give the poor boy an opportunity for liberal education." In the year of its founding \$5,000 was raised locally to allow the purchase of a sixty-acre farm on the east side of Main Street (between modern Hammond and Lagrange Streets) where a chapel and a "Mansion House" were constructed. In 1854 the Academy, plagued by financial difficulties, sold its Main Street campus to Eli Thayer and moved to the former headquarters of the American Antiquarian Society at the corner of Summer and Belmont Streets. In 1869 Isaac Davis, the first president of the Academy, purchased the present Union Hill campus.

At the time of its purchase, the present campus contained a large brick building which had been designed by the Worcester architectural firm of Boyden and Ball and constructed in 1852. Between 1852 and 1856 this building served as the Worcester Medical College, between 1856 and 1860 as the Ladies' Collegiate Institute (which was ruined by the financial panic of 1857-1858) and between 1864 and 1865 as the Dale General Hospital for the care of wounded Union soldiers. After 1869 the building was re-named Davis Hall, in honor of Isaac Davis and served as classroom and dormitory space for the school. In the mid-twentieth century Davis Hall was demolished and replaced by modern buildings outside the boundaries of this nomination.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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Community: Worcester	Form No: 155-I-1
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7.

The first substantial building on the Union Hill campus to be designed specifically for Worcester Academy was Walker Hall (1889). During the 1890s, Walker Hall was followed by the construction of Adams Hall (1892) and Dexter Hall (1892) on the campus's north side. With the completion of the Kingsley Laboratories (1897) and the Megaron (1906), the school's major period of building came to an end and the campus assumed much of its present appearance. Currently in good condition, the buildings of Worcester Academy preserve good examples of late Victorian institutional architecture and have continuous associations with one of the city's oldest schools.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Community: Worcester	Form No: 155-I-1
Property Name: Worcester Academy	

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7.

Property List

<u>Property</u>	<u>Assessor's Data</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>
1. Walker Hall	Portions of Assessor's	Trustees, Worcester
2. Megaron	Book 4, p. 35	Academy
3. Adams Hall	Lot 5 (indicated on map	81 Providence Street
4. Dexter Hall	155)	Worcester, Mass. 01604
5. Kingsley Laboratories	also portions of Assessor's Book 4, p. 33	
6. Daniels Gymnasium	Lots 44-48 inclusive (indicated on map 155)	

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-deckers). **HISTORIAN**
Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets. **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

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. **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 bays need to be discussed with State.

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

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. **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~~ ^{am} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**
ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGMENT.
Recommend Listing all properties ^{now} 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 **DOBIE**

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 (eligibility from state) **Soldha**
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____



30 AUG 1978

155-I-1

Worcester Academy

Kingsley Lab

Worcester MA MA

South Junction



by Berkey

Prestige Prints

JAN 1978

JAN 1978

30 AUG 1979

155-I-1

Worcester Academy

Walker Hall

Worcester MA 0149

West elevation



30 AUG 1979

30 AUG 1979

155-I-1

Worcester Academy

Adams Hall

Worcester, MA, MA

North & West
elevations



LABORATORIES

30 AUG 1979

155-T-1

~~Worcester Academy~~

Kingsley Lab

Detail Worcester MRA, MA

South elevation



30 AUG 1979

155-I-1

Dexter Hall
Worcester Academy
West elevation
Worcester M.A., Ma



30 AUG 1979

155-I-1

~~worcester~~ Academy

81 Providence

worcester MA, MG St

North elevation



30 AUG 1979

Worcester MA 5, MA

155-I-1

Worcester Academy

Walker Hall

Detail - west
elevation



TO METAPON

30 AUG 1979

155-I-1

Wrocław Academy

The Megaron

Wrocław IMPA/Ag.

South elevation



3.0 AUG 1979

155-T-1

Worcester MRA MA

Walker Hall

Detail - South

Worcester Academy
elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304

Worcester Multiple Resource Area
9-11-79



155-I-1

WORCESTER ACADEMY

81 Providence Street / Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 / Telephone (617) 754-5302

October 17, 1979

Mr. Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Bldg., 440 G Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20243

Re: Worcester Multiple
Resource Area

Dear Mr. Herrington:

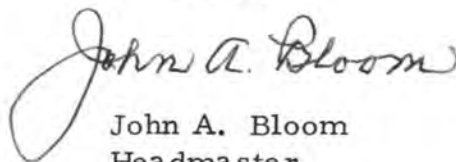
In response to your letter of September 27, 1979 to the Trustees of Worcester Academy, I am pleased to advise you of the Trustees' pleasure to hear that our properties have been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

It is the plan of the Trustees to maintain all of the buildings in question with relatively little change. Most of those will be attributed to the need to guarantee safety of our students and personnel.

We are always proud to have visitors who enjoy architecture on our campus, and we would hope that through the designation by the National Register that still more people would enjoy our grounds.

So that we might cooperate in whatever way possible, I would ask that you direct your mailings personally to me so that I might expedite matters.

Sincerely,


John A. Bloom
Headmaster

JAB:ers

