

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1624

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

See attached map.

2398
Town Worcester

Address 62 Catharine Street

Historic Name Rodney Davis
Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1894

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Queen Anne style Three-Decker

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard and cut shingle

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) porch
balustrade and brackets removed

(mid-20th c?)
Condition good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting late 19th century, urban, multi-family residential street, on a steep hillslope.

UTM REFERENCE 19/270090/4683750

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization Clark University

Date June 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Rodney Davis Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a representative example of early three-decker construction in the Belmont Street area, a district that in the 1890s was still developing as a Scandinavian, working-class, residential neighborhood. It is also an unusually well-preserved example of Queen Anne style three-decker design from this period. The Davis Three-Decker 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 buildings within the community.

Architecturally, 62 Catharine Street is an unusually well-preserved, well-detailed example of local Queen Anne style three-decker construction. Clad in wood clapboard and cut shingle, the building has a characteristic hip roof and side-hall plan with side-wall jog. The main facade contains an entry bay sheltered by a single-story porch. The porch is flanked by a projecting, three-story bay window, with single covered skirt overhangs between stories. Although the porch has lost its decorative support brackets and balustrade, it retains its delicate turned posts. Regularly spaced, decorative brackets are located in the roof cornice overhang. Windows have 2/2 sash, and are capped by simple, bracketed crowns. The front parlor side windows contain geometric pattern, stained glass lights.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Built ca. 1894, the Davis Three-Decker was located on the eastern end of Catharine Street, on a steep hill slope. The Belmont Street area was mostly populated with Swedish, Swede-Finn, and Finnish immigrant families in the late 19th and early 20th century. Many neighborhood residents were employed at the nearby North Works of the Washburn and Moen Company, in the manufacture of wire products, or by other local firms that required skilled metal workers. The first owner of 62 Catharine Street (ca. 1894 - 1908) was Rodney H. Davis, a draftsman, who apparently did not reside here. Early residents included those of both Irish and Swedish extraction, including Emil Berg (1894-1898), a carver; Charles Walcott (1894), a motorman; Dennis Kelliher (1898), a laborer; and Olaf Olson (1900-1902), a wiredrawer. The owner/occupant of the house from 1908 through 1930 was John Thoren, a polisher for the Harrington and Richardson Arms Manufacturing Company. Other early 20th century residents were all of Swedish extraction, including Ivan Johnson, wireworker; Samuel Johnson, wireworker; and Oscar Nilson, a skatemaker.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1894, 1900, 1908, 1920, 1928.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

12/26/90

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 02-08-91
Attest _____
12. Davis, Rodney, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/91
Attest _____
13. Davis, Wesley, Three-Decker **Substantive Review** *for* Keeper Beth J. Savage 02-08-91
Attest _____
14. DEan, Mary, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/91
Attest _____
15. Delsignore, Louis, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/91
Attest _____
16. Dodge, Helen, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/91
Attest _____
17. Doran, Thomas F., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/91
Attest _____
18. Drew, Elvira, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/91
Attest _____
19. Duke, Philip, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/91
Attest _____
20. Dworman, David, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Helene Byers 2/9/91
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Davis, Rodney, Three-Decker
NAME:

MULTIPLE Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
NAME:

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: 89002398

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/9/90 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Worcester Three-Decker MRA
RODNEY DAVIS THREE DECKER
62 CATHARINE STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MHC #1624



Processing Services
MAY 89 N

308

Rodney Davis Three-Decker
62 Catharine Street
Worcester
MHC # 1624

310

HOOPER

EASTERN

AV.

E. KENDALL

CATHARINE

RODNEY

EVERARD

CATHARINE ST TER.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305