

FORM B - BUILDING

ref no 2000557

In Area no.	Form no.
	103-L

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

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

Roll 21

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

1. Town Worcester  
Address 22 Oak Avenue  
Name D. Wheeler Swift House  
Present use interns' residence

Present owner Memorial Hospital  
119 Belmont St.

3. Description: Worcester, MA  
Date 1879-1880

Source building notice & Directorie

Style Victorian Gothic

Architect Stephen Earle

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features bracketed porch with or-  
iginal railing, corner entry, gables  
with decorative aprons, window hoods

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size Assessor's Book 1, p.18  
Lot A, 12,487 sq.ft.

One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 70'

Approximate distance of building from street  
20'

6. Recorded by S. Lee, ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date January 1978

UTM: 19/269625/4683680

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) D. Wheeler Swift  
 Original use residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates interns' residence (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Built in 1879-1880, the Swift House is an unaltered example of its period, bearing elements of Victorian Gothic and Stick Style design. Two and one-half stories high, the house's facade (west) is dominated by a steep gable with decorative bargeboards and apron, elements which are repeated on a smaller gable on the house's north elevation. An unusual detail of the design, is the house's entry which is set at a 45 degree angle to the buildings north and west elevations. On either side of the entry is an original porch with open braces and geometric railing. Other original details include window caps, granite stoop, and a low retaining wall of rock-faced granite along the property's Oak Avenue and Kendall Street fronts.

D. Wheeler Swift (1840-1910) was a native of West Falmouth, Massachusetts, who came to Worcester in 1864 to operate envelope-making machinery at the newly formed Bay State Envelope Company. Together with his brother, Henry D. Swift, D. Wheeler Swift invented various envelope-making machines upon which the success of the Whitcomb Envelope Company and, later, the Logan, Swift and Brigham Envelope Company was based. In 1871, while employed by the Whitcomb Company, the Swift brothers invented machinery capable of producing 3,500 envelopes hourly, an amount far greater than that produced by existing equipment. Additional machinery invented by the brothers for automatically gumming envelopes (1876) and for automatic printing of envelopes, rapidly lowered production costs and led to the growth of the Whitcomb Company. Machinery invented by the Swifts was also exported

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)  
AABN, Vol. VI, 11/1/1879, p. VIII (bldg. notice)  
Plumber & Sanitary Engineer, Vol. II, 11/1/1879, p. 397 (bldg. notice).  
Rice, F. Worcester of 1898. pp. 481-483.  
Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester. pp. 198-201.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 103-L
Property Name: D. Wheeler Swift	

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

9. Historical significance

to Scotland, England and Germany. In 1884, the Swift brothers withdrew from the Whitcomb Company to form the partnership of Logan, Swift and Brigham Envelope Company. By 1889, the new firm had constructed a factory on Grove Street, which was enlarged in 1897. In 1898, Logan, Swift and Brigham Company, along with nine other envelope manufacturers was merged into the newly formed United States Envelope Company of which D. Wheeler Swift was a director.

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 & 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 bldg 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  
MacDougal  
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 scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. **HAER**

Presence was missing on some properties but is now included after the 2/11/corrections. **Inventory** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Review** \_\_\_\_\_  
THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE  
✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 16 CBD - 11  
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ <sup>am</sup> not convinced about boundaries **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**  
BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~  
ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend Listing all properties <sup>now</sup> 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; <sup>DUBIE</sup>  
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state

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 info from state) **Soldner**  
3/5/80

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered **MAR 5 1980**  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>SEE 3/3/80 REPORT</sup>



JUN 1979

by Berkeley



30 AUG 1979

103-L

Worcester MRA, MA

22 Oak Avenue

Swift, D. Wheeler, House

north + west  
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304

**The Memorial Hospital**

119 Belmont Street  
Worcester  
Massachusetts 01605  
(617) 793-6611



October 4, 1979

Mr. Charles A. Herrington  
Acting Keeper of the National Register  
United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY TO: 663

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Thank you for your letter of September 27, 1979. We are flattered that the "D. Wheeler Swift House" at 22 Oak Avenue has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Unfortunately, this building is located on the site of a proposed wing of our growing hospital complex. We have plans to do away with the building in the near future and therefore prefer not to have it listed in the National Register.

We thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Carlson  
Administrative Assistant

/mjs

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **OCT 10 1979**

\_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

\_\_\_\_\_ INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SUBMITTED

\_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE PHOTO TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_