

2408

AREA

FORM NO.

1830

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

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.

Town Worcester
Address 140 Eastern Avenue
Historic Name John Johnson Three-Decker

Use: Present residential
Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1894
Source Worcester House Directory
Style Queen Anne Three-Decker
Architect unknown
Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard
Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) Porch balustrades replaced

Condition good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage Less than 1/4 acre

Setting Late 19th century, urban multi-family residential neighborhood in a row of three-deckers.

UTM REFERENCE 19/269950/4683670

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization for MHC

Date December 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The John Johnson Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant for its association with the Scandanavian, working-class, multi-family residential neighborhood that developed north of Belmont Street in the late 19th century. It is also an unusually well-preserved, well-detailed example of an early experimental variant of the Queen Anne style three-decker forms popular locally during this period. The Johnson 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, 140 Eastern Avenue is a remarkably well-preserved, well-detailed example of local Queen Anne three-decker design of the 1890s. The house has the characteristic hip roof and side-hall plan. However, the building is quite unusual for the central placement of its front bay window, which creates a much more symmetrical facade. The single-story entry porch is supported by lathe-turned posts with an open balustrade. Windows have 2/2 sash, and many retain decorative, sawtooth molding on their caps. The wide roof cornice overhang shelters regularly spaced brackets, and heavier brackets in the corners. The house is clad in wood clapboard. An open, three-tier side porch appears to be an addition or a mid-20th century replacement.

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

The John Johnson Three-Decker, built ca. 1894, was located in an early area of three-decker development on the hillslope north of Belmont Street, an area dominated during this period by families of Swedish, Finn-Swede, and Finnish extraction. Many residents of the working-class neighborhood were employed at the nearby North Works of the Washburn and Moen Company (later American Steel and Wire), or in other local firms that employed skilled metal workers. The building at 140 Eastern Avenue was part of a row built ca. 1894. The owner through 1930 was John Johnson, a woodworker, who did not reside here. Tenants in 1896 included Charles Gustafson, a wireworker; Charles Vnerstrom, a laborer; and John Carlson, a woodworker. In 1910, residents included Isaac Tavonen and Fritz Anderson, laborers; and John Saari, a wireworker. A decade later, occupants included John Saari, now employed as an emoryworker; Alexander Luukko, a helper; and Gustaf Jacobson, a wireworker. Tenants in 1930 included William Warpula, a machinist; Thomas Warpula, a laborer; and Mrs. Martina Jacobson, a finisher.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1894, 1896, 1910, 1920, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/26/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational 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 | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 32. | Hirst, Samuel, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 33. | Houghton Street Historic District | | Keeper | <u>Boyd Savage</u> | 02-09-90 |
| | Substantive Review | | Attest | _____ | |
| 34. | Hunt, Daniel, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 35. | Hunt, David, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 36. | Ingleside Avenue Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 37. | Ingraham, Harry B., Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 38. | Johnson, Edwin, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 39. | Johnson, John and Edward, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 40. | Johnson, John, Three-Decker | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Helene Byers</u> | 2/9/90 |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Johnson, John, 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: 89002408

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 _____



JOHN JOHNSON THREE DECKER
140 EASTERN AVE.
WORCESTER, MA
MHC # 1830

Worcester Three Decker MHA

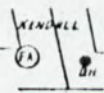
John Johnson Three-Decker
140 Eastern Ave., Worcester
MHC # 1830
308

WORCESTER, MASS., VOL. 3

309

310

HOOPER



EASTERN

E KENDALL

CATHARINE

310

RODNEY

MERRIFIELD

BELMONT



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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