

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

130-I

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

Roll 30

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 20 Irving Street
Name English High School
Present use school department offices

Present owner City of Worcester

3. Description:

Date 1891-1892

Source City Documents

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect Barker & Nourse

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features brown sandstone trim,
corner tower with high hip roof,
arched entry, stone columns with
carved capitals

Altered minor Date _____

Moved no Date _____

UTM: 19/268460/4682540
5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p.22
Lot 20 39,376 sq.ft.

One acre or less ☒ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 250'

Approximate distance of building from street
15'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date February 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Worcester

Original use high school

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates school department offices (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Built in 1891-1892, the English High School Building is a superb example of Romanesque Revival style architecture, in an excellent state of preservation. The main body of the building is three and one-half stories high, rising from a base of rock-faced granite to a dormered hip roof. Windows of the third storey and of interior stair wells have arched heads of rock-faced sandstone voussoirs. Dormers are gabled, containing windows with arched transoms and decorative brickwork in the gable. Major entries exist on the building's Irving Street (east) and Chatham Street (south) walls. The Irving Street entry consists of a sandstone and granite porch with a wide entry arch on squat columns and a sandstone railing (above) with carved corner posts. Slightly simpler in its decoration, the Chatham Street entry is set in a rectangular surround with squat columns, foliate carvings and a keystone with a carved lamp. Above this entry is a shallow projecting window sill with elaborate foliate carvings. At the school's southeast corner is a five and one-half storey tower (130' high) with a high hip roof and cast-iron cresting. The exterior of English High School is unaltered, retaining original oak-panelled doors and low granite walls at the property's boundaries.

English High School was designed by the locally prominent firm of Barker & Nourse, which published an illustration of the school building on the introductory page of Illustrations of a Few Buildings (1898), a trade catalogue for the firm.

(cont.)

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

City Document #47 for the year ending 11/30/1892
Barker & Nourse. Illustrations of a Few Buildings (1898), pages unnumbered.
Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp.712 (photo), 713-719 (history of Classical High), 721 (history of English High)

Property Name: English High School

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

9. Opened in September of 1892, this building served as the English High School (the city's second high school) until 1914, when the English High School was re-organized as the High School of Commerce. At this time the Classical High School which had been located at the corner of Maple and Walnut Streets (in a building designed by Henry Hobson Richardson, now demolished), moved into this building. The new High School of Commerce then occupied the former Classical High School building. After 1966 this building ceased to be used as a high school; it has since been used as office space.

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-dickers). **HISTORIAN**
Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Concern 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 bps need to be discussed with State.

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. ~~Both~~ **OTHER**
ACCEPT
MCDONALD
2/28/80

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. BPS were not necessary because of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. ALPESSE WAS MISSING IN SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS.

HAER

THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE

Inventory _____

✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 16 CBD-11

Review _____

130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ ^{AM NOT} CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BUT BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~

ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend

Listing all properties ~~except~~ ^{now} these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ w/NR staff + State. DOBIE

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

Return 102-L-3 to State for correction;

HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State

3/5/80
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 (Listing from State)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



30 AUG 1979

130-I

English High School

20 Irving St

Worcester MA, Ma

South entry

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
20 IRVING STREET

1891



30 AUG 1979

130 - I
English High School
20 Irving St.
Westchester MRA, MA
East elevation

535A



80 AUG 1979

130-I

Eng 1st 14154 School

20 Irving St
Worcester MRA, Ma

South-east
elevation

535A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304