

2441

AREA

FORM NO.

1672

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester

Address 43 Suffolk Street

Historic Name Richard O'Brien

Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

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

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1890

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Queen Anne

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard with

Outbuildings none cut shingle panels

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.

Major Alterations (with dates) porch

blustrade replaced (mid-20th century)

Condition fair

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting mixed urban, 19th century,

multi-family residential and

industrial neighborhood, facing

a large factory complex.

UTM REFERENCE 19/270070/4682010

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Mona Domosh

Organization Clark University

Date February 1981

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Richard O'Brien Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as an example of ethnic immigrant, multi-family, working-class housing that developed in the late 19th century near the city's main railyard district, and particularly for its association with Irish and Italian leatherworkers of the Graton and Knight Company. It is also an unusually well-preserved and well-detailed example of the earliest phase of Queen Anne Style three-decker design in the city. The O'Brien 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, 43 Suffolk Street is a remarkably well-preserved and well-detailed example of the earliest forms of modest local Queen Anne style three-decker design. The house is clad in wood clapboard, has a hip roof, and has the characteristic side-hall plan. The asymmetrical main facade contains an entry bay with double-leaf, panelled doors. The entry is sheltered by a single-story, projecting portico supported by lathe-turned posts with decorative brackets. The treatment of the three-story bay window that flanks the entry is particularly notable. The bay window is unusually narrow, and contains cut shingle panels under the second and third story lights, a decorative feature that survives on no other local three-decker. Regularly spaced brackets decorated the roof cornice overhang, and the larger ornate brackets that mark the corners are also an unusual feature. Windows retain their original 2/2 sash, with simple bracketed caps.

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

The O'Brien Three-Decker was built ca. 1890 in the immigrant, working-class residential area that developed south and east of the Franklin Street industrial corridor, where many residents found work in the railroad yards, warehouses and factories. The Graton and Knight Leather Belt Manufacturing Company employed many Suffolk Street residents as leather workers. Suffolk Street was originally dominated by families of Irish extraction, but by the second decade of the 20th century many Italian families had relocated here from the area along Shrewsbury Street. The first known owner of 43 Suffolk was Richard O'Brien, a painter. Other residents in 1890 included R.E. O'Brien, a wiredrawer, Charles Padula, a tailor; and Christoph Ash, a painter. The O'Brien family owned the house through 1910. In that year, occupants included Jeremiah Shea, John Mahan, and John J. Mahan, all laborers; and Thomas Mahan, a skiver (leatherworker). Two years later tenants included Gerlido and Frank Spadola, laborers. By 1920, the house was owned by Mario Molinaro, a laborer; tenants included Luigi DelGreco, a molder; Rose DelGreco, a leatherworker; Frank Spadula, now a foreman; and Angelo Spadula, a beltmaker. In 1930, the house was owned and occupied by Mario Billie, who together with three other family members, worked at Graton and Knight. The DelGreco family also continued to live here in 1930, as did Rockwood Damiano, a railroad foreman.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1912, 1920, 1930.  
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.  
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/20/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA  
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

61. Nelson, Christina, Three-Decker

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

62. O'Brien, Richard, Three-Decker

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

63. O'Connor, James, Three-Decker

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

64. O'Connor, James--John Trybowski Three-Decker

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

65. Perry Avenue Historic District Substantive Review

f Keeper

Bella L. Sarge 02-09-90

Attest

66. Petterson, Lars--Adolph Carlson Three-Decker

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

67. Petterson, Lars--Fred Gurney Three-Decker

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

68. Petterson, Lars--Silas Archer Three-Decker

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

69. Petterson, Lars--James--Bidy Three-Decker

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 2/9/90

Attest

70. Providence Street Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper

Melrose Byers 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 O'Brien, Richard, 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: 89002441

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



RICHARD O'BRIEN THREE DECKER

43 SUFFOLK STREET

WORCESTER, MA

MHC # 1672

*Worcester Three Decker MHC*

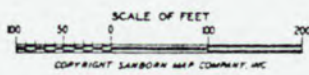
Richard O'Brien Three-Decker  
43 Suffolk St., Worcester  
MHC # 1672

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SEE VOLUME FOUR



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305