

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1613

Town Worcester
Address 21 Freeland Street
Historic Name John B. McDermott Three-Decker

Use: Present residential
Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1910
Source Worcester House Directory
Style Colonial Revival Three-Decker
Architect unknown
Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard
Outbuildings garage

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition excellent

Moved _____ Date _____
Acreage less than 1/4 acre
Setting Early 20th century urban, multi-
family residential neighborhood

Recorded by Mona Domosh
Organization Clark University
Date February 1981

Revised by Michael Steinitz for MHC - 12/88

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.

UTM REFERENCE 19/266930/4680790

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester South

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The John B. McDermott Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as an unusual example of a notably stylish three-decker built to attract upper middle class families to multi-familyhousing in a Main South neighborhood which in the first decades of the 20th century was one of the city's affluent residential areas. Unusually well preserved, it also ranks as one of the finest Colonial Revival three-deckers in Worcester. The McDermott 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, 21 Freeland Street is a remarkably well-preserved three-decker, locally unique for the configuration, scale, and detail of its Colonial Revival components. The house has the typical side-hall plan, with side-wall jog, although the building's dimensions are larger than average. The asymmetrical main facade contains an entry bay with a projecting two-tier porch, flanked by a three-story window bay. On the first story, the porch extends laterally around the window bay to the side-wall jog. Behind the jog, a second, three-story window projects from the side wall. A shallow hip roof has small, pedimented gables that project out over the two bay windows. The wide roof cornice overhang is decorated with regularly spaced modillion blocks. The projecting two-tier porch is also topped by a pedimented gable. The porch is supported by Tuscan columns, with triple columns in the corners. Windows are of 4/1, 6/1 and 8/1 sash. An elliptical light is located in the front bay window gable; a semi-circular light appears in the side bay window gable.

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

The McDermott Three-Decker was built ca. 1910 as part of a continued effort to provide substantial, stylish three-decker rental units for the families of professionals and businessmen in the high status Main South neighborhood. The attempt to create a fashionable rental district was apparently flaunted by the subsequent development of the rest of Freeland Street with much more modest three-deckers. The earliest owner of 21 Freeland was John B. McDermott, a carpenter, who resided here. The McDermott family continued to live here through 1930. The earliest known residents (1912), besides the McDermotts, included Henry Coley, a bookkeeper; and Edmund McGrail, an assistant manager at a downtown clothing store. Residents in 1920 included Arthur Sawyer, a manager; and William McKenna, a teacher at the Commerce High School.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1910, 1912, 1916, 1920, 1924, 1928.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Decker MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

51. Massad, Anthony, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

52. McCafferty, Elizabeth, Three-Decker

Substantive Review

Jr Keeper

Beth L. Saege 02-08
90

Attest

53. McCarron, Andrew, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

54. McDermott, John B., Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

55. McGrath, Patrick, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

56. McGuinness, Patrick, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

57. McPartland, Frank, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

58. McPartland, James, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

59. Munroe, Sarah, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

60. Murphy, Patrick, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene 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 McDermott, John B., 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: 89002366

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

JOHN B. MC DERMOTT THREE DECKER

21 FREELAND STREET

WORCESTER, MA

MHC #1613



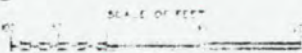
224

211

215

217

John McDermott Three-Decker
21 Freeland Street, Worcester
MHC # 1613



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305