

FORM B - BUILDING

ref no 80000414

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	163-C

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

Exp. 10 A

Roll 22

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 651 Park Avenue
Name Stearns Tavern
Present use bank & offices

Present owner (Home Federal Sav.&Loan)
Salloom Realty Trust

3. Description: 14 Brookline St., Worc.

Date ca. 1812 (see reverse#9)

Source see reverse #9

Style Federalist vernacular

Architect unknown (if any)

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features center entrance facade
with side-lighted entry (& fanlight)
side entries with moulded caps,

twin chimneys

entry porch removed

Altered bldg. resotored Date 1974

Moved from 1030 Main St Date 1974

5. Lot size Assessor's Book 8, p. 24,
Lot 11, 21,258 sq.ft.

UTM
19/266060/4680720

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 161'

Approximate distance of building from street

15'

6. Recorded by D.Latino, ed. B.R.Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date January 1978

(over)

1512

7. Original owner (if known) Charles Stearns

Original use tavern

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residence, commercial, bank (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Now used as a bank, the Stearns Tavern is a two-storey timber frame house with a symmetrical center-entrance facade and twin (interior) chimneys. Located at the building's northeast corner is a two-storey wing which contains the present bank-hall. The building's main entry contains an unusual six panel door set between sidelights and surmounted by a low fanlight. Side entries to the house (north & south) are set in moulded architraves and capped by entablatures and cornices. Originally located at 1030 Main Street, The Stearns Tavern was moved to its present location in 1974 at which time it was restored and converted to bank use. The building's construction date is uncertain although exterior evidence and one nineteenth-century source point to 1812 as a likely date.* At the time of the building's move, an enclosed, one-bay entry porch was removed from the facade to reveal the present doorway. In all, the building's present condition and decorative details mark it as Worcester's best example of Federalist Vernacular architecture.

According to secondary sources, the tavern was built by Charles Stearns and opened in 1812. The opening was marked by the erection of a Liberty Pole nearby. After a relatively brief ownership, Stearns sold the tavern to Deacon Uriah Stone, who kept it for a few years. Between 1824 and 1830, the tavern was operated as a hotel by Joseph Curtis, who sold the property to C.M. Delant around 1837.

* Construction dates of ca 1750 were estimated at the time of the move based on the heaviness of the building's framing; while it is possible that the frame dates from the mid-eighteenth century, it

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

- Worcester Evening Gazette. 11/6/1974.
- Worcester Sunday Telegram. 12/15/1974.
- Worcester Telegram. 9/10/1960. (photograph with porch).
- Carruth, L. Old House Notebooks. (at Worc. Public Library).
- Mange, P. Our Inns from 1718 - 1918. p. 25.
- Spears, J. Old Landmarks... p. 67.
- Wall, C. Reminiscences... p. 39.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 163-C
Property Name: Stearns Tavern	

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

9. Historical significance

is unlikely that any of the building's exterior details pre-date 1812.

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

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

Excellent multiple resource nomination for the entire city of Worcester. Both the general description or 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). ^{Owner} opposition is high. 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. DOBIE

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.

OTHER

ACCEPT
ALX 12/24/80
2/28/80

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. ~~Both~~ ^{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

HAER

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. ~~Reference was missing~~ on some properties but ~~is~~ ^{is} now included after the 2/11/80 corrections.

Inventory _____
Review _____

The only properties that I do not recommend listing are
✓ 116-CBD-13 - destroyed by fire MD - 116 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ ^{am} not convinced about boundaries BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~ ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend listing all ^{now} properties except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further} w/NR staff + State. DOBIE
Return 102-L-3 to State for correction; 3/5/80
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State DOBIE

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

KEEPER

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:
Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & demo from SH&PB), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding file from state)

Soldha
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____ SEE 3/3/80 REPORT



Stearns Tavern

163-C

30 AUG 1979

651 Park Ave.

Worcester MA, MA

West elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304