

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	102-M

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

Expos. 13A, 14A, 15A Roll 31

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 1 John Wing Road
Name Aldus Higgins House
Present use meeting rooms

Worcester Polytechnic
Present owner Institute

3. Description: Institute Road
Worcester, Mass.

Date 1921-1923

Source Sunday Telegram

Style neo-Tudor - "Period House"

Architect Grosvenor Atterbury of
New York

Exterior wall fabric stone, brick and
stucco

Outbuildings (describe) stable/garage
semi-octagonal entry

Other features tower with crenellations
carved screen over entry, carved
stone crest on tower, half-timbering
with brick & stucco in-fill, leaded
casement windows, pilastered and
panelled chimneys

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 20, p.39
Lot 2 50,000 sq.ft. (house)
One acre or less 5,000 sq.ft. (garage)
Over one acre

Approximate frontage 300'

Approximate distance of building from street
50'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date February 1978

UTM!
19/268340/4683950

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Aldus Chapin Higgins
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates meeting rooms (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Begun in 1921 and completed in 1923, the Aldus Higgins House is the most elaborate of Worcester's early twentieth century "period" houses. Although plans for the house were prepared by Grosvenor Atterbury of New York, Aldus Higgins is believed to have spent a number of years making sketches and gathering materials for the house prior to hiring Atterbury. Unlike two other major "period" houses in Worcester (Knollwood - Form 75-A - and the Paul Morgan House - in Lincoln Estate Form 116-L) the Higgins House is known to contain some antique European building materials. The house's entry facade consists of two wings (set perpendicularly to each other) containing a semi-octagonal entry tower (with crenellations) at the wings' junction. Throughout, the building is constructed of various materials, following the general pattern of stone (1st storey), half-timbering with brick panels (2d storey) and half-timbering with stucco panels (gables). The building's garden facade (south) also is made up of two wings, joined at right angles by a two-storey gabled pavilion which contains a two-storey window with ornate tracery. Set behind this window is the house's "Great Hall", a two-and-one-half storey room containing panelling, ornately carved woodwork and a mantelpiece which was originally part of the roof of an Italian monastery. At the hall's second storey is a balcony and organ loft. Many of the house's leaded casements and stained-glass windows were bought in Europe and shipped to the United States after World War I. Other features of the house's exterior include ornate chimney pots and elaborate foliate decoration in the stucco of the half-timbering. Of much smaller scale, the garage bears the same design elements as the house. Connecting the two

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

Country Life in America, March 1926, pp.57-59.
Sunday Telegram, May 7, 1972 (article and photos.)
Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. III, p.41 (Higgins biography)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 102-M
Property Name: Aldus Higgins House	

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

9.
structures and surrounding the house are original garden walls, gates and terraces. Shortly after its completion, the Higgins House was the subject of an article in Country Life in America (March 1926, p. 57-59)

Aldus Higgins (born 1872) was a son of Milton Prince Higgins, a founder of the Washburn Shops at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a founder of several major local industries, including Norton Company, the Plunger Elevator Company and the Norton Grinding Company. The younger Higgins attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute, from which he graduated in 1893. From 1893 until 1896, Aldus Higgins studied law in Washington, D.C., also serving at this time as an assistant examiner in the United States Patent Office. In 1896 Higgins was admitted to the bar, and after an extensive trip opened a law office in Worcester in 1897. Eventually Higgins gave up his private practice to serve as general counsel in the Norton Company, during a period of growth and re-organization of the firm. Higgins eventually became the company's president, also serving as treasurer of the Sanford Alley Stoker Company.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

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-deckers). Opposition is high. Minor problems w/ some properties are listed on attached sheets.

HISTORIAN
Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

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. **DUBIE**

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

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 bays need to be discussed with State.

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

OTHER
ACCEPT
M. C. DUBIE
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. ACREDGE WAS MISSING ON SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS.

HAER

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

Inventory _____
Review _____

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ ^{am} NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~ ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

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

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

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 (Lily fruit from state)

S. Oldha
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____ ^{SEE 3/13/80 REPORT}



30 AUG 1979

102-M

1 John Wing Road

Higgins, Aldab, House

north & east elevations

Worcester MRA, MA



102-M

30 AUG 1979

Higgins, Alder House

1 John Wing Road

west & south elevations

Worcester MRA, Ma



102-M³⁰ AUG 1979

Higgins, Aldis, House

1 John Wing Road

Stable - west eleva-

: Worcester MRA, Ma
tion

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304