

ref no 84000524

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
	88-D

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

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

Roll #21

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

1. Town Worcester

Address Bancroft Tower Road

Name Bancroft Tower

Present use park observation tower

Present owner City of Worcester

3. Description:

Date 1900

Source Nutt, History of Worcester  
vol. I

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect Earle & Fisher

Exterior wall fabric boulder stone

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features central arched passage  
way, rectangular and circular plan  
towers, crenellations, faces  
directly north and south

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: part of Salisbury Park  
Assessors' Book 20, p.15  
Lot 1 - see map 88  
One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage not applicable

Approximate distance of building from street  
30'

6. Recorded by C. Demallie  
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres.Soc

Date December 1977

UTM  
19/267100/4684760

Stephen Salisbury III

7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Original use park observation tower

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

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)

The Bancroft Tower is a two and one-half storey structure built of boulders and cobbles, trimmed with rock-faced granite. Asymmetrical in elevation, the tower has an open arch at its center, which is flanked by two square-plan towers which rise to observation platforms surrounded by crenellated parapets. Rising from the top of the western tower is a smaller, circular-plan tower which rises to crenellations. In excellent original condition, the Bancroft is the last of three stone observation towers built in Worcester parks in the late nineteenth century. (The other two were the Davis Tower in Lake Park and the Institute Tower in Institute Park, both demolished). Of the three, the Bancroft Tower was by far the most elaborate.

Situated at the crest of Bancroft Hill in Salisbury Park, one of the highest points in Worcester, the Bancroft Tower was designed by the important local firm of Stephen Earle and Clellan Fisher. The tower was constructed in 1900 for Stephen Salisbury III at a cost estimated to have been \$15,000. Both the tower and the hill on which it stands are named in honor of the historian, George Bancroft, a Worcester native. During his lifetime Salisbury retained ownership of the parkland and tower, which were given to the city by the terms of his will in 1907.

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

Worcester Historical Society. Local Parks File.  
 Sunday Telegram, Sept. 23, 1900.  
 Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. I, pp. 222-224, 441.  
 Osborn, B.H. In and About Worcester, pp. 26, 65.

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 & 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). ~~Some~~ 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. DUBIE

**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.

**OTHER**

ALBERT  
ALX. DUBIE  
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. PBDS were not necessary because

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Pledge was missing on some properties but ~~is~~ is now included after the 2/11/corrections. The only properties that I do not recommend listing are  
✓ 116-CBD-13 - destroyed by fire MD - 16 CBD-11  
130-CBD-44 - does not retain integrity for individual eligibility

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~was~~ am not convinced about boundaries but believe they could be OK. ~~is~~ is based on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.

Recommend listing all <sup>now</sup> properties except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ to discuss further w/NR staff + State. DUBIE

**BRANCH CHIEF**

Return 102-L-3 to state for correction;  
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state

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 & deems from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding fruit from state)

Soldner  
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



Bancroft Tower Road

30 AUG 1979

88-D Worcester MRA, Ma

MAR 5 1980

Bancroft Tower Rd

South elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304