

FORM B - BUILDING

ref no 80000579

In Area no.	Form no.
	116-L-14

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

1. Town Worcester

Address 65 Elm Street

Name Charles Allen House

Present use offices

Present owner J. & R. Associates  
93 Whitney Street  
Northboro, Ma. 01532

3. Description:

Date 1870

Source Albert Waite Papers

Style Second Empire

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features convex curved mansard roof,  
quoins, modillioned cornice, central

pavilion with pediment, capped window  
frames

Altered Colonial Revival Date 1915  
details added

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

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p.34, lot 1  
12,186 sq. ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 100'

Approximate distance of building from street  
20'

6. Recorded by W. & M. Seaman  
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date February 1978

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

Expos. 25 Roll 14

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

UTM:  
19/268300/41682880

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Charles Allen's heirs  
 Original use residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates offices (mid-20th century)

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	<u>x</u>		
Community development	_____				

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

The Charles Allen House is a unique example of Second Empire architecture, consisting of a square-plan main house with an ell centered on its rear (north) wall. The house's facade (south) contains a slightly projecting central pavilion which is trimmed with quoins and rises to a modillioned cornice and low pediment. Flanking the pavilion at both stories are paired windows set in a single capped frame. The roof of the house's main block is a convexly curved mansard with original hexagonal pattern slates, panelled railing and incised decoration on its trim. In 1915, Colonial Revival style details (fanlighted main entry, Palladian window in central pavilion, Tuscan entry porch and terrace balustrade) were added to the house along with a one-storey library addition on the building's east wall. The house remains unaltered since these additions were carried out.

The Allen House is the second building to occupy this lot; the first was a side-hall Greek Revival style house which was built by former Governor Levi Lincoln and sold to Charles Allen in 1854. Having been moved to make way for the present structure, this first house now stands at #39 West Street (See Area Form #116-L, Lincoln Estate - Elm Park District). Charles Allen (1797-ca.1869) was a Worcester native who withdrew from Yale University to study law with Samuel Burnside of Worcester. In 1818 Allen was admitted to the bar and from 1818 to 1824 practiced law in New Braintree, Mass. In 1824 Allen practiced law in Worcester with John Davis (later a governor of Massachusetts). After 1831 Allen carried on a private practice and pursued an interest in politics. In 1829, 1833 and 1834 Allen was elected representative from Worcester to the Massachusetts General Court; in 1835, 1836 and 1855-1857 Allen served as a state senator. Between 1842 and 1844 Allen was a local judge; in 1860 he was appointed Chief Justice of the newly organized Superior Court of Massachusetts and later was offered a seat in the United States

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

City Atlases and directories

Albert Waite Papers

Worcester Historical Society. Biographical file (Allen and Rice obits).

Lincoln, W. History of Worcester, pp. 209 and 343 (Allen).

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 116-L-14
Property Name: Charles Allen House	

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

9.

Supreme Court, which he refused. Allen also served as a United States Representative in 1849 and 1853 and was a founder of the national Republican Party in the mid-1850s. It is possible that Charles Allen had considered building this house prior to his death and that his heirs merely carried out existing plans.

After its completion in 1870, #65 Elm Street was occupied by Charles Allen, Jr., Henry and Josephine (Allen) Rice and Katherine Allen. The only son of Charles Allen, Sr., Charles Allen, Jr., was a real estate agent and died at the age of 36 years in 1873. Henry Rice, the senior Allen's son-in-law, was a graduate of Brown University who came to Worcester around 1850 to study law with the Hon. Peter Bacon and Ira Barton. In 1852, Rice started his own law office. In 1858 and 1861, Rice served on the city's Common Council, in 1859 and 1860 he served as a Worcester representative to the Massachusetts General Court and in 1879 and 1880, Rice was a state senator. After Rice's death in 1891, the house was occupied by his widow until her death in 1894 and by Katherine Allen until her death in 1913. In 1915 the house was purchased by Ira Barton who made alterations and built an addition, described above.

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 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). **HISTORIAN**  
Call/Accept  
Lightner  
10.30.79

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. **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. **OTHER**  
ACCEPT  
MacDougal  
2/28/80

Both technically and to determine significance, almost 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. **HAER**  
Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

Boundaries were not necessary because of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**  
Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

HAER was missing on some properties but is now included after the 2/11/corrections. **BRANCH CHIEF**  
Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

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  
✓ 102-L-3 I am not convinced about boundaries but believe they could be OK. **KEEPER**  
ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend listing all properties <sup>now</sup> except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ w/NR staff + state. **KEEPER**  
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction;   
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state  
3/5/80  
DUBIE  
3/3/80

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:  
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 (holding from state)  
SEE 3/3/80 REPORT  
National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81  
Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_  
Entered MAR 5 1980



Allen, Charles, House

Worcester, MA, Ma

30 AUG 1979

116-L-14

65 Elm St.

West + south elevations

by Be  
Prestige

JUN 1

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304