

80000617

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	141-B-2

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

Rolls 5,8

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

1. Town Worcester
Address 8 Claremont Street
Name Franklin Wesson House
Present use residential
Mary Garabedian and
Present owner Rose Paloian

3. Description:
Date ca.1874
Source city directories
Style High Victorian Gothic
Architect A.P. Cutting
Exterior wall fabric brick
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features three-and-one-half store
tower, pointed arch windows and
entry, porch/dormer at 3d floor,
buttresses
Altered not significantly Date _____
Moved no Date _____

UTM
19/267610/4681660

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 6, p. 36
Lot 7 8,900 sq.ft.
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 77'
Approximate distance of building from street
25'

6. Recorded by W. and M. Seaman
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date December 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Franklin Wesson

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates lodging house (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 checked="" 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)

Worcester's most elaborate High Victorian Gothic style house, the Franklin Wesson House is a two-and-one-half storey brick structure which rises from a plinth of hammered granite to a hipped roof covered with hexagonal pattern slates. Having a side-hall plan, the house is entered on its facade (south) through a three-and-one-half storey tower with a high hip roof. The tower rises in stages, having buttresses and a pointed-arch entry at the first storey, narrow pointed-arch windows with sandstone springers and keystones at the second storey, paired rectangular windows and blind pointed arches with oculi at the third storey, and a gabled dormer and trifoliate lights at the roof. East of the tower is a three-side bay which rises to a dormer and porch at the third storey. Windows throughout the house are set in pointed-arch frames with sandstone keystones and springers. Extending around the house at the level of the springer of first and second storey windows and between the first and second stories are belt courses of decorative brickwork. Dormers throughout vary, but all are decorated with aprons and open strap work. With the exception of a two-storey wooden porch at the house's northeast corner, the building is in original condition. Surrounding the property is a fine, original retaining wall of dressed granite. Plans and elevations of the Wesson House were published in Bicknell's Wood and Brick Buildings With Details (New York, A.J. Bicknell & Co., 1875 - vol. I, plates 47 and 48).

(cont.)

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

- Bicknell, A.J. Wood and Brick Buildings with Details. (New York A.J. Bicknell & Co., 1875) vol. I, plates 47-48.
Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester, pp. 207, 208 and 296.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 141-B-2
Property Name: Franklin Wesson House	

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

9. First occupied between 1874 and 1875, the Wesson House was built for Franklin Wesson, a founder of Worcester's arms industry. In 1871 Wesson and a partner formed the firm of Wesson and Harrington for "the purpose of manufacturing a shell-ejecting revolver". This firm later became Harrington and Richardson, the city's major gun manufacturer. Wesson occupied 8 Claremont Street until the 1890s, after which the property was sold to Charles Forbes, an attorney, and later to F. Thayer, secretary of A.D. Thayer Co., cloth manufacturers.

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 bldg 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. ROYAL
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Presence 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 not~~ ^{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 (holding fruit from state)

Soldha
3/5/80

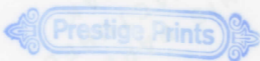
National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____ **DUBIE** SEE 3/3/80 REPORT



TRUCKS
ENTER

SE
SIMPLEX
EASY!
PARK
AND
ENTER
→

JUN 1979



by Berkey

80 AUG 1979

141-B-2
Wesson, Franklin, House
8 Claremont St.
Worcester, MA, Ma
South & east
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304