

ref no 80000608

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	130-CBD-42

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

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

1. Town Worcester

Address 538-540 Main Street

Name The Enterprise Building

Present use commercial/offices

Present owner Albert J. Vuona  
540 Main Street

3. Description:

Date 1900

Source building notice

Style Beaux Arts Classical

Architect Fuller & Delano

Exterior wall fabric buff brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features two-bay facade, recessed

bay windows, varied classical  
ornament - swags, cartouches,  
dentilled cornice

Altered store front Date mid-20th century

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

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p.19A  
Lot 12 2,476 sq.ft.  
One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 28'

Approximate distance of building from street  
7'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date November 1977

(over)

UTM  
19/268700/4682380

7. Original owner (if known) William H. Dexter

Original use commercial/offices

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)

Recently steam-cleaned and returned to its original appearance, the Enterprise Building is a five-storey brick row building, opulently trimmed with Beaux Arts Classical decoration. Among the building's many fine details are carved limestone cartouches (fourth storey), terracotta window surrounds and swag panels (fifth storey) and a deep, pressed metal cornice.

Marked on the 1911 Atlas of the City of Worcester as the "Enterprise Building", #538 Main Street stands out from its neighbors for the opulence of its classical ornament. The basis for the identification of this building's architect comes from three sources: first, a building notice in September of 1900 for a "brick addition" estimated to cost \$10,000 to be built for William H. Dexter and designed by Fuller & Delano; second, from the increased real estate assessment for a building at this location from \$6,500 in 1900 to \$11,500 in 1902 (the assessment on the land remained the same at \$22,300); and third, by the lack of any additions or major alterations made to Dexter's neighboring properties (all have the same plans in 1896 and 1911). Based on the foregoing, it seems likely that the use of the word addition in the notice is either a mistake or a confused description based on Dexter's ownership of neighboring properties. Dexter, who was active in the commercial development of Franklin Square (now Federal Plaza) was also the owner of the Franklin Building (also known as the Dexter Building - Form 130-CBD-44).

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

Engineering Record, vol. XLII, Sept. 15, 1900, p.262 (building notice)

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 383 + 13  
Maps 2, 63

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). ~~Minor~~ opposition is high. Minor problems with 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. DOUBLE

**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.

WHAT 3 EXCEPTIONS ALL PROPERTIES APPEAR TO ME TO MEET THE CRITERIA AND THE FORMS ARE ADEQUATE. ~~RE~~ 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  
MacDonald  
2/28/80

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. ACRES WAS MISSING ON SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS. THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE

**HAER**

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

- ✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 10 CBD-11
- 130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~DO NOT~~ <sup>AM</sup> 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 <sup>now</sup> except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ w/NR staff + state. DOUBLE  
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction; DOUBLE  
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 & clean from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding from state)

Soldner  
3/5/80

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered MAR 5 1980  
Federal Register Entry 2.5.81 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



**FRAN Shoes**

*Al Vuona's* Men's Clothing  
Tuxedo Rentals

**PUL**

**FLY**  
ATHLETIC

80 AUG 1979

130-CBD-42  
Enterprise Building  
538-540 Main St.  
Worcester MRA, Ma  
East elevation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304