

ref no 80000612

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	130-CBD-50

1. Town Worcester
 Address 631 Main Street
 Name Worcester Market Building
 Present use commercial
 Present owner Morgan Memorial, Inc.

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

3. Description:
 Date 1914
 Source Worcester Magazine
 Style eclectic

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

Architect Oreste Ziroli
 Exterior wall fabric glazed terracotta
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features tile medallions with rams' heads and game birds, steer head in high relief, parapet with ornate name plaque, framing of facade windows and entry faced with green glazed tile

Altered minor Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size Assessors' Book 3, p.10
Lot 44 30,005 sq.ft.
 One acre or less Over one acre
 Approximate frontage 108' Main Street
227' Madison St.

Approximate distance of building from street
10'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
 Date January 1978

Roll 27

UTM: 19/268620/4682000

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Worcester Market Co.

Original use grocery market

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Goodwill Industries (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	<u>X</u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

Designed by Oreste Ziroli and built in 1914, the Worcester Market Building was believed to be the largest grocery supply store in the United States at the time of its opening. Although the business has passed out of existence, the Market Building remains as a unique example of early twentieth century architecture with its facing of glazed terracotta. In addition the building is one of the earlier prototypes upon which current supermarkets are based.

Of rectangular plan, the building's major facade faces Main Street. The parapet of this side rises slightly as if to a pediment and contains decorated tile panels bearing the name "Worcester Market" in addition to a medallion bearing a steer's head in high relief. The end pavilions of the facade (and of the Madison Street side) bear medallions of game birds and rams' heads as well as a variety of geometric ornament. Framing of the facade windows and entry is faced with green glazed tiles.

Upon completion, the building contained a variety of labor-saving innovations. The first floor (of 25,000 square feet) served as the market, while the second floor and basement were used largely as warehouse space (50,000 square feet total). Storage was arranged so that goods for different departments were stored directly above or below their respective departments, connections to which were provided by elevators, thereby protecting customers from having "to watch out for heavily laden trucks hurrying in with fresh supplies." Orders that were to be delivered to customers' homes were moved to packing rooms by means of "carrier belts".
(cont.)

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

Worcester Magazine, vol. 18, no.2, 2/1915, pp. 53-56 (illustrated article)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. III, p.233 (Amidon biography)
vol. IV, pp.886-887 (Ziroli biography)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 130- CBD-50
Property Name: Worcester Market	

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

9.

The market was laid out with wide aisles running the length and width of the building. The interior was planned to accommodate as many as 4,500 customers at one time "without noticeable crowding"; at the peak of its success the store handled the business of 25,000 customers "in an ordinary Saturday's trade". In addition to the main market hall and warehouses, the building housed a bakery (with 20 bakers), a shipping department (with 110 workers), a carpenter shop, an electrical shop, and a kitchen to prepare foods for its delicatessen.

The Worcester Market was founded in 1894 by Fayette Asaryl Amidon. Amidon, a native of Belchertown, had been engaged in various aspects of the grocery and meat-packing business from 1880 in Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Prior to coming to Worcester, Amidon was one of the founders of the Providence Public Market Company. "Encouraged by the growth and popularity of the Providence Market, the firm started a similar store in Worcester in October, 1894, and Mr. Amidon came here to take charge of it." For the first twenty years of its business the Worcester Market rented space on Main Street, gradually adding to it as the business increased. In 1914 the business purchased land adjoining its first store, building the existing market building.

The building's architect, Oreste Ziroli, was a native of Italy who immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1890. Ziroli's father, Nicholas, settled in Fall River where he maintained a private studio as a sculptor. After high school the younger Ziroli worked for several Fall River construction firms, moving to Worcester in 1902 to work as a draughtsman for J.W. Bishop Co. (builders of the Worcester Market). Except for a brief period of service in World War I, Ziroli practiced architecture in Worcester both independently and in conjunction with the Samuel H. Pitcher Company. In addition to designing a number of residences in Worcester, Ziroli was the architect of the city's first Christian Scientist Church (see individual building form - 882 Main Street.).

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

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

Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Concur with Brier'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

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

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

ACCEPT
M. R. [unclear]
2/28/80

HAER

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Adequacy was missing on some properties but 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 - 10 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

✓ 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.

Recommend listing all properties ^{now} ~~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

KEEPER

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 fruit from state)

S. [unclear]
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



130-CBD-50

Worcester Market Building

631 Main St.

Worcester MA, Ma

South elevation

30 AUG 1979



WORCESTER
KINGDOME
HOTEL

WORCESTER STATE BUILDING

9
GENERAL INVESTMENT
CORPORATION
100 STATE STREET
WORCESTER, MASS.

MAIN ST
Worcester

by Berkey

Prestige Prints

JAN 1978

by Berkey

Prestige Prints

JAN 1978

30 AUG 1979

130-CBD-50

Worcester Market Building

631 Main St

Worcester MA, MA

West & north
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, Inc.

95 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 357-9710



October 25, 1979

Mr. Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Pension Building
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Re: 663

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, Inc. respectfully declines nomination of its property at 631 Main Street, Worcester, MA. for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The building in question was built in 1914 and was known and operated as Brockelman's Market. It was sold to Stop and Shop in November 1953. From that time until it was sold to Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, Inc. it was operated as a grocery market. On December 29, 1966 Morgan Memorial purchased the property from Stop and Shop, Inc. to establish a Goodwill Industries in Worcester, the second largest city in the Commonwealth. Morgan Memorial began its Used Goods recycling program in June 1967. In August 1968, with financial assistance from the Federal and State governments (Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission) in the form of grants-in-aid, comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Services were provided in the Greater Worcester area. From this beginning, the program grew for 10 years.

During the month of July 1978, then Governor, Michael Dukakis held a news conference on our property announcing the Commonwealth's decision to take the property.

Subsequent to this, Morgan Memorial was asked by the Office of State Planning to permit architects, engineers, appraisers to view our facility, and we were visited by them.

We were not officially informed by the Commonwealth of its intentions of the taking until November 14, 1978. In the meantime, at a series of meetings with community leaders in Social Services, which began in February 1978 and continued with various groups through December 1978 and on into 1979. Fragmenting of our programs, and bonding them to other agencies was discussed. It was felt

that the recycled goods operation could be absorbed by St. Vincent DePaul Society and the Salvation Army. After the Governor's news conference of July it was decided to close the recycled goods operation in September 1978. During this same month, Commissioner Elmer Bartels, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, urged us to merge with another community program or shut down program operations, especially since our building's taking was so imminent. Many meetings were held regarding merger. These meetings proved fruitless, and with diminishing referrals for service due to the uncertainty of our physical plant it was decided at a meeting with Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission on November 14, 1978 to close the Rehabilitation Programs December 31, 1978.

Again in mid-December, 1978, Governor Dukakis called a conference in his office with Morgan Memorial, Worcester officials, Commonwealth of Mass. Registry, Legislative and Planning officials to confirm the taking and assure that it would go forward in the New Administration.

In February 1979 we were contacted by officials of the new administration and assured that the Commonwealth's taking was moving ahead. As late as June 5, 1979 we were told that the Commonwealth would accelerate its taking process.

Later in the month of June we were informed that the site had been dropped from consideration due to the local Historical Society's nomination as an historic monument. We were informed that if the nomination were dropped, that the taking could go forward. A meeting was held with the officials of Worcester and the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society, and the Society did not drop its nomination.

Early in July 1979 there was a fire in the rear of the building which caused Morgan Memorial to close a small retail outlet remaining in the building on July 6. On September 6, 1979 all insurance on the building was cancelled due to lack of occupancy.

The current condition of the building is unsafe for human habitation. The roof has severe leaks, the ceilings are collapsing, and all wooden floors have buckled. Local Health and Safety officials would not permit us to occupy it. The cost of rehabilitation of the building will run well over a million and a half dollars which Morgan Memorial does not have, nor does the Historical Society.

In September 1979 with the assistance of Worcester officials, security guards were provided through C.E.T.A. for round-the-clock protection of the property to prevent its total destruction through vandalism and fire.

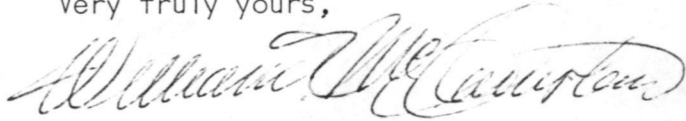
Morgan Memorial, as a private not-for-profit, 501(c)3 corporation is unable to avail itself of the tax advantages offered to rehabilitate the building.

Since last July, the nomination of this building as an historic site has caused tremendous hardships for Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries. It has also dramatically halted a portion of the revitalization of downtown Worcester.

- 3 -

As we began this letter, we respectfully request that this property not be designated an historic landmark. It is a 65-year-old building in a city hundreds of years old.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William T. McCarriston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

William T. McCarriston
Director of Human Services

WTM/tms