

ref no 80000616

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	131-C

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

Roll 26

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

1. Town Worcester  
 Address 205 Summer Street  
 Name Mission Chapel  
 Present use church - Second Baptist Church  
 Present owner Second Baptist Church of Worcester  
~~19 Mt. Vernon St.~~  
 3. Description: Worcester, Mass. 01605  
 Date 1854  
 Source exterior date placque  
~~elements of Italianate and mid-~~  
 Style 19th century "Romanesque in panel"  
 Architect Ichabod Washburn  
 Exterior wall fabric brick  
 Outbuildings (describe) none  
 Other features recessed wall panels with decorative brick work at heads, arched windows with sandstone caps  
 facade windows mid-20th  
 Altered and door Date century  
 Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 2, p.13  
Ld 3 9,466 sq.ft.  
 One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 70'  
 Approximate distance of building from street 10'  
 Recorded by L. Carruth  
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer  
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.  
 Date January 1978

UTM  
19/269420/4682580

(over)

Evangelical City Missionary Society

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

Original use \_\_\_\_\_ chapel and rectory \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_ commercial (mid-20th century); church (1966 to present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u>  x  </u>
Architectural	<u>  x  </u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	<u>  x  </u>
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

Built in 1854 and partially restored in 1966 when the building was returned to religious use, the Mission Chapel is a rectangular plan brick structure bearing the stylistic elements of the "Norman style" (also called "Romanesque in panel") which was popular from the late 1840s until the 1870s. Characteristic of this early Victorian style, the Mission Chapel's front section (east), which contains the church hall, is divided on the exterior by piers which rise to a decorative corbelling at the head of each bay. Beneath the eaves is an additional band of corbelling. Windows along the church's side walls are made up of 9/9 sash set in frames with arched transoms and arched sandstone lintels set on consoles. The facade (east) is divided into three bays and bears a name placque, date placque and two arched windows in the gable; the present entry and first storey windows are replacements of ca.1966. Attached to the rear of the chapel (west) is a two-and-one-half-storey rectory with a side-hall floor plan. Windows of the rectory's first two stories are set in low-rising segmental arches; the two windows in the gable are identical to those in the church facade. Other brick work of the rectory matches that of the rest of the chapel. Ichabod Washburn, founder of Worcester's large wire and steel industry, said of the building, "The plan was my own and were I to erect another building for this purpose, I do not know how I could improve it."

Dedicated in 1855, the Mission Chapel is one of the oldest church buildings in Worcester and possesses a variety of historical associations. The Evangelical City Missionary Society was formed in 1849 by lay

(cont.)

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

Cheever, H. Autobiography and Memorials of Ichabod Washburn, pp. 69-73.

Lincoln, W. History of Worcester (1862) p. 332.

Nutt, C. History of Worcester. vol. II, pp. 898-899 (City Mission)'  
vol. III, pp. 60-61 (biography of I. Washburn)

Worcester Planning Department. Transition, p. 12 (photos - 1966)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 131-C
Property Name: Mission Chapel	

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

9. representatives of six local Protestant churches. Joined later by other Protestant churches, the group hired I. Ellis Guild and, later, Moses Brigham as City Missionary. Finally, in 1853, Reverend William T. Sleeper was hired for the job. By 1853 there existed "a growing interest in behalf of the poor and neglected in the neighborhood of Pine Meadow, or East Worcester... Sabbath evening meetings were held in a private dwelling-house, and for a considerable time in the school house, where these children were gathered and instructed, but with great inconvenience both to scholars and teachers, for want of better accommodations." (Washburn, Autobiography)

Observing this situation, Ichabod Washburn, a deacon of the Missionary Society, "was much exercised in considering the subject of the erection and support of a City Mission Chapel, to give to the poor and neglected a place of worship free." Fearing "that such an undertaking involved a spiritual as well as moral qualification, which...I did not possess", Washburn designed the building and had it constructed at a cost of more than \$14,000. Upon completion, the Mission Chapel contained a chapel, living quarters for the city missionary and space for the Mission's Pine Meadow Sunday School. In 1856 Reverend Sleeper, discouraged by declining interest in the Mission, resigned and the Mission went through a period of inactivity.

In the 1860s, under the direction of Washburn's brother-in-law, Henry T. Cheever, the City Mission began to gather a larger congregation. In addition to his work with the Missionary Society, Cheever, secretary of the Church Anti-Slavery Society from 1859 to 1864, was the author of a number of books including: Island World of the Pacific, Life in the Sandwich Islands, The Whale and His Captors, The Pulpit and the Pew, and Autobiography and Memorials of Ichabod Washburn, "showing how a great business was developed and large wealth acquired for the uses of benevolence." Under Cheever's and Washburn's direction, an industrial school was instituted. "The object of this department is to give instruction in sewing.... The average number enjoying these advantages is two hundred and fifty, mostly Irish Catholics."

Later in the century the chapel "opened its doors to the 'New Pilgrims' who were coming to the city in large numbers." The chapel was used at various times by German, Swedish, Armenian and French congregations before each became sufficiently well established to build a church of its own. In 1875 Rev. William Sleeper returned to his earlier position and directed the reconstitution of the Society as the Congregational City Missionary Society, after 1883 the Worcester City Missionary Society. The organization continued into the twentieth century, although its attention became focused on the support of Sunday Schools and in aiding its member churches. Today it continues to support its member churches by providing funds for social service needs and also providing a minister to the elderly.

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). <sup>Owner</sup> 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. <sup>DUBIE</sup>

**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~~ <sup>both</sup> 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. Presence 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 - 116 CBD-11  
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

**HAER**  
Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am not~~ <sup>am</sup> not convinced about boundaries BUT BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~ ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Recommend Listing all <sup>now</sup> properties ~~except~~ <sup>except</sup> these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ <sup>to discuss further</sup> 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)

Soldner  
3/5/80

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered MAR 5 1980  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>SEE 3/3/80 REPORT</sup>



131-C<sup>30</sup> AUG 1979  
Missoula Chapel  
205 Summer St  
Worcester MA  
East: north  
elevations

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304