

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	130(S-4)

Town Worcester

Address 49 Austin Street

Historic Name "The Russell"

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use: Present apartments

Original apartments

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1894

Source Eng. & Bldg, Record Vol. XXX, p. 11

Style Classical, Romanesque, Utilitarian

Architect Barker & Nourse

Exterior Wall Fabric brick, granite, brown-stone

Outbuildings none

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

Major Alterations (with dates) main door

replaced, cement block addition at side rear. (late 20th c.)

Condition Fair/Good

Moved no Date NA

Acreage 4,834 sq. ft.

Setting intersection in mixed residential/apartment/commercial area, some vacant lots

See attached maps.

UTM REFERENCE 19/268440/4782330

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North Quadrangle

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by Sarah Zimmerman w/S. Ceccaci

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date August, 1985

Valerie Talmage shpo 9/26/85

OCT 7 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

"The Russell" is a simple but well-preserved example of Richardsonian Romanesque design by a noted Worcester architectural firm, Barker and Nourse. It is representative of architect-designed apartment buildings built in Worcester during the late 19th century. "The Russell" is also significant as a good example of the apartment blocks built in the Main-Wellington-Chandler area, once Worcester's most extensive area of middle-class apartment block construction. As such, "The Russell" meets criteria A and C of the National Register on the local level.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

"The Russell" is a four-story brick Richardsonian Romanesque apartment block built ca. 1894. Built to the designs of Barker and Nourse, a noted Worcester architectural firm, "The Russell" is a modest building whose Romanesque styling is most evident in its use of rugged materials and sparse detailing. These give the building a fortress-like appearance. The building is located at the corner of Austin and Irving Streets, just west of Worcester's central business district. It is set directly on the street with no landscaping.

The building is rectangular in plan with a five-bay facade on its north elevation and a curved bay at the northeast corner. On the west elevation to the rear is a concrete block addition added in the late 20th century. The building rises four stories from a raised foundation of rock-faced granite

Continued

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

"The Russell" was originally part of the city's largest district of apartment block construction, which extended along South Main Street, Wellington and Chandler Streets. During the second half of the 19th century, Worcester's industries expanded greatly in size and number. The city's population grew rapidly and swelled through large additions of foreign immigrants. As a result of the growing demand for housing, residential expansion became necessary and occurred in all the central sections of the city. Older neighborhoods became more densely settled, while outlying areas were expanded with new subdivisions. During the late 19th century, three deckers and apartment blocks formed the bulk of the city's multiple family housing.

Located two blocks west of Main Street, "The Russell" was built near the southernmost edge of the central business district. Constructed in an area where apartment blocks began appearing as early as 1879, the building was built on the site of an earlier double house. Typical of apartment blocks in the area, "The Russell" was architect designed and purely residential.

The building was built at a cost of \$25,000 for Abigail Russell Parsons.

Continued

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

atlases, directories

Worcester Architects List, Worcester Heritage Preservation Society

Engineering and Building Record, Vol. XXX, July 14, 1894, p. 115

Worcester Telegram, January 11, 1938 (Ava G. Hovey) clipping file, Worcester Historical Museum.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 130-(S-4)
Property Name: 49 Austin Street "The Russell"	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE continued

Although many speculative apartment blocks were being built by developers in the 1890s, "The Russell" was owner-occupied as most earlier Worcester apartment buildings had been. In this case, Mrs. Parsons' daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Hovey, lived on the first floor while the owner herself lived next door at 55 Austin Street. Mrs. Parsons also owned houses south of "The Russell" on Irving Street. Her grandsons, founders of one of Worcester's largest laundry (the Hovey Laundry), also built and owned property in the neighborhood. The majority of "The Russell's" tenants were of the middle class.

Architecturally, "The Russell" is comparable to other well-built, architect-designed Worcester apartment blocks of the late 19th century. With the demolition of many of these, especially in the Main-Wellington-Chandler area, in the late 20th century, "The Russell" is now one of the few apartment blocks in the area. As a representative of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, it is a simple but effective design. The rounded northeast corner, extensive use of rock-faced granite and brownstone trim, repeated rhythm of chimney stack "piers" and roofline chimneys, heavy, carved Romanesque arched main entrance and deep corbelled roof parapet are all notable features of the design.

The architect of the structure was the firm of Barker and Nourse of Worcester. The partnership of Albert A. Barker (1853-1905) and Walter B. Nourse (1854-1906) was active from 1880-1902. Barker and Nourse designed many important Worcester buildings including a number of apartment buildings. They appear to have been the major designers of Worcester apartment blocks at the end of the 19th century. Some notable Barker and Nourse apartment blocks in the general area are "The Boynton" (1887) and "The Vendome" (1898).

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE continued

ashlar to a flat roof punctuated with several narrow rectangular chimneys along the outside walls. The main block of the building rests on a rock-faced brownstone water table, a detail repeated as a string course above the first floor windows. Above the first floor, the walls are unadorned with the exception of shallowly projecting chimney stacks with corbelled bases. At the roof line is a shallowly-projecting corbelled frieze culminating in a metal cornice. Windows throughout the building are 1/1 wooden sash set within wooden surrounds. On the principal facades, windows feature brownstone sills and deep relieving arches.

The building's principal ornament is contained within the central three bays of the north facade. The frontispiece is enclosed within a pair of projecting piers which are the stacks for two chimneys at the roof level. The entrance to "The Russell", centered between two flanking window bays and recessed beneath a massive round arch, is reached by a short flight of stairs. The round arched entrance is the building's most outstanding architectural feature. It is composed of rock-faced brownstone and rests on a pair of squat Ionic columns. A carved keystone surmounts the arch. Above the entrance, on the second, third and fourth stories, narrow paired windows, flanked by a pair of full-sized windows, occupy the central bay. Between the second and third stories is a brownstone plaque bearing the name of the building. The frontispiece culminates in a raised brick parapet with a deep course of corbelled brick.

The building's only alterations have been the addition of the concrete block shed to the rear and the replacement of the original front door with a modern metal door. A rehabilitation of "The Russell" in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation will take place in the near future.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 5-3-84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Worcester Multiple Resource Area
State Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Worcester Corset Company
Factory

Substantive Review

Keeper Touche 10-4-84

Attest

2. Malvern Road School

Substantive Review

Keeper Brown 10-4-84

Attest

3. Claremont Street Historic
District

Substantive Review

Keeper TS

Attest

4. Richmond, Willard, Apartment
Block

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Belmont 11/7/85

Attest

5. Russell (The)

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Belmont 11/7/85

Attest

6. Aurora Hotel

Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Ardus 4/28/88

Attest

7. Holy Name of Jesus Complex

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Belmont 6/8/88

Attest

8. Vendome and the St. Ives

Substantive Review

for Keeper Betsy Sarge 02-09-90

Attest

9. Shaarai Torah Synagogue

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper 5/10/90

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

Revised
85002782

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Russell (The) (Worcester MRA)
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

OCT 7 1985

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 11/7/85 - 11/21/85
Action: ACCEPT 11-7-85
_____ RETURN
_____ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in ~~the~~
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
100 STATE STREET
SOUTH BOSTON, MA 02108
(617) 725-1100

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



419 Austin ST.

"The Russell"

Worcester MA, Ma

Roll I-20



RUSSELL

SOPH

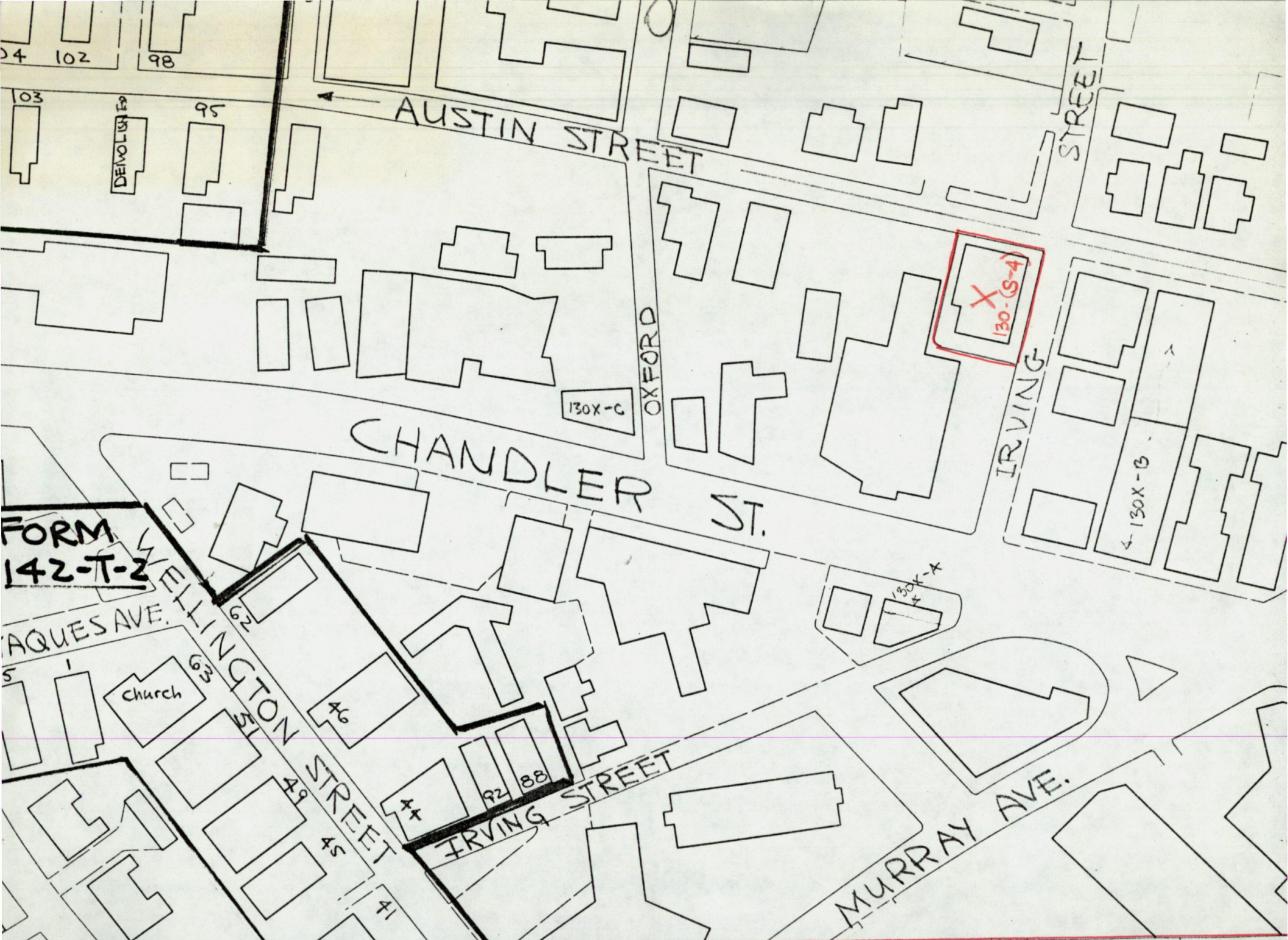
NY '86

49A Austin ST.

"The Russell"

Worcester MA, Ma

Roll I-2



FORM
142-T-2

AQUAS AVE.

WELLINGTON STREET

CHANDLER ST.

IRVING STREET

MURRAY AVE.

AUSTIN STREET

STREET

130-(S-4)

130X-C

130X-A

130X-B

SEE MAP SHEET

ASSESSOR'S MAP, CITY OF WORCESTER MOORE SURVEY & MAPPING CO., 1975
SHEET # 130 SCALE 1" = 100'

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304