

2392

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1623

Town Worcester

Address 215 Cambridge Street

Historic Name Catherine Ahern
Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1888

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Italianate Three-Decker

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition very good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage less than 1/4 acre

Setting Late 19th/early 20th century
urban, multi-family residential area;
on a major street, adjacent to a mid-
20th century garage/used car lot.

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization Clark University

Date June 1980

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

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

See attached map.

UTM REFERENCE 19/267140/4680470

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester South

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Catherine Ahern Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a representative example of the earliest phase of three-decker development in the Cambridge Street neighborhood, an ethnically mixed, working-class residential area that expanded with the growth of nearby industries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is also one of the best-preserved, well-detailed examples of Italianate three-decker design in the area. The Ahern Three-Decker thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

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

Architecturally, 215 Cambridge Street is a remarkably well-preserved and finely detailed example of Italianate three-decker design. The building is sheathed in wood, and has a moderately pitched hip roof. It is quite unusual in that it presents its long, six bay elevation to the street as the main facade. The end bay entry consists of double-leaf, panelled doors. The entry and adjacent window bay are sheltered by a projecting, single-story portico, supported by chamfered posts. Porch details include decorative cut brackets, small cornice brackets, and an open balustrade. Regularly spaced, paired brackets decorate the roof cornice overhang. Windows have 2/2 sash, and retain original window cap moldings.

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

Built by 1888, the Catherine Ahern Three-Decker was part of the late 19th century, multi-family residential development that took place in the industrial district defined by the three rail lines that radiated southwest from downtown Worcester. The location of new factories along these transport corridors attracted a largely immigrant work force, and families who located along Cambridge Street were mostly of French-Canadian, Irish, and English extraction. Many were employed in nearby metal processing or textile factories as machinists, wireworkers, or carpet weavers. The earliest known owner of 215 Cambridge Street was Catherine Ahern. John Ahern, a laborer, lived here from ca. 1888 through 1910. Other residents in 1888 included John Roberts and John O'Connor, both machinists. In 1900, residents included William Taylor, Charles North, and Beaumont Brooks, all machinists. Occupants in 1910 included Frank Silk, a porter; and Gustaf Nystrom, a clerk. By 1920, the house was owned as a rental property by Alphonse Beaulieu, a carpenter who owned three other houses in the neighborhood, and who continued to own 215 Cambridge through 1930. Occupants in 1920 included Phillip Barre, a carpenter; George Gross, a pressfeeder; and Eugene Graveline, a helper. In 1930, tenants included Alvin Hinkley, an assistant foreman; and Edwin Sward, a toolmaker, both employed at the nearby screw manufacturing plant of the Reed and Prince Company.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1888, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1896, 1911, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester MRA (Worcester Three-Decker)
Date Listed

COVER **Substantive Review**

for Keeper

Boyd J. Savage
02-09-90

Attest

1. Ahern, Catherine, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

2. Anderson, Ludwig, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

3. Baker, Peter, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

4. Battelle, Marion, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

5. Beaver Street Historic District

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

6. Blodgett, Lydia, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

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7. Bostrom, Eric, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

8. Bousquet, Henry, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

9. Carlson, Eric, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

10. Crabtree, Thomas, Three-Decker

Entered in the
National Register Keeper

Helene Byers 2/9/90

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ahern, Catherine, Three-Decker
NAME:

MULTIPLE Worcester Three-Deckers MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 12/26/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/09/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/25/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/09/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002392

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/9/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



CATHERINE, AHERN THREE DECKER
215 CAMBRIDGE STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MHC# 1623

Worcester Three-Decker NRA



CATHERINE AHERN THREE DECKER
215 CAMBRIDGE STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MRC # 1623

Worcester Three-Decker MA

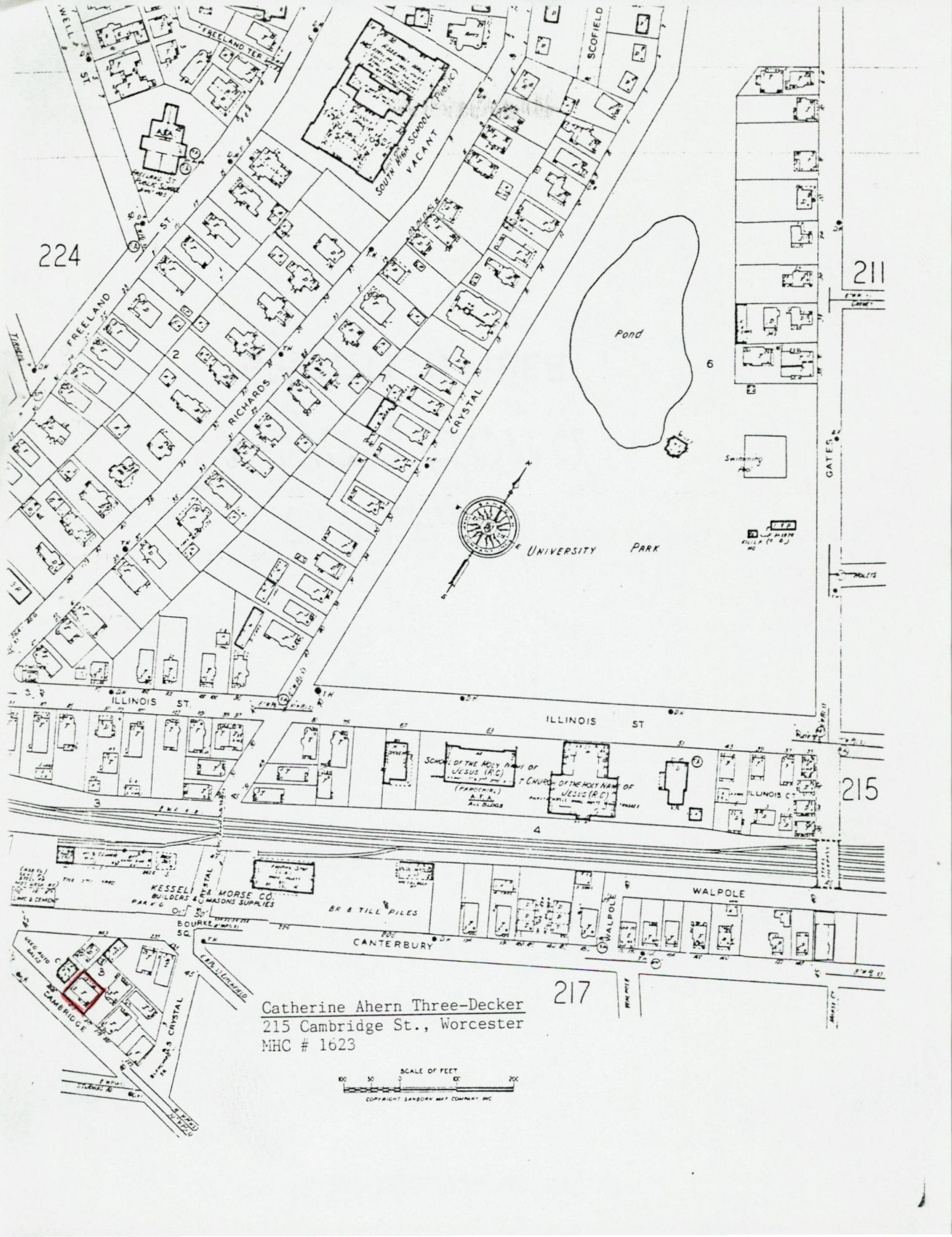
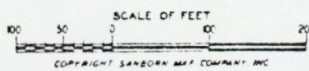
224

211

215

217

Catherine Ahern Three-Decker
215 Cambridge St., Worcester
MHC # 1623



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305