

AREA

1840

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Worcester

Address 31 Louise Street

Historic Name John and Edward Johnson
Three-Decker

Use: Present residential

Original residential

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

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1918

Source Worcester House Directory

Style Colonial Revival Three-Decker

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard and

Outbuildings none shingle

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
neighborhood.

Recorded by Michael Steinitz

Organization for MHC

Date December 1988

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 19/269290/4680200

USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester South

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The John and Edward Johnson Three-Decker possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant for its association with the development of an ethnically mixed, working-class, multi-family residential neighborhood on the southern slope of Vernon Hill in the early 20th century. It is also an unusually well-preserved example of local Colonial Revival three-decker design. The Johnson 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, 31 Louise Street is a well-preserved and well-detailed example of local Colonial Revival Three-Decker design. The house has the typical side-hall plan, and a gable roof with pediment. Most notable is the full-length first floor porch supported by unusually heavy Tuscan columns. In the entry bay the porch rises to three-tiers, supported in the second and third tiers by more slender, paired Tuscan columns. On the asymmetrical main facade, the entry bay is flanked by a three-story bay window. A second bay window is located on the side wall. The house is clad in wood clapboard, with shingle bands between the stories. Regularly spaced brackets decorate the roof cornice overhang.

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

Built ca. 1918, the Johnson Three-Decker was located on the southern slope of Vernon Hill, the city's most concentrated and extensive district of 20th century three-decker development. The stimulus for multi-family residential development in the southern and southwestern parts of the neighborhood came from the south: many residents were employed as wireworkers at the nearby South Works and Quinsigamond Village Works steel mills. Working-class families of both Irish and Swedish extraction located here. The first known owners of 31 Louise Street were John and Edward Johnson, machinist and wireworker, respectively. Both lived at this address. John Murphy, a clerk, also resided here in 1918, as did Thure Lindstrom, a bookkeeper. The Johnsons lived here through 1930. Other residents in that year included George Murphy and Kenneth Murphy, both machinists; Mrs. Ida Johnson; and Mrs. Jennie Murphy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Worcester Directory, Worcester House Directory, 1918, 1920, 1930.
L.J. Richards, Atlas of the City of Worcester, 1922.
J. Callahan et al., Worcester Three-Decker Survey, 1981.

12/26/89

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

Date Listed

- 31. Hall Charles A., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 32. Hirst, Samuel, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 33. Houghton Street Historic District **Substantive Review** Sr Keeper Boyd Savage 02-09-90
Attest _____
- 34. Hunt, Daniel, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 35. Hunt, David, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 36. Ingleside Avenue Historic District **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 37. Ingraham, Harry B., Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 38. Johnson, Edwin, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 39. Johnson, John and Edward, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina Byers 2/9/90
Attest _____
- 40. Johnson, John, Three-Decker **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Alvina 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*
~~OWNER OBJECTION~~

PROPERTY NAME: Johnson, John and Edward, Three-Decker

MULTIPLE NAME: Worcester Three-Deckers MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002416

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 _____



Worcester Three-Decker MRA

JOHN AND EDWARD JOHNSON THREE-
DECKER

31 LOUISE STREET
WORCESTER, MA
MHC # 1840



Kodalux

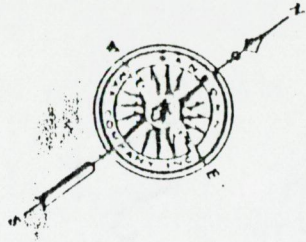
Improving Safety



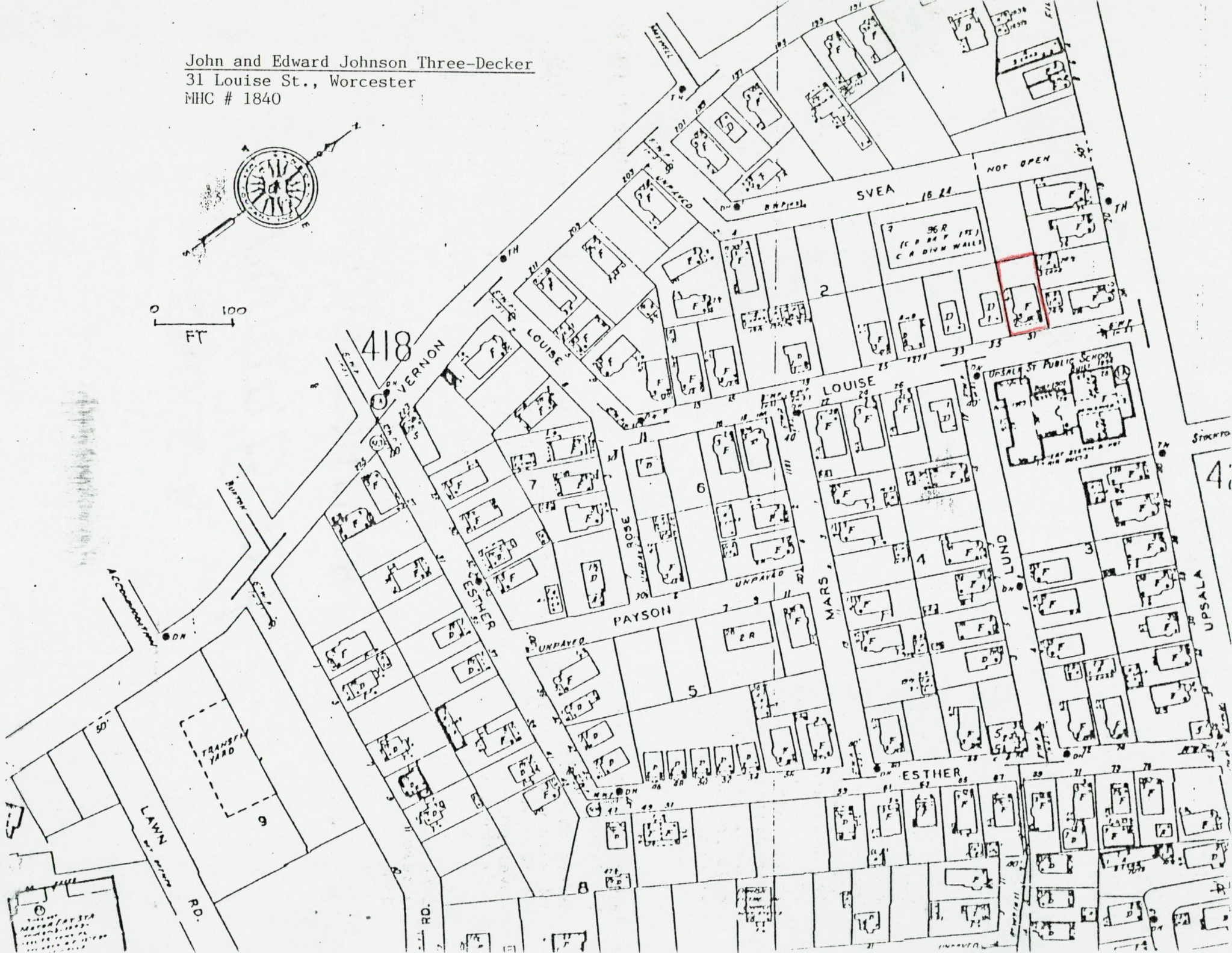
Kodalux

Improving Safety

John and Edward Johnson Three-Decker
31 Louise St., Worcester
MHC # 1840



0 100
FT



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000305